

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Title IX of the Judicial Improvements and Access to Justice Act (Public Law 100-702), as amended by section 1 of Public Law 105-53, referred to in subsec. (d), is title IX of Pub. L. 100-702, Nov. 19, 1988, 102 Stat. 4659, which enacted this chapter and provisions set out as notes under sections 651 and 652 of this title. Section 1 of Pub. L. 105-53, Oct. 6, 1997, 111 Stat. 1173, amended section 905 of title IX of Pub. L. 100-702, which is set out as a note under section 651 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

1998—Pub. L. 105-315 amended section generally, substituting provisions relating to arbitration for provisions relating to arbitration award and judgment.

§ 655. Arbitrators

(a) **POWERS OF ARBITRATORS.**—An arbitrator to whom an action is referred under section 654 shall have the power, within the judicial district of the district court which referred the action to arbitration—

- (1) to conduct arbitration hearings;
- (2) to administer oaths and affirmations; and
- (3) to make awards.

(b) **STANDARDS FOR CERTIFICATION.**—Each district court that authorizes arbitration shall establish standards for the certification of arbitrators and shall certify arbitrators to perform services in accordance with such standards and this chapter. The standards shall include provisions requiring that any arbitrator—

- (1) shall take the oath or affirmation described in section 453; and
- (2) shall be subject to the disqualification rules under section 455.

(c) **IMMUNITY.**—All individuals serving as arbitrators in an alternative dispute resolution program under this chapter are performing quasi-judicial functions and are entitled to the immunities and protections that the law accords to persons serving in such capacity.

(Added Pub. L. 100-702, title IX, §901(a), Nov. 19, 1988, 102 Stat. 4661; amended Pub. L. 105-315, §7, Oct. 30, 1998, 112 Stat. 2996.)

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AMENDMENTS

1998—Pub. L. 105-315 amended section generally, substituting provisions relating to arbitrators for provisions relating to trial de novo.

§ 656. Subpoenas

Rule 45 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (relating to subpoenas) applies to subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and the production of documentary evidence at an arbitration hearing under this chapter.

(Added Pub. L. 100-702, title IX, §901(a), Nov. 19, 1988, 102 Stat. 4662; amended Pub. L. 105-315, §8, Oct. 30, 1998, 112 Stat. 2996.)

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REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, referred to in text, are set out in the Appendix to this title.

AMENDMENTS

1998—Pub. L. 105-315 amended section generally, substituting provisions relating to subpoenas for provisions relating to certification of arbitrators.

§ 657. Arbitration award and judgment

(a) **FILING AND EFFECT OF ARBITRATION AWARD.**—An arbitration award made by an arbitrator under this chapter, along with proof of service of such award on the other party by the prevailing party or by the plaintiff, shall be filed promptly after the arbitration hearing is concluded with the clerk of the district court that referred the case to arbitration. Such award shall be entered as the judgment of the court after the time has expired for requesting a trial de novo. The judgment so entered shall be subject to the same provisions of law and shall have the same force and effect as a judgment of the court in a civil action, except that the judgment shall not be subject to review in any other court by appeal or otherwise.

(b) **SEALING OF ARBITRATION AWARD.**—The district court shall provide, by local rule adopted under section 2071(a), that the contents of any arbitration award made under this chapter shall not be made known to any judge who might be assigned to the case until the district court has entered final judgment in the action or the action has otherwise terminated.

(c) **TRIAL DE NOVO OF ARBITRATION AWARDS.**—

(1) **TIME FOR FILING DEMAND.**—Within 30 days after the filing of an arbitration award with a district court under subsection (a), any party may file a written demand for a trial de novo in the district court.

(2) **ACTION RESTORED TO COURT DOCKET.**—Upon a demand for a trial de novo, the action shall be restored to the docket of the court and treated for all purposes as if it had not been referred to arbitration.

(3) **EXCLUSION OF EVIDENCE OF ARBITRATION.**—The court shall not admit at the trial de novo any evidence that there has been an arbitration proceeding, the nature or amount of any award, or any other matter concerning the conduct of the arbitration proceeding, unless—

- (A) the evidence would otherwise be admissible in the court under the Federal Rules of Evidence; or
- (B) the parties have otherwise stipulated.

(Added Pub. L. 100-702, title IX, §901(a), Nov. 19, 1988, 102 Stat. 4662; amended Pub. L. 105-315, §9, Oct. 30, 1998, 112 Stat. 2997.)

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REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Federal Rules of Evidence, referred to in subsec. (c)(3)(A), are set out in the Appendix to this title.

AMENDMENTS

1998—Pub. L. 105-315 amended section generally, substituting provisions relating to arbitration award and judgment for provisions relating to compensation of arbitrators.

§ 658. Compensation of arbitrators and neutrals

(a) **COMPENSATION.**—The district court shall, subject to regulations approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States, establish the