

PARTNERING IN CONSTRUCTION: A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO PROJECT SUCCESS

By Frank Carr, with Kim Hurtado, Charles Lancaster, Charles Markert and Paul tucker
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Review by Robert A. Creo, Esquire, Mediator & Arbitrator, Past President International Academy of Mediators, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

This 281 page softcover guide is packed with useful information for both novice and advanced professionals involved in construction projects. It is an invaluable resource not only for attorneys but project owners/developers, contractors, design professionals, insurers and risk managers. The step-by-step blueprint of how to effectively create a structure to foster cooperative relationships makes it a required desk book for any construction professional.

The book is organized into 18 chapters accompanied by a detailed glossary, bibliography and index. Although the book starts out slowly and spends too many pages on background and justifying the concept of partnering, this may be of interest to the few uninitiated who have never heard of alternate dispute resolution or partnering. The heart of the book starts in Chapter 7 when the authors describe the partnering process in a narrative format with a specific six step approach. Of particular use is the “quick-view” summary of the essential elements of the partnering process contained in figures, charts and easy to read text boxes. The authors have included sample language for memos, forms and other nuts and bolts aspects of partnering which has evolved from years of their collective experience. The chapter on the interaction between Total Quality Management (TQM) concepts and partnering is insightful, particularly when addressing Value Engineering Change Proposals (VECP) in conjunction with TQM and Partnering. Also of note is an outline of the “Home Version” of Deming’s 14 TQM Points entitled “Total Quality Living” developed by Charles Markert.

Chapters devoted to other methods of ADR, specific case studies of successful use of cooperative approaches and the role of lawyers in partnering round out the book. This work is a significant contribution to dispute avoidance and resolution because it achieves a successful blend of theory and practice with “how-to” guides. It is a handy tool for the professional engaged in construction projects.

The book may be ordered by contacting Book Publishing, ABA Publishing, ABA, 750 North Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60611 1-800-285-2221 or online at www.abanet.org/abapubs.