

New WG1 Brainstorming Group on Database Principles

We are pleased to announce a new opportunity to become more involved in Working Group 1 (WG1) on Electronic Document Retention and Production. The Steering Committee is forming a Brainstorming Group on Database Principles. **Be sure to follow the subsequent instructions for applying and note that the deadline for submitting an application to participate is July 13, 2021.**

In the seven years since the publication of The Sedona Conference Database Principles, the volume of data in databases, and the types of data stored in these databases, has, like all other data, increased exponentially. In addition, advances in broadband and “the Cloud” have brought many new ways to store and access that data. The Database Principles offers guidance that remains relevant to practitioners facing database retention and production challenges today.

The Database Principles paper may warrant an update to address these changes in database types, volumes of data, increased discovery requests for electronically stored information (ESI) stored in databases, new ways of storing and accessing data, and judicial approaches to database discovery after the enactment of the 2015 amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The Sedona Working Group 1 Steering Committee proposes a Brainstorming Group to (1) Evaluate the Database Principles paper for applicability to present-day database discovery; (2) Evaluate the need to expand the guidance to reflect new data types and new Civil Rules; and (3) Update case law related to database discovery.

Expectations of Brainstorming Group Members

Brainstorming Groups are typically larger in size than Drafting Teams and usually function over a relatively short period of time. In this regard, the work of a Brainstorming Group is more like a sprint than a marathon. Brainstorming Group members are expected to make the following commitments:

- Participation in Brainstorming Groups is a benefit of individual Sedona Conference Working Group Series membership. Each Brainstorming Group member must keep their membership current *at all times* during the process.
- As the name suggests, Brainstorming Group members are encouraged to think creatively and actually “brainstorm,” which may go beyond or even challenge the premise of the Brainstorming Group, as warranted.
- Accordingly, Brainstorming Group members are expected to regularly join and participate in Brainstorming Group telephonic meetings—Brainstorming Group leaders will take attendance for all meetings, and track meeting participation and contributions. One or more Brainstorming Group members will be asked to take notes of Group meetings.
- Brainstorming Group members will be expected to draft or assist in drafting portions of the outline and/or perform research as needed.
- Brainstorming Group members are expected to review all team drafts that are circulated, and comment and/or revise/edit as necessary.
- Brainstorming Group members are expected to dialogue, not debate, and work collaboratively as part of a team to achieve consensus.

- If feasible, Brainstorming Group members are encouraged, but not required, to attend WG1 midyear or annual meetings where their work product is presented to the membership through a panel discussion and dialogue.

The main point is that it is critical that all Brainstorming Group members are active, engaged participants in the outline drafting efforts in order to produce high-quality work product in a limited timeframe.

We will likely have more well-qualified, well-rounded applicants than we have spots. As a result, we may have a ranked waiting list. Brainstorming Group member participation and contributions will be evaluated by the Steering Committee liaisons to the Group. If a member is unable to maintain the commitment to actively participate and contribute, it is possible that the member may need to be replaced in order to timely achieve the Brainstorming Group's objectives.

How to Apply

NOTE: If you are not currently a Working Group member but are interested in participating, please become a member by signing up for a Working Group Series (WGS) membership. Once a WGS member, one is eligible to take part in the activities of all Working Groups, including WG1. If you have any questions about how to sign up for a membership or encounter any difficulties while doing so, please contact our office at info@sedonaconference.org or (602) 258-4910.

In order to be considered for this Brainstorming Group, please provide separate answers to each of the questions below and submit to Dave Lumia at dbl@sedonaconference.org **no later than July 13,2021**. Please be brief when answering the questions—no more than 50 words per answer to a question.

- What is your profession and expertise?
- How many years of experience do you have?
- What organization do you work for?
- Do you regularly represent requesting parties, responding parties, or both?
- What qualifications or experiences make you particularly qualified to serve on this brainstorming group, and why?

When selecting members of a Brainstorming Group, we seek differing perspectives, viewpoints, backgrounds, and experiences in order to build a consensus-based document that is beneficial to all stakeholders. Please do not be discouraged if you are not selected for the Group. Because The Sedona Conference is a self-selected group of engaged, proactive people, we get many more excellent and eminently qualified applicants for each Group than we can take. If you do not get selected for a Group, please try again! Even if you are not selected, your application and eagerness to be involved are favorably considered the next time you apply for a Brainstorming Group or Drafting Team. Also remember that as a member of WG1, you will have the opportunity to review and comment on any member-only work-product written by this Group.

Important Note About Subsequently Formed Drafting Teams

Frequently, after the Brainstorming Group has presented an outline to the membership and after a short period of member review and comment, the Steering Committee will approve the formation of a Drafting Team to produce a draft publication on the proposed topic. Being a member of the Brainstorming Group does factor into your consideration for Drafting Team membership, but it is not a guarantee that you will be selected. This is because Drafting Teams are usually smaller than Brainstorming Groups, function over a longer period of time, and require a particular balance of perspectives and experiences in order to build a consensus-based document that is beneficial to all stakeholders. Further, as mentioned, a Brainstorming Group is asked to recommend the composition of a subsequent Drafting Team, which may include a different mix of experience, expertise, or perspectives than for the Brainstorming Group.