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**October 26, 2019**  
**8:30 am to 4:45 pm**  
South Texas College of Law Houston  
1303 San Jacinto Street  
Houston, Texas

## We Listened!

Having reviewed your feedback regarding last year's Symposium, this year we have included what you most requested — a session on "Practical Solutions to Real-World Mediation Problems," a session on how to work with pro se parties in mediation, and a fresh look at mediation ethics from your top-rated presenter, Mike Schless. Most attendees also raved about our use of "real-time" Mentimeter technology, so we will be using that again this year. Along with the ever-popular Texas Supreme Court update, we will also cover two topics valuable to all mediators — how to address intergenerational differences and how to prevent being subpoenaed as a mediator. *Hope to see you there!*

**6.25 hours CLE approved, incl. 3 hours ethics**

Promoting Quality Mediation  
Throughout Texas

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8:00 am – 8:30 am **NETWORKING BREAKFAST**

8:30 am – 8:45 am **WELCOMING REMARKS**

Melanie E. Grimes

8:45 am – 9:45 am

**IT'S INTERGENERATIONAL: THE DIFFERENCES WITHIN OURSELVES** (1 hour; .25 ethics)

Panelists: Angela Downes, Maggie Fox, Jose R. Lopez, II, and Hon. Alvin Zimmerman; Moderator: Lis Bulmash

*A panel of professional mediators from different generations will delve into the opportunities mediators may encounter when mediating with someone from a different generation or when conducting a mediation in which there is a disconnect between the parties due to intergenerational differences.*

9:45 am – 10:45 am

**BEING SUBPOENAED AS A MEDIATOR – HOW TO AVOID AND WHAT TO DO WHEN**

(1 hour; .5 hours ethics)

Hon. Rick Morris and John Palmer

*The presenters will share best practices in drafting mediation forms, including forms used pre-mediation, to protect the confidentiality of the mediation process and protect the mediator from testifying.*

10:45 am – 11:00 am

**BREAK**

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

**ETHICAL GUIDELINES AND THE LATEST FROM "THE SUPREMES"** (1 hour; .5 ethics)

Justice Debra H. Lehrmann and Hon. John Coselli

*Learn about the development of ethical guidelines for mediators in Texas and the latest mediation case law and issue developments in the Supreme Court of Texas.*

12:00 pm – 12:15 pm

**PRESENTATION OF TMCA'S OUTSTANDING CREDENTIALLED MEDIATOR AWARD AND JAMES GIBSON SCHOLARSHIP**

12:15 pm – 1:15 pm

**LUNCH** (provided)

1:15 pm – 2:15 pm

**PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO REAL-WORLD MEDIATION PROBLEMS (OR FANTASTICALLY DANGEROUS MEDIATION TRENDS AND HOW TO MANAGE THEM)** (1 hour; .25 ethics)

Eric Galton

*Learn how to manage aggressive advocates who have no process knowledge though attempt to dictate process. Do I really have to make a mediator's proposal when advocates demand it? Is there any chance of resurrecting the joint session? Ethically, is party-direct participation an essential part of the process? If so, what type of participation? Why are so many lawyers trying to fit full-day problems into half-day mediations?*

2:15 pm – 3:30 pm

**MIKE TALK: MEDIATION IS KINDA ETHICAL** (1.25 hours ethics)

Mike Schless

*A fun, thought-provoking, highly interactive jaunt through the ethical minefields of mediations past, to help keep us on our toes for the future.*

3:30 pm – 3:45 pm

**BREAK**

3:45 pm – 4:45 pm

**MEDIATING WITH PRO SE PARTIES: AGONY OR ECSTASY?** (1 hour; .25 hours ethics)

Panelists: Laury Adams, Jacqueline Blankenship, Denise Coggiola, and Carol Griffin; Moderator: Shelly Hudson

*Because most pro se parties are not attorneys, they are often unfamiliar with legal proceedings and arrive at mediation feeling anxious and apprehensive. Panelists will discuss various strategies to assist mediators in addressing the unique challenges (and opportunities) involving pro se parties in mediation.*

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211 Houston Street  
Richmond, Texas 77469



# 2019 TMCA SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS

## LAURY ADAMS

Laury is one of the nation's most experienced family mediators. In 1982, she combined her academic financial background with client-centered family mediation to start the Adams' Mediation & Financial Resource Center. In the following years, Laury mediated countless divorces, presented at national and state conferences, wrote articles, taught mediation trainings, and created the Divorce Savvy software. She also held various positions on the Boards of local and state mediation organizations including the presidency of the Texas Association of Mediators. The mediation profession recognized Laury's many contributions with a Lifetime Achievement award and the annual Texas Association of Mediators award.



## JACQUELINE BLANKENSHIP

Jacqueline, of Blankenship Mediation Services, has been an active independent mediator in Richmond, Texas, for the past 23 years. She is a TMCA Credentialed Distinguished Mediator. She is currently serving as the Chairman Emeritus of the Fort Bend Dispute Resolution Center and has served on their board for the past 22 years. Jacqueline also served for five years as a mediator for the Houston Better Business Bureau. A published author, she has served as a speaker for many organizations to promote and increase understanding of the concept of mediation and dispute resolution.



## LIS BULMASH

Lis, an attorney, is co-founder of Mediators360. She graduated with a B.A. from the University of Michigan and with a law degree from the Boston University School of Law. For more than 17 years, Lis has been a mediator. Before practicing in Texas, Lis had an active mediation practice in Michigan and in Ohio. She mediates all types of civil, commercial, and probate disputes. Currently Lis sits on the ADR Advisory Council of the State Bar of Texas, the TMCA Board, and the North Dallas Chapter of the Association of Attorney-Mediators. Lis has presented CLEs about mediation to many organizations including the City of Dallas, AAM, and TAM.



## DENISE COGGIOLA

Denise graduated with her Masters in Dispute Resolution from SMU in 2008 and was named the Distinguished Student of the Year. She began her private family mediation practice called It Takes Three Mediation LLC in May of 2008. She has served her clients over 11 years in Collin, Denton, and Dallas counties. Each year, more than 95% of Denise's clients are pro se. Denise also serves the community by volunteering her time at the SMU Mediation Clinic, facilitates DivorceCare Classes, and serves on the Board of the Southwest Conflict Resolution Network.



## HON. JOHN COSELLI

John has been a State District Judge for over 15 years. He served as the presiding Judge of the 125<sup>th</sup> Civil District Court of the State of Texas for ten years, and continues to serve as an assigned State District and County Court Judge. Prior to taking the Bench, he was in private practice with the law firm of Carl, Lee, & Coselli from 1977 until appointed to the Court by the Governor in 1999. John now mediates, arbitrates, and continues to sit by assignment as a State District Judge. John is a Board member and past President of TMCA.



## ANGELA DOWNES

Angela serves as Assistant Director of Experiential Education at UNT Dallas College of Law, where she oversees the law school mediation program. Her law career has focused on public service, policy, and legislative efforts to protect the public trust. After positions with Collin and Dallas counties' District Attorney's offices, she served as the Attorney for Court Programs at the national office of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). She is a former Senior Attorney at the National District Attorneys Association in Alexandria, VA, where she focused on child abuse, domestic violence, human trafficking, victims' rights, and elder abuse. Angela serves on the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists and as an associate municipal judge for the City of Glenn Heights, Texas.



## MAGGIE FOX

Maggie Fox is a mediator based in Austin. She recently graduated from University of Texas School of Law and the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs. Maggie received her 40-hour basic mediation training from the Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution at UT and is fascinated by the idea of using mediation principles in political discourse. She has worked at UT's Conflict Management Office and plans to volunteer at the DRCs in Austin and San Marcus as soon as she finishes the bar exam.



## ERIC GALTON

Eric is co-owner of Lakeside Mediation Center in Austin. Eric is Past President of the International Academy of Mediators, a TMCA Credentialed Distinguished Mediator, an adjunct professor at Pepperdine Law School Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, and has published five books on mediation. Eric has been the recipient of the SBOT Frank Evans Award and was knighted by the International Academy of Mediators. Eric has been listed as a Texas Super Lawyer for 12 years and has been listed in Who's Who of International Commercial Mediators for five years. Eric is the proud father of five children, three grandchildren, and married to Mediator Superstar Kimberlee Kovach. He owns a 70-pound sheepadoodle named Kolby, two titanium hips, and seven guitars.



## CAROL GRIFFIN

Carol is a collaborative family lawyer and mediator in private practice in Houston. She graduated from South Texas College of Law in 1992, and has practiced family law since that time. She was trained as a mediator while in law school, and has received additional training since law school. Carol focuses on settlement negotiation, mediation, and collaborative law. She firmly believes that parties are best served if they are able to reach agreements which will affect their families rather than having a judge or jury make decisions for them. Carol truly enjoys serving as a mediator.



## SHELLY HUDSON

Shelly has been Executive Director of the Fort Bend County Dispute Resolution Center for over 23 years. She is also a private practice attorney, specializing in family and probate law. Shelly joined the TMCA Board of Directors in 1999, representing the Texas DRC Directors' Council, and currently is TMCA's Treasurer. Other highlights of her mediation career include serving as Chair of the Texas DRC Directors' Council for ten years, 1999-2009; participating in the Fellows Program with the University of Texas' Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution; and being awarded the *Fort Bend Sun* Reader's Choice Award for the Best Attorney-Mediator in Fort Bend County for 2006.



## JUSTICE DEBRA H. LEHRMANN

Justice Lehrmann has served on the Supreme Court of Texas since her gubernatorial appointment in June 2010. She serves as the Court's liaison to the Texas Mediator Credentialing Association, the Texas Attorney-Mediator Coalition, the Board of Disciplinary Appeals, the Commission for Lawyer Discipline, the Texas Association for Court Administration, the State Bar Family Law Section, and the Family Law Council. Previously, she had served as a trial judge in Fort Worth for 23 years.



## JOSE R. LOPEZ, II

Jose is a solo practitioner in Houston. After graduating St. Mary's University, where he earned a degree in English, he was recruited to work with Colgate-Palmolive. He attended South Texas College of Law and then worked with Cigna Insurance where he first chaired trial cases all over Texas in District and Federal Courts. He was appointed as an adjudication judge for the city of Houston for 20 years and was the first Hispanic Tax Master for Harris County. He practices as a Spanish-speaking mediator and arbitrator.



## HON. RICK MORRIS

Rick served for 24 years as State District Judge of the 146<sup>th</sup> District Court, Bell County, and presided over civil and family law cases. He is a TMCA Credentialed Distinguished Mediator, a director of the Texas Attorney-Mediator Coalition, member of the Texas Association of Mediators (Director, 2016-2018), member of the Texas Association of Attorney-Mediators, and an Arbitrator with Judicial Workplace Arbitrations. Rick continues to sit as a visiting judge by assignment. He received his BBA from the University of Texas and his J.D. from Baylor Law School, and is Of Counsel to the law firm of Baird, Crews, Schiller, & Whitaker, P.C., in Temple, TX.



## JOHN P. PALMER

John is a TMCA Credentialed Distinguished Mediator, serves as the consumer board member for TMCA, and is a strident proponent of quality mediation. He has served as past president or chair of the ADR Section (State Bar of Texas), Texas Association of Mediators, and TMCA. John is one of the founders of the McLennan County DRC where he continues to volunteer his services. John mediates and practices law with Naman, Howell, Smith & Lee, PLLC. John serves as a mediator in a variety of disputes including probate, family, general civil litigation, personal injury, and workplace disputes.



## MIKE SCHLESS

The Texas ADR statute in 1987 required the judges in the state to devise a plan to implement ADR in their jurisdictions. As one such judge, Mike figured if he was going to be ordering people to mediate, he ought to know what mediation is. So he took his first course in ADR and immediately became hooked. A mediator and arbitrator since he left the bench in 1992, Mike has been actively involved in the ADR community. In addition to his full-time ADR practice, since 2012 Mike has been teaching Negotiation and Mediation to the brilliant young minds at the UT School of Law.



## HON. ALVIN L. ZIMMERMAN

Alvin has served as state district judge of the 309<sup>th</sup> Family District Court and 269<sup>th</sup> Civil District Court and as Chair of the ADR Section of the SBOT and the Family Law Section of the Houston Bar Association. He was a recipient of the Frank G. Evans Outstanding Mediator Award given by the SBOT ADR Section and the Frank Evans Outstanding Mediator Award from South Texas College of Law Center of Dispute Resolution. Alvin holds a B.S., Psychology, University of Houston, and a J.D. from University of Houston Law Center. He is currently Chair of Zimmerman, Axelrad, Stern, & Wise, P.C., and is Board certified in Family Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.



## SYMPOSIUM FEE:

Register NOW at [www.TXMCA.org](http://www.TXMCA.org)\*

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\* Please register by Friday, October 18.

Seating is limited to 200.

Registration on-site not guaranteed.

\*\*when you get Credentialed or renewed at the Symposium

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