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# TMCA

## 19TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

**October 28, 2023**  
**8:30 am to 4:45 pm**

Texas A&M University School of Law  
Lecture Hall, 2nd Floor  
1515 Commerce Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102  
**Both LIVE in Fort Worth and Via Zoom!\***

### We're Back, Live and In Person!!!

We are holding our Symposium in person once again and can hardly wait to be in the same room with you! As always, we carefully review the feedback of past attendees. That said, this Symposium is chock-full of mediation skills-based sessions. You will learn more about the importance of civility and have the opportunity, for the first time, to participate in a live Q&A with Supreme Court Justice Debra Lehrmann. You won't want to miss our featured speaker, Susan Guthrie. Susan is one of the most prominent mediators in the country and focuses on high-net-worth and high-conflict, complex cases. She is one of the founders of the Mosten Guthrie Academy and her award-winning podcast, The Make Money Mediating Podcast, is one of the top 1.5% of podcasts worldwide. Her first session is on the minds of many of us: "Artificial Intelligence in the Mediation Room" and her later session offers a fresh approach to "Mastering High Conflict in Mediation." Our two other afternoon sessions will be fully interactive, so we can learn from each other. Fan favorites Mike Schless and Gene Roberts will be our guides, with Mike's session on negotiation and Gene's on ethics. See you in Fort Worth!

**6.25 hours CLE, incl. 3 hours ethics**  
**CLE Course No. 174204999**

\*Though we would love to connect with you in person, for those who would prefer to watch our Symposium online, we will simulcast all sessions via Zoom and record the Zoom version for later viewing by paid registrants.

REGISTER NOW at [www.TXMCA.org](http://www.TXMCA.org)

8:00 am – 8:30 am	<b>NETWORKING BREAKFAST</b>
8:30 am – 8:45 am	<b>WELCOMING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION</b> John P. Palmer
8:45 am – 9:30 am	<b>RADICAL CIVILITY: THE IMPORTANCE OF CIVILITY IN MEDIATION</b> (.75 hour; .5 ethics) Angela Downes and Kay Elliott A recent informal survey found that mediation practitioners highlighted an overall decrease in civility in their mediation practices. During this session, learn the importance and ethical considerations of civility—simply acting with formal politeness when communicating, working with clients, and conducting business—and how it should be the cornerstone of both the mediator's preparation and the mediation itself. Civility creates connections.
9:30 am – 10:30 am	<b>LATEST FROM "THE SUPREMES"</b> (1 hour; .25 ethics) Justice Debra H. Lehrmann and Hon. John Coselli Learn about the latest Texas cases affecting your mediation practice from Texas Supreme Court Justice Debra Lehrmann and her devoted sidekick, Judge John Coselli. This session will include a Q&A segment.
10:30 am – 10:45 am	<b>BREAK</b>
10:45 am – 12:15 pm	<b>ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN THE MEDIATION ROOM: A NEW ERA BEGINS</b> (1.5 hours; .75 ethics) Susan Guthrie Join us for an insightful program exploring the transformative impact of AI in mediation. Discover how these advanced tools enhance communication, foster resolution, and revolutionize conflict management while being mindful of ethical guardrails.
12:15 pm – 1:15 pm	<b>LUNCH</b> (provided for those attending in person)
1:15 pm – 1:30 pm	<b>PRESENTATION OF TMCA'S OUTSTANDING CREDENTIALLED MEDIATOR AWARD AND JAMES GIBSON SCHOLARSHIP</b>
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	<b>EMOTIONALLY CHARGED: MASTERING HIGH CONFLICT IN MEDIATION</b> (1.5 hours; .5 ethics) Susan Guthrie Looking for a fresh approach to handling high conflict? Learn new techniques using emotional intelligence and the neuroscience of conflict, as well as other practical strategies to navigate complex emotions, reduce conflict, and enhance communication in mediation.
3:00 pm – 3:15 pm	<b>BREAK</b>
3:15 pm – 4:00 pm	<b>NEGOTIATION: ART, SCIENCE, &amp; COMMON SENSE</b> (.75 hours; .25 ethics) Mike Schless Good mediators should be able negotiation coaches. But is negotiation an art? A science? A matter of common sense? The best negotiators say the answer is yes...and then some. Let's learn together in this fully interactive session!
4:00 pm – 4:45 pm	<b>THE ETHICS GENE: UNLOCKING THE CODE FOR ETHICAL INTEGRITY IN MEDIATION</b> (.75 hours; .75 ethics) Gene Roberts Explore some of the core principles and practices that guide ethical conduct by mediators, and discover how to cultivate ethical integrity, navigate challenges, and uphold professional standards in this fully interactive session.
4:45 pm	<b>ADJOURN</b>

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ASSOCIATION  
P.O. Box 771475  
Houston, Texas 77215-1475



## 2023 TMCA SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS

### HON. JOHN COSELLI

John has been a State District Judge for over 20 years. He served as the presiding Judge of the 125th Civil District Court of the State of Texas for 10 years, and continues to serve as an assigned State District 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 also mediates and arbitrates.



### ANGELA DOWNES

Angela is a professor at UNT Dallas College of Law in Dallas, where she is Assistant Director of Experiential Education. Prof. Downes teaches clinical courses and the 40-hour basic mediation course, as well as "Domestic Violence and the Law: An Innovative Approach to Interpersonal Violence." Her scholarship focuses on mediation, ADR, vicarious trauma, diversity, cultural responsiveness, and issues of interpersonal violence including domestic violence, human trafficking, and child abuse. Prof. Downes is a former felony prosecutor for the Dallas County District Attorney's office and an active member of numerous boards and organizations. She was recently appointed by the Texas Governor to serve on the Texas Medical Board as a disciplinary specialist. Prof. Downes is a JAMS neutral on the Dallas panel.



Promoting  
Quality Mediation  
Throughout Texas

### KAY ELLIOTT

Kay received her J.D. from the University of Oklahoma, her LL.M. from SMU, and her Masters in International Business from UTD. She was trained as a mediator in 1982 and has mediated over 2500 cases to settlement. In 1989, her husband, Frank Elliott, founded the law school which is now Texas A&M University School of Law in Fort Worth. Courses in ADR were offered at the school from the earliest days of its existence. Kay has taught Mediation, Family Mediation, Negotiation, Arbitration, International Business Transactions, and Client Counseling at the law school for over 30 years and coaches the ADR teams which have won 11 national championships. The Texas A&M ADR program is currently ranked first in Texas and fourth in the nation.



### SUSAN GUTHRIE

Susan has been one of the leading family law attorneys and mediators in the country for more than 32 years with a practice focused on high-net-worth and high-conflict, complex cases. She is one of the founders of the **Mosten Guthrie Academy** and her award-winning podcasts, **The Divorce & Beyond® Podcast** and **The Make Money Mediating Podcast**, are two of the top 1.5% of podcasts worldwide. Susan regularly presents at professional events around the world, most recently at the 2022 Academy of Professional Family Mediators Annual Conference, the 2022 National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals Annual Advanced Mediation Training Retreat, the 2022 New Jersey Association of Professional Mediators Annual Conference, and the 2023 New York Council of Divorce Mediators Annual Conference. She currently serves as Chair-Elect of the ABA Section of Dispute Resolution.



### JUSTICE DEBRA H. LEHRMANN

Debra H. Lehrmann is the Senior Justice on the Supreme Court of Texas and the Court's longest serving woman Justice in Texas history. She was a trial judge in Tarrant County for 23 years prior to her appellate service and has been an active leader in the legal community on a state and national level throughout her career, including serving as chair of the ABA Family Law Section, inaugural chair of the SBOT Child Protection Law Section, chair of the Texas Chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, chair of the Lloyd Lochridge Inn of Court, a commissioner on the ULC, and a member of the ALI. A strong advocate of mediation for many years, she served on the Advisory Board of and as a mediator for Tarrant County Dispute Resolution Services.



### GENE ROBERTS, JR.

Gene is an Associate Dean of Students and Director of Student Legal & Mediation Services at Sam Houston State University. He holds a J.D. from Southern Methodist University, where he was an articles editor for the SMU Law Review, President of the Student Bar Association, and Outstanding Male Graduate. He also holds a Doctorate of Education in Higher Education Leadership from Sam Houston State University. He is a past President of TAM, past Chair of the Dallas Bar Association's ADR Section, and past Chair of the ADR Section of the State Bar of Texas. He is currently a board member of the Dispute Resolution Center of Montgomery County. Gene received mediation and conflict resolution training from the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution at Pepperdine University's School of Law and the Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution at the University of Texas School of Law. He speaks regularly on mediation ethics and mediation-related legal updates.



### MIKE SCHLESS

The Texas ADR statute in 1987 required the judges in the state to devise a plan to implement ADR in their jurisdictions. Mike figured if he were 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.



## SYMPOSIUM FEES:

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

### EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT

(paid by 10/8/23)

\$160 (current Credential holders [CH])

\$180 (non-Credential holders [NCH])

### AFTER 10/8/23

\$180 (CH) \$200 (NCH)

\*Please register by  
Friday, October 20th

Receive a  
**10% discount**

on your application/renewal  
fee when you apply  
for or renew your TMCA  
Credential by 12/31/23.