



8055 W. Manchester Ave., Suite 201  
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Email: mediator@peace-talks.com  
www.peace-talks.com

## **Diana L. Mercer**

### **Bar Admission**

California, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New York, Supreme Court of the United States

### **Education**

#### **UCLA Anderson School of Management, Los Angeles, California**

Management Development of Entrepreneurs Program, 2006-2007

Certificate Awarded February 2007

#### **Indiana University School of Law, Bloomington, Indiana**

Juris Doctor May 1988, top 30% of Class

American Jurisprudence Award for Torts

Appellate Advocacy; Moot Court

#### **Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana**

Bachelor of Arts in Economics and French, Honors Division, May 1985

Grade Point Average 3.6/4.0

Mortar Board Honor Society for service and academics

Honors Thesis: Epistolary Literature of 18<sup>th</sup> Century France

### **Honors**

Make Mine a \$Million Business Award, June 2, 2006, National Association of Women Business Owners National Conference, San Francisco, California.

National Association of Women Business Owners Scholarship program award for the UCLA Anderson School of Management's Management Development for Entrepreneurs Program, 2006.

American Bar Association Advisory Panel, 2008 to present.

### **Mediation Training**

Contested Custody Trials Mediation Training, Middletown, Connecticut Superior Court, 60 hour training as high-conflict custody dispute mediator, April 1997.

Mosten Mediation Training, 40-hour certificate in Family Law Mediation, February 2000. Co-Trainer 2001-2007.



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Advanced Family Law Mediation, 25 hour training, Mosten Mediation Training, November, 2000. Co-Trainer 2001-2007.

Advanced Mediation 25 hour training: Pepperdine University Mediation Symposium, Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, August 2-4, 2001. Nationwide advanced training, by application only.

Advanced Mediation 8 hour training, Kenneth Cloke Mediation Training, September 2001.

Centinela Valley Juvenile Diversion Program Mediation Training, 25 hour advanced training for mediation of parent-teenager disputes, April 2000.

Dispute Resolution Services, training for fee dispute and arbitration for Los Angeles County Bar Association, April 2000.

Alternative Dispute Resolution Office, Los Angeles Superior Court, ADR mediation/arbitration panelist training, March 2000.

Los Angeles Collaborative Law Association, Collaborative Law training with Chip Rose, Esq., January 23-24, 2003.

Advanced Mediation Skills with Robert Benjamin, Indiana Association of Mediators' Annual Conference, September 26-27, 2008, Indianapolis, Indiana.

## **Employment Experience**

**January 2000 to present:** Founder, Peace Talks Mediation Services, Los Angeles, California. Founding Partner in family mediation practice concentrating in divorce and custody disputes, including high conflict cases and at-risk populations. Peace Talks teams lawyers with psychology professionals in a cooperative, co-mediator setting to mediate all family conflicts: divorce, custody, premarital agreements, cohabitation and LGBTG dissolution, estate planning and estate administration.

**June 2001 to 2003:** Adjunct Professor, University of LaVerne Graduate Department of Psychology. Designed and taught the Mediation and Conflict Resolution and Family Law for Therapists courses in the Psychology doctorate program.

**2001 to 2007:** Co-Trainer, Mosten Mediation Training. Co-trainer for beginning and advanced mediators with nationally recognized author, mediator, and mediation trainer Forrest S. Mosten. Students learn mediation theories and techniques in an interactive training environment.

**October 1993 to January 2000:** Partner, Noyes & Mercer, P.C., New Haven, CT. Founding Partner in Family Law practice concentrating in litigation and mediation of Family Law, Civil Rights and Employment Rights and Discrimination matters. Administrative, Appellate and District Court practice. Responsible for all aspects of client and case management, including complex litigation, use of experts, tax matters, and legal drafting. Also responsible for firm marketing, advertising, financial planning, account management, tax planning, pension administration, benefits, and staff management.

**September 1990 to December 1990:** University of Bridgeport, Bridgeport, CT. Adjunct Professor in Graduate Paralegal Studies Department. Taught graduate level Family Law class, including preparation of lectures, examinations, classroom discussions and grading.



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## Mediation and ADR Panels

**Association for Conflict Resolution (ACR):** Advanced Practitioner Member and approved mediation trainer, October 2001 to present.

**ADR Family Law Panel:** Los Angeles Superior Court, November 2002 to 2008. Served on the Alternative Dispute Resolution panel of the court as a Court Settlement Officer and Mediator for family law matters.

**ADR Panel:** Los Angeles Superior Court, March 2000 to 2003. Served on the Alternative Dispute Resolution panel of the court as a Court Settlement Officer, Mediator and Arbitrator and have mediated all types of civil matters, from sexual harassment, employment disputes, automobile accidents, real estate, and fraud.

**DRS Bar Association Fee Dispute Panel:** March 2000 to 2005. Mediator for fee disputes between attorneys and clients.

**National Mediation Centers:** Mediation panelist, March 2000 to present.

**FARS Program Mediator Panel:** Volunteer mediator with **Families Able to Resolve Situations** mediation program for troubled teenagers and their parents sponsored by Los Angeles Centinela Valley Juvenile Diversion Project, Inglewood, CA. (2000 to 2002).

**Attorney Trial Referee:** Judicial District of Ansonia/Milford at Milford, CT (1994-1999) Judge *Pro Tem* for this district. Duties include conducting trials, rendering decisions concerning objections and evidence, and writing legal decisions.

**Special Masters Program:** Regional Family Trial Court (1994 to 1999), and Judicial Districts of New Haven (1992-1994), Milford (1994 to 1999), and Middletown (1998-1999) Connecticut. Served as a Special Master (mediator) in the Special Masters Programs of these districts. Duties include hearing presentations of facts, analysis of financial data, and application of relevant laws to divorce and family law cases, and presentation of recommendations to parties and attorneys, as well as conducting mediation sessions in an effort to settle divorce and custody cases prior to court trials.

## Publications

*Making Divorce Work: 8 Essential Keys to Resolving Conflict and Rebuilding Your Life*, co-written with Katie Jane Wennechuk, M.A., Perigee/Penguin Group, publication date December 7, 2010. Non-fiction self-help book on mediator techniques which anyone can use to keep the peace during divorce.

*Your Divorce Advisor: A Lawyer and Psychologist Guide You Through the Legal and Emotional Landscape of Divorce* (Fireside, 2001), non-fiction divorce book co-authored with Marsha Kline Pruett, Ph.D., M.S.L. on successful divorce planning, alternative dispute resolution and litigation.

*25 Hour Beginning Family Law Mediation Training Manual*, Peace Talks Press (2009), training manual which accompanies the 25 hour DVD training set.

*9 Hour Family Law Training*, Manual and DVD set, Peace Talks Press (2010).



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Association for Conflict Resolution *Family Law Newsletter* Practice Development column, published quarterly. 2009-present.

Resident family law and conflict resolution expert with [www.firstwivesworld.com](http://www.firstwivesworld.com) and [www.bizymoms.com](http://www.bizymoms.com) web sites, 2008 to present. Articles posted weekly for publication.

“Advanced Mediator Moves,” Association for Conflict Resolution’s *Family Mediation News*, Fall 2006 and Spring 2007 (2 part article), co-written with Forrest S. Mosten.

“Parenting Protocols for Difficult Situations,” *The Therapist: Magazine of the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists*, Volume 18, Issue 6, November/December 2006, co-written with Tara Fass, LMFT.

“Making Marketing Authentic,” Association for Conflict Resolution Magazine, *ACResolution*, Spring 2006.

“Beyond Argument into Dialogue,” MCLE self-study article for the California Bar magazine, *California Lawyer*, Vol. 26, No. 3, March 2006.

“Reinventing Neutrality,” *Southern California Mediation Association Journal*, September/October 2005.

“Convening Collaborative Cases: Turning Calls Into Clients, Part 1,” *Family Mediation News*, a publication of the Association for Conflict Resolution, Fall 2003.

“A Therapist’s Guide to Understanding Mediation and Child Custody Evaluations,” *The Therapist: the Magazine of the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists*, Vol. 15, Issue 4 July/August 2003.

“Client Prep for Custody Mediation,” MCLE self-study article for the California Bar magazine, *California Lawyer*, Vol. 22, No. 11, November 2002.

“Tips for Mediators from a Mediation Consumer,” *Southern California Mediation Association Journal*, Vol. 11. No. 5, September/October 2002.

“Family Law Mediation,” *Los Angeles County Bar Association Smartlaw*, September 2002.

“Your First Mediation Appointment,” and “Top Ten Reasons to Use Parenting Plan Mediation,” California Bar web site, ADR South Section, 2002, [www.calbar.ca.gov](http://www.calbar.ca.gov).

“How Do I Become a Mediator,” *Southern California Mediation Association website*, September 2002.

“Low Cost Marketing for Mediators,” *Just Resolutions*, ABA Section of Dispute Resolution publication, Vol. 7, No. 1 (Issue No. 18), also online at [www.abanet.org/dispute](http://www.abanet.org/dispute)

“Team Mediations,” *Los Angeles Daily Journal*, April 18, 2001

“Trials and Tribulations,” *Los Angeles Daily Journal*, May 3, 2001

“What is a Marital Asset?” *The Connecticut Family Lawyer*, March, 1997

“Welcome to Show Business, Baby,” *Los Angeles Times*, October 18, 1999



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*Songs in the Key of Z*, by Irwin Chusid, (Fireside, 2000). Contributor to the chapter on the Legendary Stardust Cowboy in this encyclopedic volume of music history.

I've also published numerous articles in the Association for Conflict Resolution (ACR) newsletter, Southern California Mediation Association Newsletter (SCMA).

## Seminars

American Bar Association Dispute Resolution Section Twelfth Annual National Conference, *Marketing Plan Workshop*, San Francisco, CA, April 8-10, 2010.

Indiana Association of Mediators Marketing Conference, *Marketing for Dispute Resolution Professionals*, 1 day workshop, Indianapolis, Indiana, February 27, 2010.

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, California State Conference, *Coordination Among Family Law Professionals: New Trends*, with Carol Hirshfield, Ph.D., Amy Neiman, J.D., and Karin Manger, LCSW, Santa Monica, California, February 13, 2010.

Indiana Association of Mediators Annual Conference, *Advanced Civil Mediation*, 2 day workshop, Indianapolis, Indiana, September 18-19, 2009.

American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution 2009 Midyear meeting "Successfully Transitioning to or Starting an ADR Practice", with Michelle Katz, J.D., February 13, 2009.

American Bar Association Family Law Section teleconference "No Time Like the Present: Parenting Plans for Any and Every Age Child" with Marsha Kline Pruett, Ph.D., M.S.L., November 5, 2008.

40 hour Family Law Mediation Training course with the Institute for Conflict Management, <http://www.icmadr.com>, October 17-21, 2008. Designed, facilitate and led a 40 hour accredited mediation course for beginning family law mediators.

American Bar Association Dispute Resolution Section Tenth Annual National Conference, "Up-Sizing: How to Build and Operate an Increasingly Profitable and Sustainable ADR Practice," with Dennis McCue, Seattle, Washington, April 3-5, 2008.

Practitioner in Residence, Indiana University School of Law, March 1, 2010, September 17, 2009, March 6-12, 2009, September 29-30, 2008, March 31-April 2, 2008 and November 13-14, 2006. Guest Lecturer in Family Law Mediation Clinical Program, Family Law and Negotiations classes, Professionalism in Law, career counseling salon, and developed and presented Continuing Legal Education Program: *Advanced Mediator Interventions*, with Dean Leonard Fromm and Professor Amy Applegate, and *Finding a Legal Job in a Recession* with career services.

Women's Festivals, [www.womensfestivals.org](http://www.womensfestivals.org), Santa Barbara, CA March 7-9, 2008 and Sedona, AZ, March 14-16, 2008, "Peacemaking for Families" with Neeti Dewan.

South Bay Estate Planning Council, Torrance, CA, December 13, 2007, "The 7 Keys to Resolving Family Conflict", with Tara Fass, LMFT.

Los Angeles Collaborative Family Law Association, "Interest-Based Negotiations", Santa Monica, California, February 14, 2007, Encino, CA January 25, 2007, Torrance CA, October 17, 2006.





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Southern California Mediation Association annual conference, *Family Law Mediation 101*, with Lloyd Bronstein, J.D., LMFT and Natalie Armstrong, President, Golden Media, November 4, 2006.

“Making Marketing Authentic,” Association for Conflict Resolution national teleseminar, with Forrest S. Mosten, J.D., June 15, 2006.

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts California Conference, *Redefining Neutrality*, with Tara Fass, LMFT-Mediator, February 12, 2006

Southern California Mediation Association annual conference, *Reinventing Neutrality*, with Tara Fass, LFMT-Mediator, November 5, 2005.

University of Idaho School of Law Northwest Institute for Dispute Resolution, *Advanced Family Mediation 2* day seminar, May 19-20, 2005. Principal speaker and curriculum development for the psycho-legal approach to family law mediation for advanced mediators.

American Bar Association Dispute Resolution Section Seventh Annual National Conference, “Mediator Malpractice Liability”, with Jeffrey Kichaven, Los Angeles, California, April 15, 2005.

Southern California Mediation Association annual conference, *Advanced Family Mediation Techniques* with Forrest S. Mosten, November 6, 2004.

The Association for Conflict Resolution National Conference *Valuing Peace in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Expanding the Art and Practice of Conflict Resolution*, “Best Practices in Case Management: Emerging Issues in Mediation”, Sacramento, CA September 29-October 2, 2004.

Los Angeles Collaborative Family Law Association, “Interest-Based Negotiations,” Santa Monica, California, July 14, 2004.

Viacom/ MTV Music Television Food for Thought Learning Series, “Marriages May End, But Families Endure”, MTV Headquarters, Times Square, New York, NY, April 14, 2004.

American Bar Association Dispute Resolution Section Sixth Annual National Conference, “How to Make Money Mediating”, with James MacPherson, New York, New York, April 15-17, 2004.

Association for Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) California chapter conference *21<sup>st</sup> Century Solutions for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Families*, “Best Practices in Case Management”, with Tara Fass, LMFT, February 21, 2004.

Southern California Mediation Association annual conference, November 1, 2003. Presentation “Marketing for Mediators” with Natalie Armstrong, President, Golden Media.

Co-Trainer with Forrest S. Mosten, Los Angeles County Bar Association Dispute Resolution Services, Advanced Mediation Training 20-hour class, December 12-13, 2003, and June 4-5, 2004, June 16-17, 2006.

California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (CAMFT) Fall and Winter Intensive Workshops, September 21, 2003 (Sacramento, CA), October 3, 2003 (Redondo Beach, CA) and October 11, 2003 (Oakland, CA) “How to Become a Child Custody Evaluator” with Tara Fass, LMFT-Mediator.



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California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (CAMFT) annual conference, May 1-4, 2003. Presentation: "Custody Evaluations and Mediated Solutions to Litigated Problems" with Tara Fass, LMFT.

California MCLE-Approved Program "ADR and Mediation". Presented to numerous groups, including UCLA's Advanced Family Law program (9/2002), Levitt and Quinn Family Law Center (non-profit organization, 2/2003), and the Los Angeles Superior Court Family Law Facilitator's Office (4/2003).

California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (CAMFT-LA), September 22, 2002. "Legal Divorce vs. Psychological Divorce".

Southern California Mediation Association annual conference "Mediation Goes Mainstream", November 3, 2001. Presentation: "Co-Mediation: Collaboration and Kicks Under the Table" with David Kuroda, LCSW.

Co-Trainer with Forrest S. Mosten, Mosten Mediation Training, Beginning Divorce Mediation Training 40-hour class, October 2001.

Southern California Mediation Roundtable: February 15, 2001 "Family Law Mediation" and August 14, 2001 "Marketing for Mediators".

1997 American College Personnel Association/Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (ACPA/NASPA) National Convention, Chicago, Illinois, March 19-23, 1997, presenter "Bridging History and Destiny: Look Who's Staying at College" seminar on enriching an institution's historical identity.

Using the Psychology Expert in Custody and Visitation Cases in Connecticut, February 1997

Children's Records Law, September 1995

Family Litigation in Connecticut, November 1996

Child Custody and Visitation, April 1996

Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act and Parental Kidnapping, October 1997

## **Professional Associations**

National Association of Women Business Owners and NAWBO-LA (2005-present)

Los Angeles County Psychological Association, Associate Member (2005-present)

California Society of Certified Public Accountants Family Law Section (2005 to present)

American Bar Association, ABA Family Law Section (1988-present) and Dispute Resolution Section (2001-present). Co Chair of Dispute Resolution Section Practice Management Committee (2007-present)  
California Bar Association: Family Law Section and ADR South Committee (1999-present)

Los Angeles County Bar Association and LACBA Family Law Section (1999-present)

Los Angeles Collaborative Law Association, LACFLA Panelist (2003-present)

Women Lawyers of Los Angeles, Life Member (panelist & speakers' bureau, 2000-2002)



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Beverly Hills Bar Association, Family Law Section (1999 to present)

Santa Monica Bar Association, co-chair of Family Law Section (2001-2005)

Association for Conflict Resolution (2000 to present) and ACR-LA (2002-2005), Advanced Practitioner Member

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, Lifetime Member

Southern California Mediation Association (2000-2007): co-chair, Los Angeles Roundtable and Public Education and Marketing Committee (2000-2003)

California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (CAMFT), and CAMFT-LA (2003-2007)

Indiana University Alumni Association Life Member, California IU Alumni Association