Alternative Dispute Resolution Program

Ranked #13 in the country by U.S. News and World Report

In the 21st century legal marketplace, lawyers must be more than skilled litigators; they must also be creative problem solvers. Fordham Law’s Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Program provides students, scholars, and practitioners with the tools needed to expertly resolve disputes outside of the courtroom.

COURSES

The ADR curriculum is comprehensive: courses are offered in negotiation, mediation, arbitration, and international conflict resolution.

- ADR Ethics
- ADR in Public Employment
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Arbitration
- Arbitration and Practice
- Commercial Arbitration
- Conflict Resolution: Catholic Perspectives
- Dispute Resolution Practicum
- International Arbitration
- International and Interethnic Conflict Resolution
- International Dispute Resolution (Belfast/Dublin Summer Program)
- Labor and Employment Arbitration
- Mediation and Lawyers
- Mediation Clinic
- Negotiation
- Negotiation and Mediation: Cross-Cultural Perspectives
- Systems Design

Symposium: “ADR Ethics in a Changing World”

As the use of alternate methods of dispute resolution has increased in frequency and complexity across the world, it has become increasingly important to focus on ethical considerations related to ADR processes. In the keynote, Professor Ellen Waldman of Thomas Jefferson School of Law San Diego provided a unique prospective on how to approach issues surrounding ethics in mediation. Our esteemed group of panelists included Kathy Bryan, the President and Chief Executive Officer of The International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution; Daniel Rainey, an Adjunct Instructor at Southern Methodist University’s Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education & Human Development; Catherine Rogers, Professor of Law at Penn State’s Dickinson School of Law; Michel Alberstein, an International Visiting Professor at Fordham Law; and John D. Feerick, former Fordham Law Dean and current Sidney C. Norris Professor of Law at Fordham Law.

Community Outreach

This year Fordham Law’s Dispute Resolution Society participated in two important community outreach events. In November 2013, the Dispute Resolution Society, along with the New York City Bar Association, hosted the Second Annual Dispute Resolution Society City Bar High School Mentor Negotiation Competition. High school student teams from seventeen schools competed, and O’Geesy Gateway to Health Sciences Secondary School took home the championship.

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 Recent Activities

ABA Negotiation Competition
Mélissa Pender, Benjamin Kram, Carly Landon, Alif Mia, Elizabeth Dietz, and Nicholas Brockmeier competed in the ABA Negotiation Competition Regionals in White Plains this year. All of our teams ranked in the Top 10, and Mélissa and Benjamin made it to the final round of competitors.

ABA Mediation Competition
Ariel Choi, Nicholas Veliky, Robert Sussi, and Peter Tyson competed in the ABA Mediation Competition Regionals this year. All of our teams ranked in the Top 10. Ariel and Nicholas were named Regional Champions and consequently advanced to the National Competition.

ICC International Mediation Competition
Our ICC Mediation Teams had yet another successful showing in Paris led by their alumni coach, Steve Grable. Third year students Taylor Tahn, Nicole Lipsky, Jeffrey Beer, and Georgia Barker mediated skillfully against opponents from all over the world.

INADR International Mediation Competition
Priya Ghodasara, Steve Shuldman, and Sydney Fetten competed in the INADR International Mediation Competition this year. After two days and five rounds, Sydney walked away with the First Place Individual Mediator Award and Priya with the Ninth Place Individual Mediator Award.

New York City Bar Association Competition

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As a team, Fordham received the Second Place Team Mediator Award and the Seventh Place Team Advocate, Client Award.

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Our accomplished professors—whether full-time or adjunct—are experienced practitioners in the ADR field.

Jacqueline Nolan-Haley is Director of the ADR Program as well as the Mediation Clinic. An expert in ADR and international conflict resolution, Professor Nolan-Haley has served as Chair of the AALS Alternative Dispute Resolution Section, a Member of the New York State Court Alternative Dispute Resolution Project, and currently sits on the Mediation Ethics Advisory Committee of the New York State Unified Court System.

John D. Feerick has a long and distinguished history as Arbitrator and Mediator for numerous disputes and controversies, most notably in the field of labor law as well as high-profile arbitrations for the National Basketball Association. He is the Founder and Senior Counsel of Fordham Law’s Feerick Center for Social Justice, and is a former Dean of the Law School. He has served as Chair of the Board of Directors of the American Arbitration Association and more recently was Special Master for homeless family litigation in New York.

Constantine Katsoris is a highly skilled arbitrator and mediator and has been teaching at Fordham Law for 45 years. He has served as Arbitrator at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) since 1971 and at the National Association of Securities Dealers (NASD) since 1968. He is also a Public Member of the Securities Industry Conference on Arbitration and a Mediator and Mediation Trainer at both the NYSE and NASD.

Paul Radvany, Clinical Associate Professor, teaches the Securities Litigation & Arbitration Clinic. He has served as Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division for the U.S. Attorney’s Office in the Southern District of New York. Before joining the U.S. Attorney’s Office, he worked at Debevoise & Plimpton as a litigation associate. Prior to working at Debevoise, he clerked for the Hon. Michael H. Dolinger in the Southern District of New York.

Beth Schwartz is a Clinical Associate Professor and Director of Professional Skills. She is certified as a Mediator and as a Mediation Trainer to conduct Initial Mediation Training as well as Child Custody and Visitation Mediation Training for the New York State Unified Court System. She also serves on the panel of mediators for custody and visitation disputes in the NYC Family Courts.

Edna Sussman is the ADR Distinguished Practitioner in Residence. She is a full-time arbitrator and mediator and the Principal of SussmanADR LLC. She serves on the arbitration and mediation panels of several of the leading dispute resolution institutions, including the American Arbitration Association (AAA), the International Centre for Dispute Resolution (ICDR), International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution (CPR), and as Chair-elect of the New York State Bar Dispute Resolution Section.

Jacqueline Nolan-Haley

John D. Feerick

Constantine Katsoris

Paul Radvany

Beth Schwartz

Edna Sussman

ADR PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Elizabeth Crowe

ADJUNCT FACULTY

Honorable William Bassler – Independent Arbitrator and Mediator

Kathy Bryan – CPR International Institute for Conflict Prevention

Jennifer Cabrera – Cabrera Cammarota PLLC

Steven A. Certilman – Chartered Arbitrator and Mediator

Cathy Costantino – Systems Design, FDIC

Nitza Escalera – Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, Fordham Law School

George Friedman – Executive Vice President and Director of Dispute Resolution of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA)

Thomas Halket – Founding Partner, Helket Weitz LLP

Margaret Leibowitz – Visiting Professor in Labor and Employment Law, Wayne State University Law School

Vikki Rogers – Executive Vice President and Director of Arbitration and ADR, Fordham Law School Conflict Resolution Program

Constantine Katsoris – Director of the Institute of International Commercial Law, Pace Law School

Arthur Rovine – International Arbitrator, Director of Fordham Law Conference on International Arbitration and Mediation

Kathleen Scanlon – International Arbitrator, Law Offices of Kathleen Scanlon

Deborah Shapiro – Employment and Labor Attorney, Deborah A. Shapiro, LLC

Josefa Sicard-Mirabal – Director of Arbitration and ADR in North America, ICC International Court of Arbitration

Irene Thomas – Independent Arbitrator and Mediator, Thomas & Associates

CONFLICT RESOLUTION BEYOND BORDERS

Fordham’s ADR program helps to expand the impact of dispute resolution techniques throughout the world. Specialized training programs allow our international neighbors to learn about the importance of ADR in their own communities.

Fordham-Ulster Conflict Resolution Program

Since 1996, Fordham professors have provided training and consultation in Northern Ireland on the development of mediation programs in the areas of employment and court-related ADR. Working with leaders from the Northern Ireland Law Society and with members of non-governmental organizations, Fordham faculty members offer assistance in systems design and mediation skills training.

Ghana Reconciliation Project

In July 2008, the ADR program sponsored a training program in conflict resolution for university students and faculty from the Catholic University of Ghana. The purpose of the project was to help the participants develop expertise in resolving conflict outside of the formal conflict resolution system and to provide skills to these individuals who can serve as mediators and arbitrators for conflicts in their country.

Ghana Collaborative Mediation Project

Since 2011, Fordham Law School and St. Johns University Law School have been working on a collaborative conflict resolution project in Ghana.