



RIVERDALE MEDIATION

Hilary Linton, B.J., LL.B., Masters in Law (ADR)

Accredited Family Mediator (Ontario Association of Family Mediation).
Inaugural James G. McLeod Professor in Family Law (UWO) 2009.
Adjunct Professor, Osgoode Hall Law School (2005-2007).
Principal, Riverdale Mediation, Toronto Ontario.
Past-chair: Ontario Bar Association, ADR section.

Ms. Linton's practice is restricted to practicing and teaching alternative dispute resolution. She provides mediation, arbitration, fact-finding, facilitation, consulting, negotiation, training, and dispute resolution process design services to individuals, and public and private organizations. She teaches extensively, as faculty for various educational institutions and privately. Before starting Riverdale Mediation, she was a successful litigator and partner with a Toronto law firm.

Mediation and Arbitration

Ms. Linton's expertise is in helping parties resolve disputes when their relationship will, in some way, continue. As an experienced teacher of mediation and negotiation theory and skills, she helps parties stay focused on effective, efficient problem-solving. Her priority is to provide a fair, highly professional, balanced, culturally sensitive and *safe place* to have *difficult negotiations* to *resolve conflict*.

She provides effective **family mediation and arbitration**:

- Parenting plans
- Property division
- Child and spousal support
- Marriage contracts

She provides effective **non-family mediation and dispute/meeting facilitation**:

- Employment
- Family, estates and pre-estate disputes
- Defamation
- Education disputes
- Victim-offender and other forms of conferencing
- Civil abuse and harassment claims
- Community and neighbour disputes
- Disputes between and within organizations
- Family business disagreements, among others



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Process Design Projects

- Team member designing formal dispute resolution processes for use in an *Ontario Ministry of Education* Pilot Project.
- Member of *Ontario Ministry of Education* training team delivering negotiation theory and skills support to educators and parents.
- Team member designing a restorative justice conferencing process for Toronto's *Community Centre 55*.

Consulting / Corporate Facilitation

- Facilitator of multi-party public and private meetings
- Consultant/facilitator for multi-stage and multi-party public consultation processes
- Conflict/dispute analysis for organizations undergoing change or dealing with difficult issues.

Teaching and Training

- January 2009, Recipient of the James G. McLeod Professorship in Family Law, Faculty of Law, University of Western Ontario, teaching *Alternative Dispute Resolution in Family Law*.
- Speaker for *Morningstar Canada*, "Conflict Resolution in the Workplace", spring and fall 2008.
- Adjunct Professor, *Osgoode Hall Law School*, "Lawyer as Negotiator", 2005-2007.
- Faculty, *Family Mediation Certificate Program, Toronto Advanced Professional Education* (University of Toronto affiliate.) 2004-2007
- Trainer, "*Mediation and Negotiation Skills*", ongoing.
- Trainer, "*Screening for Domestic Violence, Abuse and Power in Mediation and Arbitration*", 14 hour-course, ongoing.
- Trainer, "*Arbitration Law and Skills*", ongoing.
- Trainer, "*Restorative Justice Process and Negotiation Skills*", ongoing.



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- Trainer, “*Family Law for Arbitrators*”, 30-hour course, ongoing.
- Trainer, two-day course “*Family Mediation, Theory and Skills*”, with Madam Justice June Maresca and Genevieve Chornenki, 2006.
- Instructor, “*Family Negotiation and Mediation: Theory and Skills*”, Osgoode Hall Law School, Professional Development Program, 2005, with Prof. Michael Coyle.
- January Term Visiting Professor, “*Negotiation and Mediation*”, University of Western Ontario, Faculty of Law, 2005.
- Part-time faculty, “*Law, Family and Gender*”, Humber College Paralegal Studies Program, spring 2005.
- Instructor on conferencing, *YCJA Summer School for Crown Attorneys*, London, Ontario, summer 2004.
- *Bar Admission Course* instructor, Law Society of Upper Canada, Civil Litigation and/or Family Law courses, 1990-2004.

Educational Speaking and Writing

- Panelist, February 2008, *Annual Institute in Family Law*, Ontario Bar Association.
- Speaker, December 2007, ADR Institute of Ontario, “*Mandatory or Voluntary Mediation?*”
- Speaker, November 2007, *Law Society of Upper Canada program on Family Arbitration*.
- Speaker on Mediation, March 2007, Ontario Bar Association YLD meeting
- Speaker, February 2007, Osgoode Hall Law School Conference on ADR
- Chair, September 2006, “The Great Debate”, Ontario Bar Association.
- Speaker, June 2006, “Family Arbitration”, OAFM AGM.
- Panelist, “Income Determination in Family Law” (Arbitration), Ontario Bar Association, May 2006.
- Panelist, “Mediation-Arbitration Practice Tips”, Ontario Bar Association, November 2005.



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- Presenter, "Spousal Support Guidelines", Ontario Association of Family Mediation Annual General Meeting, June 2005.
- Panelist, "Religious Arbitration in Ontario", ADR Institute of Ontario, Annual General Meeting, May 2005.
- Panelist, "The Youth Criminal Justice Act and Extrajudicial Measures: Keeping Kids Out of Court", Ontario Bar Association, March 2005.
- Co chair, Ontario Bar Association Annual Institute of Continuing Legal Education, Family Law Program, February 2005.
- Speaker, Contemporary Perspectives on Conflict, Disputes and Dispute Resolution, Osgoode Hall Law School PDP, April 2003.
- Guest expert for three-part Canadian Living Television series on family law and mediation, 2001.
- Presenter for the Ontario Bar Association's Family Law Section to former Justice Peter de Cory, "A Framework for Regulating Paralegal Practice in Ontario", June 2000.
- Family law expert featured in "Separating Smart" video series produced by Toronto's Family Law Centre, 2000.
- Contributing author, "Common Civil Applications in Ontario", Butterworths, 1999.
- Legal columnist, Beach Metro Community News, 1993-2007.

Legal Background

- Aiken, Capp (Toronto) Associate, 1987-1988.
- Gloria J. Epstein and Associates (Toronto), Associate 1988-1994.
- Koskie, Minsky (Toronto), Associate 1994-1996.
- Chappell Bushell Stewart LLP (Toronto), Associate and Partner 1996-2001.

Ms. Linton's litigation practice focused on construction, defamation law and family law. She also conducted unauthorized practice prosecutions under the Law Society Act.



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Education

- Carleton University: 1978-1982, Honours Bachelor of Journalism
- University of Western Ontario Law School: 1982-1985, LL.B.
- Articles: Campbell, Godfrey & Lewtas, Toronto, 1986.
- Called to the Ontario Bar: 1987.
- LL.M. (ADR): Osgoode Hall Law School, 2003.

Executive Positions, Appointments and Memberships

- Appointment, member of selection committee, John E. VanDuzer Scholarship Award for Family Law, 2009.
- Past-chair, ADR Section, Ontario Bar Association, 2007-2008.
- Appointment, by Attorney General of Ontario, to Justice and Media Committee , 2007.
- Member, Provincial Advisory Committee for Formal Dispute Resolution in Special Education Programs and Services, 2007-2008.
- Executive member of Ontario Bar Association ADR Section, 2003-present.
- Executive member of Ontario Bar Association Family Law Section 1996-2004.
- Founding Member, Toronto Collaborative Family Law Association, 2001.
- Ontario Association of Family Mediation (OAFM) Director and Secretary, 2003-2004
- Member of governance and privacy law committees, OAFM, 2004-present.
- Member of the ADR Institute of Canada, 2004-present.
- Member of Law Society of Upper Canada, Canadian Bar Association, Ontario Bar Association, Ontario Association of Family Mediation, ADR Institute of Ontario, and the Conflict Resolution Network.



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Volunteer Work

- Member of Organizing Committee, *Roger Fisher Tribute*, September 2007.
- Member, Planned Giving and Allied Professional Committees, Toronto East General Hospital
- Volunteer facilitator of restorative justice conferences for young offenders, PACT, 2003-present.
- Director, East End Community Health Centre, 1999-2005
- Member of Advisory Team for Community Centre 55's Restorative Justice Project, 2002.
- Director, Beach Metro Community News, 2003-2004.
- Founding member, Toronto Beach Rotary Club.
- Director, Regent Park Community Health Centre, 1994-1999.

Contact Information

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