



SUMMER 2016

WHAT'S NEW?

Congratulations CLASS OF 2016



Our Family Mediation Certification Program, which began in late January with Introduction to ADR (Jan. 21-23) and concluding with Basic Family Negotiation & Mediation (May 5-6, 9-11), produced 22 successfully completing the program. Combined, we have trained over 60 participants this term alone!

CERTIFIED FAMILY MEDIATORS!

In the past twelve months, twelve (12) of our past interns have been certified by OAFM! Congratulations to the following:

- 👤 Brook Thorndycraft
- 👤 Sina Hariri
- 👤 Hayley Glaholt
- 👤 Marina Mammon
- 👤 Margarida Pacheco
- 👤 Archana Medhekar
- 👤 Andrea Watt
- 👤 Lorna George
- 👤 Joanne Schaeffer
- 👤 Michelle Walton
- 👤 Zahra Khedri
- 👤 Gail Brochu

A PERSPECTIVE ON "DUTY OF CARE"

Our one-day workshop about the duty of care that FDR professionals have to identify, assess and manage power imbalances (May 19) was well attended as always. One of our participants, Mary Jo Franchi-Rothecker, wrote an excellent article about the workshop in the Accendus June 2016 Newsletter. You can find the link to the article under "Featured Articles" on our home page.

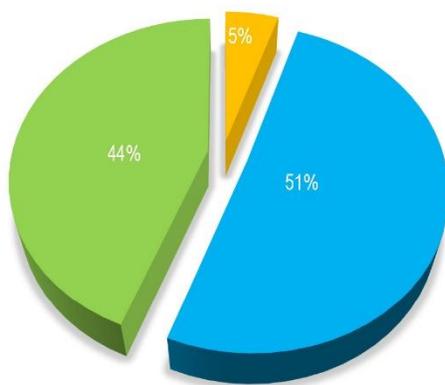
ON THE RADIO



On April 15, Hilary was a guest on *The Night Side*, a Newstalk 1010 radio program hosted by [Barb DiGiulio](#). Hilary talked about free & subsidized mediation for family law.

OVERALL COURSE SATISFACTION 2015 - 2016

- NOT
- SOMEWHAT
- VERY
- EXTREMELY



COURSE SATISFACTION

Feedback received from our course participants during the 2015-2016 season has been nothing but positive! In fact, if we were to compile the "overall course satisfaction" average from ALL courses this past season alone, the pie chart on the left illustrates these results.

As one can see, 44% of all our course attendees during the 2015-2016 season were "extremely satisfied" with their course experience at Riverdale, whereas 51% were "very satisfied". Delivery of course content and effectiveness of trainer(s) are not the only factors that would influence such results, but also how the participants felt about the organization of course, their experience working with coaches & actors, the effectiveness of guests speakers, and quality of venue & food.



OUR BLOG

PROFESSIONALISM IN AN ADVERSARIAL WORLD!

(excerpt)

Hilary Linton
Published July 4, 2016

As a mediator, mediation and negotiation trainer, and provider of court-connected dispute resolution services, issues of professionalism and professional ethics arise often in my work.

Although professionalism cross all legal and dispute resolution cultures and contexts, they may arise more often in the family law context, where the drivers of conflict are often personal and historical. Lawyers, dispute resolution professionals and service providers can be drawn into the emotionality and values-based conflicts that tend to dominate much of our work.

Deanne Sowter, research fellow at the Winkler Institute for Dispute Resolution, recently conducted a series of round-table discussions (in which I participated) that have resulted in an excellent series of posts on the topic. She finds that, although different FDR professionals are driven by different procedural norms, which in turn define their understandings of legal and professional ethics, there is a consistent acknowledgment that "family law ADR requires a higher ethical standard."

The first step is for each of us to understand our own personal moral code, because that is the compass by which we will interpret the various Rules and Standards of Professional Conduct that guide us. For example, I recently helped draft the Standards of Practice for FDR Professionals for Ontario's Family Dispute Resolution Institute of Ontario. In crafting those standards, there is no question that the values of our drafting team informed our work.

The legal profession has earned a bad reputation for adversarial negotiation. Indeed, in the family law context, some research suggests that family lawyers were, at one time, considered more adversarial than other kinds of lawyers. With the growth in popularity and influence of the collaborative law movement, and the exponential increase

in numbers of family lawyers taking mediation training, it is arguable that family lawyers are now the least adversarial of their kind. This is not necessarily a good thing.

The training we take, the processes we offer, our life experiences and our own personalities together determine our standards of ethics relating to negotiation. And, presumably, the mandate to "do no harm" guides us all, at an elementary level, in all our choices, including the manner in which we interpret the Law Society's still-mandatory duty of zealous advocacy for our clients.

For the complete article, please visit our blog at:

riverdalemediation.com/resources/blog/



SUMMER 2016

UPCOMING COURSES

2016

Basic Parenting Coordination 
September 12 & 13, 2016

Family Law (21/30 Hour)
September 27, 28 & 29 / 30, 2016

Screening for Family Violence, Abuse, and Power Imbalances 
October 24, 25 & 26, 2016

Advanced Family Mediation 
November 30, December 1 & 2, 2016

2017

Advanced Parenting Coordination 
January 12 & 13, 2017

Family Relations 
January 25, 26 & 27, 2017

Introduction to Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) 
February 15, 16 & 17, 2017

Family Law (21/30 Hour)
March 20, 21 & 22 / 23, 2017

Screening for Family Violence, Abuse, and Power Imbalances 
April 19, 20 & 21, 2017

Basic Family Negotiation & Mediation (40 Hour) 
May 11, 12, 15, 16 & 17, 2017

Duty of Care for FDR Professionals (10-Hour Update) 
May 31, 2017



UPCOMING EVENT

FDRIO Conference – November 2016

The Annual FDRIO Conference will be held on Monday, November 21, 2016, at the Ismaili Centre in Toronto. The conference will kick off FDRweek (November 21-26, 2016). Anticipation is high as FDRIO forecasters predict another sold out event this year! The theme for this year's conference is "FDRRevolution": a highlight on the emerging complexities of FDR practice. Join the "FDRRevolution"!

Making an IMPACT: Teamwork in the Caribbean

During the Winter/Spring of 2016, our associates at Riverdale Mediation worked in partnership with the Impact Justice Project and University of the West Indies to train professionals as community mediators in Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Lucia. A series of blog posts were written during this incredible training experience, including:



"Teamwork in the Caribbean" - Hilary Linton ; "The Power of Lasagne" - Elizabeth Hyde; "Reflections on Teaching ADR in Grenada" - Joel Skapinker ; "Reflection on Teaching ADR in Grenada -Part 2" - Nicole Stewart Kamanga & Liz Waisberg

For all articles listed above, please visit our blog at: riverdalemediation.com/resources/blog/

RECENT TESTIMONIALS

IMPACT Justice Training (Caribbean, Feb - Apr. 2016)

"The role plays, the handbook, the workbook and interaction with instructors was exceptional"

"(I most liked) the role plays and the exuberance of the facilitators".

"(I most liked) learning how to be a successful mediator."

"...The quality of the information presented and how it relates to my present job."

"What I love about this course was the way the speaker and the coaches delivered their role; they were very helpful, well demonstrated and explained... an extremely excellent training."

"...Enjoyed every minute of this course."

SCREENING FOR FAMILY VIOLENCE

"(I liked) The role plays, ability to speak and hear others comments, not "lecture style". (I like) Hilary's passion and Elizabeth's sense of humour...great instructors!"
- Nicole Lawson

"Great material, great discussion. Loved the input from coaches. Wonderful opportunity for self-reflection."
- Giselle Walker

"Role plays and feedback were very worthwhile; Materials (manual & readings) are excellent."
- Andrea Nauf

DUTY OF CARE FOR FDR PROFESSIONALS (10 HOUR UPDATE)

"(Great) diversity of participants - backgrounds, knowledge, and skill level, enthusiasm and openness to sharing."

"You did an excellent job of delivering the training and I genuinely appreciate your dedication to the job at hand. You added a lot of value to the process. Thanks."

"High level of intellectual content - much of it "new" information and presenters are current."

BASIC FAMILY NEGOTIATION & MEDIATION

"I would highly recommend this course to professionals... lawyers, social workers, mental health professionals."

"The quality of the materials and exercises was matched by the experience and enthusiasm of the instructors and coaches."
- Jason Murphy

"This has been the best experience that I have had as an adult learner... What made it so was the theory taken into practice with coaches and professional actors. Fantastic!"