

Hilary A. Linton

B.J.(Hons); J.D., LL.M. (ADR)

“Award of Excellence in ADR”, *Ontario Bar Association (2014)*

Certified Family Mediator
CFM (Family Mediation Canada)
FDRP Med. (FDRIO)
Acc. FM (OAFM)
Cert. F. Med. (ADRIO)

Visiting Professor of ADR,
Western University Faculty of Law
(2005, 2009, 2012, 2015, 2016)

Adjunct Professor in ADR
Osgoode Hall Law School
J.D. or LL. M. Programs
(2005- current)

President
Riverdale Mediation Ltd.

President,
mediate393 inc.

Founding Director,
Family Dispute Resolution Institute of Ontario (FDRIO)

Past-chair,
Ontario Bar Association, ADR section

Past-director.

393 University Avenue, Suite 2000
Toronto, Ontario M5G 1E6

☎ 416.593.0210 x 291 | 📠 416.593.1352

🌐 riverdalemediation.com

✉ hilary@riverdalemediation.com

Overview

Ms. Linton started her career as a civil litigator in the 1980s, focusing on banking, construction and defamation law. She also conducted prosecutions of the unauthorized practice of law for the Law Society. She eventually specialized in family law, becoming a partner at Chappell Bushell Stewart in Toronto.

In 2000, she left the adversarial practice of law to focus on alternative dispute resolution. She has worked exclusively as a civil and family mediator, family arbitrator and teacher since 2001 when she founded Riverdale Mediation Ltd.

In 2011 she founded mediate393 inc., which was awarded a contract to provide family information and mediation services in the Toronto Superior Court of Justice and its two Ontario Court of Justice locations. In that capacity she has designed a rigorous and vibrant family mediation service and supervises dozens of mediators and family information officers working in and connected to the court.

Ms. Linton has also designed and taught family mediation training programs that have equipped hundreds of professionals to become certified in their fields. She is recognized across Canada and internationally for her expertise and innovation in dispute resolution training. Her contributions have been recognized by the Ontario Bar Association (Award of Excellence in ADR).

Family Mediation and Arbitration

Ms. Linton focuses on empowering couples to resolve their own disputes as quickly and affordably as possible. Working with counsel and other experts where appropriate, Ms. Linton provides a child-focused process that allows parties to reach parenting and financial settlements that are good for their children and permit the family to move on.

Ms. Linton also provides mediation-arbitration, where she will adjudicate any issues that are not resolved in the mediation.

Issues that she mediates and arbitrates include parenting plans, income determination, child and spousal support, property division, marriage and co-habitation agreements and separation agreements.

Teaching and Training

Riverdale Mediation has earned broad acclaim for its mediation, arbitration, parenting coordination and negotiation training programs, which meet the requirements of several accrediting organizations in Ontario.

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Ms. Linton and her Riverdale colleagues are frequently retained to design and deliver custom training. Some projects:

- Negotiation Master Class, 5th Annual Family Law Conference, Johannesburg South Africa, October 4-5, 2018.
- Co-presenter (with Dr. Robert Simon, Forensic Psychologist, San Diego, USA), Family Mediation Practicum, Cape Town South Africa, September 29, 2018.
- Adjunct Professor, Osgood Hall Law School, J.D. and LL.M. programs in Lawyer as Negotiator (J.D.) and/or Family Dispute Resolution (LL.M.) in Family Law, 2005 – current.
- Civil/Community Mediation training of Police Officers and Community Leaders in various Caribbean countries, for IMPACT Justice (Access to Justice in the Caribbean), *40 Hour Mediation Training*, 2016-2018: Trinidad, Grenada, Dominica, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, St. Kitts, St. Lucia.
- Co-host, *The Inaugural Honour Symposium*, Stratford, April 20-22, 2018.
- *Screening for Family Violence, Abuse and Power Imbalances: A Workshop for Parenting Coordinators and Other Dispute Resolution Professionals*, The Prince Edward Island Parenting Coordination Society, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Winter 2018.
- *Identifying, Assessing and Managing Power Imbalance & Family Violence in Family Dispute Resolution Processes*, The Association of Collaborative Family Law Professionals in Nova Scotia, Spring 2017.
- Family Arbitration for Parenting Coordinators, with Elizabeth Hyde, Government of Prince Edward Island, Winter 2017.
- *Screening for Family Violence, Abuse and Power Imbalances*, Ismaili Conciliation and Arbitration Board (CAB), Edmonton, AB, October 2016
- Family Mediation - Arbitration, FAMAC Facilitation Workshop, Cape Town, South Africa, September 2016.
- *Strategies and Skills for Successful Facilitation*, Durham Children's Aid Society, Winter 2016.
- Negotiation and Mediation, Western University Faculty of Law, Winter Term 2016.
- Advanced Family Mediation training, Family Mediation Canada, Vancouver, Fall 2015.
- Intensive Introduction to ADR training for first year Law Students, with Elizabeth Hyde, Western University Faculty of Law, Fall 2015.
- *Coaching in the ADR Context*, ADR Institute of Manitoba, Spring 2015.
- Mediation-Arbitration, with Felicity Shedden, Woburn, UK, October 2014.

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- *Screening for Power Imbalances: Helping Separating Couples Make Appropriate FDR Process Choices*, with Grace Corrigan, Dublin, Ireland, October 2014.
- *Mediation Skills and Screening Training*, with Bill Eddy and Claudette Reimer, Academy of Professional Family Mediators, Seattle, Washington, Summer 2014.
- *Screening for Power Imbalances and Family Violence in Family Mediation & Arbitration*, Ismaili Conciliation and Arbitration Board, Fall 2013.
- *Screening for Power Imbalances, and Family Mediation Theory and Skills*, Ontario Office of the Children’s Lawyer, Spring 2013.
- *Mediation Training*, with Bill Eddy, Rod Wells and Claudette Reimer, Academy of Professional Family Mediators, Atlanta, Georgia, Spring 2013.
- *Screening for Power Imbalances and Family Violence*, multiple sessions, CLEBC, Spring 2013.
- *Family Law, Family Arbitration and Screening for Power Imbalances and Family Violence*, Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama-at of Canada, Fall 2012.
- *Screening for Power Imbalances for Collaborative Lawyers and Mediators*, Family Law in Partnership, May 2012.
- *Visiting Professor, Dispute Resolution*, University of Western Ontario Faculty of Law, 2005, 2009, 2012, 2015 & 2016 (and recipient of the James G. McLeod Professorship in Family Law 2009 & 2012)
- *Basic Family Mediation and Screening for Power Imbalances and Family Violence*, Legal Services Board of Nunavut, 2011 and 2012.
- *Family Arbitration Law and Procedure*, Manitoba Bar Association (via webcast) 2011.
- *Restorative Justice Conferencing under the Youth Criminal Justice Act*, Toronto Advanced Professional Education, 2006-2010.
- *Co-Trainer, Family Mediation Theory and Skills*, Ismaili Conciliation and Arbitration Board, Toronto, 2006.
- *Conferencing under the Youth Criminal Justice Act*, Ontario Crown Attorney Summer Training 2004.
- *Law Society of Upper Canada Bar Admission Course, Civil Litigation and/or Family Law*, 1990-2004.

Government and Community Committee Appointments

- Ministry of the Attorney General, Family Dispute Resolution Officer, 2018.
- Member, Advisory Body, Family Legal Services Review Committee, Justice Annemarie E. Bonkalo, 2016.
- Member, Consular Round Table on Family Mediation and International Parental Child Abductions, Department of Foreign Affairs, 2009-2011.

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- Member, Provincial Advisory Committee on Formal Dispute Resolution regarding Special Education Programs and Services, 2007-2010.
- Appointment, by Attorney General of Ontario, as Ontario Bar Association representative to Justice and Media Liaison Committee, 2007-2008.
- Member, T.D.S.B. training team delivering negotiation theory and skills support to educators and parents, 2009-2010.
- Team member designing a restorative justice conferencing process for Toronto's Community Centre 55, 2001-2003.

Speaking, Writing, and Media

- Speaker on Manipulative Questioning, 5th Annual Family Law Conference, Johannesburg South Africa, October 4-5, 2018.
- Speaker on Mediation and Parenting Coordination, 3rd FAMAC Mediation Conference, Cape Town South Africa, September 26-27, 2018.
- What is “Power” in Family Law Dispute Resolution?, OBA Institute Program, ADR Section, Dispute Resolution and Neuroscience, February 9, 2018.
- Foreword, “Guide to Child Protection Mediation”, Paul James Brown, 2018.
- “Can mediation-arbitration reduce clogged courts and improve access to justice?”, *The Lawyer's Daily*, December 12, 2017: Link: <https://goo.gl/RBSRNp>
- Contributing Author, *Setting Family Law Cases: Practical Techniques for Advocates and Neutrals* (Thomson Reuters, 2017), (Lorne H. Wolfson, ed). “When One or Both Parties are Unrepresented”.
- Presenter, *Mediators Beyond Borders*, UN CSW61, New York, March 2017.
- Plenary (video) panelist on “Legal Professionalism in the Modern Age”, Crown Summer School, Ministry of the Attorney General, June 2016. Link: <https://youtu.be/96m4D1WTBh4>
- Government funded family mediation services in Toronto, Television Rogers TV, June 2016. Link: <https://youtu.be/X5BnpvTt9EM>
- ADR Institute of Ontario 2016 AGM & Professional Development Program, “Med-Arb: Risks and Rewards”, June 2016.
- Radio Interview, *Newstalk 1010*, on Free & Subsidized Family Mediation, April 2016. Link: <https://goo.gl/rpn6sS>
- Catalyst Conference, New York, “A Question of Ethics: Five Questions Every Mediator-Arbitrator May Need to Answer”, with Felicity Shedden, October 2015.

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- Advocates Society fundraiser for family lawyer Maria Mitousis, “Safety and Security for Lawyers”, September 2015.
- Canadian Arbitration and Mediation Journal, “Risky Business: Why Family Mediator – Arbitrators Should Take Risk Screening Seriously”, January 2015.
- University of Western Ontario Student Council, “Negotiation and Leadership”, January 2015.
- Six Minute Family Lawyer, “Safety Planning in Family Law Cases: An Emerging Duty of Care for Lawyers?”, Law Society of Upper Canada, December 4, 2014.
- Swedish Forum for Mediation and Conflict Resolution, “Family Mediation”, Gothenberg, Sweden, November 14, 2014.
- Resolution, Dispute Resolution Conference, Nottingham, UK, October 16, 2014: “Mediation-Arbitration - Ethical and Practical Pros and Cons”.
- Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, 51st Annual Conference, Toronto: “Procedural Triage for Lawyers, Arbitrators, Dispute Resolution Officers, PCs and Judges”, 2014.
- Ontario Collaborative Law Federation, Eighth Conference, Kingston, Ontario, 2014: “Continuing the Dialogue on Safety – Family Violence and Screening in Collaborative Practice”.
- International Academy of Collaborative Professionals, Forum, San Antonio, Texas: “Power Imbalances and Family Violence in Collaborative Cases: Balancing Safety and Transparency”, 2013.
- Featured expert in *Mediation for Civil Litigators Issues and Solutions Handbook*, Hollander, J.(Irwin Law), 2013.
- ADR Institute of Canada, Gold Standard Conference, Toronto, Fall 2013: “Negotiation Power in Family Law Dispute Resolution”.
- Academy of Professional Family Mediators Annual Conference, Fall 2013, Denver, Colorado: “Understanding Negotiation Power in Family Mediation”.
- Keynote speaker, County of Carleton Law Association/Annual Civil Litigation Conference. November 2012.
- 5th Annual Fall Conference, Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers. November 2011.
- Children and the Law, University of Toronto- School of Social Work. November 2011.
- Keynote Speaker, First International Congress on Mediation, Lisbon, Portugal. October 2010.
- AFCC (Ontario Chapter) Annual Conference. October 2010.
- Host-Mediator, ‘The Feud’, (a pilot television programme), CBC Television, 2009.
- Morningstar Canada, Conflict Resolution in the Workplace, 2008.

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- Young Lawyers’ Division, Ontario Bar Association. March 2008.
- Annual Institute in Family Law, Ontario Bar Association. February 2008
- “Mandatory or Voluntary Mediation?” ADR Institute of Ontario, December 2007.
- Law Society of Upper Canada program on Family Arbitration, November 2007.
- Young Lawyers Division meeting, Ontario Bar Association, March 2007.
- Osgoode Hall Law School Conference on ADR, February 2007.
- Ontario Bar Association ADR Section, Deputation, Hearings into proposed changes to Ontario’s Arbitration and Family Law Acts, 2006.
- Chair, The Great Debate, Ontario Bar Association, September 2006.
- Ontario Association of Family Mediation AGM, “Family Arbitration”, June 2006.
- Ontario Bar Association, “Income Determination in Family Law (Arbitration)”, May 2006.
- Ontario Bar Association, “Mediation-Arbitration Practice Tips”, November 2005.
- Ontario Association of Family Mediation AGM, “Spousal Support Guidelines”, June 2005.
- ADR Institute of Ontario, “Religious Arbitration in Ontario”, May 2005.
- Ontario Bar Association, “The Youth Criminal Justice Act and Extrajudicial Measures: Keeping Kids Out of Court”, March 2005.
- Co-chair, Annual Institute of Continuing Legal Education; Family Section, Ontario Bar Association, February 2005.
- Osgoode Hall Law School Professional Development Program, “Contemporary Perspectives on Conflict, Disputes and Dispute Resolution”, April 2003.
- Guest expert, three-part Canadian Living Television series on family law and mediation, 2001.
- Ontario Bar Association Deputation, Family Law Section Deputation, to Justice Peter de Cory, *A Framework for Regulating Paralegal Practice in Ontario*, June 2000.
- Family law expert, Separating Smart video series, Toronto’s Family Law Centre, 2000.
- Contributing author, *Common Civil Applications in Ontario*, Butterworths, 1999.
- Legal columnist, Beach Metro Community News, 1993-2007.

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Legal Background

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

Ms. Linton’s litigation practice focused on construction lien, defamation law, family law, and unauthorized practice prosecutions under the Law Society Act.

Education

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

Awards, Executive Positions, Appointments and Memberships

- Chair, Complaints Committee, Family Dispute Resolution Institute of Ontario (FDRIO), 2017-
- FDRP. Med, FDRIO, 2017
- Founding Director, FDRIO, 2014-
- Director, US Academy of Professional Family Mediators, 2014-2015
- Certified Family Mediator, ADR Institute of Ontario, 2015
- Recipient, ADR Award of Excellence, Ontario Bar Association ADR Section, 2014.
- Family Bench and Bar Committees, Ontario Superior Court of Justice, Toronto, 2011, and Ontario Court of Justice, 2012-
- Chair, ADR Section, Ontario Bar Association, 2007-2008
- Executive, ADR Section, Ontario Bar Association, 2003-2010
- Executive, Family Law Section, Ontario Bar Association, 1996-2004
- Member of the ADR Institute of Canada, 2004-present.
- Founding Member, Toronto Collaborative Law Association, 2001
- Director and Secretary, Ontario Association of Family Mediation (OAFM), 2003-2004

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- Member, Governance and Privacy Law Committee, OAFM, 2004-2010
- Accredited Family Mediator, OAFM, 2001-
- Member of Law Society of Upper Canada, Canadian Bar Association, Ontario Bar Association, Ontario Association of Family Mediation, ADR Institute of Ontario, Family Dispute Resolution Institute of Ontario (FDRIO), and the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts. (AFCC)- Present.
- Certified Cross-Country Ski Instructor, CANSI, 2015-

Volunteer Work

- Member and volunteer, Mediators Beyond Borders International.
- Vice-Chair, Family Dispute Resolution Institute of Ontario, 2015-2017.
- Volunteer Judge, Walsh Family Law Negotiation Competition, 2016.
- Co-chair, Inaugural Walsh Family Law Negotiation Competition, 2015.
- Coach, mediator and/or judge for the International Mediation Advocacy Competition, 2009-2015.
- Member of Organizing Committee, Roger Fisher Tribute, September 2007.
- Member, Planned Giving Committee, Toronto East General Hospital, 2007-2016.
- Volunteer, Nordic Ski Instructor, Trakkers Ski Club, Toronto, 2015 -.
- Volunteer facilitator of restorative justice conferences for young offenders, PACT, 2003- 2010.
- 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, 1998
- Director, Regent Park Community Health Centre, 1994-1999.