

LISA HERSHMAN

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EDUCATION

M.S.W. New York University School of Social Work, May 2006.

J.D. New York University School of Law, *magna cum laude*, May 2004.

B.A. University of Pennsylvania, *summa cum laude*, May 2001.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Associate Clinical Professor of Law, Attorney-in-Charge Hofstra Mediation Clinic, 2008 – present.

Direct a clinic which provides mediation services for children and families participating in a pre-court PINS diversion program in Nassau County, New York. Supervise approximately 20 students annually in their work on Clinic cases. Conduct mediation training for students twice annually. Review and monitor all Clinic related work, including pre-mediation contacts, mediation, and post-mediation follow-up. Teach a weekly seminar on the theoretical, practical, and ethical aspects of mediation with children and families. Participate in regular planning meetings in collaboration with social service agency partners.

Workgroup Leader, Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation, 2007 – 2008. Guide a group of approximately 15 mediation professionals to explore the understanding and practice of transformative mediation in education. Objective is to develop a training model for educators wishing to incorporate transformative principles into their work.

Mediator, RPB Associates, 2007 – present. Member of a select roster of transformative mediators that provides mediation services for government agencies, courts, corporations, and organizations nationwide. Clients include the Transportation Security Administration, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of Energy, and Department of Land Management, among others.

Conflict Resolution Specialist, Educators for Social Responsibility, 2006 – 2008. Teach conflict resolution skills to elementary school students in the Peace from A to Z (PAZ) afterschool program. Developed an original peer mediation program based on transformative principles. Coordinate and administer peer mediation and mentoring program serving approximately 300 youth. Conduct trainings for students and staff in conflict resolution and peer mediation skills.

Mediator, Community Mediation Services, 2005 – present. Conduct mediations for community members free of charge. Mediate a wide range of cases including PINS, juvenile delinquency, and special education disputes. Organize a monthly study group of approximately 15 members that provides peer support and continuing education for advanced mediators.

Assessment and Referral Specialist, Children's Aid Society (CAS), 2005 – 2006. Performed clinical assessments for adolescents and families referred to the CAS Person In Need of Supervision (PINS) Diversion Program by the Brooklyn Family Court. Provided short-term counseling, conducted mediation-based sessions, performed home and school visits, and referred families to long-term community-based service agencies. Facilitated communication among child welfare workers, educators, and community-based providers using a team-conferencing approach.

Social Work Intern/Peer Mediation Manager, Bronx Guild High School, 2004-2005. Created and directed Bronx Guild Violence Prevention Program (BGVP), a peer mediation program serving 300 students. Designed and delivered six-week training curriculum. Managed all aspects related to implementation of program. Organized presentations to students and staff on legal rights of students. Carried a caseload of nine students for individual counseling.

Mitigation Specialist, Legal Aid Society, Juvenile Rights Division, 2004 – 2005. Investigated, analyzed, and presented mitigation evidence in the dispositional phase of delinquency hearings in Family Court as a law student with the NYU Juvenile/Criminal Defense Clinic. Prepared comprehensive social histories of adjudicated juvenile offenders. Facilitated dialogues with mental health experts, educational specialists, opposing counsel, probation officers, and family members to generate dispositional options to recommend to the court.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Supervisor, Advanced Principles in Conflict Resolution, Purchase College, SUNY, 2008 – present. Oversee progress of one student interning at community dispute resolution center. Weekly meetings encourage persistent reflection on practice and provide opportunities for acquiring advanced mediation skills.

Adjunct Professor, Family and the Law, Purchase College, SUNY, 2007 – present. Introduction to ways in which law and public policy affects families and vice-versa. Lecture and exercises focus on developing critical thinking skills related to policy analysis, persuasive writing, and oral argument.

Adjunct Professor, Conflict Resolution, Purchase College, SUNY, 2006 – present. Introduction to alternative dispute resolution (ADR) techniques, including negotiation, mediation, and arbitration. Numerous experiential exercises, both in and out of class, help students integrate newly learned skills.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Vera Institute of Justice, Commission on Safety and Abuse in America's Prisons, 2005. Research topics included barriers to appropriate diagnosis for incarcerated persons and the effect of incarceration on receipt of Medicare/Medicaid and SSI/SSDI benefits.

Brennan Center for Justice, Criminal Justice Program, 2002 – 2003. Researched collateral consequences for women offenders and their families. Authored policy briefs on the intersection of immigration and criminal justice policies for women offenders.

Vera Institute of Justice, Planning Department, 2002. Worked with the Administrative Office for U.S. Courts to evaluate 91 private assigned counsel programs operating in the federal district courts. Developed a project proposal for the New York City Commission on Human Rights to promote greater efficiency and accessibility to services.

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Hershman, L. & DeBenedetti, E. The new peer mediator: Working with children in a transformative model. Workshop to be presented at the Third International Conference on Transformative Mediation, August 2008.

Hershman, L. Step right up, children of all ages! Transformative peer mediation. Workshop to be presented at the Association for Conflict Resolution's Education Section Conference, March 2008.

Hershman, L. Elements of style: The what, why, and how of transformative peer mediation. *Mediate.com*, 2007. (Reprinted in *The Peer Bulletin*, No. 159, December 2007.)

Hershman, L. Using a transformative approach in an elementary school peer mediation program. *Mediate.com*, 2007. (Reprinted in *The Peer Bulletin*, No. 158, November 2007.)

Commission for Safety and Abuse in America's Prisons. Confronting confinement. New York: Vera Institute, 2006.

Levingsten, K. & Yedid (Hershman), L. Forty years after Gideon, right to counsel is crucial. *Los Angeles Daily Journal*, opinion piece, 2003.

Wool, J., Howell, B. & Yedid (Hershman), L. Improving public defense systems: Good practices for federal panel attorney programs. Washington, DC: Administrative Office of U.S. Courts, 2002.

CERTIFICATIONS AND ACCREDITATIONS

Certificate in Special Education Mediation, New York State Dispute Resolution Association, 2007.

Certificate in Transformative Mediation, Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation, 2007.

Certificate in Facilitating Team Development, Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation, 2007.

Certificate in Child Custody and Visitation Mediation, Queens Mediation Network, 2006.

Certificate in Parent-Child (PINS) Mediation, Community Mediation Services, 2005.

Certificate in Mediation and Conflict Resolution, Teachers College, Columbia University, 2005.

Certified mediator in New York State, 2005.

New York State Bar Admission, 2005.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Board Member, Community Mediation Services (2007 – present)

Co-chair, Association for Conflict Resolution, Elementary Education Committee (2007 – present)

Member, New York State Dispute Resolution Association

Member, American Bar Association

Member, New York State Bar Association

Member, New York City Bar Association

Member, National Association of Social Workers