

Association of Attorney-Mediators Advanced Attorney-Mediator Training Speakers and Panelists - April 3 and 4, 2020

Chris Braun has practiced law for more than 35 years and focuses on a variety of complex litigation, transactional, administrative and legislative matters. Since 1993, Chris has also served as General Counsel to the Indiana Food and Fuel Association (IFFA), formerly the Indiana Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association (IPCA). He has also served as lead counsel in numerous transactions for both buyers and sellers of environmentally impacted properties and businesses. He has assisted in the drafting of more than 30 pieces of legislation, including numerous appearances to testify regarding legislation. For two decades Chris has been consistently selected by various national and state publications as a top lawyer, including being selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America and Indiana Super Lawyer.



Trish Cheatham is the CEO of St. Louis based Think Tank PR + Marketing + Design and White Buffalo Film Studios. With a strong background in marketing communications, digital marketing, crisis PR, and strategic business planning; Trish's passion is growing her clients' businesses. Think Tank serves Fortune 500 companies to large manufacturing companies to companies branching out into new product development – and everything in between.

Jerome A. Diekemper graduated from St. Louis University School of Law in 1971. Jerry was in private practice representing unions and individual employees in labor and employment matters for 34 years. Since October of 1993, Jerry has mediated over 1700 civil cases of all types, except domestic relations matters. Jerry has been included in every edition of the Best Lawyers in America since 1983. Before becoming a full-time neutral in 2007, Jerry was included in the Top 100 list of Missouri-Kansas lawyers and the Top 50 list of St. Louis lawyers. Jerry is a Fellow in the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers, an Advanced Workplace Practitioner in the Association for Conflict Resolution, and a member of the National Academy of Arbitrators.



Jenni Dressler is a retired corporate and securities attorney, and volunteer mediator in Chicago. She offers pro bono mediation services for civil litigants and juvenile offenders in Cook County, and in private mediations through the Center for Conflict Resolution. A graduate of the Second City Improv Program, Jenni has developed and offered experiential training and development workshops for professionals using improv exercises to enhance their communication, creativity, and conflict management skills.

Jenni received her B.A. (1989) and J.D. (1992) from the University of Wisconsin, and her LL.M. in taxation (1997) from DePaul University.



Michael Geigerman is the Managing Director of United States Arbitration, Inc (USAM). He has conducted over 4,000 mediations since 1986 on a wide variety of civil and commercial matters. He is an adjunct professor at Washington University School of Law. Mike was a member of the Missouri Supreme Court Commission on Alternative Dispute Resolution. He is a member of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri ADR Committee and the current Chair of the MoBar ADR Committee.

Simone A. Haberstock CPA, J.D., LL.M. Ms. Haberstock has been a family law attorney for 28 years and a mediator for nearly 20 years. She acquired a Masters of Law in Dispute Resolution from University of Missouri School of Law in 2013 where she did IRB approved research on a mediation-arbitration process. Since graduating, she has founded a non-profit mediation service, Confluence Missouri, Inc.; served on the Mediation and Parenting Coordination Oversight Committee in St. Louis County Circuit Court; and worked on a number of court-connected ADR and problem-solving court projects across the state. She recently completed an interview research project of Missouri litigants who used mandatory mediation and has assisted in the production of two videos for the public on ADR processes. She has mediated over 400 cases including family, small business, employment, and small claims matters. Ms. Haberstock has spoken and presented on a variety of mediation and ADR topics, including the decision-making process, at both national and statewide conferences. She also served on the Board of Governors for the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis for 10 years and is the immediate past-president of the Missouri Chapter of Association of Family and Conciliation Courts.



Michael Hawash is a partner at Hawash Cicack & Gaston LLP in Houston, Texas. Over a litigation career spanning four decades, Michael represented many of the world's largest corporations and insurance companies while working for Big Law. In 2009, Michael opened his own commercial litigation boutique and slowly but surely found himself shedding trial work in favor of alternative dispute resolution. Today, Michael is a mediator, arbitrator and trained early dispute resolution neutral, committed to helping disputants avoid the time, expense and uncertainties of the courthouse.

Kim Kirn's legal practice focuses on alternative dispute resolution in which she has mediated and arbitrated over 300 real estate, contractual, employment and other civil disputes with US Arbitration & Mediation (USA&M) and AAA. Her 30+ year legal career includes mega-big law firms; uber-small law firms; and in-house counsel. Kim is an honors graduate of University of Missouri-Columbia and University of Notre Dame Law School. She is licensed in both Missouri and Illinois. Kim is a past chair of BAMSL's Labor and Employment committee and Chair of the ADR Committee. She and her husband have two college-age sons and one spoiled dog.





Heather McFarlane's passion as a litigator has always been the search for creative solutions. In 1998, after graduating with honors from the University of Texas School of Law, Heather began her practice at one of the largest law firms in Texas, where she represented Fortune 100 companies in their complex commercial litigation. During that time, she tried a number of cases to verdict. In 2010, Heather opened her own firm. She continued to try complex commercial cases, but she began mediating non-family, civil cases. Today, Heather is a full-time mediator focusing on intellectual property and other complex litigation. She is a frequent speaker and writer on both intellectual property and on mediation. In 2019, Heather was accepted and attended Harvard Law School's "Advanced Mediation Workshop: Mediating Complex Disputes." She now freely shares the knowledge and experiences from Harvard. Specifically, she will provide specific tools to craft effective questions during mediation.

Peter Silverman is a partner at Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick in Toledo, Ohio. He has been an arbitrator and mediator for over 30 years. For the past 12 years, Peter has worked on developing, speaking and writing about early dispute resolution procedures. Peter is the primary author of the Early Dispute Resolution Practice Protocols promulgated by the EDR Institute, a non-profit corporation organized to promote, educate and train lawyers, mediators and other professionals in the use and benefits of EDR.



Ross W. Stoddard, III is an attorney-mediator with a full-time mediation practice, based in Las Colinas in Irving, Texas. Since 1989, he has conducted 5,000+ mediations involving \$28+ billion in aggregate claims. Ross also served as faculty for the Effective Negotiations (12 yrs) and Global Business Environments (4 yrs) courses in the SMU Executive MBA Program, and for 45+ mediation training programs offered through various bar/ADR associations. He authored the chapter on the use of ADR in tort disputes in *The Litigator's Handbook*, published by the ABA Section of Litigation. Ross was a founding director and officer of AAM and the American Academy of

Attorney-Mediators, Inc., and served on the Council of the State Bar of Texas ADR Section. Prior to becoming a mediator, his experience as a lawyer was in a broad range of negotiations, disputes and transactions, primarily in business and contract matters. Ross earned a JD from University of Texas School of Law following a BBA from Southern Methodist University. He served in the USAF JAG Corps for four years after law school.