

2020 MEDIATION COUNCIL OF WESTERN PA ROUNDTABLES

Place: Leech Tishman, 525 William Penn Place, 28th Floor, Pittsburgh, PA

Time: 5:45pm

Exception: December 14, 2020 Roundtable

Place: The Conflict Lab, 5167 Butler Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201

Time: 5:45 p.m.

Cost: \$0 for MCWP Members, \$20 for Non-Members

Leader	Topic	Date - 2020
Selina Shultz	<p><i>Continuing the CrossCulture Conversation: A Reflection on Sukhsimiran Singh's Wise Words from the 2019 Kaplan Lecture</i></p> <p>This session will take a deeper dive into some of the issues present when mediating cases with parties from different cultures that were raised in Sukhsimiran Singh's 2019 Kaplan Lecture Presentation. This will include answering the question of what is "culture" and how do we as mediators address it effectively? Can we prepare for it prior to the session? How do we translate between cultures to empower the parties to make important settlement decisions?</p>	February 10
Mark Phillis	<p><i>Creating a gender-inclusive environment in mediation</i></p> <p>Course will update attendees on respectful address of non-binary issues and the use pronouns, especially when gender is not obvious. Non-binary persons may identify as having two or more genders, having no gender, moving between genders, being a third gender or being other-gendered. In this program, we will discuss ways in which mediators can work to ensure that they create a gender-inclusive environment and the role that pronoun usage plays in fostering an inclusive environment. By being mindful of the pronouns people use to describe themselves and by proactively sharing our own preferred pronouns, mediators can help to ensure that they and the parties respect each other's gender identity and avoid mis-gendering people.</p>	April 20

Aaron Erb	<p><i>When Restoration Isn't Justice</i></p> <p>Restorative Justice ("RJ") is a process of approaching wrongdoing wherein those harmed are invited to the forefront of setting the terms of accountability required to repair those harms. Erb will explore conflicts and problems RJ practitioners may face while acting as a neutral facilitator, such as overly focusing on interpersonal nature of the conflict and losing perspective of a neutral. He will pose the question: "what if maintaining a neutral stance perpetuates systemic injustices (racism, sexism, heteronormativity, ageism) that have allowed for these harms to occur?" This roundtable will invite a broader analysis of conflict to ask critical questions about the role of a restorative justice facilitator and the need for RJ processes to invite parties to a truly just future.</p>	June 2
Christine Elzer	<p><i>"Exploring the contours of Early Neutral Evaluation"</i></p> <p>Provide an overview of early neutral evaluation (ENE) as a form of alternative dispute resolution, particularly as it is used in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. Following a presentation on the court's rules for ENE, the group will discuss best practices for serving as an ENE neutral, and the challenges that arise when facilitating settlement discussions following providing an evaluation of the parties' litigation positions.</p>	August 17
Rebecca Mahr Cartus	<p><i>Spirit Works: Building Relationships in Public</i></p> <p>Rev. Cartus will present a description of the public yet portable organization, <i>The OpenWorks Neighborhood Network</i>. She will explain OOWN as a network grounded in the tenets of a basic spirituality and as a program designed to bring interested people into all manner of relationships. All too often, as circumstances change, conflicts arise, and disaffections set in, public and private relationships suffer the consequences. At the roundtable, Rev. Cartus asks participants to share effective strategies and tried and true practices of building sturdy relationships that work to serve the highest good.</p>	October 19
Bernie Behrend	<p><i>Pitfalls of Confidentiality</i></p> <p>This roundtable discussion will focus on the ethical issues/dilemmas presented by the three faces of confidentiality: the privilege statute, the Model Standards of Conduct for Mediators and party confidentiality. Actual scenarios mediators have experienced will stoke the discussion.</p>	Dec. 14