

May 2012 President's Message

The theme of our NHCRA Annual Meeting this year is "Dignity in Mediation". I am pleased to announce that Dr. Donna Hicks will be the keynote speaker at the meeting on June 1, 2012. Her presentation is entitled "Dignity: The Essential Role It Plays In Resolving Conflicts". It's a fascinating and thought provoking message. Elaborating on the theme, we will also offer workshops on Caucusing and Child Impact.

NHCRA is pleased to announce the slate of candidates for the Board of Directors for 2012-2013. (See Professional Biographies) Our candidates represent a wide range of interests and experience that promise to strengthen our organization. NHCRA's growth, effectiveness and sustainability depend upon participation of our membership and we encourage you to thoughtfully consider each candidate and submit your ballots.

Professional Biographies of Candidates

Jennifer Haskell is a partner with the law firm of Sager & Haskell, PLLC. The focus of her practice has long been family law. In 2009, a client of hers was tragically murdered on Mother's Day. Not knowing how to make sense of such a brutal event, she decided litigation was not in anyone's best interest and started her quest to become a certified family mediator. She became a Certified Family Mediator on March 3, 2010 and has been trained as a Rule 170 Mediator. Jennifer is an active member of her community of Wolfeboro, serving on many Boards including Hearthstone Homes, the Northeastern Ballet Theatre and the Wolfeboro Planning Board. Jennifer is also a Trustee of the Wolfeboro Camp School and is on the Council for the Live Free or Die Association.

Laurie Levin is an attorney and collaborative law practitioner licensed in Vermont who has mediated a wide range of matters including community, family, employment, business, employment and sexual harassment cases. She established an ADR foundation during her years spent working in the ethnically and socio-economically diverse community mediation centers throughout the five boroughs of Manhattan. She worked as Director of the Mediation Program for the New York Division of Human Rights pilot program created to mediate discrimination complaints primarily in the workplace and worked as Assistant ADR Coordinator for the New York State court and as ADR Coordinator for the N.H. Judicial Branch. She believes that conflicts resolved utilizing the full range of ADR strategies raises the quality of communication between people, strengthens communities and supports more meaningful and durable relationships that are built on civility, open communication and respect.

Teri M. Maguire Morrissette is a Certified Family Mediator in New Hampshire and Director of Portsmouth Mediation. She began her mediation career in 1982 mediating for Continental Airlines and the International Machinists Union. After the disasters of 9/11, she retired from aviation and began mediating on the district court panel in Boston. She became a marital mediator in Maine and Massachusetts, followed by New Hampshire in 2006. She has a very active mediation practice across much of the N.H. Sea Coast. Teri holds two degrees in Paralegal Studies from Andover College, PENN U and Aviation Management. She is a member of

NEACR, ACR and NHCRA. She has served as a member of the Education Committee for NHCRA and is a member of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts.

Marianne Rousseau is the owner of Rousseau Law and Mediation, PLLC, a law Firm in Concord, New Hampshire. Marianne is a certified family mediator, a collaborative law practitioner and a Family Law Attorney who practices statewide in New Hampshire. In addition to Family Law, Marianne's practice includes litigation of personal injury, workmen's compensation, and probate matters. Marianne finds family law work deeply rewarding, noting that the mediation and collaborative process frequently keeps the parties and families in general out of litigation in the courts. She believes that mediation allows the parties to settle when they otherwise may be unable to communicate and permits them to be heard in a way often precluded by court litigation. In addition to her law degree from New England School of Law in Boston, Marianne has a Master's degree from Johns Hopkins University Peabody Conservatory in classical guitar. Marianne is admitted to the United States Supreme Court and is also admitted to practice in Vermont. She is a member of the Vermont and the New Hampshire Bar Associations, the Collaborative Law Association of New Hampshire, NHCRA and the D.O.V.E. Attorney Network. She has served as a member of the Education Committee for NHCRA as well as Clerk of the NHBA Family Law Section.

Board Members Nominated for Re-Election (three year term beginning June 2012):

Joan Gross
David Osman

Hope to see you June 1st at our Annual Meeting and Conference.

Peggy Brick
NHCRA Board President