

Kelly Browe Olson

2217 West Road, Little Rock, AR 72207 | kbolson@ualr.edu | 501.626.6374

Professor of Law and Mediation Clinic Director

University of Arkansas at Little Rock, William H. Bowen School of Law

Professional Summary

Clinical professor and program director with over two decades of experience in legal education, clinical supervision, and dispute resolution program leadership. Recognized nationally for family mediation, family law, child welfare, and special education dispute resolution training and practice. Proven record of excellence in teaching, influential scholarship, and substantial service to institutions, the profession, and the community.

Academic Appointments and Work Experience

University of Arkansas at Little Rock, William H. Bowen School of Law

Professor of Law (2023–present); Associate Professor (2005–2023); Assistant Professor (2001–2005); Mediation Clinic Director (2001–present)

- Teach and supervise students in mediation, negotiation, ADR, family law, lawyering foundations and domestic violence courses.
- Direct Arkansas Special Education Mediation Program (ASEMP) with 150+ mediation and Facilitated Individualized Education Program cases annually.
- Mentor students and graduates and advise interdisciplinary projects (Clinton School Capstone projects, independent studies, and bar preparation).
- Develop curricula, training modules, and interdisciplinary courses.

Director of Clinical Programs (2003–2019)

- Oversaw 7 law school clinics including mediation, litigation, tax, consumer protection, heirs' property, business innovations, and family clinics.
- Managed budgets, personnel, and grant funding.
- Led development and oversight of a University of Arkansas at Little Rock graduate certificate in Conflict Mediation.
- Designed statewide access-to-justice projects and secured federal and state grants.

Loyola University of Chicago School of Law, ChildLaw Center

ChildLaw Mediation Projects Coordinator & Adjunct Professor (1999–2001)

Graduate Teaching & Research Assistant (1996–1998)

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, Office of the Inspector General
Program Consultant, Facilitator, and Mediator (1998–2001); Intern (1996)

Hilltop Communications, Inc., Evanston, IL (Telecommunications Company)
President & General Counsel (1992–1995)

Teaching & Clinical Supervision

Mediation Clinic (2001–present)

Negotiation & ADR courses (2001–present)

Family Law (2001–present)

Domestic Violence & Family Mediation (2001–present)

Lawyering Foundations (2023–present)

Graduate interdisciplinary courses in family, juvenile, and general mediation

Consistently strong teaching and student mentorship evaluations

Awards: Faculty Excellence Awards for Public Service, 2004 & 2013.

Education

LL.M., Child Law, Loyola University Chicago School of Law, 1997

J.D., University of Michigan Law School, 1992

B.A., History & Political Science, Marquette University, 1989

London School of Economics, Political Science Courses, Fall 1987

Publications & Scholarship

Books

FAMILY DISPUTE RESOLUTION: PROCESS AND PRACTICE (Oxford University Press, 2024), co-editor & chapter author

INNOVATIONS IN FAMILY LAW PRACTICE (AFCC Publishing, 2008), co-editor

Book Chapters and Essays

Collaborative Law and IPV Concerns, Essay on John Lande's Article, *Possibilities for Collaborative Law: Ethics and Practice of Lawyer Disqualification and Process Control in a New Model of Lawyering*, in DISCUSSIONS IN DISPUTE RESOLUTION: THE COMING OF AGE (Oxford, 2025)

Intimate Partner Violence and Family Dispute Resolution: Coercion, Capacity, and Control, in FAMILY DISPUTE RESOLUTION: PROCESS AND PRACTICE (Oxford University Press, 2024)

Family Dispute Resolution: Toward a Differentiated Approach to Family Justice, co-authored, in FAMILY DISPUTE RESOLUTION: PROCESS AND PRACTICE (Oxford University Press, 2024)

Post-Grillo: New Family Mediation Protections and Revised Dangers, Commentary on Trina Grillo's Article, *The Mediation Alternative: Process Dangers*, in DISCUSSIONS IN DISPUTE RESOLUTION: THE FORMATIVE ARTICLES (Oxford, 2021)

Family Engagement and Collaborative Processes, in CHILD WELFARE LAW AND PRACTICE, RED BOOK IV, (National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC), 2022)

Family-Centered Decision Making, CHILD WELFARE LAW AND PRACTICE, RED BOOK III (NACC, 2016)

Abuse, Neglect and Dependency Cases in Juvenile Court, ADR HANDBOOK FOR JUDGES (ABA, 2004)

Law Review Articles

Family Engagement and Collaborative Decision-Making Processes Provide Multiple Benefits in Child Welfare Cases, 58 FAM. CT. REV. 937 (2020)

Guest Editors' Introduction, Special Issue on Dependency Courts, 58 Fam. Ct. Rev. 870 (2020)

Family Group Conferencing and Child Protection Mediation: Essential Tools for Prioritizing Family Engagement in Child Welfare Cases, 47 FAM. CT. REV. 53 (2009)

The Importance of ADR in Representation of Children, NEV. L.J. 6 (2006)

Lessons Learned from a Child Protection Program, FAM. CT. REV. 41 (2003)

Professional/Practitioner Publications

2025 Model Standards of Family and Divorce Mediation, Taskforce Member, 2022 – 2025

Co-editor, AFCC Guidelines for Child Protection Mediation, 51 FAM. CT. REV. 605 (2013);
Child Protection Mediator Competencies, AFCC Publications (2019)

Mediation Best Practices: Working with Non-Represented Litigants, AFCC Essay Series (2017)

Practical Challenges: Caucus in Mediation, ABA Dispute Resolution Magazine (2016)

Screening for Intimate Partner Violence in Mediation, ABA Dispute Res. Mag. (2013)

Book Reviews

Book Review: The Conflict Paradox, FAM. CT. REV. 54 (2016)

The Bookshelf: What's Wrong with Children's Rights, Fam. Ct. Rev. 44 (2006)

Earlier works in Family Court Review and Children's Legal Rights Journal (1996–2006)

Works in Progress / Forthcoming

Editor, Family Court Review, January 2027 Special Edition: **The Revised Standards for Family and Divorce Mediation**

Informed Neutrality and Participation in Special Education Mediation (to be published in the Family Court Review, 2027)

A Quieter Inequality: Embedded Assumptions, Power Imbalance, and the Unfulfilled Promise of Special Education Mediation for Volume III of the DISCUSSIONS IN DISPUTE RESOLUTION book series (submitted 6/2026)

Teacher's Manual for FAMILY DISPUTE RESOLUTION: PROCESS AND PRACTICE

ACEs and Evictions: Concerns and Correlations (forthcoming)

Presentations & Professional Activities

2026

Co-Presenter: *Revised Model Standards for Family Mediation: Effective Screening and Ethical Technology Use*, Family and Divorce Mediation Council Continuing Education program via Zoom, (Feb. 4, 2026)

Presenter: *Understanding DV in Family Mediation*, Arkansas ADR Commission, Little Rock (Feb. 6, 2026)

Co-Trainer: *Foundations for New Special Education Mediators*, New York State Special Education Dispute Resolution Center (SEDRC) via Zoom (Feb. 26, 27, 2026)

Co-Presenter: *Modern Practice Expectations: The Revised Model Standards for Family Mediation*, Maryland Program for Mediator Excellence, via Zoom, (March 18, 2026)

Co-Presenter: *Assessment & Next Gen Bar Exam*, The Dispute Resolution Educators Colloquium,

Kukin Program for Conflict Resolution, Cardozo Law, New York City (April 17, 2026)

Moderator, Bowen Forum, The Ten Commandments in the Classroom (April 22, 2026)

Presenter: *Modern Practice Expectations: The Revised Model Standards for Family Mediation*, Arkansas Administrative Office of the Courts, Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission, 2026 ADR Conference, Little Rock, AR (May 8, 2026)

Co-Presenter, *Negotiating Under Pressure: Strategies for Institutions in an Authoritarian Age*, European Negotiation Conference 2026, Paris, France (July 3, 2026)

Attendee: International Association for Conflict Management (IACM) in Vienna, Austria, (July 5-8, 2026)

Presenter, Arkansas Special Education Mediation Program, New Mediator Training, Little Rock (August 6, 7, 2026)

Upcoming

Presenter, *IDEA and Special Education Mediation, Where are We Headed Next?*, Association of American Law Schools Section on Alternative Dispute Resolution's 19th Annual Works-in-Progress Conference, Columbia, Missouri (September 25, 2026)

Presenter, *Emotional Intelligence and Communicating through Conflict*, Arkansas Parent Counsel Conference (October 14, 2026)

Presenter, *Negotiating through Conflict in Academia*, Arkansas Leadership Academy (January 29, 2027)

2025

Presenter: *Understanding DV in Family Mediation*, Arkansas ADR Commission, Little Rock (Jan. 30, 2025)

Presenter: *Emotional Intelligence and Communicating through Conflict*, Jefferson County Juvenile Court Staff (Feb. 25, 2025)

Invited Presenter: *Emotional Intelligence in the Workplace*, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (Apr. 4, 2025)

Organizer & Co-presenter: Preconference Institute: *Domestic Abuse and Family Mediation*; Workshop Presenter, *Family Dispute Resolution: Meet the Authors*; Workshop Presenter, *Revised Standards for Family Mediation*, AFCC Annual Conference, New Orleans (May 27–31, 2025)

Discussant: Discussions in Dispute Resolution: The Next Book; Family Law Pedagogy Discussion Group, SEALS Conference, Amelia Island, FL (July 28–31, 2025)

AFCC Webinar Presentation: Screening for Intimate Partner Violence in Mediation: Tools, Ethics, and Practice Tips (with Joi Hollis, PhD), (November 4, 2025)

2024

Presenter: *Understanding DV in Family Mediation*, Arkansas ADR Commission, Little Rock (Feb. 15, 2024)

Invited Presenter: Texas A&M Dispute Resolution Symposium, *The Two Faces of Mediation: Reasons for Worry, Reasons for Hope*, Fort Worth, TX (Mar. 1, 2024)

Presenter: *Revising Model Standards for Divorce & Family Mediators*, ABA SDR Meeting, San Diego, CA (Apr. 13, 2024)

Presenter: *Dependency/Neglect Facilitations*; Arkansas Administrative Office of the Courts, Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission, Little Rock, AR (April 19, 2024)

Co-presenter: Preconference Institute: *Advanced Challenges in Family Mediation*; Workshop Presenter, *Screening for IPV in Mediation*, AFCC Annual Conference, Boston, MA (June 5–8, 2024)

Panelist: Family Law Pedagogy Discussion Group, SEALS Conference, Fort Lauderdale, FL (Aug. 2024)

Invited Plenary Speaker: *Including Children's Voices in Family Law Proceedings*; Workshop Presenter, *Revising the Mediation Model Standards*, AFCC Child Custody Symposium, Columbus, OH (Nov. 2024)

2023

Co-presenter: AFCC DEI Webinar: *Child Abuse and Culture* (Jan. 5, 2023)

Presenter: *Understanding DV in Family Mediation*, Arkansas ADR Commission Webinar (Jan. 19, 2023)

Presenter: Salary Negotiation Workshop, UA Little Rock Bowen School of Law (Mar. 9, 2023)

Invited Presenter: *Emotional Intelligence in the Workplace*, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (Apr. 7, 2023)

Presenter: *Collaboration and Support in Facilitative Staffings*, Arkansas Administrative Office of the Court Conference, Little Rock (May 4, 2023)

Presenter: *Special Education Mediation and Facilitations*, ASEMP Annual Training, Little Rock (June 23, 2023)

Presenter: *Communicating through Conflict: Special Education Mediation*, Arkansas Dept. of Education, Little Rock (June 28, 2023)

Presenter: *Communicating through Conflict*, Mediation and Communication Training for Faulkner County Court Staff, Conway, AR (July 12–13, 2023)

Discussant: *Discussions in Dispute Resolution: The Next Generation*; Family Law Pedagogy

Discussion Group; Family Law Workshop, SEALS Conference, Boca Raton, FL (July 2023)

Co-presenter: AFCC Webinar: *Culture and Bias in the Child Welfare System* (Sept. 14, 2023)

Presenter: Family Dispute Resolution: Process and Practice, AALS ADR Works-in-Progress Conference, Yale/Quinnipiac (Oct. 13, 2023)

Presenter: *Facilitation in Juvenile Courts*, Arkansas AOC Juvenile Judges Meeting, Heber Springs, AR (Nov. 10, 2023)

Co-presenter: AFCC Missouri Webinar: *IPV & Mediation* (Nov. 17, 2023)

Over 250 additional national and international presentations before 2023 are available upon request.

Professional & Institutional Service

ORGANIZATION LEADERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP

Current Activities and Memberships

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) 1999 – 2026

- Joint AFCC/ABA Family Mediation Model Standards Taskforce 2022 – 2025
Subcommittees on IPV, Role of Children in Mediation, Vulnerable Parties
- Nominating Committee Member, 2015 – 2026
- Family Court Review Editorial Board 2003 – 2026
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Member, 2021 – 2026
- Conference Committee Member, 2017 – 2026
- Board of Directors, 2015 – 2021
- Professional Development & Technical Assistance Committee Co-Chair, 2003 – 2006

American Bar Association Section on Dispute Resolution (ABA SDR)

- Member, 2000 – 2026
- Judge, Boskey ADR Essay Competition 2005 – 2014, Final Paper Judge, 2016 – 2026
- Dispute Resolution Magazine Editorial Board Member, 2017 – 2023
- Annual Conference Co-Chair, Conference Planning Committee Member, 2013 – 2017
- Judge, Representation in Mediation Competition 2005 – 2009, 2014, 2017
- Numerous Previous Activities 2004 – 2017

Arkansas Access to Justice Commission

- Board Member, 2005 – 2026
- Chair, Task Force on Self-Represented Litigants, 2015 – 2026
- Limited Scope Representation Subcommittee Member, 2016 – 2026

- Pro-Bono Resources Subcommittee Member, 2017 – 2019, 2023 – 2026
- Legal Service and Resource Development Subcommittee, 2010 – 2019

Arkansas Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission

- Mediation Trainer and Consultant, 2006 – 2026
- Presenter: Access and Visitation Program Domestic Violence Training 2021 – 2026
- Juvenile Mediation Mentor Program Director, 2013 – 2021

CADRE, The Center for Appropriate Dispute Resolution in Special Education

- Senior Consultant, 2025 – present

Previous Activities

AALS, American Association of Law Schools, Section on ADR

- Section Executive Committee Member, 2012 – 2015
- Chair, 2011, Chair Elect, 2010, Immediate Past Chair, 2012

Arkansas Parent Counsel Commission

- Commission Chair 2020 – 2022, Member, 2017 – 2023

Arkansas Administrative Office of the Courts

- Dependency/Neglect Mediation Projects Consultant, 2003 – 2026
- Parent Counsel Advisory Committee Chairperson, 2016 – 2017
- Parent Counsel Legislative Study Committee Member, 2015 – 2016
- Court Improvement Project Consultant 2020 – 2024, Team Member 2003 – 2006

Arkansas Conflict Resolution Association

- President, 2017 – 2019
- Board Member, 2004 – 2019, Member, 2001 – 2019
- Vice President, 2005 – 2007, 2008 – 2010
- Conference Planning Committee and Membership Committee Member, 2012 – 2015

Arkansas Women's Leadership Forum Member, 2011 – 2019

Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence Legislative Committee Member 2005 – 2012

Arkansas Children's Rights Council Advisory Board 2006 – 2008

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT LITTLE ROCK COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

William H. Bowen School of Law

- Curriculum Committee, Chair 2019 – 2026, Member 2001 – 2022
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, 2023 – 2026
- Dean Search Committee, Fall 2008, Fall 2017
- Bar Passage Ad Hoc Committee, 2017 – 2018
- Self-Study/Strategic Planning Committee, 2015 – 2017
- Promotion and Tenure Subcommittee on 405(c) 2016
- Honor Council, 2004 – 2009, 2011, 2014 – 2015
- Faculty Development Committee, 2010 – 2011
- Assessment Committee, 2009 – 2011
- Moot Court Team Advisor, 2005 – 2009
- Leadership Group Facilitator, Spring 2007

University of Arkansas at Little Rock Main Campus Committees

- Faculty Senate 2026 – 2028
- Academic Leadership Academy Participant, 2025-2026; Speaker, 2026 - 2027
- Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Teaching Evaluations 2024 – 2026
- Faculty Appeals Committee, 2013 – 2026
- Center for Public Collaboration Advisory Board, 2005 – 2021
- Chancellor Search Committee, 2015 – 2016
- Faculty Grievance Subcommittee Co-Chair, 2015 – 2016
- Service and Engagement Subcommittee, North Central Accreditation, 2007 – 2009
- Grant Incentive Policy Task Force, 2006 – 2007

Community Service

Access to Justice Commission, Holy Souls Church, Our House Homeless Shelter, and Women's Own Worth

Bar Admissions

Illinois (1992), Arkansas (2003)

References

Lindsey P. Gustafson, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Arkansas Bar Foundation Professor of Law, UA Little Rock Bowen School of Law, lpgustafson@ualr.edu

Art Hinshaw, Associate Dean for Experiential Learning, Clinical Professor of Law and Director, Lodestar Dispute Resolution Center, Arizona State University, art.hinshaw@asu.edu

Andrea Schneider, Director of the Kukin Program for Conflict Resolution, Cardozo School of Law, andrea.schneider@yu.edu