

# **VOAWW Dispute Resolution Center**

## **Requirements to become a certified mediator:**

You must complete a 40 hour Basic Mediation Training (at a cost of \$795) (and, even if you didn't take ours, you must complete the take home exam).

You must complete a 24 hour Family Mediation Training (at a cost of \$450). Most of our mediations are in the family realm.

If you took your BMT elsewhere, you will have an assessment with the Practicum & Volunteer Supervisor (at a cost of \$100), after which you may be asked to audit all or a portion of some of our classes or do some extra reading. If no additional work is required, you will move on to the practicum interview. Assuming that interview is successful, you will be admitted to the program.

If you took your BMT with us, the Practicum & Volunteer Supervisor will have been keeping an eye on your progress through the BMT (grading your exam, taking a look at the feedback from the mock mediations that you will do in training, interacting during training), but you will still have a formal interview.

Once admitted to the practicum (at a cost of \$600 if you trained with us, \$1000 if you trained elsewhere), you will set up a call with the Practicum & Volunteer Supervisor to discuss the next phase of the process, ask questions, and talk about what to expect and what is expected of you.

Additionally, you will have to earn 12 elective credits in a minimum of 3 areas: DRC Professional Development In-services (1 credit), Role playing (1 credit), Additional DRC Trainings (2 credits/day), Outside trainings (2 credits/day, max 4, must write a training report), ADR conference (1 credit/day), DRC related projects (credit TBD by the Practicum Supervisor).

Once you are in the practicum, the first step is to complete 6 observations of mediation sessions (including filling out and turning in the observer form - a way for you to answer some questions that will allow you to show what you have learned and how you see it being applied in a practical setting) and 3 Small Claims

observations, The Practicum & Volunteer Supervisor may ask you to complete additional observations if necessary for continued learning.

Once observations have been completed, you take the Professional Standards Exam (PSE), which is a three hour mock mediation. Two role players and the Practicum & Volunteer supervisor will be in the room. The PSE is your chance to show, in a practical setting, that you are able to apply what you have learned. It is not unusual to have to take it a second time. Repeating the PSE is NOT a failure; it is a learning opportunity. Our standards are high for the PSE, as completing it is what unlocks the next level of the practicum, which is co-mediating actual cases.

The co-mediation phase is where you get the chance to apply and hone your skills. You will be paired with a certified mediator (and, rest assured, for your first few you will be paired with someone who is very experienced, and who is used to shepherding students with care and constructive feedback). Mid-way through the process you'll mediate with the Practicum & Volunteer Supervisor for an informal assessment. At any time in the process, of course, you're welcome to call, email, or meet with the Practicum & Volunteer Supervisor with questions or requests for support. Your final session of the 12 co-mediations will be with the Practicum & Volunteer Supervisor or another staff member, just to double check that you are ready. Assuming that goes well (and it almost always does), you will then receive your certification!