

TASHA LEA WILLIS

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EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW CENTER, Houston, Texas June 2010–Present

Alternative Dispute Resolution Director and Assistant Clinical Professor

Associate Clinical Professor and Mediation Clinic Director

Aug 2016-present

- Currently teaching 4 to 6 forty hour mediation trainings for law students annually.
- Currently teaching 1 to 2 advanced family law mediation trainings annually.
- Currently conducting the Law Center’s mediation clinic for fall, spring, and summer semesters, including supervising students serving as mediators in small claims courts, the Harris County Dispute Resolution Center, the Greater Houston Better Business Bureau, and the Child Protective Division of the Department of Justice; the teaching component of the clinic includes educating the students on the mediation process to provide advanced mediation training, the honing of skills, scheduling mediations, guiding students through the drafting of agreements to mediate, mediated settlement agreements and memoranda of understanding that are all statutorily compliant, participating in student debriefing sessions once the mediations have been conducted, providing feedback, and encouraging the submission and implementation of creative problem solving alternatives.
- Taught Introduction to European Union Law in the summer of 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017.
- Taught Client Counseling in the spring of 2011 and 2012.
- Responsible for training budgets to ensure training expenses stay within the parameters of monies raised by the trainings themselves to be certain that the programs remain self-sufficient.
- Participated in fund raising activities for the Frank G. Evans Scholarship fund for the Jeffry Abrams Mediation Scholarship for 2010–2012.
- Instituted and funded the Frank G. Evans Clinical Mediation Scholarship for best student mediator beginning in the Spring 2013 and continuing yearly since that time.

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW CENTER, Houston, Texas

June 2009–June 2010

Visiting Assistant Professor and Alternative Dispute Resolution Director

- Taught 40 hour mediation training programs and advanced mediation training programs for students.
- Taught and oversaw the mediation externship program through the Law Center legal clinic.
- Responsible for teaching Client Counseling in the Spring of each academic year.
- Coached student teams that participated in the ABA Client Counseling Competition.

SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE OF LAW, Houston, Texas

February 2005–2009

Program Director for the Frank Evans Center for Conflict Resolution

- Responsible for implementation of annual continuing education program co-sponsored by the Frank Evans Center for Conflict Resolution and the Houston Bar Association Dispute Resolution Section.
- Assisted Judge Evans and Judge Coselli in teaching "Arbitration Law" in the Spring of 2009.
- Developed and implemented judicial/mediation internship programs for South Texas College of Law in Guyana, Jamaica and Panama.
- Traveled to Guyana, Jamaica and Panama serving as official liaison between South Texas College of Law and Supreme Court Justices and ADR administrators within these countries to develop alternative dispute resolution training programs. For each program I served as a faculty member, worked to develop the curriculum, oversaw the budget and negotiated the service contracts.
- Arbitrator for the City of Houston Affirmative Action Compliance Program.
- Taught mediation and "*Representing Clients in Mediation*" at South Texas College of Law and for the 3rd and 4th Annual Caribbean Conferences on Dispute Resolution.
- Oversaw the Evans Center departmental budget and reported to Assoc. Dean Catherine Burnett.
- Assisted in running the Frank Evans Center Mediation Clinic and implemented curriculum change.
- Conducted legal research for Judge Evans on various issues pertaining to arbitration, mediation, other areas of alternative dispute resolution, and legal ethics.
- Assisted Judge Evans in teaching “International Arbitration and Mediation” during the summer 2006 study abroad program in Malta.
- Increased cooperation with other law schools in ADR arena.

- Hosted 6 ABA regional client counseling, mediation and negotiation competitions.

125TH CIVIL DISTRICT COURT, Houston, Texas

August 2001–January 2005

Law Clerk for the Hon. John A. Coselli, Jr.

- Conducted research and prepared extensive memoranda and orders for the Court’s review.
- Attended trials, hearings, and conferences, and consulted with the Judge regarding his rulings on evidentiary, procedural, substantive legal matters.
- Assisted in developing and implementing the “Collaborative Scheduling Conference Program.”
- Researched and edited law review articles, bar journals and training manuals for publication.

SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE OF LAW, Houston, Texas

July 2003–December 2003

Program Administrator

- Planned and managed the relocation of the Center for Legal Responsibility.
- Coordinated the 30-hour High Conflict Family Mediation Training.
- Planned and hosted the dedication of the Frank Evans Center for Conflict and the reception following (formerly the Center for Legal Responsibility).
- Secured over 60 judges and lawyers to serve as judges in the ABA Negotiation Competition hosted by the newly dedicated Frank Evans Center for Conflict Resolution.

RESOLUTION FORUM, INC., Houston, Texas

May 1997–July 2001

Executive Director

- Participated as a faculty member in 40 hour mediation training programs.
- Coordinated one to two basic 40-hour mediation training programs annually.
- Researched and edited legal documents, training manuals and articles.
- Served as pro bono mediator on a weekly basis.
- Coordinated and scheduled advanced ADR training programs.
- Served as the liaison between the members of Resolution Forum, Inc. Board of Directors and the Executive Director of the Center for Legal Responsibility at South Texas College of Law.

JAMS/ENDISPUTE, Houston, Texas

May 1996–May 1997

Case Coordinator

- Developed and coordinated client case files.
- Scheduled cases for mediation.
- Performed research assignments for mediators and arbitrators.
- Handled correspondence and billing.

STATE SENATOR CHET BROOKS, Texas City, Texas

May 1990–November 1992

Legislative Aid

- Handled constituent case files.
- Organized and promoted local political events.
- Prepared and updated research files on issues of local importance.

EDUCATION

LAZARSKI UNIVERSITY, Warsaw, Poland, in conjunction with **BOSTON UNIVERSITY**, Boston, Massachusetts, and the **CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL LEGAL STUDIES**, Salzburg, Austria. LL.M. in Transnational Commercial Practice with Alternative Dispute Resolution focus, April 2013 (High Honors Graduate).

SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE OF LAW, Houston, Texas

Juris Doctor, August 2001; Licensed in Texas Fall 2005

- Managing Editor and Assistant Editor, Corporate Counsel Review
- Basic 40-Hour Mediation Training
- Family Law Mediation Training and High Conflict/Domestic Violence Family Mediation Training
- Study Abroad Program: University of Malta (Scholarship/Student Assistant)

UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS, Houston, Texas
B.A. Political Science/Pre-Law (Minor in Theology), May 1996

- Cum Laude Graduate
- Theta Alpha Kappa - Theology Honor Society and Phi Sigma Alpha - Political Science Honor Society

ACTIVITIES

- WORLD CONFERENCE OF FAMILY LAW AND CHILDREN’S RIGHTS MEETING IN DUBLIN, IRELAND** 2017
Co-Panelist
“More than a Stand-In: Surrogacy and the Complexity of Baby by Proxy”
- ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY AND CONCILIATION COURTS (AFCC) 53RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE, MODERN FAMILIES: NEW CHALLENGES, NEW SOLUTIONS** 2016
Co-Panelist
“New Challenges and Solutions in Drafting Mediated Settlement Agreements in Light of the Texas Supreme Court Opinion in “In Re Le”
- INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF FAMILY LAW, NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE** 2016
Co-Panelist
“Families in Flux and Shifting Legal Rights”
- UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA** 2016
Speaker
“Enhancing Access to Justice and Development of ADR Protocols”
- ABA SECTION ON DISPUTE RESOLUTION ANNUAL CONFERENCE** 2016
Co-Panelist
“Views from the Advocate and the Mediator”
- MID-YEAR AALS MEETING** 2015
Co-Panelist
“Changes in the Teaching and Practice of Family Law as the Definition of Family Changes”
- 17TH ANNUAL SECTION OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION ABA SPRING CONFERENCE** 2015
Presentation Organizer and Panelist
“Benefits of Diversity and True Cultural Understanding in the Practice of Mediation”
- TEXAS SUPREME COURT HISTORICAL SOCIETY** 2013
Interview
“Future of Mediation and Arbitration”
- ANNUAL HOLIDAY RECEPTION HONORING HARRIS COUNTY JUDICIARY** 2011–2015
Event Organizer – HBA ADR Section Council Member
- AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION LAW STUDENT DIVISION** 2012
Panelist
“Future Practice in the Mediation Arena”
- CLINICAL LEGAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION** 2011
Speaker
“Detailing Role Plays to Teach Fundamental Skills”
- VERA INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE** 2010
Speaker
“Mediation in the Work Place and Beyond.” Houston, Texas.

HON. JOHN A. COSELLI, JR. REELECTION CAMPAIGN <i>Campaign Director</i>	2007–Present
4TH ANNUAL CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE ON DISPUTE RESOLUTION <i>Presenter</i> <i>Current Trends in ADR: "Maximizing the Use of Settlement Counsel." Kingston, Jamaica.</i>	2008
HBA ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION SECTION <i>Council Member (Re-elected – 2013)</i> Responsible for coordinating Fall 2007 “Judicial Reception.”	2007–2009 & 2013
ABA SECTION OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION <i>Panelist</i> ADR in Bloom Conference: “ <i>The mediator was the judge—the judge was the mediator.</i> ” Washington DC.	April 2007
3RD CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE ON DISPUTE RESOLUTION <i>Presenter</i> Designed Dispute Resolution Programs throughout the Caribbean. Montego Bay, Jamaica.	May 2006
ABA SECTION OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION <i>Panelist</i> ADR on My Mind in Georgia: “ <i>The Use of Cross-Cultural Dispute Resolution Techniques from an Internship Perspective in Guyana, Jamaica and Panama.</i> ” Atlanta, Georgia.	April 2006
FRANK EVANS CENTER FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION <i>Assistant Director of Latin American Affairs</i> Cross-Cultural Conflict Resolution in Latin America. San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.	August 2005
ABA SECTION OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION <i>Panelist and Program Coordinator</i> Volunteer Mediator Mentor Program Presentation at the ABA Dispute Resolution Section Meeting	March 2004
RESOLUTION FORUM, INC. <i>Program Coordinator</i> First, Second, Third, Fourth & Fifth Annual Institute for Responsible Dispute Resolution.	October 2000–2005
STATE BAR OF TEXAS ADR SECTION <i>Program Coordinator</i> “See You in Court” Continuing Legal Education Program at South Texas College of Law.	September 2000
INTERNATIONAL CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF ARBITRATORS <i>Program Coordinator</i> Annual Arbitrator Training Program.	March 2000

PUBLICATIONS

State Bar of Texas Alternative Dispute Resolution Section Council Quarterly Newsletter
Editor and Chief; Summer 2014 to Spring 2016

“*Using Online Dispute Resolution to Resolve International E-Commerce Disputes in the European Union*”,
Published TBLISI STATE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL, The Republic of Georgia, Fall 2014

“*Arbitration Comes to Texas*”, JOURNAL OF THE TEXAS SUPREME COURT HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Spring
2013, Vol 2, No. 3

“*Argument for a Unified European Union Civil Code*”, Published LAZARSKI UNIVERSITY, Warsaw, Poland,
Spring 2013

SCHOOL SERVICE

PEOPLE'S LAW SCHOOL – HURRICANE HARVEY MEDIATION INFORMATION	Sept 2017
JUSTICE JUDGE HANKS JURIST IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM	March 2016
JUSTICE RUBY KLESS SONDOCK TEXAS LEGENDS EVENT <i>Co-Organizer</i>	2015–2016
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW CENTER STUDENT BAR EXAM PREP <i>Faculty Mentor</i>	2015–PRESENT
CO-FOUNDER AND FACULTY ADVISOR CLINICAL LAW STUDENT ASSOCIATION <i>Co-Faculty Advisor</i>	2014–PRESENT
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW CENTER MUSLIM LAW STUDENT ASSOCIATION <i>Faculty Advisor</i>	2012–PRESENT
LAW CENTER ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE	2015-PRESENT
LAW CENTER FOREIGN STUDIES/EXCHANGE PROGRAMS COMMITTEE	2015-PRESENT

MEMBERSHIPS

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION DISPUTE RESOLUTION SECTION (MEMBER AND PRESENTER)
STATE BAR OF TEXAS ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION SECTION COUNCIL (EDITOR AND CHIEF OF THE QUARTERLY NEWS LETTER)
HOUSTON BAR ASSOCIATION ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION SECTION
TEXAS MEDIATOR CREDENTIALING ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBER, VICE CHAIR OF CREDENTIALING AND EDUCATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

COMMUNITY SERVICE

VICTORY HOUSTON, A DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN CANCER ASSOCIATION Fundraiser and committee member	January 2015–Present
K-9 ANGELS RESCUE Fundraiser and volunteer	2009–Present
HOUSE OF PATRONESS NECKISSES PROJECT Fundraiser and volunteer	2008–Present
HBA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY COMMITTEE	2016-Present
HBA AIDS OUTREACH COMMITTEE	2016-Present