



RIVERDALE MEDIATION

Hilary Linton, B.J. (Hons), LL.B., LL.M. (ADR)

Principal, Riverdale Mediation, Toronto, Ontario.

Accredited Family Mediator, OAFM.
Adjunct Professor, Osgoode Hall Law School

Hilary Linton practices and teaches negotiation, mediation, arbitration and restorative justice processes. Her focus is on helping parties in conflict resolve their disputes in a way that achieves the best possible results and preserves relationships when possible.

MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION PRACTICE

- ***Family (and family-related) mediation for on-going relationships:*** Ms. Linton helps parties beginning their relationship to negotiate mutually acceptable marriage and cohabitation agreements, with or without their lawyers present. She also works with families and businesses that need to resolve problems that are interfering with their relationships, such as family and business succession plans; pre-estate discussions; education-related disputes; and multi-party matters.
- ***Family mediation and/or arbitration where relationships are ending:*** Ms. Linton works with separating couples, with or without their lawyers, to help them negotiate mutually acceptable terms of separation agreements and terms of divorce, including:
 - Property valuation
 - Income determination
 - Property and debt division
 - Child and spousal support
 - Parenting plans
 - Parenting coordination
 - Changes to agreements and orders
- ***Civil/commercial mediation:*** Ms. Linton mediates a broad range of civil and commercial disputes, where the parties wish to resolve the matter either before or instead of going to court. She will mediate with or without the lawyers present in the process. Such mediations include disputes around contract terms,

business relationships, partnership agreements, property claims, claims of negligence or breach of a duty of care, estate disagreements, neighbour disputes, libel and slander cases, and many other non-family law matters.

- **Restorative justice:** Ms. Linton works with groups of people using restorative justice principles and process to help them resolve difficult and complicated problems. This may involve victim-offender situations, community concerns, cases of abuse, or conflicts based on deeply-held value differences. Such processes are tailored to meet the needs of the individuals or organizations involved.

TEACHING AND TRAINING

Ms. Linton specializes in teaching effective negotiation skills for a wide range of users, including lawyers, managers, mediators, team leaders, social workers, facilitators of restorative justice processes, and business people.

She co-teaches the “Lawyer as Negotiator” course as an adjunct professor at Osgoode Hall Law School, and has taught a similar course to law students at the University of Western Ontario.

She privately teaches family and civil litigators in the theory and skills of effective negotiation, and also trains social workers and youth workers. She has taught Advanced Negotiation Skills to family lawyers.

Ms. Linton also privately teaches mediation theory and skills courses, primarily for those practicing family mediation, and also provides private arbitration training for non-lawyers.

Litigation Background

- Aiken, Capp (Toronto) Associate, 1987-1988.
- Gloria J. Epstein and Associates (Toronto), Associate 1988-1994.
- Koskie, Minsky (Toronto), Associate 1994-1996.
- Chappell Bushell Stewart (Toronto), Associate and Partner 1996-2001.

Ms. Linton had a busy and diverse legal practice, acting for both plaintiffs and defendants in all Ontario courts. Her litigation practice focused on construction litigation, defamation law and family law, and included insurance, real estate and contract dispute litigation. She also conducted unauthorized practice prosecutions under the Law Society Act.

Education

- Carleton University, 1978-1982, *Honours Bachelor of Journalism*
- University of Western Ontario Law School, 1982-1985, LL.B.
- Called to the Ontario Bar, 1987.
- LL.M. (ADR), Osgoode Hall Law School, 2003.
- Accredited Family Mediator Designation, Ontario Association of Family Mediation, 2004.

Executive positions, directorships and memberships

- Chair, ADR Section, Ontario Bar Association, 2006-2007.
- Executive member, Ontario Bar Association ADR Section, 2003-present.
- Executive member, Ontario Bar Association Family Law Section 1996-2004.
- Founding Member, Toronto Collaborative Family Law Association, 2001.
- Ontario Association of Family Mediation (OAFM) Director and Secretary, 2003-2004
- Member of governance and privacy law committees, OAFM, 2004-present.
- Member of ADR Institute of Canada, 2004-present.
- Member of Law Society of Upper Canada, Canadian Bar Association, Ontario Bar Association, Ontario Association of Family Mediation, Family Mediation Canada and the Conflict Resolution Network.

Teaching, Writing, Speaking

- Adjunct Professor, Osgoode Hall Law School, "Lawyer as Negotiator", 2006-2007.
- Program Director, "Negotiation Theory and Mediation Models Skills Development in the Context of Restorative Justice Principles", Toronto Advanced Professional Development, Various locations and dates 2006-2007. (Teaching with Dr. Barbara Benoliel.)
- Speaker, Ontario Bar Association "Annual Institute", "ADR in Family Law", spring 2007.

- Course Director: Arbitration Training for Non-Lawyers, Fall 2006, teaching privately (with Barry Fisher, Mediator-Arbitrator.)
- Course Director: Family Mediation and Negotiation Theory and Skills Training: Various courses, Toronto Advanced Professional Education, 2006-2007.
- Panelist, "Income Determination in Family Law", Ontario Bar Association, May 2006.
- Co-instructor (with Madam Justice June Maresca and Genevieve Chornenki), 30-hour "Mediation and Negotiation" course, Ontario Ismaili Conciliation and Arbitration Board, February 2006.
- Presenter for Ontario Bar Association at Standing Committee on General Government, Bill 27 (Family Statute Law Amendment Act 2005).
- Co-Presenter (with Professor Desmond Ellis) on "Family Violence", ADR Institute of Canada , Gold Standard Conference, November 2005.
- Course Director and Co-instructor (with Professor Michael Coyle), "Negotiating Family Law Disputes", November 2005, Osgoode Hall Professional Development Program.
- Speaker, "Mediation-Arbitration: Practice Tips", Ontario Bar Association, November 2005.
- Presenter, "The Spousal Support Guidelines for Mediators", Ontario Association of Family Mediation webinar, October 2005.
- Instructor, "Lawyer as Negotiator", Osgoode Hall Law School, Fall 2005.
- Adjunct Faculty (January term), teaching "Negotiation and Mediation", University of Western Ontario Faculty of Law, 2005.
- Part-time faculty, "Family Mediation Skills" Toronto Advanced Professional Education, Spring 2005.
- Co-chair, "Annual Institute of Continuing Legal Education: Everything You Need to Know in Family Law 2005", Ontario Bar Association, February 2005.
- Part-time faculty, "Law, Family and Gender", Humber College Paralegal Studies Program, 2005.
- Coach, "Lawyer as Negotiator", Osgoode Hall Law School, 2004.
- Panelist, "Mediation-Arbitration in Family Law", Ontario Bar Association, fall 2004.
- Instructor on conferencing under the Youth Criminal Justice Act, "Summer School" for Crown attorneys, London, Ontario, 2004.

- Guest expert for three-part Canadian Living Television series on family law and mediation, 2001.
- Presenter for the Ontario Bar Association's Family Law Section to former Justice Peter de Cory, "*A Framework for Regulating Paralegal Practice in Ontario*", June 2000.
- Family law expert featured in "*Separating Smart*" video series produced by Toronto's Family Law Centre, 2000.
- Contributing author, "*Common Civil Applications in Ontario*", Butterworths, 1999.
- Legal columnist, Beach Metro Community News, 1993-present.
- Bar Admission Course instructor, Law Society of Upper Canada, Civil Litigation and/or Family Law courses, 1990-2004.
- Legal columnist, Beach Metro Community News, 1993-present.
- Contributing author, "*Common Civil Applications in Ontario*", Butterworths, 1999.
- Volunteer speaker on law and mediation for Canadian Justice Education Network.
- Frequent contributor to Ontario Bar Association section publications.
- Frequent speaker for community groups, school groups, law students and Ontario Bar Association events.
- For a list of publications, visit www.riverdalemediation.com.

Volunteer Work

- Chair, Allied Professionals Committee, and Member, Planned Giving Committee, 2006-2007, Toronto East General Hospital.
- Director, Regent Park Community Health Centre, 1994-1999.
- Director, East End Community Health Centre, 1999-2005.
- Member of Advisory Team for Community Centre 55's Restorative Justice Project, 2002-present.
- Volunteer facilitator of restorative justice conferences for young offenders, 2003-present.

- Founding member, Toronto Beach Rotary Club.
- Director, Beach Metro Community News, 2003-2004.

Personal Information

Hilary Linton was born and grew up in Tillsonburg Ontario, then an agricultural town of 6000. She spent a year living in Finland as a Rotary exchange student, learning much of the Finnish language and culture.

Ms. Linton studied journalism at Carleton University from 1978-1982, graduating with honours, and worked as a reporter/photographer for several publications. From 1982-1985 she attended law school at the University of Western Ontario, where she edited the law school newspaper and acted as Legal Affairs Advisor to the university student council. She articulated at Campbell, Godfrey and Lewtas in Toronto in 1986 and was called to the Ontario bar in 1987.

Ms. Linton is a parent of two teenagers and enjoys cross-country skiing, hiking, the arts, and a wide range of music.