

# Brenda J. St. John

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## EXPERIENCE

### **INDEPENDENT MEDIATOR, Grand Junction, CO**

**1996 – Present**

- Conduct client and court interaction through negotiation of high conflict disputes in family, allocation of parental responsibility, dissolution of marriage and general mediation cases resulting in Memorandum of Understanding agreements.
- Field inquiries of potential clients. Schedule mediations; track client mediation process through case management from first contact through court notification of outcome and results; notify courts of compliance.
- Design all working forms from Initial Mediation Session to Certificate of Compliance Court Notification and Client Survey.
- Manage recordkeeping, handle bookkeeping tasks, and prepare client correspondence.

### **INDEPENDENT CHILD AND FAMILY INVESTIGATOR,**

**2006 – Present**

- Conduct interviews of clients, children, and collateral parties for high conflict family disputes in determining allocation of parental responsibility, parenting time, location and relocation cases and other pertinent matters.
- Field inquiries of clients; schedule interviews; conduct case management throughout; keep Court and parties apprised of case progress from first contact through court notification of outcome and results.
- Provide Court Final Investigative Report, including suggestions when requested.
- Provide testimony to Court when necessary.

### **INDEPENDENT PARENT COORDINATOR AND DECISION MAKER**

**2009 – Present**

- Conduct coordination regarding allocation of parental responsibility in disputes pertaining to high conflict families.
- Field contact from clients; perform interviews; conduct case management throughout the progression of the case.
- Utilize problem-solving and creative thinking skills in addressing and resolving issues in the best interest of the family at large, while acting as an advocate for the youth, giving them a voice and presence during the process of resolution.
- Keep Court and parties apprised of any decision within a reasonable period of time.

## EDUCATION

COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY, Grand Junction, CO

Enrolled in Bachelor of Arts Program – 2007- 2009

Major: Social Science; Minor: International Studies

COLORADO MOUNTAIN COLLEGE, Glenwood Springs, CO

Associates of Arts Degree, Emphasis in Political Science – 1995

Cumulative G.P.A. 3.8; President's Honors List (2 consecutive years); Member, Phi Theta Kappa

## CONTINUING EDUCATION and TRAINING

Alliance for HOPE – 2018 (7 hours)

- Predominant Aggressor

State of Colorado Supreme Court – 2016 (8 hours)

- Mediating Domestic Cases in Colorado, 1.2 Ethics Credits

Ninth Judicial District, Glenwood Springs, CO – 2016 (5 hours)

- Restructuring Difficult Family Relationships, 2 General Credits

## **CONTINUING EDUCATION and TRAINING Continued**

- Diocese of Pueblo – 2016 (6 hours)
  - Shield the Vulnerable, to protect children in situations of abuse, bullying and cyber predators
- State Court Administrator’s Office - 2016 (1.5 hours)
  - Updates to Chief Justice Directives 04-08
- State of Colorado Supreme Court – 2015 (8 hours)
  - Mediating Domestic Cases in Colorado, 1.2 Ethics Credits
- State Court Administrator’s Office & The Office of the Child’s Representative - 2015 (4 hours)
  - Cultural Competency: The Awareness Experience
  - Vicarious Trauma and Being Trauma Resilient
- State Court Administrator’s Office & The Office of the Child’s Representative - 2015 (4 hours)
  - Home Visit Safety
  - Verbal De-Escalation Strategies
- ANNUAL Ninth Judicial District, Glenwood Springs, CO – 2009 – 2014 (Cumulative 45.5 hours)
  - Child and Family Investigator Advanced Workshop
- QUARTERLY Ninth Judicial District (Ongoing annual CLE requirement) –2009 - 2014 (Cumulative 29.5 hours)
  - Child and Family Investigator Training
- TESSA - 2014 (4.5 hours)
  - Neurobiology of Trauma Domestic Violence
- Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, Domestic Abuse Intervention Project of Larimer County – 2013 (8 hours)
  - The Batterer as Parent and Partner Recovery in Children Exposed to Domestic Violence, Lundy Bancroft
- Mesa County Department of Human Services - 2013 (13 hours)
  - Strengthening Families Group Leader Training
- Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, Seventh Judicial District, Grand Junction, CO – 2012 (8 hours)
  - Child Alienation: Pitfalls, Challenges, Practice in Domestic Cases
- Comprehensive Instruction by Christine A. Coates and Betsy Barbour Duvall – 2013 (28 hours)
  - Parenting Coordinator and Decision-Maker Training
- Supreme Court Administrative Office and Three Trusts, Inc – 2012 (40 hours)
  - Child and Family Investigator Training
- Parenting Place of Western Colorado – 2011 – 2012 (Cumulative 50 hours)
  - Systematic Training for Effective Parenting (Training for Co-Parenting Family Facilitator position)
- ANNUAL Colorado Statewide ADR Conference attendee - 2007 – 2011 (Cumulative 40 hours)
- Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, Seventh Judicial District, Montrose, CO – 2011 (8 hours)
  - Applications of Alternative Dispute Resolution in Family Cases
- MONTHLY Ninth Judicial District, Glenwood Springs, CO – 2011 (7.5 hours)
  - Role of the Child & Family Investigator and Chief Justice Directive 04-08
- Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, Seventh Judicial District, Montrose, CO – 2010 (8 hours)
  - Professional Roles with High Conflict Families in Domestic Relations Cases: Boundaries & Ethical Considerations
- Colorado Bar Association – 2010 (1.5 hours)
  - Medical Marijuana & Parenting Time
- ADR U.S. Post Office, Denver, CO – 2007 (40 hours)
  - Transformative REDRESS Mediator
- Colorado Mountain College, Ninth Judicial District, Glenwood Springs – 2006 (6 hours)
  - Parent Alienation Workshop
- Colorado Mountain College, Ninth Judicial District, Glenwood Springs, CO – 2005 (7 hours)
  - Child and Family Investigator Workshop
- Association of Family and Conciliation Courts & Loyola School of Law, Chicago, IL – 2004 (28 hours)
  - Special Advocate Training, Parenting Coordination
  - Special Advocate Training, Conducting Child Custody Evaluations
- Twenty-First Judicial District, Mesa County Courts, Grand Junction, CO – 2003 (6.5 hours)
  - Special Advocate Training Workshop

## **CONTINUING EDUCATION and TRAINING Continued**

Mesa County Small Claims Court, Grand Junction, CO – 1997

- Completed 6-month Small Claims Internship covering disputes associated with Building Contractor/Customer, Customer/Client Contractual, Automobile Insurance Claim, Hospital Client Credit, and other assorted small claims ranging from \$300 to \$10,000

CDR Associates, Boulder, CO – 1996 (40 hours)

- Certified in General Mediation Process Training

## **PERSONAL**

### **Philosophy on Mediation and Conflict Resolution**

- My Motto “Center to Mediate” – My Mantra “**Mediation** Instead of Litigation” – My Slogan “Always Mediate First” OR
- My Motto “Always Mediate First” – My Mantra – “Center to Mediate” – My Slogan “**Negotiation** Instead of Litigation”
- Conflicts are merely solutions waiting to happen OR Conflicts are challenges waiting for solutions OR Disputes are solutions waiting to happen
- All matters are negotiable and resolvable
- Creative problem solving is essential to progress
- Dignity of all participants must be protected.
- The intermediary is a neutral facilitator of terms between all parties.
- Courts are the final resort.

### **Mediation Skills**

- Proven Problem Solver
- Enjoy working with the public, particularly diverse populations
- Volunteer for small claims court pre-hearing mandatory mediation
- Negotiator for tenant and neighborhood disputes while managing property
- Perform case management for tracking status of client mediation process from first contact through to court notification of outcome and results.
- Familiar with civil court system

### **Interpersonal Skills**

- Adept at listening and understanding people’s issues
- Excellent skills for helping people resolve problems
- Particularly skillful at working with young adults and youth
- Proficient at referring clients and constituents to appropriate resources
- Persistent at effectively attaining satisfactory outcomes
- Self-motivated and industrious which often results in leadership positions
- Tactful at interviewing people to acquire pertinent information
- Effective communicator at many levels
- Experienced in dealing with a wide array of professionals and community members
- Established problem identifier and solver