

ROBERT KIRKMAN COLLINS

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EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA LAW SCHOOL (J.D. 1975)

Associate Editor, Law Review. Graduated *cum laude*. Awarded grade of Distinguished in Comparative Criminal Procedure. Co-chaired the Prisoners' Rights Litigation Program.

YALE COLLEGE (B.A. 1972)

Graduated *cum laude*, and with Departmental Honors in History, the Arts, and Letters. Awarded Saybrook College Fellows' Prize, and received a William C. Bates Fellowship. Member, Manuscript Society.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

BENJAMIN N. CARDOZO SCHOOL OF LAW

Professor of Practice (Fall '16 - present)

Director, Divorce Mediation Clinic (Spring '10 – present)

Designed and continue to supervise a clinical program for J.D. and LL.M. students conducting divorce mediations, drafting separation agreements and preparing divorce filings for underserved couples, operating in partnership with the New York State Office of Court Administration.

New York Matrimonial Drafting & Procedures (Spring '14 – Spring '22)

Visiting Clinical Professor of Law (Spring '11 – Spring '16)

Family Law (Spring '13)

Divorce & Family Mediation (Spring '95 to Present)

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO COLLEGE OF LAW

Basic Family Mediation (May '01 – May '26)

Annual five-day course for practitioners and law students at the NW Institute for Dispute Resolution.

WILLIAM S. BOYD SCHOOL OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS

Divorce Mediation (June '11; June '12)

Six-day, 2-credit law school course, taught as part of the Summer Institute for Dispute Resolution.

AMERICAN JUSTICE SCHOOL OF LAW

Professor of Law & Director of Clinical Programs (Fall '07 - Spring '08)

Established a Family Mediation clinic; supervised the law school's clinical offerings.

Assistant Dean (Spring '08)

Dealt with issues of accreditation, governance, academics, and finance during school reorganization.

HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Civil Mediation Clinic (Spring '05)

Supervised civil and community mediations for professor on maternity leave.

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Dispute Resolution Processes (Spring '02; Spring '01; Fall '00)

Family Law (Spring '00; Fall '99)

BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL

Divorce Mediation (Summer '99; Fall '98; Summer '98, '96 (with Marc Fleisher)

TEACHING MATERIALS

Divorce Mediation: Applying Common Sense to the Crisis of Divorce

400+ page training text, adopted at Cardozo and Brooklyn Law Schools

The Saga of Wendy and Henry Phillips

Set of 20 integrated matrimonial role-plays, adopted at the Ackerman Institute, 1999 – 2016

PUBLICATIONS

The Scrivener's Dilemma in Divorce Mediation: Promulgating Progressive Professional Parameters,
17 CARDOZO J. OF CONFLICT RESOL. 691 (2016)

Alternative Dispute Resolution, in NEW YORK CIVIL PRACTICE: MATRIMONIAL ACTIONS
(2nd. ed. 2014) Revised and expanded Chapter 28 for a Second Edition of the treatise.

The Theory of Marital Residuals: Applying an Income Adjustment Calculus to the Enigma of Alimony, 24 HARV. WOMEN'S L.J. 23 (2001)

PRIOR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

PRIVATE PRACTICE, New York, New York (1990 - 2010)

Sole Practitioner

Independent practice in matrimonial mediation, litigation and dispute resolution, rated AV by Martindale-Hubbell. Practiced divorce, as well as business, adoption, estate and family mediation, undertook Supreme and Family Court litigation, participated in Collaborative Lawyering settlements, conducted arbitrations, and represented individual clients in the negotiation of separation, parenting and prenuptial agreements.

DAVIDSON, DAWSON & CLARK, New York, New York (1980 - 1990)

Litigation Partner

Directed civil litigation and matrimonial work for firm of twelve attorneys. Practiced divorce mediation, and conducted discovery, depositions, trials and appeals, as drafted pleadings, motions and briefs. Guest lectured on matrimonial matters at Pace and Cardozo Law Schools and the American Arbitration Association, taught litigation at the N.Y. Law Journal Paralegal Institute, and presented at national conferences of the Academy of Family Mediators and meetings of the New York State, and City, Councils on Divorce Mediation. Served as a founder, director and President of the New York City Divorce Mediation Council.

PAUL, WEISS, RIFKIND, WHARTON & GARRISON New York, New York (1978 - 1980)

Litigation Associate

Engaged in pre-trial motion and discovery practice in contract, antitrust, trade secret, matrimonial, securities and Federal criminal matters. Hired, trained, and supervised a team of four attorneys and forty paralegals in year-long antitrust discovery project. Researched and wrote trial and appellate briefs. Represented clients in arbitration hearings, and conducted and defended clients during examinations before trial.

NEW YORK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY OFFICE, New York, New York (1975 - 1978)

Assistant District Attorney

Conducted one dozen felony jury trials and numerous pretrial hearings and grand jury presentations. Researched, wrote and argued appellate briefs. Supervised homicide and narcotics investigations. Appointed office liaison to court-sponsored offender employment program.

BAR ADMISSION

Member in Good Standing of the Bar of the State of New York; admitted January, 1976 (1st Dept.)

AWARDS and HONORS

Cited by Cardozo Law School as being “among the pioneers of divorce mediation in New York”.
Tziporah Pronman Mediation Award, FamilyKind Organization (2024)
Inspire! Public Service Award, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law (2014)
Distinguished Faculty Award, Ackerman Institute for the Family (2000)

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

CROTON CHORALE, Croton-on-Hudson, New York ('00 – Present)

Music Director

Founded and conduct a 40-person community chorus and 25-person orchestra, presenting 20+ annual performances of the Christmas Part of Handel’s *Messiah*, and benefit concerts for local charities, of music of Palestrina, Purcell, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Brahms, and Kirkman.

Composer

Composed Latin and Requiem Masses, settings of poems by Shakespeare, John Donne and Rupert Brooke, and sundry anthems and choral benedictions.

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Croton-on-Hudson, New York (2003 – Present)

Composer in Residence (2025- to Present)

Director of Music & Organist (2019 – Present)

Choir Director (2003-2019)

Select service music and rehearse and conduct the Chancel Choir in weekly worship services.
Member of the Bethel Bells, the Church’s English handbell choir

BENNETT CONSERVATORY of MUSIC, Croton-on-Hudson, New York (2017 – Present)

Guest Lecturer (2016 to Present)

Singer 1601 Madrigal Group (2017 to Present)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Mediator/Evaluator, Representation in Mediation Program, Cardozo Law ('03-'14)
Advisory Council, Northwest Mediation Center, Spokane, WA ('14-date)
Board of Directors, Family and Divorce Mediation Council of Greater New York ('84-'90)
Co-founder (1984); President (1987-88)
Judge, Cardozo Law School/A.B.A. Negotiation Competition ('07-date)
Judge and Mediator, National Semifinal Round, A.B.A. Mediation Competition ('04)
Judge, A.B.A. Negotiation Competition, Northeast Regional Finals ('01-'02)
Judge, Eugene Gressman Appellate Moot Court Competition, Seton Hall Law School ('01)
Judge, A.B.A. Mediation Advocacy Competition, Northeast Regional Round ('00)
Judge, Seton Hall Law School Appellate Advocacy Arguments ('00)
Member, Matrimonial Law Committee, Association of the Bar of the City of N.Y. ('96-'99)
Co-Director, Divorce Mediation Program, Ackerman Institute for the Family ('96-'15)
Member, Special Committee on ADR, Association of the Bar of the City of N.Y. ('95-'97)
Co-Founder and Trainer, The New York Mediation Group ('92-'15)
Director, New York State Council on Divorce Mediation; Chair, Ethics Committee ('92-'94)

PRACTICE COURSES and PROGRAMS

Part 146 Advanced Divorce Mediation Training, Cluster Community Services January, 2026; (16-hour in program).

Part 146 Advanced Divorce Mediation Training, NY State Office of Court Administration, Albany NY (16-hour on-line program) January 2025; also Jan. '24; March '23; Jan. '23; Sept. '22; June '22; March 2022.

Advanced Divorce Mediation, The New York Peace Institute, New York, NY (Three-day program); also March, 2025; March '24; March '23; Feb. '22; April, '21; Feb. '19; Feb. '18; Feb. '17; Feb. '16; Feb. '15; June '14; Sept. '13; Oct. '12; June '11; Feb. '11.

Advanced Divorce Mediation Training, New York State Council on Divorce Mediation, New York, NY (40-hour program) Feb/March, 2026; also June, 2024; Feb/March 2023.

Advanced Divorce Mediation Training Cent. for Resolution & Justice, Buffalo, NY (16-hour on-line program); July, 2025 & Feb. 2022.

Mediation Training for Matrimonial Matters, Suffolk County Bar Association Academy of Law, Hauppauge, NY (Two-day program); Oct. 2021.

Advanced Divorce Mediation Training, The New York County Lawyers' Association (Two-day program); July, 2023; also June '21 & July '20.

Advanced Divorce Mediation, Northwest Conflict Management Center, Spokane, Washington (20-hour program); Oct., 2024; also May '24; June '23; Oct. '22; April '22; July '21; Mar. '20; Mar. '19; May, '15; July, '13 July, '12.

Divorce Mediation, Ackerman Institute for the Family (40-hour Training, with Marc Fleisher); January 2016; also Jan. '15; '14; '13; '12; '11; '10; '09; '08; '07; '06; '05; '04; '03; '02; '01; '00; and, '99.

Advanced Divorce Mediation & Tutorial Long Island Dispute Resolution Centers, Hauppauge, New York (Three-day program); March, 2015.

Divorce Mediation, Pierce County, Washington Center for Dispute Resolution (Three-day program); Feb. 2015.

Divorce Mediation Apprenticeship Program, New York Peace Institute (Supervised 10-week divorce mediation clinical training); June - Aug. '17; also May - Aug. '11.

Basic Mediation, Northwest Conflict Management Center, Spokane, Washington (40-hour Training in Civil Mediation); June, 2010; also October, '08; and, October, '07.

Mediation Clinic, Ackerman Institute for the Family (45-hour Advanced Clinical Training, with Marc Fleisher); February-May, 2007; also February - May, '06; and, '01.

Family Mediation, Northwest Conflict Management Center, Spokane, Washington (40-hour Basic Training); October, 2006; also October, '05.

Basics of Negotiation, Univ. of Idaho College of Law LSADR training (One-day Program); Oct. 2005.

Mediation Techniques, Seton Hall School of Law A.B.A. Student Alternative Dispute Resolution Section (One-day Program); January, '02; also, January, '01

Divorce Mediation and Therapy: Exploring the Options, Monmouth University Social Welfare Institute (One-day Program, with Elana Katz); June, 1999.

Mediation: Exploring the Alternative, Ackerman Institute for the Family (One-day Program, with Marc Fleisher and Elana Katz); June, 1999.

Divorce Mediation, Brooklyn Law School (Summer 1999; also Fall '98; June '98; June '96) (with Marc Fleisher).

Divorce Mediation, National Consortium of Mediators (U.K.), London (One-day Program); April, 1999.

Mediation Practicum, Ackerman Institute for the Family (45-hour Advanced Clinical Training, with Marc Fleisher and Elana Katz); February-June, 1999.

Observation Course, Ackerman Institute for the Family (40-hour Observation and Analysis Course, with Marc Fleisher and Elana Katz); October, 1998.

Divorce Mediation, Sweet & Maxwell / Resolve (U.K.), London, England (Five-day Training Course, with Marc Fleisher); June, 1998.

Advanced Mediation Techniques, and ***Family Mediation and Therapy*** AIGLE Institute, Buenos Aires, Argentina (Two-day, and One-day programs, with Elana Katz); May, 1998.

Observation of Divorce Mediation, Ackerman Institute for the Family (36-hour Observation and Analysis Course, with Marc Fleisher and Elana Katz); February-May, 1998.

Mediation Consultation, Ackerman Institute for the Family (60-hour Supervision Course, with Marc Fleisher and Elana Katz); September, 1997-April, 1998.

The Mediation Process: Conflict Resolution, Theory and Techniques, U.S. District Court EDNY/ Associ. of the Bar of the City of N.Y. (Basic Course, with Carol B. Liebman, Lela P. Love, Sally G. Pope, and David S. Ross); May, 1997.

Divorce Mediation: Principles and Skills, The Association of the Bar of the City of New York (40-hour Training, with Robert A. Baruch Bush, Marc Fleisher, Carol B. Liebman, Lela Porter Love, and Sally G. Pope); March-April, 1997.

Mediation Observation, Ackerman Institute for the Family (36-hour Advanced Observation and Analysis Course, with Elana Katz and Marc Fleisher); January-April, 1997.

Divorce Mediation, Sweet & Maxwell / Resolve (U.K.), Cambridge, England (Five-day Training Course, with Marc Fleisher); January, 1997.

The Mediation Process: Conflict Resolution Theory and Techniques, The NY Mediation Group (30-hour Program, with R. Baruch Bush, Marc Fleisher, Carol Liebman, Lela Porter Love, and Sally Pope); October, 1996.

Basic Mediation Training, Ackerman Institute for the Family (40-hour Training, with Marc Fleisher, Elana Katz, Lela Love and Sally G. Pope); September-December, 1996.

Divorce Mediation: A Basic Course, The New York Mediation Group (40-hour Training, with Robert A. Baruch Bush, Marc Fleisher, Carol B. Liebman, Lela Porter Love, and Sally G. Pope); June, 1996.

Divorce Mediation, Association of the Bar of the City of New York (40-hour Training, with Lori H. Goldstein, Marilyn H. Howell and Sally G. Pope); October-December, 1995.

Mediation Process: Conflict Resolution Theory and Techniques, Assoc; of the Bar of the City of NY (30-hour Training, with R. Baruch Bush, Lori Goldstein, Lela Porter Love, and Sally Pope); May-June 1995.

WORKSHOPS, LECTURES and PRESENTATIONS

Mediating over Zoom, Cardozo Law School Melnick Symposium Panel Discussion with Donna Erez-Navot and Eric Galton; March, 2022

Mediating Couples through Trump's Tax Chaos, Orchard Mediation, New York City; January, 2018

Ethics in Practice" Drafting Agreements and Client Maintenance, N.Y. State Council on Divorce Downstate Symposium Panel Discussion, with Rachel Green, and William Hoefer; December, 2017

Divorce -- A Survival Guide, Community lecture at the Croton-on-Hudson Free Library; January, 2017

Divorce Mediation Training and Ethics, Cardozo Journal of Conflict Resolution Melnick Symposium Panel Discussion, with Rachel Green, Alla Roytberg, and Zena Zumeta; October, 2015

Hopeful Ruminations of a Curmudgeonly Mediator, Address to the Family & Divorce Mediation Council of Greater New York; December, 2014

Mediation in the Setting of Non-Traditional Family Disputes, Cardozo Law School Dispute Resolution Society, Panel Discussion, with Teresa Calabrese, Joy Rosenthal and Alla Roytberg; November, 2014

36 Divorce Mediation Techniques, New York State Council on Divorce Mediation, Annual Conference (Workshop); May, 2014

The Scrivener's Dilemma: Mediators Who Draft Settlement Agreements After WABA Advisory Opinion 2223, Annual Conference of the ADR Section of the Washington State Bar Association (Panel Presentation, with *Leslie Grove and Don Desonier*); March, 2014

36 Mediation Techniques, Annual Conference of the ADR Section of the Washington State Bar Association (Workshop); March, 2014

The Manhattan Mediation Model, Presentation on methods of the Cardozo Divorce Mediation Clinic to Judges and Court Mediators of the Subordinate Court, Singapore; January, 2014

Thirty-Six Divorce Mediation Techniques, Pre-Conference Institute at the 2nd Annual Conference of the Academy of Professional Family Mediators, Denver, Colorado; October, 2013

Ethics Symposium, Organized and chaired discussion in Spokane, Washington on the ethical implications of WSBA Opinion # 2223; July, 2013

Mediation Masters Disclose, Dialogue & Demonstrate their Work, N.Y. State Council on Divorce Mediation Annual Conference, (Presentation and Role-Play, with Stephen K. Erickson, Marilyn McKnight, Ken Neumann, and Bobbie Dillon); May, 2011

Mediation – Where Are We Going ? What Is Our Future ? N.Y. State Council on Divorce Mediation Annual Conference, (Opening Plenary Panel Discussion, with Stephen K. Erickson, Marilyn McKnight, Hon. Doris Friedman, Ken Neumann, and Ada Hasloeher); May, 2011.

Property Division in Divorce, Invited Lecture to 1L Property Class, Cardozo Law School, March 2011.

Women, Families, and Money, Cardozo Women Symposium (Panel Presentation); November, 2010

Mediation Moments: A Study in Styles, Family and Divorce Mediation Council of Greater New York (Panel Presentation); April, 2010

Mediating in the Shadow of Uncertainty, Family & Divorce Mediation Council of New York (Presentation); May, 2009

Three Approaches to Mediating Spousal Support, Family and Divorce Mediation Council of Greater New York (Panel Presentation with Georgia Kramer and Katherine Miller); March, 2007

Adoption Mediation, Spence-Chapin Institute (Presentation, with Susan K. Boardman); February, 2005.

Family Mediation and Collaborative Lawyering, New York County Lawyers' Association Committee on Arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolution (Presentation); March, 2004.

Ethical Dilemmas in Mediation: Case Studies, Family and Divorce Mediation Council of Greater New York (Panel Discussion); January, 2004.

Mediation and Collaborative Lawyering, Ackerman Institute for the Family Alumni Association (Presentation, with Marc Fleisher); January, 2004

Advanced Mediation Training: Three Thorny Topics, New Jersey Association of Professional Mediators (Workshop); May, 2003.

Mediating Monetary Mysteries, Annual Meeting, NY State Council on Divorce Mediation (Workshop); May, 2003.

Mediation, Teachers' College, Columbia University (Invited Lecturer, class of Susan K. Boardman, Ph.D. (Fundamentals of Cooperation, Conflict Resolution, & Mediation)); February 2003; also October, '02.

Sharing the (Intangible) Wealth: Learning to Distribute the Power to Earn, Family and Divorce Mediation Council of Greater New York (Workshop); March, 2001.

The Nuts and Bolts of Divorce in New York, Lorman Education Services (Continuing Legal Education Panel, with Anthony Daniele, Neil Kozek, and Michele Tortorelli); March, 2001.

To WAR or ADR: Choosing the Right Path in Matrimonial Disputes, Association of the Bar of the City of New York (Program Chair and Presenter, Continuing Legal Education Panel, with Barry Berkman, Neil Kozek, Lela Porter Love, and Jonathan Reiss); September, 2000.

Divorce Mediation Techniques, Brooklyn Law School (Invited Lecturer, class of Marc Fleisher in Divorce Mediation); July, 2000.

Mediation Techniques, Seton Hall School of Law A.B.A. Student A.D.R. Section, (Lecture); May, 2000.

Equitable Distribution: Finding the Formula to Forget O'Brien, Family and Divorce Mediation Council of Greater New York (Workshop); December, 1999.

Handling Difficult Issues in Mediation; Family and Divorce Mediation Council of Greater New York (Workshop Demonstration, with Jack Himmelstein and Ken Neuman); September, 1999.

Millennial Musings of a Messianic Mediator, Annual Meeting, New York State Council on Divorce Mediation (Address); May, 1999.

Representing Clients in Matrimonial Alternative Dispute Resolution; Assoc. of the Bar of the City of New York (Panel, with Barry Berkman, Arthur Hirsch & Pamela Sloane); October, 1998.

Introduction to Divorce Mediation, Ackerman Institute for the Family (Lecture, with Elana Katz); October, 1998.

Spousal Support: Seeking Clarity and Certainty; Family and Divorce Mediation Council of Greater New York (Workshop Presentation, with Barry Berkman); September, 1998.

The Role of Lawyers in Mediation, N.Y.U. School of Law (Invited Lecturer, class of Margaret Shaw (Dispute Resolution)); April, 1998.

Divorce Mediation and Therapy Combined, Family Therapy Networker Annual Conference (Workshop, with Marc Fleisher and Elana Katz); March, 1998.

Family Mediation, New York University School of Law (Invited Lecturer, Class of Margaret Shaw (Dispute Resolution)); October, 1997

Mediation Techniques, Brooklyn Law School (Invited Lecturer, Class of Marc Fleisher (Divorce Mediation)); October, 1997.

Understanding the New Tax Law, Family and Divorce Mediation Council of Greater New York (Workshop); September, 1997.

Family Mediation, 1998 Evan R. Donaldson Lecture, Ackerman Institute for the Family (with Elana Katz and Marc Fleisher); April, 1997.

Compensation for Mediators, New York State Bar Association Annual Meeting (Testimony as representative of the New York State Council on Divorce Mediation); December, 1996.

Confessions of an Unrepentant Mediator, Annual Meeting, Family and Divorce Mediation Council of Greater New York (Address); May, 1996.

Divorce Mediation, New York University School of Law (Invited Lecturer, Class of Margaret Shaw (Dispute Resolution)); April, 1996.

Ten Terrifying Tax Traps, Divorce Mediation Council of Greater New York (Workshop); January, 1996.

Court-Annexed Mediation and Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms in Matrimonial and Family Law Cases: A Debate, Association of the Bar of the City of New York (with John DeWitt Gregory, Greer H. Raggio, and Harriet N. Cohen); May, 1995.

Mediation: What You Need to Know to Serve and Where to Find the Opportunities, Assoc. of the Bar of the City of New York (Panel Presentation, with Robert Coulson, Lela Porter Love, Marilyn Howell, Gerald Lepp, and John Sands); May, 1995.

Divorce Mediation: Its Impact on Women, Columbia University School of Law (Panel Presentation, with Linda Silberman, Carol B. Liebman, and Harriet N. Cohen); April, 1995.