

Biographies of Keynote Speaker, Presenter and Facilitators

Keynote Speaker

Lorraine Power Tharp is a partner in the firm of Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP, Albany, New York. Her primary areas of practice are real estate, banking law and commercial lending. She graduated from Smith College, after spending her junior year in Geneva, Switzerland at the Institute des Hautes Etudes Internationales, and received her J.D. from Cornell Law School. Following graduation, she worked in New York City with the firm of Wickes, Riddell, Bloomer, Jacobi & McGuire (subsequently merged into Morgan, Lewis & Bockius) prior to moving to the Capital District area.

Ms. Tharp is President of the New York State Bar Association, having served for a year as President-Elect and Chair of the Association's House of Delegates. In connection with her work on the Association's Executive Committee, she participated in the Strategic Planning Retreat held in February and May of 1995, and Co-Chaired the Task Force on Communications for the strategic planning process. Following the retreat, she was appointed by the President of the Association to the Strategic Planning Advisory Committee. Ms. Tharp was a member of the Executive Committee's Subcommittee on Lawyer Advertising and Referral Services and the representative from the Executive Committee on the Committee on Continuing Legal Education.

Ms. Tharp is a Past Chair of the Real Property Law Section of the Association. She is a Past Co-Chair of that Section's Committees on Financing and Liens, and Land Use and Planning. Ms. Tharp is also a past member of the Association's Committee on Women in the Law. For that Committee, she served as moderator of the Committee's annual program in New York City in January of 1991 and is a Past Chair of the Subcommittee on Women in the Profession. In connection with the Subcommittee's work, Ms. Tharp was the Project Chair of the group which drafted the Committee's report and model policy on sexual harassment, which was endorsed by the Executive Committee of the Association. Ms. Tharp was a practice consultant for New York Real Property Service, and is the author of "Lender Liability - Erosion of the 'Golden Rule'", New York State Bar Association Real Property Section Newsletter, 1988, and "Update on Fleet Factors", New York State Bar Association Real Property Section Newsletter, 1990.

Ms. Tharp was elected in 1994 to membership in the American College of Real Estate Lawyers, and is a Fellow of the New York Bar Foundation and the American Bar Foundation. She is a member of the Albany County and Saratoga County Bar Associations.

In 1997, Ms. Tharp was appointed by Chief Judge Judith Kaye to the 16-member New York State Continuing Legal Education ("CLE") Board. Ms. Tharp has participated, as speaker and/or chair, in numerous State Bar lectures and other CLE programs from 1983 to date.

Presenter

Kent R. Spuhler is the Executive Director of Florida Legal Services, Inc., the Florida statewide legal assistance to the poor support office which also operates the Migrant Farmworker Justice Project, the Children First Project, the Policy Advocacy Enhancement Project, the Domestic Violence Legal Hotline and coordinates the Emma Lazarus Grants project (a statewide advocacy project to assist non-citizens facing the loss of public benefits). He is also the Director of the Florida Supreme Court Voluntary Pro Bono Attorney Plan. This project works to increase the availability of legal services to the poor as well as to increase both opportunities and support for lawyers to use their professional skills in providing pro bono legal services to the poor.

Mr. Spuhler received his undergraduate degree from Ohio State University in 1968 and his J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1972. Upon graduation, he accepted the position of staff attorney with Jacksonville Area Legal Aid (JALA) in 1972, and served in that position until he became Deputy Director in 1978. Three years later he was promoted to Executive Director of JALA and held that position until August, 1994.

Facilitators

Mark Collins is the Assistant Coordinator of the New York State Unified Court System's Office of Alternative Dispute Resolution. In addition to assisting efforts to expand ADR services to all New York State courts, Mark has coordinated the Community Dispute Resolution Centers Program (CDRCP) since 1996. Prior to this time, he was the Deputy Director of the CDRCP since its inception in 1981. Mr. Collins has been responsible for certification of trainers, program evaluation, fiscal operations, expansion of dispute resolution into Family Court, and general development of program policy. Mr. Collins is a Board Member and Treasurer for the National Association for Community Mediation (NAFCM). Mr. Collins graduated from St. John Fisher College and received a Masters of Science Degree in Judicial Administration from the University of Denver, College of Law.

Hon. W. Dennis Duggan is a judge of the Albany County Family Court. Prior to becoming a jurist, Judge Duggan served as Counsel to the City of Albany Department of Economic Development, a private practitioner with emphasis in Criminal, Matrimonial,

Labor and Negligence Law, Executive Deputy Corporation Counsel for the City of Albany, Assistant Corporation Counsel, Chief Labor Counsel and Negotiator for the City of Albany and Confidential Law Clerk to an Albany County Judge.

Judge Duggan's numerous professional affiliations include: Notre Dame Law Association Albany County Bar Association; New York State Bar Association; Supreme Court Historical Society; Capital District Black Bar Association; American Judicature Society, Director (six years); Capital District Women's Bar Association; Graduate, National Institute for Trial Advocacy; National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges; American Judges Associations, Past House of Delegates; State Association of Family Court Judges, President-Elect, Legislative Chair; Albany County PINS Board; Family Court Advisory and Rules Committee; Family Law Curriculum Development Committee; New York State Judicial Institute Committee; Judge, National Law School Trial Competition; Judge, Albany Law School Senior Trial Competition; Judge, Albany Law School National Negotiation Competition; Judge, Albany Law School Suppression Hearing Competition; Judge, Albany Law School Gabrielli National Family Moot Court Competition; Family Court Judges' Association, Legislative Committee Chair; Council of Community Services, Domestic Violence Committee; Judicial Representative to National Minority Confinement Conference; New York State Judge's Statewide High School Mock Trial Tournament; and Deputy Chief Administrative Judge's Committee on Standards and Goals. Judge Duggan also writes a monthly column for the Albany County Bar Association on issues of historical and contemporary interest to the bench and bar.

Judge Duggan received his undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame and his law degree from Albany Law School.

Hon. Fern Fisher served as Deputy Director of Harlem Legal Services, Inc. and as an Assistant Attorney General of the New York State Department of Law. For four years, she provided pro bono legal services to Harlem-based community organizations as a project director of the National Conference of Black Lawyers. In 1989, she was appointed a Judge of the Housing Part of the Civil Court, and later, in 1990, was elected to the Civil Court where she served as Deputy Supervising Judge. Justice Fisher was elected to the Supreme Court of the State of New York in 1993. After serving in both the City and the Matrimonial Parts of Supreme Court, she was appointed Administrative Judge of the Civil Court in December 1996.

Justice Fisher contributed the views from the Bench in RESIDENTIAL LANDLORD-TENANT LAW IN NEW YORK, a practice guide by Lawyers Cooperative Publishing. She served as the host of a series of television shows on housing issues for Crosswalks, a public service cable show. Justice Fisher was a founding member of the Metropolitan Black Bar Association and

is a member of Judicial Friends (an affiliate of the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association), the Association of the Bar of the City of New York and the New York County Lawyers Association. Justice Fisher also served as the Chair of the Housing Court (Judges) Disciplinary Committee and Chair of the Anti-Bias Committee of the New York County Supreme Court. Judge Fisher and Rochelle Klempner co-authored the article *Unbundled Legal Services: Untying the Bundle in New York State* in the 29th volume of the Fordham Urban Law Journal (2002). She received her J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1978.

Daniel Weitz is the Statewide ADR Coordinator for the New York State Unified Court System. Mr. Weitz oversees a statewide program of court-annexed ADR initiatives involving mediation, arbitration, neutral evaluation and summary jury trials. He also directs the Community Dispute Resolution Centers Program, which provides dispute resolution services as an alternative to civil, family, and minor criminal court litigation in all sixty two counties of the State. Mr. Weitz serves as Vice-Chair of the UCS ADR Advisory Committee, Co-Counsel to the Board of Governors of the New York State Attorney-Client Fee Dispute Resolution Program, and Chair of the NYC Family Court Advisory Council, ADR Subcommittee.

Mr. Weitz has over ten years of experience in the field of ADR, serving as an administrator, professor, trainer and practitioner. He is an Adjunct Clinical Professor at Cardozo School of Law, and has taught ADR and conflict resolution at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and Long Island University. He has served as mediator in a wide range of matters including, general civil, family, employment, human rights, community, and police conduct cases.

Mr. Weitz received his law degree from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, where he participated in the Mediation Clinic and was a Teaching Assistant in Legal Negotiation. He has worked at JAMS, clerked for the Mediation Program of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit (the Civil Appeals Management Plan), and served as an original member of FutureLinks Inc., working in South Africa with youth leaders from all backgrounds to conduct workshops in non-violent social change, conflict resolution, and community development.