

# IAM FALL 2020 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE REPORT

## Date:

October 16, 2020  
11am - 4:55pm Eastern

## Conference Committee:

Paul Van Osselaer  
Barbara Cornish



## Theme:

*"A Time for Reflection and Conversation"*

In a climate of immense societal change, what role, if any, should mediators play when resolving conflicts with competing views of societal norms? What are the techniques and practical skills that will assist us and challenge us to provide a more culturally sensitive and bias-aware mediation process? When we face these issues as mediators, how have changes in commerce, technology, and interpersonal relations affected confidentiality as a cornerstone of mediation?

## Highlights of Program:

1. Speakers and Topics. The full schedule is attached with summaries of each program, but the three main programs are:
  - a. *"Implicit Bias: Moving Beyond Awareness to Knowledge and Skills,"* presented by Nina Meierding;
  - b. *"Confidentiality: Myth, Illusion or Endangered Species,"* presented by Michel Kallipetis, Birgit Sambeth Gasner, Jeff Kichaven, Mercedes Tarrazon and William Wood; and
  - c. *"The Perennial Dilemma: Pericles or the Plumber?,"* presented by Lela Porter Love, Bill Marsh and William Wood.
2. Keynote Speaker. Paulette Brown, Partner at Locke Lord LLP and former President of the American Bar Association. Her full bio follows the attached program schedule. Ms. Brown is a leading advocate and speaker on diversity and inclusion and will speak on *"The Critical Now of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in International Alternative Dispute Resolution."* She will be introduced by Joyce Mitchell.
3. Other. There will be a brief introduction of our new Fellows and Distinguished Fellows, a recognition of our guests (and potential new members), and a brief status report from our Diversity Committee on what we are doing about some of the issues we'll be discussing.

**Attendance:**

Paul and Richard will report at the board meeting the current attendance figures as of that date, but as of September 17, the registration is: 66 registrations - 51 members, 11 nonmembers, 3 mentees and 1 guest.

**Other Related Events:**

The day before the virtual conference, the Mentorship Committee will be hosting a virtual “coffee hour.” And during the virtual conference we will pitch upcoming conferences, including Singapore and Montreal.

**Budget:**

There are minimal costs associated with the virtual conference. All net proceeds will be become part of the general operating funds of IAM.

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[FULL PROGRAM FOLLOWS]

## A TIME FOR REFLECTION AND CONVERSATION



In a climate of immense societal change, what role, if any, should mediators play when resolving conflicts with competing views of societal norms? What are the techniques and practical skills that will assist us and challenge us to provide a more culturally sensitive and bias-aware mediation process? When we face these issues as mediators, how have changes in commerce, technology, and interpersonal relations affected confidentiality as a cornerstone of mediation?

*Note:* Times are North American Eastern Time. To find the times in your city, use this [link](#).

11:00am	<i>Welcome</i>
11:10am	<b>Implicit Bias: Moving Beyond Awareness to Knowledge and Skills</b>  <u>Presenter:</u> Nina Meierding, Honorary Fellow (USA)  In these unsettled times, issues of race and ethnicity are at the forefront of many conversations throughout the world. Recognizing and understanding our implicit and unconscious biases are only the first steps towards effectuating change in both our personal and professional lives. In this hour, we will explore specific techniques and practical skills that will both assist us and challenge us to provide a more culturally sensitive, bias-aware mediation process.
12:20pm	<i>Break</i>

12:35pm	<p><b>Confidentiality: Myth, Illusion or Endangered Species?</b></p> <p><u>Presenters:</u></p> <p>Michel Kallipetis, Distinguished Fellow (UK)          Birgit Sambeth Gasner, Distinguished Fellow (Switzerland)          Jeff Kichaven, Distinguished Fellow (USA)          Mercedes Tarrazon (Spain)          William Wood, Distinguished Fellow (UK)</p> <p>Confidentiality is the cornerstone of the discussions we have as mediators. The scope of confidentiality is constantly being challenged by development in commerce, technology, the way people relate to each other. IAM President-Elect Michel Kallipetis will lead a discussion with Distinguished Fellows from around the world exploring the changing ambit of this foundation of our profession.</p>
1:45pm	<i>IAM Recognition of New Members and Dedication to Conference Issues</i>
2:00pm	<i>Break</i>
2:10pm	<p><b>The Critical Now of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in International Alternative Dispute Resolution</b></p> <p><b>KEYNOTE ADDRESS</b>          Paulette Brown          Partner, Locke Lord LLP; Past President, American Bar Association</p> <p>Why should we give enhanced thought this issue now? What is the impact of not giving the lack of diversity and inclusion in International ADR immediate attention? Ms. Brown will discuss how without the lived experiences of a wide range of people, of different races and cultures, the likelihood of achieving the optimal result is minimized. Considering the long-term effects of having homogenous viewpoints, she will explore how an understanding of all of the tools and resources available can achieve the best decisions.</p>

3:10pm	<i>Break</i>
3:25pm	<p><b>The Perennial Dilemma: Pericles or the Plumber?</b></p> <p><u>Presenters:</u>  Lela Porter Love, Scholar in Residence (USA)  Bill Marsh, Distinguished Fellow (UK)  William Wood, Distinguished Fellow (UK)</p> <p>Given the current climate of immense societal change, what role, if any, should mediators play when resolving conflicts with competing views of societal norms? Are we just deal-makers or do we have a role to play in societal change?</p>
4:55pm	<i>Adjourn</i>

**Keynote Speaker:**



**PAULETTE BROWN**

Paulette Brown is the first woman of color to lead the American Bar Association (ABA) in its history. As the leader of this 400,000 voluntary member organization, Brown was responsible for governance, advocacy and serving as the voice and face of the ABA. As a result of her initiatives as president seven major policies were developed and approved by the ABA’s governing bodies that will have a long-lasting impact on diversity and inclusion in the legal profession and the justice system. Brown simultaneously served as Chair of the Labor & Employment Section of the New Jersey State Bar Association becoming the first person of color to hold that position in 140 years.

Brown also served as president of the National Bar Association and led a delegation to monitor the first free and democratic elections in South Africa. She currently serves as the Chair of the Africa Council for the ABA’s Rule of Law Initiative. For her extensive work in Africa, Brown received from the National Bar Association, the Inaugural Ronald Brown Award.

Brown is a senior partner and Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer at Locke Lord LLP and has been engaged in the practice of law for more than forty (40) years. Prior to her

current role, she served in numerous legal capacities including a number of in-house positions and as a Municipal Court Judge.

Brown is nationally recognized for her dedication and efforts relating to diversity & inclusion, including the impact of implicit bias and is a frequent speaker and educator on both. Brown served on the ABA's Commission on Women in the Profession. Brown is the Co-author of the nationally acclaimed Report, *Visible Invisibility: Women of Color in Law Firms*. Following the launch of that report, Brown formed the "Women of Color Law Collective", providing a safe environment for women of color focusing on cross-generational personal and professional development. Brown is the co-author of *Left Out and Left Behind: The Hurdles, Hassles and Heartaches of Achieving Long-Term Legal Careers for Women of Color*.

She has been recognized for her commitment to community service and to the advancement of women and women of color. Resulting from her commitment to community service and in recognition for her esteemed career, Brown has won numerous awards and honors, including being named by the *National Law Journal* as one of the most 50 Most Influential Minority Attorneys in the United States, by *Savoy Magazine* as one of the Most Influential Women in Corporate Business, recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* on its list of Best Lawyers in America and a NJ Super Lawyer since its inception. She is a member of the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers and the American Law Institute.

Brown has received numerous awards including the C. Francis Strafford Award, the highest award bestowed by the National Bar Association, The ABA's Margaret Brent and Spirit of Excellence Awards, The Thurgood Marshall College Fund's Award of Excellence, The Equal Justice and Gertrude Rush Awards from the National Bar Association and the Thurgood Marshall Award from the Garden State Bar Association.

Brown is proud to have received the Outstanding Graduate of the Year from Howard University, Alumni of the year from Seton Hall University School of Law and three honorary doctorate degrees.