

Boston, Massachusetts | May 28 – May 30, 2026



**IAM**

Expanding Your  
Perspective

IAM 2026 Spring Conference

# Welcome to Boston!

The International Academy of Mediators welcomes you to the 2026 IAM International Conference! IAM's conference planners and Board of Governors hope you will enjoy both the conference and the beautiful, historic host city of Boston.

The theme of our conference is *Expanding Your Perspective* and there is no better way to do that than by spending time with friends and colleagues from all over the world. This year, IAM members and delegates from more than twelve countries will join us. We have an amazing array of outside speakers from places as diverse as Harvard Law School and Berklee College of Music, as well as speakers from our own IAM membership, many of whom are authorities in their own right. Our always popular breakout sessions will once again cover a wide range of interesting topics.

A key part of any IAM conference is the opportunity to spend quality time, not only with our friends, but also with other mediators from across the world. So consider joining us for a walking tour of Boston's Freedom Trail on the Wednesday before the conference starts or a trip to Fenway Park, home of the Boston Red Sox, on Saturday afternoon – your chance to meet and spend time with others in a relaxed setting.

As a Brit, I am looking forward to welcoming you to Boston on the 250th anniversary of the unseemly departure of my ancestors! The enthusiasm and inclusive spirit of our IAM members means that it's going to be a great conference, so I hope to see you there.

Welcome to the IAM 2026 Boston International Conference!

Jonathan Lloyd-Jones  
IAM President 2025-26



Jonathan Lloyd-Jones -  
IAM President



Claude Amar -  
IAM President-Elect



Arthur Pressman -  
IAM Conference Chair

# EXPANDING YOUR PERSPECTIVE

## 2026 IAM Spring Conference Program

### Tuesday, May 26, 2026

2:00 – 5:00 pm **IAM Board of Governors Meeting** (Commonwealth Room)

### Wednesday, May 27

10:30 am – 3:30 pm (approx) **Freedom Trail/Faneuil Hall/Quincy Market Walking Tour** (Optional for Attendees/Guests)

### General Sessions are in the Grand Ballroom

### Thursday, May 28

Guest/Spouse Optional Tour

- 7:00 am **Registration desk open**
- 7:30 – 8:45 am **Breakfast** (registered attendees only – Ballroom Foyer)
- 8:45 – 9:30 am **Welcome and Introduction** – IAM President Jonathan Lloyd-Jones; Conference Chair Arthur Pressman; Honorable Heidi E. Briege, Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Trial Court
- 9:30 – 11:00 am **Negotiating the Non-Negotiable: Navigating the Emotional Undercurrents That Can Make (or Break) Mediation** - *Daniel Shapiro, PhD Founder/Director of the Harvard International Negotiation Program; Associate Professor of Psychology, Harvard Medical School/McLean Hospital*
- Why does mediation so often turn adversarial, convoluted, and intensely emotional - especially when you're working hard to keep it on track? In this talk, Dr. Shapiro takes you into the lesser-seen corners of human nature to reveal five powerful emotional forces that pull parties – and occasionally mediators – into a divisive mindset that damages relationships and derails agreement. Drawing on his research and advisory work in some of the world's most challenging conflict zones, Dr. Shapiro explains how these forces distort judgment, inflame toxic emotions, and make resolution feel untenable. We'll unpack how these forces take hold, why they escalate tension so quickly, and, most importantly, what you can do to disrupt these dynamics and create conditions for cooperation and mutual gains.*
- 11:00 – 11:15 am **Break**
- 11:15 am – 12:15 pm **Breakout Discussion Groups**
- 12:15 – 1:30 pm **Lunch** (registered attendees only – Ballroom Foyer)
- 1:30 – 2:30 pm **Talking About What Matters Most** – *Professor Sheila Heen, Thaddeus R. Beal Professor of Practice, Harvard Law School*
- In this world of polarized rhetoric, whether in the metaverse or the mediation room, how to listen for what this is "really about" for each party? And how to decide whether negotiating, or continuing to mediate, makes sense? This session will share some of the more recent research out of the Harvard community and a chance to experiment with getting to the heart of the matter when talking across differences.*
- 2:30 - 2:45 pm **Break**
- 2:45 – 4:00 pm **Building Conflict Resilience: Using Productive Disagreement to Drive Better Outcome** – *Robert Bordone, Senior Fellow, Harvard Law School*
- A mediator's mission is to help parties resolve their conflicts. But what if conflict well-handled could be used to build connection and help parties work together going forward even when there is "resolution"? Conflict Resilience – the ability to sit with the discomfort of disagreement, to listen deeply, and to assert authentically – can be a powerful tool for mediators, clients, and all of us. In this talk, Bob will share insights from his new USA Today best-selling book *CONFLICT RESILIENCE* (HarperCollins 2025), which describes what is happening in our brains when we are in conflict. He will offer evidence-based strategies from both neuroscience and practice on how to become more conflict-resilient in the face of ongoing disagreement.*

- 4:00 – 5:00 pm **Breakout Discussion Groups**
- 6:00 – 7:15 pm **Cocktail Reception** (Ballroom Foyer)
- 7:15 pm **Sign and Dine**

### Friday, May 29

- 7:00 am **Sound Bath Yoga Session** (optional for attendees)
- 8:00 am **Registration desk open**
- 7:30 – 9:00 am **Breakfast** (registered attendees only – Ballroom Foyer)
- 9:00 – 11:00 am **Use of AI in Mediation** (interactive panel) – *Professor Sarah Cole, IAM Scholar-in-Residence, and Renee Jackson, Founder & CEO of Dyspute AI, along with panelists Hayden Wilson, Rob Daisley, and Jonathan Lloyd-Jones*
- In this session, the speakers will explore the ways in which professional mediators can effectively and responsibly integrate the use of generative AI into their practice. They will examine current uses of the technology, confidentiality fears, and cognitive risks like automation bias or overreliance. While some practitioners choose to remain “analogue” mediators to avoid comprehension erosion and cognitive atrophy, others imagine using AI to interview clients or predict BATNAs. Looking twenty years into the future, the talk outlines how tools like facial expression analysis, predictive analytics, and automated decision support could reshape dispute resolution. Ultimately, it evaluates how future mediators might use AI on the business side of practice while keeping their core clinical skills sharp.
- 11:00 – 11:15 am **Break**
- 11:15 am – 12:00 pm **Breakout Discussion Groups**
- 12:00 – 1:15 pm **Lunch** (registered attendees only – Ballroom Foyer)
- 1:15 – 2:15 pm **Psychological Dimensions of Impasse Breaking in Mediation** – *David Hoffman, John H. Watson, Jr. Lecturer on Law*
- David Hoffman will address both the cognitive and emotional barriers to settlement in mediation, with a particular focus on the Internal Family Systems (IFS) model. (IFS is not about families – it’s about our internal operating systems and the ‘family-like’ relationships our sub-personalities have with each other.) Participants will then have a chance to roleplay a sample case involving a family-business dispute and try out a variety of impasse-breaking tools.
- 2:15 - 3:00 pm **Breakout Discussion Groups**
- 3:00 – 3:15 pm **Break**
- 3:15 – 5:00 pm **Voice, Vibe, & Vision: Tapping into the Flow of Negotiation** - *Berklee College of Music Jazz Masters: Edmar Colon, Skip Hadden, and Regie Gibson*
- Mediators do more than manage conflict - they perform. Like jazz musicians and spoken word poets, mediators must listen intensely, respond in the moment, and transform conflict into cooperation. On a basic level, mediators are always refining their ability to develop rapport with participants, solve problems and improve communication. Same thing with performers who must master the basics of their craft. But on a higher level, mediators – like artists - establish a “flow” to their process. When the participants in mediation loosen their narratives, exhibit more flexibility, and focus on tomorrow more than yesterday, the mediation flows from a conflict problem to be solved into a new story about change. Rather than teach “what to say” or “what to do” in mediation, this program offers an interpretative, artistic way to understand flow, creativity, and negotiation. Performing artists who are also professors at the Berklee College of Music offers will lead the discussion and performance.
- 6:00 – 7:00 pm **Reception** (Fairmont Venetian Room)
- 7:00 – 9:00 pm **Banquet** (Fairmont Oval Room, dress is business casual)
- 9:00 – 11:00 pm **New Trolls & the Banff Family Singers Singalong** (Fairmont Oval Room)

## Saturday, May 30

- 7:00 am **Sound Bath Yoga Session** (optional for attendees)
- 8:00 – 9:15 am **Breakfast** (registered attendees only – Ballroom Foyer)
- 9:15 – 10:15 am **Advancing Social Justice as Part of Commercial Mediation Practice** – *Pedro Spivakovsky-Gonzalez, Diego Faleck, and Bill Marsh*
- The panel will address the main different approaches to handling social justice disputes, based on the experience of established community mediation programs and victim's compensation settlements and programs, stemming from complex situations. Panelists will address the potential market for mediators in designing and implementing innovative processes to prevent and resolve a myriad of cases that entail advancing social justice, while creating a sustainable and promising mediation practice.
- 10:15 – 10:30 am **Break**
- 10:30 am – 11:00 am **Introduction: 2027 Conference in Rome, Italy; IAM Annual General Meeting; Installation of New Officers and Board Members**
- 11:00 am – 12:00 pm **Open Mic** with Claude Amar, New IAM President
- 1:00 pm Optional Group Excursion: **Trolley Tour/Fenway Park**

# Breakout Discussion Groups

(located in State Suite A, State Suite B, and the Grand Ballroom)

1. **That Tough Mediation? How We Prepare Ourselves and Recover Well** - Nina Khouri and Michelle Reinglass - "

*This workshop will provide an opportunity to explore the challenges of "unseen" principles and dynamics which are influenced by cultural and religious norms and how they can be successfully navigated using core mediation skills such as non-judgmental listening and reframing of offensive statements through real case studies.*
2. **Does the Mediator Usurp Party Autonomy With its Own Resolution Proposal?** - Jeff Kichaven
3. **Responding to Challenges That Often Arise When Mediating Commercial Disputes Involving Diaspora Communities** - Zaza Elsheikh  
*This workshop will provide an opportunity to explore the challenges of "unseen" principles and dynamics which are influenced by cultural and religious norms and how they can be successfully navigated using core mediation skills such as non-judgmental listening and reframing of offensive statements through real case studies.*
4. **Why We Mediate: Exploring Meaning, Inspiration, and Resilience in Mediation Practice** - Greg Derin and Ramit Mizrahi  
*What initially drew you to this work and how has your "why" shifted over the years? Has being a mediator changed you as a person? If so, in what ways? What personal values, philosophical beliefs, or faith traditions have most influenced the way you approach mediation? Have you found that the same empathy or commitment that drew you to mediation can sometimes make the work emotionally difficult and if so, what has helped? When you feel like you've hit a wall or had a "bad run," what anchors you? For some – external, like faith or community, for others internal - e.g., reflection, mental framing, etc. What helped you sustain resilience in this work over time? If you were mentoring a newer mediator, what advice would you give them? Have you found inspiration in unexpected places?*
5. **How to Hit the Curveball** - Robert Tessier  
*Learn from others how to be successful when you encounter the unexpected during your commercial mediation.*
6. **Dealing with Nation-to-Nation Conflicts: Are There Lessons to be Learnt from Person-to-Person Mediations?** - Paul Godin  
*Come to this ideas-gathering session about how we might apply mediation at the level of nation-to-nation conflicts. This conversation will look ahead from first principles more than back at existing or past conflicts. What are the goals for such a system/approach? What are the concerns with the existing system of nation-to-nation bargaining? What components are needed for an effective system of international mediation? How could those components be organized? What lessons can we derive from our own practices? Mediator-driven approaches or flexible styles within a core system of steps/approaches? How does one get buy-in from independent nations to an international system? Is there a role for the IAM? Many questions. Be ready to help us answer them!*
7. **AI Warning: How the Advice of Bots is Based on How They are Trained** - Hal Abramson and Dwight Golann  
*In this session, Hal and Dwight will pose the same questions to advisor bots built on different sources with different trainings. The session will offer opportunities for participants to pose questions, hear different answers, and discuss the implications for practicing with advice from AI.*
8. **Advanced/Active AI Users Learn from Each Other** - Allan Stitt  
*Mediators who are experimenting with using AI to prepare for and participate in mediations will share experiences, challenges, stories and ideas that we can implement to provide the best and most up-to-date service to clients.*
9. **AI Notwithstanding: Why Mediation is Inherently Human** - Claude Amar and Eric Galton  
*For those unwilling to grab the shiny ring of AI and believe that mediation and mediators are a fundamentally human thing and want to articulate the human skill sets that make the process amazing, come play with us and join the resistance!*
10. **How Attorneys are Using AI to Turn the Neutral's Brain Against Them** - Joël Bertet  
*Learn how cognitive hacking by AI-powered advocates seeks to outgame the mediator.*
11. **Leaving What you Love: Retirement from Mediation - If, When, Why, and No Way** - Gene Moscovitch and John Snellings  
*Believe it or not, someday you may need or chose to retire from your mediation practice. For most of us, these are generally uncharted waters. What might be some of your primary considerations in deciding whether, when and how to proceed? This break-out session will seek to identify some of the hurdles that you are likely to encounter and will attempt to offer some suggestions as to how you might best prepare for and navigate this important life transition.*
12. **Developing a Mediation Practice** - Stacie Hausner Feldman and Angela Reddock-Wright
13. **What Do You Want From IAM?** - Lee Jay Berman  
*It's been some time since we've held an open conversation about IAM's future. In that period, most of our founding visionaries have retired, other members are stepping back, and new members — many from outside North America — are assuming leadership roles. We navigated the pandemic, moved programming to Zoom, launched regional conferences, and reinstated the Fellow membership level. Now we want to hear from you. How is IAM serving you? How could it do even better for you? What should our mission, membership, and global, regional, and virtual programming look like next? What guidance do you have for the Board and Strategic Committee? Join us for a candid, engaging discussion to help shape our next chapter. Your voice will influence IAM's direction and priorities.*

# IAM Program Speakers, Panelists, Moderators, and Discussion Leaders



**Dr. Daniel Shapiro** is the founder and director of the Harvard International Negotiation Program and an associate professor of psychology at Harvard Medical School/McLean Hospital. He also serves as deputy director of the Harvard Negotiation Project and is affiliate faculty at the Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School. His work focuses on the emotional and identity-based dimensions of conflict resolution, emphasizing practice-based research tested in real-world contexts. Dr. Shapiro has led major conflict resolution initiatives across the Middle East, Europe, and East Asia, and for three years chaired the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Conflict Resolution, a group of global leaders dedicated to mitigating large-scale conflict. He has developed influential global curricula, including a conflict management program implemented in more than thirty countries and reaching over one million students. Dr. Shapiro teaches negotiation at Harvard College, trains psychology interns at Harvard Medical School/McLean Hospital, and

leads executive programs at Harvard Medical School, Harvard Law School's Program on Negotiation, and the Harvard Kennedy School. He is the author of *Negotiating the Nonnegotiable* and coauthor of *Beyond Reason* (with Roger Fisher). In recognition of his contributions to the field, Dr. Shapiro has received numerous honors, including the Cloke-Millen Peacemaker of the Year Award and Harvard University's Joseph R. Levenson Memorial Teaching Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.



**Sheila Heen** is the Thaddeus R. Beal Professor of Practice, and serves as a Deputy Director of the Harvard Negotiation Project, where she has been developing negotiation theory and practice since 1995. Heen is also a Founder of Triad Consulting Group, a corporate education and consulting firm that serves clients on six continents. Heen specializes in particularly difficult negotiations – where emotions run high and relationships are strained, and often works with executive teams, helping them to work through conflict, repair working relationships and make sound decisions together. Heen is a co-author of two New York Times bestsellers, *Difficult Conversations: How to Discuss What Matters Most* (with Douglas Stone and Bruce Patton, 3rd ed Penguin 2023) and *Thanks for the Feedback: The Science and Art of Receiving Feedback Well* (Even When It's Off-Base, Unfair, Poorly Delivered, and Frankly, You're Not in the Mood) (with Douglas Stone, Viking/Penguin 2014). She has written for the Harvard Business Review, and the New York Times as a guest expert, and as a

Modern Love columnist. Sheila is a frequent media guest and has appeared on shows as diverse as Oprah, NPR, Fox News, and CNBC's Power Lunch.



**Robert C. Bordone** is the USA Today Bestselling author of *Conflict Resilience: Negotiating Disagreement Without Giving Up or Giving In* with Joel Salinas, MD (HarperCollins 2025), is founder and principal of The Cambridge Negotiation Institute, a Senior Fellow at Harvard Law School, and founder of the Harvard Negotiation and Mediation Clinical Program,. He has also served as Thaddeus R. Beal Clinical Professor of Law at Harvard Law School and as Senior Advisor to U.S. Trade Representative Ambassador Katherine Tai (2021 – 2025). He is co-author of *Designing Systems and Processes for Managing Disputes*, and co-editor of *The Handbook of Dispute Resolution*. Bob was ranked as one of the World's Top 30 Negotiation Professionals by Global Gurus in 2025.



**Renee Jackson** is the Founder & CEO of Dyspute.ai, an AI mediation platform. Renee has a BA from Columbia University and a JD/MBA from the University of Connecticut. She developed her legal skills at Cravath, Swaine & Moore and Nixon Peabody. Renee held various C-suite roles at California tech companies Zynga, Wish, and Clutter before recently moving to New Hampshire. She now runs Dyspute and owns her own law firm, Blue Oak Legal, working with startups as fractional general counsel. Renee also teaches Negotiations at the University of New Hampshire's Peter T. Paul School of Business and Economics. Her combined experience and love for mediation led to the creation of Dyspute.ai.



**Sarah Rudolph Cole**, Michael E. Moritz Chair in Alternative Dispute Resolution, Moritz College of Law, Ohio State University; B.A., University of Puget Sound (cum laude); J.D., University of Chicago Law School (cum laude). Following law school, she clerked for the Hon. Eugene A. Wright of the Ninth Circuit, practiced labor and employment law before joining the faculty at Creighton University School of Law, and joined the faculty at Moritz in 1998. She is co-author of *Mediation: Law, Policy and Practice* and *Dispute Resolution: Negotiation, Mediation and Other Processes*, and *Dispute Resolution: Examples and Explanations*. In 2022, she won the CPR Award for Outstanding Book in the Field of ADR for *Discussions in Dispute Resolution* (with Art Hinshaw and Andrea Schneider) and the CPR Outstanding Professional Article Award for *Arbitrator Diversity: Can It Be Achieved?* From 2006-2021, she was the director of the Program on Dispute Resolution at Moritz. In 2013, Ohio State awarded her the Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching. She is on the arbitration and mediation panels for AAA, CPR, and the State of Ohio, and visited at Harvard Law School in 2019. In 2024, the International Academy of Mediators named her the Scholar-in-Residence for 2025-27.



**Hayden Wilson** is the Chair of Dentons in New Zealand and Vice-Chair of the Dentons Global Board. He is one of New Zealand's leading commercial mediators, alongside his ongoing practice as a commercial and public law litigator. Hayden's practice - both as a mediator and as counsel - focuses on complex commercial and regulatory disputes. Hayden is recognised by both Chambers and Partners and by Legal 500 as a leading practitioner in New Zealand. He is a Distinguished Fellow of the Academy, a Fellow of the Resolution Institute and a member of the Arbitrators and Mediators Institute of New Zealand.



**Robert Daisley** is a full-time mediator who mediates approximately 250 cases a year in a wide range of subject matters including insurance, construction defect, professional liability, contracts, employment and personal injury. He has mediated over 5,000 cases since becoming certified in 2004 by the Florida state and federal courts. He is a Distinguished Fellow and former Board member/ Membership Chair of the IAM. Rob lives in Tampa with his wife Chantal. He also teaches BodyPump at his local YMCA and guides canoe trips in the northern Ontario wilderness for Camp Temagami.



**Jonathan Lloyd-Jones** received his Bachelor of Laws from Southampton University and then qualified as a solicitor working initially in London and latterly in Oxford. He was chairman of his firm for 13 years. He qualified as a mediator in 1992 and was a founder Director and subsequently Chairman of the ADR Group. He served on the Law Society's ADR Committee. He is also certified by the International Mediation Institute. Jonathan is willing to adopt an evaluative approach to his mediations. Whilst recognizing he is not there to determine the issues, he is not afraid to engage with the parties on the strengths and weaknesses of their claims. His experience as a commercial lawyer and litigator of over 30 years, and a mediator for 27 years, has given him a good insight into the realities of dispute resolution.



**David Hoffman** has taught the Mediation course at Harvard Law School since 2008; he also teaches courses on Legal Profession: Collaborative Law and Diversity and Dispute Resolution. David is the founding member of Boston Law Collaborative, LLC ("BLC"), where he serves as a mediator, arbitrator, and attorney. Prior to founding BLC, he was a litigation partner at the Boston law firm Hill & Barlow, where he practiced for 17 years and chaired the Alternative Dispute Resolution Practice Group. David mediates and arbitrates cases at BLC ranging from business, employment, construction, intellectual property, and professional liability to divorce and other family-related disputes. David is past chair of the ABA Section of Dispute Resolution, and a Distinguished Fellow of the International Academy of Mediators. He has received Lifetime Achievement Awards from the American College of Civil Trial Mediators and the Academy of Professional Family Mediators, and the ABA Section of Dispute Resolution gave him its

D'Alemberte-Raven Award, the Section's highest honor.



**Edmar Colón** is a saxophonist, pianist, and composer from Coamo, Puerto Rico, currently living in Boston. He has toured and played in venues and events such as the Detroit Jazz Festival, the Puerto Rico Heineken Jazz Festival, the Toronto Jazz Festival, the Panama Jazz Festival, and the Montreal Jazz Festival, among others. He recently played in the Kennedy Center for the Arts Mary Lou Williams Jazz Festival and the Abbey Lincoln tribute tour with Grammy Award recipients Terri Lyne Carrington, Esperanza Spalding, Dianne Reeves, and Dee Dee Bridgewater. Colón has performed with such artists as Joe Lovano, John Patitucci, Danilo Pérez, Danny Rivera, and Ledisi. He has written and arranged music for Carrington, Spalding, Rivera, and the Harvard University Orchestra. In 2016, Colón was awarded the Latino 30 under 30 Award New England from the newspaper El Mundo. He was also awarded first prize at the Keep an Eye International Jazz Awards in Amsterdam as a part of the Berklee Global Jazz Institute. In 2017, he was honored in the annual

Patron Saint festivities of his hometown of Coamo.



**Skip Hadden** is originally from Port Chester, New York. He studied as a youngster with Ralph Pace and later in Cleveland with Bob McKee, Eddie Bobick and Ramnad Raghavan. He has been performing and recording with various artists since 1968. He can be heard on the classic Fusion recording by Weather Report, "Mysterious Traveler" with Josef Zawinul, Wayne Shorter, Alphonso Johnson, Dom Um Ramao, and Ishmael Wilburn. He can also be heard on "This Is Jazz 10, Weather Report." Another superior recording on which he appears is with Michael Bocian, Dewey Redman, and Cameron Brown and is on the ENJA label and is entitled, "Reverence." He has a Masters Degree in Education and is a Professor at Berklee College of Music in Boston where he has taught since 1982. His articles have appeared in drumming media such as Modern Drummer, Percussive Notes, Percussioni, Batterie, DrumSet, Drum Club, Top Drummer and Muzyk



**Regie Gibson**, a literary performer, has lectured and performed widely in the U.S., Cuba, and Europe. Representing the U.S. in Italy, Regie competed for & received both the Absolute Poetry Award in Monfalcone & The Europa in Versi Award in LaGuardia di Como. He's a Brother Thomas Fellow & has received two Live Arts Boston Grants to develop his first musical play, *The Juke: A Blues Bacchae* which intersects the Euripidean tragedy with African-American spiritual & musical culture. Regie has served as consultant for the NEA's "How Art Works" commission & the "Mere Distinction of Color": an exhibit featured at James Madison's Montpelier home focusing on American slavery & the U.S. constitution. He's an actor & creator of *The Shakespeare Time-Traveling Speakeasy*— a theatrical, literary-concert focusing on the life & works of William Shakespeare & is the Artistic Director of Arts for Social Cohesion—a social transformation organization using arts & pedagogy to strengthen relationships within & between communities. Additionally, he serves on the boards of

the New England Poetry Club, Grub Street Writers, the Lexington Symphony, & teaches at Berklee College of Music & Clark University. On May 30th, 2025, Regie was appointed by Governor Maura Healy to be the Inaugural Poet Laureate of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



**Diego Faleck** is a business mediator, settlement counsel and a dispute resolution processes designer, with a unique track record in highly complex cases. He is the founder of Faleck & Associados, a private firm focused on mediation and settlement strategies, leading a team of 100 full-time mediators. His noted work includes designing and implementing compensation systems with the use of mediation and facilitation due to major aircraft accidents (TAM, 2007, Air France, 2009), large environmental tragedies (Mariana, 2015, Brumadinho, 2019), and a preventive evacuation and compensation system for thousands of families due to subsidence claims in salt-mining related areas (Maceió, 2020). He received his LL.M. degree from Harvard Law School and his PhD degree from the University of São Paulo, and has held significant government positions in antitrust and consumer protection matters. He is an Adjunct Professor at the Pepperdine Caruso Law School (Malibu – CA, USA), co-Chair of the Brazilian Advisory Board for the CPR International Institute, and a member of the CAM-CCBC Mediation Commission. Highlighted as a Global Elite Thought Leader by Who's Who Legal and ranked as the best business mediator in Brazil by Leaders League, he is also an IAM Distinguished Fellow.

and a member of the CAM-CCBC Mediation Commission. Highlighted as a Global Elite Thought Leader by Who's Who Legal and ranked as the best business mediator in Brazil by Leaders League, he is also an IAM Distinguished Fellow.



**Pedro Spivakovsky-Gonzalez** is a Lecturer on Law in the Negotiation Workshop. He has a particular interest in the applications of negotiation theory and practice to legal aid, economic development, and international relations. He is a trained mediator and former Executive Director of the Community Dispute Settlement Center, a mediation and training center providing mediation services and workshops in the Boston area. He is an Adjunct Professor in the Master's in Leadership and Negotiation program at Bay Path University in Longmeadow, Massachusetts, where he has taught since 2018, and also serves as a Captain in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps Reserves, and in this role provides training on international law topics. He previously served as Senior Staff Attorney with the American Bar Association (ABA) South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project (ProBAR) in Harlingen, Texas, where he represented people seeking asylum or other immigration relief. Prior to becoming an immigration lawyer, he was a Staff Attorney and

Skadden Fellow at Veterans Legal Services, where he assisted low-income veterans in Massachusetts with various civil legal issues including in family law, housing law, and benefits cases.



**Bill Marsh**, in his own words, has 'hung around the middle of other people's fights, to see who wants to talk', for some 35 years. He mediates most things that people choose to fight about - commercial, civil, environmental, religious and human rights conflicts - in the UK and around the world. He also trains and mentors mediators, and advises governments on mediation. He is married to Belinda (a doctor from Australia, who graciously puts up with the UK climate), and they have three adult sons, and a grandchild eagerly awaited. Bill is an average but enthusiastic fly-fisherman who loves music.

## Breakout Sessions



Professor **Hal Abramson**, Touro University (TU) Law Center, New York, has been deeply involved in the development and practice of domestic and international dispute resolution for more than thirty years. A teacher, trainer, and award-winning author, he was the sole recipient of TU's Presidential Award for Scholarship. His current work is on AI in legal education and dispute resolution. Professor Abramson has been recognized as a Global Elite Thought Leader for Commercial Mediation by Who's Who Legal and served as the first Scholar-in-Residence for the IAM. He has chaired or served on committees for the American Bar Association, the Paris ICC Mediation Competition, and the IMI (International Mediation Institute) Task Force that drafted the first ever standards for certifying cross-cultural mediators.



**Claude Amar** is a registered architect and hotel developer who transitioned into dispute resolution after training as a mediator in 2001 under mediation pioneer Gary Friedman and Harvard Law School's Program on Negotiation (PON). As a dispute prevention and resolution advisor, Claude holds certifications from the International Mediation Institute (IMI), the Singapore International Mediation Institute (SIMI), and the Institut Français de Certification des Médiateurs (IFCM). He is the founding partner of Mediation&Resolution, one of Europe's largest mediation chambers. Claude is regularly appointed by Courts of Appeal to handle complex commercial and industrial disputes involving both public and private sector leaders. His expertise has earned international recognition from mediation centers worldwide, and he has successfully managed over 1,500 mediations throughout his career as a professional "resolver." In addition to his European practice, Claude co-founded The International Resolution Chamber (TIRC), with offices in Delhi and Paris, specializing in resolving cross-border disputes between Indian and European business partners. Claude, an IAM

Distinguished Fellow, is the organization's incoming President.

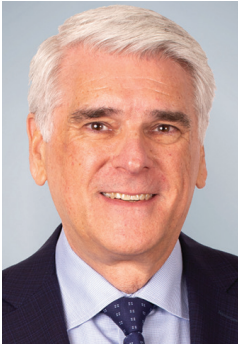


**Lee Jay Berman** began as a full-time mediator 30 years ago, and has successfully mediated over 2,700 matters as many of which were high profile cases, as a private, independent commercial mediator. He is a AAA Master Mediator for employment matters, a national panelist on their commercial, construction, entertainment and insurance panels, and a select mediator on their International Center for Dispute Resolution mediation panel. He is a Distinguished Fellow with the International Academy of Mediators, a Charter Diplomat with NADN, and was one of the first 5 U.S. mediators certified by the International Mediation Institute. Also a popular trainer, Mr. Berman founded the American Institute of Mediation after seven years as Director of Pepperdine Law School's Mediating the Litigated Case program (ranked #1 nationally). He has trained mediators, judges, attorneys, and business leaders across North America, Mexico, Europe, and the Middle East, as well as India, Uzbekistan, Australia, and New Zealand.



**Joël Bertet** is a Los Angeles-based mediator specializing in construction, real estate, and business disputes. He brings an unusually hands-on perspective to the practice: before becoming a mediator, he spent 30 years as a Licensed General Contractor, Licensed Real Estate Broker, construction lawyer, and entrepreneur — building and managing companies, developing large-scale properties, and advising clients when transactions turned into disputes. He serves on the AAA California Construction Mediation Panel, is an Editor of the ABA Forum on Construction Law D1 Dispute Resolution Division, and a member of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals. His work has been published in the Los Angeles Daily Journal, the ABA Forum on Construction and the Construction Dispute Journal. Joël is an IAM mentee of Jeff Kichaven. He has been exploring the practical applications of artificial intelligence in mediation practice — from case preparation and document analysis to client communication and workflow — and is passionate about helping

neutrals understand the opportunities, risks and limits of these tools.



**Greg Derin** is a mediator and arbitrator with Signature Resolution based in Los Angeles, focusing on commercial disputes, entertainment and intellectual property matters. A mediator since 2002, he has been an IAM Distinguished Fellow since 2014, and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators since 2012. He is the 2026 recipient of the Warren G. Knight Award for Excellence in Alternative Dispute Resolution from the Association of Media and Entertainment Counsel. Greg writes frequently about the psychological and creative aspects of mediation, relying upon his family's immigrant experience and faith tradition.



**Zaza Elsheikh**, an IAM Distinguished Fellow since 2022, is based in the UK, but regularly mediates commercial disputes internationally as well as amongst British diaspora communities. Zaza has a wealth of experience in mediating large scale multi-party claims against the State. She is a Senior Fellow at Zurich University as well as a member of CEDR's faculty. Zaza convenes bimonthly online Scripture-based Dialogue sessions to discuss topics in an interfaith forum for Mediators and Arbitrators. Zaza also uses her mediation skills to rehabilitate convicted terrorists and as a humanitarian aid distributor in Africa.



**Eric Galton**, an IAM past-president, has mediated over 7000 cases and arbitrated over 100 disputes. Eric is a founding partner of the Lakeside Mediation Center in Austin, Texas. In 1991, Eric's first book, *Representing Clients at Mediation*, won a CPR best book award. Since that time, Galton has published 4 books about mediation, including his recent ABA collaboration with Professor Lela Love, *Stories Mediators Tell*. Galton's books have been translated into five languages. Galton has been named a "Texas Superlawyer" in ADR for twelve consecutive years and received the Texas Lawyers coveted "Go To" award in mediation. Galton is listed in *Who's Who* for both Commercial Mediation and Thought Leaders, and is a Martindale Hubble Preeminent AV lawyer. Galton served on the board of the Texas Association of Mediators and is a Texas Distinguished Credentialed Mediator. Eric is an adjunct professor at Pepperdine School of Law and served as an adjunct professor at University of Texas School of Law. In 2025 Eric was named the Outstanding Texas

Credentialed Mediator by the Texas Mediator Credentialing Association.



**Paul Godin** B.A, B.Sc., LL.B., C.Med., is the principal of Katalyst Resolutions, with expertise in mediation, negotiation, and conflict management system design. Paul is a Distinguished Fellow of the IAM based in Victoria, BC, Canada, an experienced mediator, and negotiation and conflict resolution trainer. Paul is a roster mediator with several international dispute resolution panels, including the Court of Arbitration for Sport, the FIFA Mediation Roster, and ICOM (Art and Cultural Heritage). Paul teaches sports law and dispute resolution at the University of Victoria Law School, and has enough experience in mediating government-to-government issues that he has more questions than answers for you.



**Dwight Golann** has been a mediator and teacher of dispute resolution for more than thirty years. A Professor of Law at Suffolk University in Boston and the University of California Law in San Francisco, he has led trainings for U.S. government agencies, the European Union, and law firms and ADR organizations on five continents. Professor Golann has resolved hundreds of legal disputes and is the author of leading books on mediation, including *Mediating Legal Disputes* and *Sharing a Mediator's Powers*. He is the only person to have received both the Lifetime Achievement Award of the American College of Civil Mediators and the American Bar Association Award for Outstanding Scholarship in Dispute Resolution. Prof. Golann is a leader in the introduction of AI to dispute resolution.



**Stacie Hausner** has been a full-time mediator at ADR Services, Inc. for the last 10 years. She has mediated thousands of cases in the areas of employment, personal injury, civil rights, employment, business, real estate, insurance coverage, construction defect, malpractice, and entertainment. Stacie is a Distinguished Fellow with the International Academy of Mediators, was invited to be a member of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals and was awarded the inaugural Excellence in Mediation award by the Southern California Mediation Association. Stacie has an LLM in Dispute Resolution, has been teaching Mediation at Pepperdine Law School, one class every semester, for the last 10 years, and has spent extensive time over the last 10 years, training Mediators through the Central District Court Panel of Mediators, the Mediating the Litigated Case Program at the Straus Institute, and many other mediation organizations and bar associations.



**Nina Khouri** is a leading mediator in Aotearoa New Zealand specialising in settling complex civil litigation such as construction, insurance, property, energy/infrastructure, technology, public/private partnership, contract, tort and trust and estate disputes. Over the past 20 years Nina has had the privilege of working with thousands of individuals, families, SMEs, large corporates, and public entities to help settle several billion dollars' worth of disputes. She maintains an academic connection with the University of Auckland Faculty of Law, where she has taught and researched in mediation law and theory since 2009. Nina has studied, taught, or practised mediation in New York, London and Ontario and is recognised by Lexology Index (formerly Who's Who Legal) as a Global Elite Thought Leader, its top 5% tier internationally. She is proud to be a Distinguished Fellow of the International Academy of Mediators.



**Jeff Kichaven** is one of America's leading mediators. A full-time professional mediator since 1996, Jeff is a Cum Laude graduate of Harvard Law School and a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of California, Berkeley. He specializes in B2B cases, particularly Insurance Coverage, Intellectual Property, and Legal and Accounting Malpractice. He is a Past President of the Southern California Mediation Association and a Past Chair of the ADR Section of the LA County Bar, as well as an Elected Member of the American Law Institute. Jeff has taught mediation for Harvard Law School, Pepperdine University School of Law, the American Bar Association, and many other law schools and bar associations across the country. His views on mediation have been cited in *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*.



**Ramit Mizrahi** is an employment mediator based in Pasadena, California. She graduated from Yale Law School, has a master's degree from the London School of Economics, and a bachelor's degree from UC-Berkeley's Haas School of Business. Ramit has been recognized as one of the Top 100 Super Lawyers and Top 50 Women Super Lawyers in Southern California. She became an IAM Fellow in March 2026.



**Gene Moscovitch** joined the IAM in 2003; he served for 11 years on its Board of Governors and then as its' President in 2016. During a 22-year highly successful career as a full-time mediator, he worked in association with four different Provider Panels in Los Angeles while mediating over 3,000 cases, primarily in the areas of employment law and civil rights. While now retired, he still maintains a close relationship with the IAM, mentoring young mediators, speaking at its' conferences, and sharing his historical knowledge of the organization whenever called upon to do so.



**Angela J. Reddock-Wright** is a mediator with Signature Resolution, based in California and serving clients throughout the U.S. She has been a licensed attorney for over 30 years and a full-time neutral for six. She specializes in the broad spectrum of employment and labor law and civil rights cases, in addition to Title IX matters involving K-12 schools, colleges and universities. Angela's practice also includes service as a court appointed neutral, claims administrator, allocation neutral, and consent decree monitor for these and similar matters. She has been named among the Best Lawyers in the U.S., a Top California Employment Lawyer, Super Lawyer, and Top 50 Woman Attorney. Angela is the author of the book "The Workplace Transformed: 7 Crucial Lessons from the Global Pandemic", a regular blogger, columnist, and contributor to the media. She also hosts a weekly community radio show and podcast, Legal Lens with Angela Reddock-Wright on Tavis Smiley's KBLA Talk 1580.



**Michelle Reinglass** is a full-time mediator with Judicate West and a distinguished neutral with over 30 years of experience in employment, civil rights, business, and complex civil litigation, where she handles a wide range of disputes including labor and employment matters (such as discrimination, harassment, retaliation, wage and hour, PAGA, and whistleblowing), as well as business, corporate, tort, and contract cases; she also served for 17 years as an arbitrator with the American Arbitration Association and Judicate West. Michelle is a member of ABOTA, a Fellow of the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers, a Distinguished Fellow of the International Academy of Mediators, and a WWL Thought Leader in Commercial Mediation. A frequent author and speaker, she is co-author of the best-selling books *Women Who Empower* and *Leading with Legacy*.



**John Snellings** is a consultant to law firms and lawyers on issues of business and professional development, including career transitions. Previously, he was a partner at Nixon Peabody LLP for 26 years, serving for 16 years as the Firm's Professional Personnel Partner, involved in all aspects of professional life at the firm. Chief among his experiences were lawyer concerns about partner retirement, phase down, client transitions plans, succession, and "what next" issues. These issues remain the core of John's consulting practice.



**Allan Stitt** is a mediator, arbitrator, and trainer, and the President and CEO of ADR Chambers (based in Toronto, Canada). ADR Chambers is the largest private ADR organization in Canada and has mediated over 55,000 cases over the last 15 years. Allan is also the co-founder of the Stitt Feld Handy Group which conducts ADR training in Canada and internationally. Allan is the CEO of ThAlmis, a technology-based AI company that assists in the resolution of labour and employment disputes. He also manages AiADR.com, a project that provides AI tools for mediators and arbitrators. Allan received the 2025 Distinguished Neutral of the Year Award in recognition of Lifetime Achievement in Conflict Resolution and ADR Education by the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals. He has an honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Windsor (UW) Faculty of Law and is the recipient of the Ontario Bar Association Award of Excellence in Alternative Dispute Resolution, the UW Law School Alumni Award of Excellence, and the UW Distinguished Alumni Award. He is the Canadian delegate to UNCITRAL where he was one of the leading drafters of the Singapore

Convention. Two of his books, *ADR For Organizations* and *Mediating Commercial Disputes*, were business books bestsellers. He also wrote *Mediation: A Practical Guide* and he is the Editor-in-Chief of the LexisNexis ADR Practice Manual.



**Bob Tessier**, as a mediator, has developed particular expertise in traumatic orthopedic, brain and neurologic injuries, as well as worker's compensation and medical lien issues. Since joining Judicate West in 2008, he has mediated over four thousand litigated tort cases, including a myriad of major injury and high-profile claims. He has become one of the most sought-after mediators in California, and is well respected by all sides. His varied life experience before becoming a lawyer, such as working in automobile restoration, restaurants, fitness trainer, and as a musician gives him a practical and unique perspective to alternative dispute resolution.



**Kenny Werner** has been a world-class pianist and composer for more than forty years. In 1996 he published his landmark book, *Effortless Mastery: Liberating The Master Musician Within*. Werner has since created videos, lectured world-wide, and authored many articles on how musicians, artists, or even business people can allow their "master creator" within to lift their performance to its highest level, showing us how to be spontaneous, fearless, joyful, and disciplined in our work and in our life. His natural instinct for improvisation led Werner to Berklee in 1970. There he sought tutelage of the renowned piano teacher Madame Chaloff, who became a driving force in Werner's goal to create music conscious of its spiritual intent and essence.

## Full Group Optional Tours

**Wednesday, May 27, 2026** (10:30 am – 3:30 pm; hotel departure on foot to Quincy Market for lunch and exploration; 1:30 pm departure from Quincy Market for Freedom Trail walking tour, ending back at the hotel)

### Quincy Market/Faneuil Hall/Freedom Trail (\$85/person)

Quincy Market and Faneuil Hall – “The Cradle of Liberty” since 1742 – still buzzes with energy today. The iconic marketplace features historic architecture, talented street performers, a wide variety of shops and food stalls, and this year’s “Wild Benches of Hope” art exhibit. All participants will receive a \$20 lunch voucher redeemable at specified vendors.



From there, we’ll “walk into history” via the Freedom Trail. A colonial guide will lead you down the red brick road, with stops at meetinghouses, museums, churches, and more as you discover the rich history of the American Revolution as it began in Boston, and learn about the brave people who shaped our nation.

**Saturday, May 30, 2026** (1:00 – 5:00 pm; hotel departure and return via coach)

### Fenway Park and Highlights Tour (\$150/person)

Enjoy a lively overview of Boston’s historic neighborhoods and landmarks on your way to the legendary Fenway Park, home of the Boston Red Sox since 1912. You’ll enjoy an insider’s tour of one of baseball’s most beloved ballparks. From the Green Monster to behind-the-scenes spaces, this combined experience blends transportation, history, and sports into one unforgettable Boston outing.



## Spouse/Guest Optional Tour

**Thursday, May 28, 2026** (9:30 am – 12:30 pm; hotel departure/return on foot)

### Custom Architectural Walking Tour – Back Bay/Beacon Hill (\$100/person)

Explore the charm and character of Boston’s iconic Back Bay on a custom architectural tour through Back Bay. Stroll along tree-lined streets to admire stunning Victorian brownstones, grand landmarks like Trinity Church, and the elegant façades of Commonwealth Avenue Mall. Led by an expert guide, this curated experience offers a deeper look into the neighborhood’s rich design history and timeless New England style.

