

## Leveraging Early Neutral Evaluation and a Comprehensive Dispute Resolution Department in Domestic Relations Courts

Hon. Deborah Alspach  
Magistrate Rosalind C. Florez



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### Faculty

• **JUDGE DEBORAH ALSPACH** is a graduate of The Ohio State University and Ohio Northern University Claude W. Pettit College of Law. Upon receiving her Juris Doctor, she began practicing Law in Marion County working predominately in Family Law. She later became a Magistrate in the Juvenile Division of the Common Pleas Court and in 1998 was elected as the first Family Court Judge where she continues to serve. Judge Alspach is active in the Marion County Bar Association, the Ohio State Bar Association where she served on the Board of Governors and chaired the Government Affairs Committee. Judge Alspach chaired the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Children and Families. Other current professional activities include, Board of Directors of the Ohio Chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts and The Marion Community Foundation Board of Directors. Judge Alspach previously served on the Board of Directors for Med Center and Marion General Hospitals, Marion Speech and Hearing Center and Marion Community Foundation from 1998 – 2006.



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### Faculty

• **MAGISTRATE ROSALIND C. FLOREZ** has served as a magistrate in Hamilton County Domestic Relations Court since November 2006. She was appointed Director of the Dispute Resolution Center of the Domestic Relations Court September 2, 2015. In March 2016, Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor appointed Mag. Florez for a three-year term to the Advisory Committee on Language Services. She serves on the Supreme Court of Ohio Commission on Dispute Resolution Subcommittee on Education, Training and Experience for Mediation. She is also a board member for the Ohio Chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts since 2015. Magistrate Florez began mediating in 1999 when the Ohio Supreme Court funded common pleas court projects to provide another means to resolve litigation. She trained Hamilton County area attorneys when the Uniform Mediation Act was enacted. She is a faculty member for the Ohio Supreme Court on family law mediation, Early Neutral Evaluation and parenting coordination. Mag. Florez received a bachelor of science in Journalism from Ohio University and a juris doctor from the University of Cincinnati.



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**Objectives:** Participants will be able to

- Understand the history of Dispute Resolution in courts
- Identify staff, cost and space necessities of a department within a court
- Recognize mediation as a method of dispute resolution
- Distinguish ENE from other types of dispute resolution processes
- Apply processes to court cases




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**Agenda**

- I. History of Dispute Resolution 1970s to Present
- II. Building a Dispute Resolution Department
- III. Dispute Resolution Processes




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**History and Procedure**

- I. 1970s and Multi-door Courthouse Concept
- II. 1980s and 1990s
- III. 21<sup>st</sup> Century
- IV. ENE
- V. Triage v. Linear Case Management




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**Building a Dispute Resolution Department**

- I. Needs, Philosophies
- II. Local Rules and Department Protocol
- III. Staff
  - A. Licenses
  - B. Training
- IV. Physical Space
- V. Costs



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**Dispute Resolution Processes**

- I. Mediation
- II. Early Neutral Evaluation
- III. Investigations
- IV. Parenting Coordination
- V. Med/Arb
- VI. GAL



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**Resources**

The Supreme Court of Ohio, Dispute Resolution Section


- <http://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/JCS/disputeResolution/>

Marion County Family Court

- <http://www.co.marion.oh.us/familycourt/>

Hamilton County Domestic Relations Court, Dispute Resolution Department

- [http://www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov/government/courts/court\\_of\\_domestic\\_relations/dispute\\_resolution/](http://www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov/government/courts/court_of_domestic_relations/dispute_resolution/)



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**Contact  
Information**

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**Contact  
Information**

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