

# Speakers of the Mediation Conference



## **Prof. Sharon Press**

Director, Dispute Resolution Institute Mitchell Hamline School of Law

Sharon Press is a Professor of Law and serves as the director of the nationally ranked Dispute Resolution Institute at Mitchell Hamline School of Law. At Mitchell Hamline, Press teaches mediation, a mediation clinic and negotiation and advanced international business negotiation. In addition, Press directs the Jerusalem Study Abroad Program: Conflict Resolution from Religious Traditions, coaches the Mediation Representation Teams, and serves as the academic advisor to the students who are completing a Certificate in Advocacy and Problem-Solving. Press currently serves as chair of the Minnesota State Bar Association ADR Section Council, as secretary of Community Mediation and Restorative Services (CMRS) Board, and is a member of the Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation Board and the Community Dispute Resolution Programs Advisory Council. She also mediates regularly for the Dispute Resolution Center at Ramsey County Conciliation Court.

Previously, Professor Press served for 18 years as director of the Florida Dispute Resolution Center where she was responsible for the ADR programs associated with the state courts. In that capacity, Press assisted in the development of rules, statutes and policies related to court-connected dispute resolution in Florida, including providing staff support to the Mediator Ethics Advisory Committee and the Mediator Grievance Board.

Press is the recipient of numerous professional awards, including the Mary Parker Follett Award for Excellence and Innovation in Dispute Resolution presented by the Association for Conflict Resolution and CPR Institute for Dispute Resolution's Special Award for Distinguished Contributions to the Field and Future of Dispute Resolution. Press is a Florida Supreme Court certified county and family mediator and a Minnesota Rule 114 qualified facilitative/hybrid neutral. She is co-author of the textbook: *Mediation Theory and Practice* (3rd Edition Fall 2013), with J. Alfini and J. Stulberg, and her scholarship has focused on mediation ethics and institutionalization of ADR. She served on the committee that re-drafted the Model Standards of Conduct for Mediators (2005) and as vice-chair for ACR's Pre-Dispute Arbitration Task Force. Press has made over 200 presentations on ADR topics at conferences and continuing education events in the U.S. and abroad. She has worked with numerous states throughout the U.S. contemplating the use of court-connected mediation. Internationally, she has done work in Argentina, Haiti, Hungary, Jordan, Spain, Uruguay, and the Caribbean.