William Mitchell Adjunct Professor Linda Mealey-Lohmann honored for mediation work

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William Mitchell **Adjunct Professor Linda Mealey-Lohmann** will receive the Martin Blum Community Mediation Award from the Dispute Resolution Center in St. Paul in recognition of her pioneering field work with Mitchell students and inspiring volunteerism.

Mealey-Lohmann, an attorney for 18 years with her own mediation practice for the last five years, created the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Mediation Externship course at William Mitchell in Spring Semester 2007 after noticing a need for hands-on training opportunities for students who had completed her ADR course. The externship pairs students with experienced mediators in conciliation court, housing court, community mediation settings, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) or Minnesota Department of Human Rights to observe court proceedings and mediations, co-mediate real mediations, and even solo-mediate in some cases.

"It's important to teach William Mitchell students about mediation because this skill is an essential part of being an effective lawyer," said Mealey-Lohmann, who has taught ADR at Mitchell since 2006. "It is estimated that 95 percent of all litigation is resolved before trial and mediation is one of the primary alternative methods to litigation."

"Mitchell's ADR course gives students the technical skills to mediate, and the externship gives them the practical field experience they need to become truly effective mediators."

Mealey-Lohmann's work at William Mitchell not only benefits students, but the growing field of community mediation as well. Approximately 20 William Mitchell students have volunteered as mediators at the Dispute Resolution Center or in other community settings over the past two years through the ADR externship and on their own.

Mealey-Lohmann inspires others to volunteer by her example. She has been a dedicated volunteer mediator for the Dispute Resolution Center, handling cases for the Ramsey County Conciliation Court since 2004, as well as for the Minnesota Department of Human Rights and Washington County Conciliation Court.

"All of the Dispute Resolution Center's services are delivered by volunteers," said Executive Director Jeanne Zimmer. "Having people like Linda promoting community mediation and volunteerism–and modeling pro bono services through her own volunteerism—makes a huge difference for the continuing existence of our program."

The Martin Blum Community Mediation Award is named in honor of the Dispute Resolution Center's first executive director who was instrumental in the development of the Center and the concept of community mediation in Minnesota. It is awarded annually to an individual or group

that has demonstrated commitment to community mediation throughout the East Metro area. Mealey-Lohmann will receive the award at the Center's 26th anniversary celebration on Dec. 17.

Mealey-Lohmann's practice focuses primarily on resolving workplace conflict and employment law cases. She also does contract mediator work for the EEOC. Among her professional activities, she is vice chair of the Commercial and Employment Committee of the Minnesota State Bar Association's (MSAB) Alternative Dispute Resolution Section and is a member of the governing board of the MSBA Labor & Employment Law Section. She has published numerous articles and conducted many employer training sessions and CLE presentations on various employment law and ADR topics. She co-authored "Pocket's of Innovation in Minnesota's Alternative Dispute Resolution Journey," in the *William Mitchell Law Review* (Fall 2006).

Mealey-Lohmann earned her J.D. cum laude from the University of Minnesota. Previously she worked as a trial attorney at O'Melveny & Myers, Los Angeles, and Dorsey & Whitney, Minneapolis, on discrimination and employment-related issues.

http://web.wmitchell.edu/news/2008/12/william-mitchell-adjunct-professor-linda-mealey-lohmann-honored-for-mediation-work/