In the Mediation Clinic

Student-attorneys learn professional neutral intervention skills that allow them to assist parties in resolving disputes in commercial, landlord-tenant, family, neighbor, and workplace matters.

Professor Beryl Blaustone directs the Mediation Clinic and teaches the Clinic classes and rounds. Last semester student-attorneys co-mediated cases in Brooklyn and Queens Small Claims Court and Civil Court. As part of their casework, Clinic interns drafted stipulation agreements under the supervision of several supervising attorneys, including Edward Bonsignore. An alum of the Clinic, he runs his own successful mediation and family law firm.

Last semester, students also worked on federal employment discrimination cases by serving as second seat counsel to Professor Blaustone in mediations for the Southern District Federal District Court (SDNY). In addition to casework, student-attorneys taught a class on mediation in the legal system to first year law students and presented a CUNY career panel discussion with practicing attorney-mediators.

This year the Mediation Clinic partnered with Legal Services NYC in its development of a Divorce Mediation Project. The partnership allows students the opportunity to intern at Legal Services NYC and gain experience in resolving disputes during divorce proceedings.

Professor Blaustone also hosted a continuing education discussion for a group of attorney mediators from the Divorce Mediation Project on effectively using interpreters in divorce mediation.

The Mediation Lawyering Seminar is offered in the spring to second year law students to learn mediation theory and practice basic lawyering skills. Students take part in several simulations that allow them to practice mediation skills, both in the role of mediator and disputant. During the semester they also research and write a memorandum of objective analysis on a topic of their choice related to mediation.

Many Mediation Clinic alums remain active and engaged in the Clinic as Teaching Assistants. They support Professor Blaustone during the Mediation Seminar by helping students during simulations and providing feedback. They also serve as mentors for second year law students interested in the Mediation Clinic and for all clinical programs at CUNY.

“Mediation can be an empowering experience for all parties, but especially those from marginalized communities.”

-Professor Beryl Blaustone, Mediation Clinic