

DIVORCE MEDIATION SYLLABUS (LAW #911)

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BRIEF OVERVIEW OF COURSE

This course is designed to introduce you to the substantive issues relevant to divorce and family mediation and develop your mediation skills as applied to this specific area of law. Family mediation encompasses many nuances often absent from traditional mediation scenarios.

This course is intended to be highly interactive and will allow you to continue to develop your individual mediation style within the substantive legal issues of divorce and family mediation.

In addition to traditional lecture and readings, you will hear from many “guest speakers”, including practicing attorneys, a sitting Magistrate, The Supreme Court Office of Disciplinary Counsel and a licensed family therapist. You will view videos of varying mediation styles, and continue to practice your skills in mediation role plays and writing assignments.

The goals of this course are to have you:

- Recognize the myriad of emotional issues that may surface in divorce & family mediations;
- Screen for appropriateness of mediation, including ability to screen for domestic violence;
- Recognize / understand the substantive issues pertinent to divorce & family mediations;
- Develop skills of problem solving between the parties, especially in areas of divorce, including, but not limited to parenting, support, division of assets/liabilities, tax, retirement, etc;
- Understand the importance of working with legal counsel as well as other professionals;
- Recognize the limits of mediator and the trappings of the “unauthorized practice of law”;
- Understand the court referred mediation process;
- Know the factors to consider in developing a family mediation practice

**This course has been approved by the Supreme Court of Ohio in accordance with the Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio. Therefore, in order for you to qualify for a certificate of completion, you MUST attend all 40 hours of this course.*

Obtaining your certificate for this purpose is separate and apart from your law school grade.

CLASS ATTENDANCE

This is an intensive course with only 5 class days. There will be a number of in-class exercises, so attendance at every class is mandatory. I may subtract up to a maximum of eight (8) points from each student's grade for each class absence. I also have discretion to subtract points from a student's grade for chronic tardiness or partial absence(s).

If an emergency situation arises, a student may request an excused absence. An excused absence will allow the student an opportunity to submit additional work that will receive up to eight (8) points.

The instructors also reserve the right to grant excuses from class in special circumstances. A student who must request an excused absence must provide Professor Massucci with a signed written request in advance of the absence. **All requests from students relating to attendance issues should be submitted in writing.** If an emergency prevents an advance request, the student shall contact the professor via telephone or email as soon as possible to explain the reason for the absence and shall present a signed written explanation for the absence at the next class or as soon as possible. The professor may require a student who is granted an excused absence to complete additional course work. The professor does not consider previously scheduled work and family commitments to be acceptable reasons for an excused absence.

CLASS PREPARATION AND PARTICIPATION

Each student is expected to prepare for and participate in every class. Although the nature of preparation may vary from class to class, the important element is for a student to be actively engaged in the class. Missing class will detract from your readiness and participation in the various role plays and writing exercises.

Laptop computers are permitted* **HOWEVER, PLEASE DO NOT:

- Surf the web;
- Check / respond to your email;
- Play solitaire, etc. OR
- Anything else **not pertaining to this class** that might annoy me and/or distract your classmates OR ME

GRADING

- Quizzes
- Final Examination
- Role Play Participation
- Class Participation

- Writing Assignments

NOTE: Please make sure that you know your FINAL examination number prior to the first class. Only your FINAL examination number should be used for all quizzes.

FINAL EXAMINATION

TBA