

Jim Melamed

Jim Melamed is CEO and co-founder of Mediate.com (since 1996). Prior to this, Jim founded The Mediation Center in Eugene, Oregon in 1983 and served as Executive Director of the Academy of Family Mediators (AFM), now merged into the Association for Conflict Resolution (ACR) from 1987-93. Jim continues as CEO of Mediate.com and teaches Advanced Mediation and Online Dispute Resolution at Pepperdine School of Law's Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution in Malibu, California. Jim is former Chair of the Oregon Dispute Resolution Commission and was founding President and Executive Director of the Oregon Mediation Association. Jim is recipient of the Oregon Mediation Association's 2003 Award of Excellence and the Oregon State Bar 2006 Sid Lezak Award of Excellence.

Mediate.com

Mediate.com is the flagship web site of Resourceful Internet Solutions, Inc. Mediate.com operates at the intersection of conflict resolution and the internet. We are technologists with a mission of most capably supporting disputants and those that assist them. Our goals are: (1) to assist those in conflict to be at their best in finding most capable solutions; (2) to support the development and expansion of mediation globally; and (3) to support dispute resolution professionals and organizations being at their best on the internet. Mediate.com has over 4 million annual visitor sessions. We the bridge between dispute resolution professionals and disputants. We are currently focused on growing RIS/Mediate in 3 ways: 1) Growing Mediate.com internationally; (2) Bring our content, technical capacity and know-how to the general legal market; and (3) Expedite our development of online conflict resolution systems and services.

Learn from Our Mistakes - The Hard Realities of Growing Mediation in the US

1. Modern Mediation Movement in the US - late 1970's and early 1980's

- relationship to Viet-Nam War activism
- national efforts - eg Neighborhood Justice Centers, NAFCM, SPIDR, AFM, AFCC, NAME, NCPCR
- state efforts - most states
 - mediation
 - dispute resolution
 - conflict resolution
 - attorneys / non-attorneys
- both social movement and discrete professional endeavors
- our "collaborative impulse" and keeping decision-making control
- spin offs - facilitation, coaching, ombuds, partnering, conflict resolution system design . . . arbitration!

2. Public Sector Institutionalization of Mediation

- the good news - "we won"
- risks of institutionalized mediocrity
- payment for mediators
- multiple delivery systems
- underfunding of court and community mediation
- challenges of mixed roles

3. The Private Mediation Profession

- pre-litigation / post-litigation
- attorneys and non-attorneys
- substantive divisions
- the panelization movement
- the qualifications debate
- impossible to generally regulate?
- with transparency and choice, does it matter?

4. The Future

- how can we best bring capacity and excellence to institutionalized mediation?
- how can we best bring capacity and excellence to community mediation
- how can the private sector be best supported in its growth?
- how can we best get the word out about mediation and conflict resolution options?
- the internet will surely contribute to solving all of these challenges
- the roles of shifted political context, leadership and world consciousness