

Special Education Mediators



Sarah Bowman-Kolacki

Attorney Sarah E. Bowman-Kolacki has been working with parents, students, and schools since receiving her B.A. and Reading Endorsement from Purdue Northwest in 1997. After working with Title I students in Indiana, she attended Valparaiso University School of Law. In 2002 she became involved with the University's Mediation Clinic and worked to resolve disputes between landlords/tenants and other small claims issues. After receiving her Juris Doctor in 2003, Attorney Kolacki worked as a small claims attorney and family mediator. In 2005 she joined the Indiana Department of Education's Special Education team of mediators. Attorney Kolacki especially enjoys working with

the Indiana Department of Education to guide parents and schools toward a successful resolution through mediation.



Maidena L. Fulford

Maidena L. Fulford is the owner of Fulford & Fulford, LLC, a law firm located in Zionsville, Indiana with offices located in Carmel and Indianapolis. Her firm is focused on general practice. She is also a certified mediator. Ms. Fulford earned her B.A. from Randolph-Macon Women's College (in Communications and Politics), and she earned her J.D. from Indiana University-Indianapolis. She was admitted to the board of the State of Indiana, the Northern District of Indiana, and the Southern District of Indiana in 1996.

Ms. Fulford's has been an Independent Hearing Officer with the DOE since 2012 and been a mediator with the DOE for several years. She played on the women's golf and tennis team in college. She is married and has two children and two dogs.

Heather Kinser

Heather Kinser is a Hoosier native. She graduated from Hamilton Southeastern Schools in 1990. Then attended Purdue University, where she received bachelor's degrees in Elementary Education and Psychology. She spent 14 years as a classroom teacher for Indianapolis Public Schools. She earned her master's in education from Indiana University.

Concern for families and children caught up in the legal system resulted in her deciding to attend IU McKinney School of Law. She was selected as a fellow for the Indiana Program on Law and State Government and spent a year focused on the scholarship of juvenile law and record keeping practices. Also, during her legal education, she completed her internship and externship with the Indiana Department of Education, Special Education Complaints Department. While transitioning into her new career she continued to work with local schools in several long-term substitute teaching positions in 2016 and 2017. She was admitted to the Indiana Bar in 2017.

Heather has personal experience on all sides of the education table. She was widowed in 2012 and has raised two sons that have required IEP services during their school careers. Her unique background and

determination to become a lawyer give her a solid background in assisting schools and families to work together to find solutions that put the student first.

Alice Kuzemka

Attorney Alice Kuzemka has been an independent hearing officer and mediator for the Indiana Department of Education Office of Special Education since 2020. She received her J.D. degree from Indiana University in Bloomington in August 1980. She also has an undergrad degree in general management from Purdue University. She was admitted to the Indiana Bar in October 1980 and to the Illinois Bar in May 1985. Her background includes extensive experience in the judicial system on the trial court level. She has served as civil court magistrate, civil referee, interim judge and special judge in various courts, handling all types of civil litigation. She has been a registered domestic relations mediator since 2014. She was instrumental in developing and overseeing the family court bureau in her home county and conducted mediation in dissolution cases for the family court.

Attorney Kuzemka has experience with children with disabilities, and enjoys helping parties solve problems and settle their disputes in ways that benefit the education and well-being of the child. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, photography and spending time with her grandchildren.



Janet Mitchell

Mediator Janet Mitchell lives near Fort Wayne, earned a degree in psychology, then became a lawyer after graduating from the University of Michigan Law School. She has been mediating and providing mediation training since 1987 and has served on the Indiana Civil and Domestic Relations Mediator Registries since they were set up in 1992.

Janet helped draft the Indiana Rules for Alternative Dispute Resolution and wrote the chapter on ethics for the Indiana ADR Manual. She co-chaired the state bar Alternative Dispute Resolution Section's ethics committee and served

on committees of the Allen County Bar Association, the American Bar Association, and the Association for Conflict Resolution.

At the present time, her mediation practice includes educational disputes, employment disputes, and disputes arising from adult families in conflict, such as families making decisions regarding aging parents, family business decisions, and estate disputes.



Sonya A. Morris

Attorney Sonya A. Morris has been an Independent Hearing Officer since 2019 and a Registered Mediator/Arbitrator since 2017. Presently, she is the Honorable Judge of the East Chicago City Court, where she has served since 2004. She earned a BS in Microbiology and a MS in Zoology from Howard University. She completed her Masters' research at the National Institutes of Health. She earned her J.D. from the University of Chicago in 1989. She was admitted to the practice of law in the State of Indiana and Southern District of Indiana in 1989. Her private practice includes family law, probate and estate planning, real estate law and personal injury law. She served as Staff Counsel for the East Chicago Human Rights Commission from 1995 to 2004 and later for the Gary Civil Rights Agency. She frequently trained Human Rights Commissioners on Title VII Law during

Indiana's Annual Consortium of Human Rights Agencies. She is the co-owner of Northwest Indiana Mediation Group, LLC.

David J. Remondini

David J. Remondini is a flight instructor, attorney, civil mediator, news media consultant and mortgage foreclosure mediator for seven Marion County civil courts. In August of 2020, he began teaching a course in Community Mediation at Butler University. Since then, has also taught Constitutional Law and Access to Justice and Poverty Law for the Butler Political Science Department.

In prior careers he was reporter for The Indianapolis Star, a long-time executive level manager for the Indiana Supreme Court, and a corporate jet pilot. While with the Supreme Court he was the Court's first Public Information Officer. In that role he trained hundreds of judges in the media relations arena and served as the on-site adviser in several high-profile criminal trials. Beginning in 2008, he made five trips to Ukraine for the U.S. State Department as consultant who taught media relations to Ukraine's judges and journalists. Since 2001 he has participated in dozens of news media relations training sessions for Lee/Willis Communications, which is led by former WRTV-6 news anchors Clyde Lee and Diane Willis. From January 2021 until April 2023, he was an Administrative Law Judge for the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. In April 2023, he began serving as an Independent Hearing Officer for the state Department of Education. He graduated from Ripon College in Ripon, Wisc., and the Indiana University McKinney School of Law in Indianapolis.

For mediations involving due process hearings filed on or after July 1, 2025, the Special Education Mediators are as follows (click on name for mediator bios):

Carrie Ingram

Reham Hewedak

Marianne Wilson