

SHARON B. ECKSTEIN, ESQUIRE
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ARDMORE, PA
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LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Eckstein Conflict Resolution Services **1999 - present**
Ardmore, PA

Mediation and ADR practice

Responsible for all aspects of mediation/conflict resolution practice. Extensive ADR experience in a wide range of contexts as mediator, facilitator and arbitrator - divorce, custody, support, and other family matters, family and small business disputes, employment discrimination, sexual harassment, workplace, wrongful termination. Mediation panel member with the American Arbitration Association, EEOC, Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission and Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations mediation panels. Serves as mediator and consultant for community public dispute/development matters Serves as conflict resolution facilitator for nonprofit boards, community organizations, homeowners' associations involved in internal conflicts.

Law Office of Sharon B. Eckstein **1996 - 2007**
Philadelphia, PA and Ardmore, PA

Responsible for solo general law practice with a concentration in adoption and family law – divorce and equitable distribution, support, custody, protection from abuse. Experience with traditional and non-traditional families.

Willig, Williams and Davidson **1990 - 1996**
Philadelphia, PA

Associate attorney

Responsible for varied family law practice, including abuse, adoption, custody, divorce and support matters. Also handled a wide range of general practice matters and employment cases. Managed continuous heavy caseload with demanding court appearance schedule. Extensive adoption experience which included precedent setting cases for LGBT parents in Philadelphia and Bucks counties.

Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program (VIP) **1989 – 1990**
Philadelphia, PA

Attorney

Handled legal services caseload in the areas of domestic relations, landlord/tenant, employment, contract law and more. Coordinated custody training clinics for volunteer attorneys. Supervised volunteer attorneys, monitored their caseloads and recruited volunteers. Wrote and designed community education manuals.

Philadelphia Child Support Project
Philadelphia, PA

1988 - 1989
(one year grant position)

Community Legal Education Coordinator

Developed educational curriculum and handbooks for pro se litigants navigating the Philadelphia Family Court system. Coordinated all community education efforts throughout Philadelphia. Taught child support law and procedure workshops to pro se litigants. Provided legal counseling to low income parents. Extensive involvement with local media - press, television and radio. Created instructional videos for pro se litigants. Conducted advocacy work on behalf of *pro se* single parents.

School District of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA

1986 - 1987

Attorney

Involved with all phases of litigation practice including drafting of pleadings, conducting discovery, negotiating settlements, representation at hearings and arbitrations in the areas of education and civil law.

CLINICAL LEGAL EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

University of Pennsylvania Law School
Gittis Center for Clinical Legal Studies
Philadelphia, PA

2006 - present

Clinical faculty, lecturer in law

Teach law students enrolled in the Penn Law Mediation Clinic, a course which involves extensive classroom instruction in mediation skills and theory, and also includes practical skills development through role-play and simulation. Written assignments and fieldwork journal entries are assessed and discussed with students. Supervision of student mediation fieldwork in wide range of contexts - small claims matters, private criminal complaints, child custody disputes, divorce, and employment/housing discrimination claims. Conduct fieldwork debriefing sessions with pairs of mediators. Have proposed, designed and taught advanced mediation clinical course focusing on mediation and community, mediation and discrimination in the workplace, and mediation and employment law.

Temple University Beasley School of Law
Philadelphia, PA

1999 - 2003

Adjunct clinical faculty

Taught and supervised students enrolled in custody mediation clinic which included classroom group instruction, small group role plays and simulations, Philadelphia Family Court custody cases. Debriefed mediations and provided skills feedback.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Lower Merion Human Relations Commission
Ardmore, PA

2011 - 2018

Appointed by Lower Merion Township Board of Commissioners to serve on this Commission at the time of its formation in 2011. Served as vice-chair from 2013 until elected to serve as chair in 2016. Designed

and implemented the LMHRC's mediation program. Successfully mediated every claim that was filed with the LMHRC. Recruited volunteer mediators to serve on the mediation panel. Involved in community outreach and presentations to the public. As chair, presented to the Board of Commissioners, created Lower Merion Community Dialogue series, forged connections between religious groups in Lower Merion Township, engaged in outreach to LGBTQ community and involved in police-community dialogue efforts.

**Ardmore Mural Project, Coordinator
Ardmore, PA**

2008 - 2011

Created and led this volunteer group comprised of Ardmore residents who designed and painted a neighborhood mural on a frequently "tagged" wall to combat graffiti. Actively prevented graffiti by working with residents and business owners. Wrote and received a grant from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development for a professionally installed mosaic mural for downtown Ardmore.

**Save Ardmore Coalition, President
Ardmore, PA**

2004 - 2011

Founding President of community grassroots non-profit organization. Helped mobilize residents and business owners to oppose a proposed redevelopment plan which involved the taking, by eminent domain, of 10 historic properties, in downtown Ardmore. Responsible for the creation, organization and leadership of a volunteer organization that grew to over 700 members. Spearheaded efforts to defeat the redevelopment plan and to promote the passage of the revised PA eminent domain law through electoral, political and legal processes. Extensive legislative advocacy experience - testified at PA House of Representatives hearing, lobbying efforts, media engagement. Organized and facilitated numerous community forums. Active involvement and participation in local government meetings Save Ardmore Coalition, received the 2007 Lower Merion Historic Architectural Review Board's Stewardship Award for Historic Preservation, as well as the 2008 Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia's Preservation Award. Served as producer of the documentary *Ardmore, A Village at Risk* created as part of the Scribe Video Center's Precious Places Project, which was screened at Philadelphia's International House, and in Ardmore, and aired on PBS (WHYY)

**ArdWood Civic Association, Board member
Haverford Friends Spring Fair**

2008 - present

2004 - 2016

Ardmore Public Library, Board member

2008 - 2010

Temple Beth Hillel Beth El Social Action Committee, chair

2007- 2010

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA LAW SCHOOL, Philadelphia, PA

Juris Doctor, 1986

Philadelphia Community Legal Services, Intern

Nassau County District Attorney's Office, Intern

Penn Law School Clinic, student attorney

Rogers & Wells, Summer Associate

QUEENS COLLEGE OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, Flushing, NY

Bachelor of Arts in English, *Summa Cum Laude*, 1983

Honors:

- Phi Beta Kappa
- Belle Zeller CUNY Scholar
- English Department Award
- A. Geist Law Fellowship
- American Association of University Women Leadership Award
- Kiwanis Club Leadership Award

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- Board member, National Association for Community Mediation (NAFCM) 2018-present
- Chair, NAFCM membership committee 2019-present
- Philadelphia District Attorney's Working Group on Restorative Justice
2018-present
- Pennsylvania Council of Mediators 2000-present
- Association of Conflict Resolution - Advanced Practitioner Member 2015-present
- Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA) 2008-present
- American Bar Association member
 - Dispute Resolution Section Relational Practice Taskforce, Leadership Team 2017-present
 - Law Student Mediation Advocacy Competition, mediator 2017
 - Law Student Mediation Advocacy Competition, judge 2017
- Philadelphia Bar Association 1987-present
- Adoption Committee, Chair 1991-1994, 1996 -1997
 - Divorce Committee, Chair 1994 - 1996
- Women's Law Project Working Group on second parent adoption (LGB 1992- 1999
- Board member, Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program (VIP)
1991-1999

RECENT LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

- Moderator, ABA Dispute Resolution Section Virtual Summit 2018
 - Skills, Ideas and Models for Engaging Differences
- Presenter, ABA Dispute Resolution Section Virtual Summit 2018
 - How assessing conflict from a dignity perspective promotes possibilities of resolution and healing
- Author, ABA Dispute Resolution Mediation Committee magazine February/March 2018
 - The Three R's of Mediation - Respect, Recognition and Reflection*
- Guest lecturer, Drexel University Kline School of Law, Philadelphia, PA 2018
 - The relational aspect of lawyering, advocacy and mediation
- Presenter, Lower Merion Township Board of Commissioners, Ardmore 2017
 - Wrote and delivered televised presentation about the work of the Lower Merion Human Relations Commission and its impact on the community.

- Organizer, Multifaith Dialogue, Ardmore, PA 2017
Designed, promoted and facilitated community multi-faith dialogue sponsored by the Lower Merion Human Relations Commission and attended by clergy and community members of all faiths.
- Seminar panelist, Association for Conflict Resolution (Greater Philadelphia Chapter) 2016
Implicit Bias and Stereotyping: the negative impact of our assumptions

ADMISSIONS

Pennsylvania

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of PA

REFERENCES

Available upon request