

MEDIATION QUARTERLY



VOLUME 16

NUMBER 4

SUMMER 1999

SPONSORED BY THE ACADEMY OF FAMILY MEDIATORS

Jossey-Bass Publishers



CONTENTS

EDITOR'S NOTES 321

PRACTICE

Family Mediation and Cultural Diversity: Mediating with Latino Families 325
Howard H. Irving, Michael Benjamin, Jose San-Pedro
The authors paint a portrait of Latino families—their customs, traditions, and values—and then describe the principles and methods that ideally guide mediation practice with Latino families.

The Limits of the Mediator's Neutrality 341
Orna Cohen, Naomi Dattner, Ahron Luxenburg
Family mediators may be faced with challenges to accepted principles of neutrality when dealing with parents who are struggling with decisions regarding their children. The authors explore the dilemma of whether and how to intervene to protect children, while maintaining neutrality.

Contextual Mediation 349
Bradley L. Brown
From the perspective of a practicing mediator, the author examines the elements that contribute to moments in which parties transcend the discord and confusion that characterize their conflict and achieve a "breakthrough" in their ability to communicate with one another.

THEORY

African Americans in Mediation Literature: A Neglected Population 357
Cherise D. Hairston
Reviewing the mediation research literature, the author concludes that few studies have examined how applicable generally accepted mediation principles and practices are to disputes involving African Americans. Among the questions raised in this article is whether the absence of such literature has an adverse effect on use and acceptance of mediation within the African American community.

| | |
|---|-----|
| Attribution Bias: Challenges, Issues, and Strategies for Mediation | 377 |
| <i>John Ng, Sophia Ang</i> | |
| The authors discuss three perceptual biases and their effects on the parties and the mediator; they then offer practical strategies for helping parties in mediation overcome the negative impact of such biases. | |

RESEARCH

| | |
|--|-----|
| Developing Family Mediation Standards: An Australian Experience | 389 |
| <i>Dale Bagshaw</i> | |
| As the chair of the Family Services Council, the author initiated the process for writing the first set of national standards for family and child mediators in Australia. This article describes the process of developing the standards and looks at the implications for family mediation practice. | |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Evaluation of Mediation and Parental Cooperation Based on Observations and Interviews with the Clients of a Mediation Project | 407 |
| <i>Odd Arne Tjersland</i> | |
| This article presents findings of a study that examines the factors affecting cooperation between parents. On the basis of these findings, the author proposes six elements that can contribute to a successful mediation process. | |

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| VOLUME 16 INDEX | 425 |
|-----------------|-----|