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For more information contact Jane Millar at 231.487.1771

ADR Conference Presenter

Executive Director of Northern Community Mediation Dr. Jane Millar was one of the presenters at the annual, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Section of the State Bar of Michigan (SBM) Conference. The topic of the presentation was “Bullying at the Mediation Table.” As Millar explained, “A more academic term would be ‘Imbalance at the Mediation Table.’ Unfortunately, a professional sounding word does not capture the emotion that goes on when one person is intimidating another. So, let’s call a spade a spade. A rose by any other name.”

Millar reviewed characteristics of a bully, as well as the characteristics of the target, noting that ironically both involved low self-esteem. In discussing the various types of bullying, she emphasized the importance of the facilitator of a mediation having an ethical responsibility not to allow bullying during the mediation while at the same time not becoming an advocate for the target. “This fine line is essential in order for the mediator to remain neutral,” Millar stressed.

The ADR Conference was held virtually through the use of Zoom from Friday, October 16 through Saturday, October 17, accounting for 18 hours of continuing education units. It was so successful that the organizers are considering offering the conference virtually in the future. It saves travel time and money. As many participants stated, “The only drawback to having a virtual conference is that I do not have the opportunity to socialize in person with my colleagues and friends.”

Northern Community Mediation is a non-profit organization that provides an alternative means of resolving conflict. Trained mediators, who meet with the parties involved in a dispute, facilitate so that the individuals themselves can resolve the conflict

Anyone interested in learning more about Northern Community Mediation should contact Dr. Jane Millar at 231.487.1771.

Pictured: Dr. Jane Millar

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