

## **FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION OFFICE**

### **Danni Hoefling, Director**

Danni Deaver Hoefling is the Director of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Office for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit. She has been employed with the Circuit as a Florida Supreme Court certified Family, Dependency and County Mediator since 1996. During her tenure with the Circuit, Danni served on the Supreme Court's Mediator Ethics Advisory Board (2000-2008). In 2019, she was appointed by Chief Justice Charles T. Canady to serve on the Alternative Dispute Resolution Rules and Policy Committee. She earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from Meredith College in North Carolina and a Master of Science Degree from Nova Southeastern University in the school's first Master's program in Conflict Analysis and Resolution.

Ms. Hoefling began her mediation career in 1986, in North Carolina, as a mediator with one of the early North Carolina mediation programs. She was certified as a Florida Supreme Court Mediator in 1991 and was hired as a mediator in 1993 by the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, Miami. A pioneer in the mediation field, Ms. Hoefling has more than thirty years of experience in mediation with twenty-five of those years spent mediating in the Florida Courts System.

### **Lourdes Castillo, Mediator**

Lourdes Castillo is a senior member of the Alternate Dispute Resolution Office. She has been mediating in South Florida for ten years. Ms. Castillo is a first-generation Cuban-American and a native Spanish speaker. She received her undergraduate degree from Rutgers University and earned a Juris Doctor from New York Law School. Ms. Castillo practiced law in several jurisdictions in the United States for thirty-three years, including criminal, bankruptcy, trust and estates, dependency, and real estate law. Practicing across various legal disciplines has honed Ms. Castillo's ability to communicate with diverse clients in all stages of life. She brings her decades of legal experience as well as her passion to help others to her Alternate Dispute Resolution practice.

### **Kelly Henderson, Mediator**

Kelly Henderson has been a staff mediator with the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit since May of 2014. The Florida Supreme Court certified Mr. Henderson as a Circuit and County Court Mediator in 1998, a Family Court Mediator in 2005, and, a Dependency Court Mediator in 2015. In 2018, Supreme Court Justice Charles Canady appointed him to a four-year term on the Mediator Ethics Advisory Committee.

Prior to his work for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, Mr. Henderson's career included time spent as General Counsel to the Community Partnership for the Homeless in Miami, as an attorney in private practice and 5 years as a Senior Trial Attorney with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Mr. Henderson earned his Juris Doctor from Nova Law School in 1993 and a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from the University of Wisconsin - Madison in 1977.

### **Benjamin C. Johnson, Mediator**

Mr. Johnson was hired as a Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Family Mediator in July 2020. Prior to his work as a staff mediator, Mr. Johnson volunteered as a County Court Mediator with the Circuit. In that role, he received a great deal of training and teaching from the Alternative Dispute Resolution Department. In addition to mediating in nonprofit, private, and charter schools, Mr. Johnson mediated conflict in the Army and was elected as the Suicide Prevention Officer for Delta Company 1-124 Infantry Regiment. After working and learning alongside an Army Psychologist and a Family Mediator, he decided to pursue a career path as a Mediator and obtained a degree in Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation from Abilene Christian University in an endeavor to pursue peace for himself and others.

### **Jeffrey J. Kash, Mediator**

Jeffrey J. Kash has been a full-time family and dependency mediator for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit since February 2018. He is a Florida Supreme Court certified Family, Dependency and County Mediator. He earned his Juris Doctor from Vermont Law School and his Bachelor of Arts from Pennsylvania State University.

Prior to moving to Florida to mediate full-time, Mr. Kash practiced family law in northeastern Pennsylvania for thirty years. As a managing partner in the firm of Kash Fedrigo Belanger LLC, Mr. Kash represented countless clients in contested child custody and complex divorce matters in the trial and appellate courts. He earned an AV Martindale Hubbell Preeminent Peer Review Rating as an attorney. However, he incorporated both mediation and collaborative divorce into his practice whenever possible and came to believe that self-determined outcomes were better outcomes for parties in family law cases.

### **Toni Marie O'Brien, Mediator**

Toni Marie O'Brien is a Florida Supreme Court certified County, Family and Dependency Mediator serving as a Staff Mediator for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit.

Prior to becoming a Staff Mediator, Ms. O'Brien practiced law in West Palm Beach for several years at the law firms of Bailey, Fishman, Freeman & Ferrin, P.A., Steel Hector & Davis, LLC and Freeman & Jones, LLC., where she litigated in the areas of family law, aviation law and commercial disputes, and handled all in-house appeals. Immediately preceding her role with the Circuit Court, Ms. O'Brien worked as a Contractual Attorney and private Family Mediator.

Ms. O'Brien earned her Juris Doctor, cum laude, from Boston College Law School and her Bachelor of Arts in English, cum laude, from Tufts University. Ms. O'Brien serves as a committee member for Grandma's Place, an organization that provides emergency shelter for children (ages birth through twelve), who have been removed from their homes due to abuse, neglect or abandonment, as well as respite care for caregivers of children with special needs.

### **Marissa Todino, Mediator**

Ms. Todino is a Florida Supreme Court certified Circuit and Family Court Mediator. A graduate of Stetson University, she obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology with a minor in Business Law. Ms. Todino obtained her Juris Doctorate from Florida

A&M University College of Law and is admitted to the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida, where she practiced employment law. Prior to her university studies, she graduated from A.W. Dreyfoos Jr. School of the Arts and was a musician for eight years. During college, Ms. Todino interned with Upchurch, Watson, White, and Max, a mediation law firm, where she gained a unique understanding and perspective regarding the benefits of mediation. Her varied experiences give her a unique perspective when it comes to mediation and the law.

**Ms. Amy E. Wagner, Mediation Services Coordinator**

Ms. Wagner has been employed with the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit since January 2018, working as Family Court Mediator before beginning her role as Mediation Services Coordinator in March 2020. Prior to her employment with the Circuit, she worked as an Independent Mediator for 3 years in the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland. She is a Florida Supreme Court Certified County, Family, Circuit, and Dependency Mediator

Ms. Wagner began her education at Pennsylvania State University, earning undergraduate degrees in both Psychology and Political Science. She continued her education at the University of Leeds, United Kingdom where she earned a Master of Arts in International Relations. During her time at Leeds University, she became certified in Commercial Mediation, through UK Mediation Ltd., and began mediating commercial cases in London, UK. From Leeds and London, she moved to Northern Ireland where she became certified in Interpersonal Mediation through her internship at Mediation Northern Ireland, Belfast, UK. While continuing to mediate in Northern Ireland, Ms. Wagner chose to further her postgraduate education, earning a Master of Law in Human Rights and Transitional Justice from Ulster University, Northern Ireland.

**Rosa Virginia Diaz, Secretary Specialist**

The Fifteenth Judicial Circuit has employed Ms. Diaz since 2005. In 2019, she was certified by the Supreme Court of Florida as a County Mediator and currently serves as a Secretary Specialist for the ADR Department.

During her fifteen years with the Circuit, Ms. Diaz has held several positions including, Information Desk Specialist, Court Administration Receptionist, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) Assistant. The ability to serve the Hispanic community during the mediation process is something that Ms. Diaz greatly enjoys.