



For Immediate Release
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Press Statement

**MEDIATION COUNCIL OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA AND COLLABORATIVE LAW ASSOCIATION OF
SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA HOST INTERACTIVE TRAINING SESSION
PRIOR TO ALLEGHENY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION KAPLAN LECTURE**

Bernie Mayer Conducts Conflict Resolution Training

PITTSBURGH, PA – May 10, 2018- The Mediation Council of Western Pennsylvania (MCWP), along with the Collaborative Law Association of Southwestern Pennsylvania (CLASP) recently hosted an interactive training session, “Getting to the Heart of Conflict,” with renowned conflict resolution training expert Bernie Mayer, Ph.D. The training was held prior to the Allegheny County Bar Association’s (ACBA) 2018 Kaplan Lecture. This 2-hour training session took place on April 26, 2018 in the Jury Assembly Room at the Federal Courthouse in Downtown Pittsburgh.

The training session was focused on how mediators can make an impact on the most significant elements of the conflicts that their clients bring to them. Bernie worked with over 25 workshop participants on how to fine tune familiar concepts, such as: looking beyond interests; working with the emotional, cognitive, and behavioral dimensions of conflict; addressing polarized thinking; understanding and working with power differentials; and responding to enduring conflict.

Bernie is a Professor of Dispute Resolution at the The Werner Institute of Creighton University and is a leader in the field of conflict resolution. He has worked in child welfare, mental health, substance abuse treatment, and psychotherapy. As a founding partner of CDR Associates, Bernie has provided conflict intervention for families, communities, universities, corporations, and governmental agencies throughout North America and internationally for over 35 years. Bernie is also the author of several conflict resolution books including *The Conflict Paradox*, *Seven Dilemmas at the Core of Disputes*, *The Dynamics of Conflict*, *Beyond Neutrality*, and *Staying With Conflict*.

Following the afternoon conflict resolution training, the ACBA hosted its 15th Annual Kaplan Lecture and reception, where Bernie spoke to attendees on the topic, “Facing Our Most Challenging Conflict: Mediation, Conflict Intervention and The Access to Justice Crisis.”

The Kaplan Conflict Resolution Training & Lecture Planning Committee included MCWP members Sally Griffith Cimini and Judith Teeter, CLASP members Devin Snyder and Susan DiGirolamo and ACBA members Jared Simmer, Whitney Hughes and Julie Marhefka.

“It was an honor to have the opportunity to have Bernie Mayer conduct an in-depth conflict resolution training for mediation and collaborative law professionals in our region,” stated Sally Griffith Cimini, past President of MCWP. “The purpose of the afternoon was to assist our professionals with fine-tuning aspects of how they handle conflict resolution issues with their clients. The workshop format was very educational.”

About MCWP

The Mediation Council of Western Pennsylvania (MCWP) is a local organization that serves the public by providing education about mediation, information about mediator qualifications and assistance in finding qualified mediators. The MCWP also serves professional mediators by providing opportunities for advanced mediation training and continuing mediation education credit, standards of practice and a code of ethics. The

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MCWP is the only association of professional mediators in Western Pennsylvania. Its mission is to promote the use of mediation and other collaborative processes for resolving disputes and managing conflict, and support the professional development of mediation practitioners.

About CLASP

CLASP is an association of professionals who are trained in the Collaborative Process, which helps clients to resolve disputes respectfully without going to court. The Collaborative Process focuses on the needs and goals of the clients and the preservation of relationships among family members or business associates.