

**MEDIATOR SELECTION INFORMATION
2017-2019**

Name	Background
<p>Celia Barlow</p>	<p>Celia Barlow is an attorney and mediator who has been practicing law since 1991 in the State of Oregon. She has also been licensed to practice law in Pennsylvania and actively practiced from 2006 through 2011. She has also been serving as a Complaint Investigator with the Oregon Department of Education since 2013, engaging with Parents and Districts throughout the State. She has been practicing in the field of Education Law since 2008.</p> <p>Celia received her undergraduate degree from the University of Dayton in 1987 and her JD from Lewis & Clark Law School in 1991. She was admitted to the Oregon State Bar in 1991 and admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar and the US District Court for the Western District of PA in 2006. She was admitted to the US District Court for Oregon in 2014. Celia is a member of the Oregon Mediation Association and was formally accredited in 2013 as an Oregon mediator.</p> <p>Celia brings practical Special Education experience to the mediation team.</p> <p>While Celia was residing in Pennsylvania, she was handpicked for service as an Educational Guardian and Educational Advocate by the bench in Allegheny County Common Pleas Court, Juvenile Division. As an Educational Guardian, Celia worked with the court system and Districts to guide the educational placement, choices, and programs for more than sixty children. These children needed this support because their parents were unable to fully function as caretakers on their child's behalf. She also worked with School Districts and Parents to ensure a smooth transition for children exiting the juvenile justice system. As an Educational Advocate, Celia directly assisted parents in mediation, facilitated IEPs, and placement negotiations under the direction and supervision of multiple juvenile court judges. Under Celia's tutelage, Parents learned the basics of the IDEA and how to effectively interact and communicate with Districts to help their children participate in Special Education programs.</p> <p>Educational disputes can be stressful for parents, teachers, and administrators. However, by engaging in mediation, both sides have expressed a desire to work together so that a child can progress in his or her education. It is this spirit of cooperation that Celia will foster as a mediator.</p> <p>Celia has always believed that the most important aspect to mediation is creating an agreement that will allow children to advance to the best of their ability while maintaining legal compliance with the IDEA. Every child and every program has its strengths and, working as a cohesive team, Celia believes that once parties embrace a common goal, Parents and Districts can come together to craft a mutually beneficial, respectful, and intelligent mediation agreement that should serve the student, district and parents for years to come</p>
<p>Scott Bellows</p>	<p>Scott Bellows is a mediator, facilitator and mediation trainer with over 30 years experience in conflict resolution and over a decade's experience working with families and school districts serving special needs children. Scott has mediated or facilitated over a hundred special education matters, over 90% of which have</p>

resolved successfully, and remains doggedly committed to helping schools and families work together cooperatively -- not only in order to resolve their immediate conflicts, but also so they can better serve the children in their care.

In addition to being a former special education complaint investigator and one of the longest-serving mediators on the Oregon Department of Education roster, Scott also serves as the mediator representative to ODE's Dispute Resolution Committee, a stakeholder group that includes parents, teachers, administrators, representatives of parent advocacy groups, administrative law judges, etc. and oversees ODE's special education dispute resolution program. He was one of the mediators chosen for ODE's initial IEP facilitation trial project (now discontinued), and has facilitated dozens of IEP, Placement, Evaluation, and similar team meetings, under both IDEA and Section 504, under that program and privately. He was the primary source for an article and sidebar on effective IEP Team Facilitation in the professional publication "Special Ed Connection" (www.specialedconnection.com, August 31, 2015).

Mr. Bellows also trains mediation professionals, parent advocates, school personnel and others involved in special education and similarly challenging work. Examples of his training work include:

Center for Appropriate Dispute Resolution in Special Education (CADRE) national conference, Oct. 2015: presented an extended training session, "Mediating/Managing the High-Emotion Case," with associated skill-building and reflective exercises, to administrators, advocates, administrative law judges, special education mediators, and others from across the country. Also participated in panel presentation on the successes and challenges of Oregon's unique Special Education Dispute Resolution Commission.

Confederation of Oregon School Administrators (COSA) Annual Special Education Conference, Keynote Speaker, Oct. 2015: presented keynote address to several hundred school administrators, parent advocates, and others at statewide special education convention.

Oregon Patient Safety Commission Early Discussion and Resolution Program (Trainer, June 2014): taught advanced skills to experienced mediators attending the initial, required training for a newly-created state program serving patients, families and medical professionals dealing with adverse medical challenges and potential medical errors. Subject matter included apology, caucus vs. joint session mediation methodologies, and managing high-emotion cases. Also co-moderated discussion panels.

Oregon Mediation Association Annual Conference: presented "Healing Justice: Bringing the Lessons of Healthcare Design to Conflict Resolution" (2007) and "Mediating the High-Emotion Case" (2014) to an audience of experienced mediators.

More generally, Scott is a member of the Editorial Board overseeing the pending rewrite of Alternative Dispute Resolution in Oregon (an Oregon State Bar publication); has served on the Executive Committees of the Oregon Mediation Association and the Oregon State Bar Section on Alternative Dispute

	<p>Resolution; is a member of the Oregon and Washington Department of Justice Alternative Dispute Resolution Providers rosters; has served in the Oregon State Bar House of Delegates; facilitated the Oregon Attorney General's select workgroup that helped create the state's cutting-edge Foreclosure Avoidance Mediation Program; and regularly mediates and facilitates for the Oregon Court of Appeals, numerous Circuit Courts, Department of Forestry, and Department of Transportation; the U.S. District Court, Forest Service, and Postal Service; and numerous other agencies, businesses, employee assistance programs, law firms, and individuals.</p> <p>Scott's professional and mediation education include undergraduate and law degrees from the University of California, Davis (where, as a law student, he helped start and run a university-based community mediation center in 1986); mediation training from Willamette University and the Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation; and ongoing training in special education law from the University of Washington's Pacific Northwest Institute on Special Education and the Law and elsewhere.</p> <p>The son of a physician and a high school English teacher, he has served on various nonprofit and educational boards, on a public school Site Council and Diversity Committee, as <i>pro bono</i> counsel (and hammer-swinger) for his local Habitat for Humanity, and as a volunteer with the Girl Scouts and the Portland and Eugene Mountain Rescue units. He and his wife have two successful adult daughters, both of whom benefited from supports or services under Rehabilitation Act Section 504 during their public school years.</p>
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<p>Karen Hannan</p>	<p>Karen is a dispute resolution specialist in private practice, providing coaching, mediation, facilitation, and training. A former school speech-language pathologist specializing in early intervention, she has worked in the field of dispute resolution for over fifteen years. She has experience providing training to parents with children with special needs and to school district personnel (sometimes in joint efforts). Karen has consulted on multiple dispute resolution grants designed to improve relationships between educators and parents of children with special needs. In addition, she provides IEP facilitation for IEP teams who are experiencing tension and difficulty with decision-making.</p> <p>For six years, Karen was a Board Member of the Oregon Mediation Association (OMA), including serving as the President of the Association. She remains active in OMA, is a member of the national Association for Conflict Resolution, and serves on the board of Resolutions Northwest.</p> <p>Karen understands that conflict is emotionally stressful for all individuals who are involved and strives to create safe environments where people can explore their different perspectives in a healthy manner. In disputes involving education, Karen is committed to helping others find lasting agreements that work for them so that attention can be focused on the child and his or her needs. Her experience has taught her that creative solutions can be discovered and healthy relationships re-established as a</p>
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	result of the mediation process and she is passionate about helping others attain these goals.
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Margaret Nightingale	<p>Since 1975, Meg has had extensive experience with Special Education in a variety of roles: attorney, law professor, trainer, mediator, facilitator, and policy analyst. Her formal training includes a B.A in anthropology from Northwestern University (1973), a law degree from Harvard Law School (1976), continuing legal education, and ongoing mediation training. She was a long-time Adjunct Professor of Law at Lewis and Clark Law School and at Willamette University College of Law, and is active in the Oregon Mediation Association.</p> <p>Meg stopped practicing law in 1996 so that she could serve as a neutral outside resource to a wide range of individuals and groups. Her private practice now includes mediation, facilitation, training, policy analysis and design of conflict resolution systems. She provides training on conflict resolution, disability law, and making mediation accessible to participants with disabilities. In addition to special education disputes, she mediates disputes involving child welfare and open adoptions, vocational rehabilitation services, disability-related accommodations in education, employment, probate and elder services.</p> <p>In mediating special education cases, Meg is committed to helping parents and districts get through the difficult conversations they have wanted and needed to hold. She provides a safe atmosphere and guides productive discussions that thoroughly work through the issues, yet are gentle on the people involved. She understands that emotions can be intense, stakes are high, decisions are difficult, and the impact of decisions made may be felt far into the future. Mediation can be a very powerful tool for managing and resolving conflict. Meg has the skills to guide the participants in mediation through a process that can be flexible, respectful, creative and ultimately effective.</p> <p>As a mediator with a legal background, Meg understands the substantive issues in special education disputes, and is experienced with the other means of dispute resolution available to the disputants (such as complaints, due process hearings and litigation). She is comfortable having attorneys participate in mediations, and works well with them to craft language for mediated agreements.</p>
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Mary Rowe	Mary Rowe is an experienced mediator, facilitator and trainer. She has 25 years of experience as a mediator with 18 years of experience in special education mediation. She has been on the Oregon Department of Education panel since 2000. During that time, she has successfully assisted parties in reaching agreement on many different concerns.
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	<p>Mary utilizes a variety of dispute resolution techniques to create a safe environment for parties to engage in meaningful and constructive dialogue where they often no longer see that as a possibility. She is comfortable drawing on these different techniques as appropriate for the particular situation whether transformative or shuttle. She listens to parties to understand their unique situation and needs and works to keep the focus on what is in the best interest of the child. Where parties have an ongoing relationship, she can help them develop a strategy to effectively communicate with each other in the future.</p> <p>Mary serves on a variety of Boards, mediator panels and keeps skills current with continuing education.</p>
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<p>Jim Wilson</p>	<p>Jim has been a litigation attorney in Oregon, Hawaii and California since 1981, with a specific interest in special education law since 2001. Beginning in 2001, he worked with the Oregon Department of Education as one of a handful of complaint investigators assigned to investigate allegations of IDEA violations. He has been involved as the sole investigator in dozens of orders issued by the Oregon Department of Education.</p> <p>Jim's involvement in mediation stems from the hundreds of court supervised settlement conferences that resolved his clients' cases before trial. In many situations, there is a better way to resolve disputes other than through trial.</p> <p>By carefully listening to all parties involved in the mediation session and drawing out each party's issues and concerns, he respects the mediation process by facilitating the parties' opportunity to create a mutually agreeable solution to resolve the conflict. He typically writes the agreement at the mediation session, so all parties understand their rights, responsibilities and obligations before they leave.</p> <p>Jim also gives full day seminars to interested parents, educators and school district personnel on special education law and IDEA 2004. He stays up to date in special education law, mediation and conflict resolution.</p> <p>Besides his special education interests, Jim has also served as a municipal court judge and a mediator for the Lane County Circuit Court. He has a private civil law practice and is a father of four. He is admitted to the Oregon, California and Hawaii State Bar Associations, as well as the United States District Court (Oregon, Hawaii and Northern California), the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court.</p> <p>If the parties truly want to resolve the problem by mediation, Jim offers the tools to assist the parties toward a positive outcome for all involved.</p>
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