

**V. Michelle Obradovic, Esq.**

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Court Mediator  
10th Judicial Circuit  
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(716 Richard Arrington Blvd. N.)

Michelle Obradovic is the owner of Wise Resolution, LLC<sup>®</sup> and is the Court Mediator for Jefferson County, Alabama. She is a Fellow of the International Academy of Mediators, a member of Arbitral Women and a Founding Member of Mediators Beyond Borders. She has mediated in excess of 2300 commercial cases and co-meditated 145 complex cases, mass torts, class actions and MDLs locally, nationally and internationally. She is licensed to practice law in Alabama.

Michelle has been an Adjunct Associate Professor of Law since 2002 teaching Mediation Advocacy and Mediation Practice and Process at Samford University's Cumberland School of Law. She has also lectured on Mediation and Arbitration at Cambridge University, England and has previously taught Interviewing, Counseling and Negotiation, Justice Theory and Mediation as a visiting professor. She is the Coach of Cumberland's ABA Representation in Mediation National Teams, including the 2005 National Champions who went on to compete at the ICC in Paris, France. Michelle is a frequent speaker at conferences and bar associations on advocacy in mediation, mediator skills and ethics, negotiation skills, developing and managing a mediation practice, and international mediation and arbitration.

Prior to serving as Court Mediator for the 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Michelle was the Director of the Jefferson County, Alabama, District Court Mediation Project, a program she created in 1999 that still provides dispute resolution training to attorneys and judges and coordinates mediators with dockets. The Project resolves in excess of 400 small claims cases per year, mediates all ad valorem tax cases in Jefferson County and specially selected criminal matters and has assisted in the development of pilot mediation programs in Probate and Family Court. The program was founded entirely with private grants and is now self-funded.

Michelle was educated by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur at Trinity College in Washington DC, is a graduate of Cumberland School of Law and holds an LL.M. from Pepperdine University, Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution. Michelle clerked for Judge Michael F. Bolin, Probate Court of Jefferson County (now a member of the Alabama Supreme Court) and Senior Judge Edward S. Smith, (dec.) U.S. Court of Appeals Federal Circuit, Washington, DC and for the 104th Congress, United States Senate Judiciary Committee, Democratic Minority Subcommittee on Terrorism, Technology and Government Information, Senators Herbert H. Kohl (D-WI), Patrick J. Leahy (D-VT), and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA).

## EDUCATION

Pepperdine University, Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, LL.M., May 2008, Malibu, California.

Samford University, Cumberland School of Law, J.D. (accelerated), December 1999, Birmingham, Alabama.

Trinity College, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, B.A. *summa cum laude* in Communication and Business, December 1996, Washington, DC.

## EMPLOYMENT

Cumberland School of Law  
Fall 2002 contracted through Spring 2012.

Courses Taught: Mediation Advocacy - Fall 2004, Spring 2005, Fall 2005, Spring 2006, Fall 2006, Spring 2007, Fall 2007, Spring 2008 and Fall 2009. Mediation Practice and Process - Fall 2002, Spring 2003, Fall 2003 and Spring 2004. International Mediation and International Commercial Arbitration, Summer 2006, England. Lawyering and Legal Reasoning – Negotiation Theory component, Fall 2004, Fall 2005, Fall 2006 and Fall 2007. Interviewing Counseling and Negotiation, Winter 2005 and Summer 2005. Justice Theory – Summer 2008. Mediator Practice – Summer 2007 and Summer 2009 (visiting professor, Birmingham School of Law, Alabama).

Wise Resolution, LLC  
September 2002 to present  
Attorney, Mediator, Arbitrator

Gorham & Waldrep, P.C.  
Clerk, Attorney, 1998-2002

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

Why are we so good at changing our minds? Belief and Belief Change as a mechanism of homeostasis. (monograph).

Co-Author with Jeffrey Krivis and Mariam Zadeh, Jammin' Negotiation, Jossey-Bass, due Summer 2009.

The Business of Mediation, Jossey-Bass, awaiting distribution date for 2009-2010.

Credited Contributor to How to Make Money as a Mediator and Create Value for Everyone Spring 2008, Jossey-Bass, 2006.

Credited Contributor to Chapter 5, Creative Problem Solver's Handbook for Negotiators and Mediators, *Prevention of Deadlock, Stalemate and Impasse in Mediation*. Edited by John W. (Jack) Cooley, ABA Publishing, 2005.

Credited Contributor, Dean T. Brad Bishop, The Prosecution and Defense of DUI Cases. Samford University Press, 2004.

Editorial Assistant, Dean T. Brad Bishop, Municipal Courts, 3rd Ed., Samford University Press. 1999.

### **Periodicals**

ACResolution Magazine, Spring 2006, Feature Article: Guided by Questions

Newsletters, Published to Alabama State Bar magazine subscribers.

January 2006, Pez, Rickie Tickie Stickies and My Space.com

December 2005, Insufficient Excess

November 2005, Glowing Pucks

October 2005, Fatal Misunderstandings

September 2005, Analysis Paralysis

August 2005, Nature v. Nurture

July 2005, Who Put the Mania in Tulipmania?

June 2005, Rock, Paper, Scissors!

May 2005, E-mail Etiquette

April 2005, The Art of Complaining

March 2005, What's Your Conflict Style?

February 2005, The Right Question Asked The Right Way

January 2005, The Right Words to Get the Conversation Started and Keep it Going

### **Law Journals**

Article, Mediating in the Fifth Dimension, forthcoming, Cornell Journal of Law and Public Policy, 2009

Article, Achieving Wise Resolutions in Mediation, vol. 28:1 of the American Journal of Trial Advocacy, 2004.

Contributor, Transcript of the joint meeting of the International Academy of Mediators and the American College of Civil Trial Mediators, New Orleans, LA, 2004.

### **Telecasts / Podcasts / Online**

Ethics in Negotiation, Dec. 28 and 29, 2006. streaming video presentation  
<http://cumberland.fastcle.com>

Entrepreneurship for Neutrals: Marketing Your ADR Practice Teleseminar Series  
August 9, 2006. One hour interactive presentation available from the ACR online store at  
[www.acrnet.org](http://www.acrnet.org).

[www.MediationAdvocacy.com](http://www.MediationAdvocacy.com), Law 803, Cumberland School of Law course website.

[www.MediationStrategist.com](http://www.MediationStrategist.com), Birmingham School of Law course website.

[www.TeachingADR.com](http://www.TeachingADR.com), Results of a 2005 Survey of ADR Courses taught in accredited law school programs in the United States of America.

### **AWARDS AND HONORS**

Super Lawyer in Alternative Dispute Resolution, May 2009

Pro Bono and Public Service Award, Alabama State Bar, June 2007

Jones School of Law, Mediation Award, May 2005

Alabama State Bar, May 2000, perfect score certification 150/150

Dean's List, 1997 to 1999

Book Award, Appellate Advocacy, 1998

Dean's Honor, Rushton Distinguished Lecturer Series: The Scottsboro Boys, 1998

### **SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES**

Back to Basics - Conflict ABC's

The Center for ADR – 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference

June 19, 2009

Greenbelt, MD

American Bar Association - Section of Dispute Resolution

Eleventh Annual Spring Conference: Building Bridges to a Better Society

It's More Than The Money - Thursday, April 16, 2009 at 10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

New York, NY

**SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES**  
**- continued -**

Why Are We So Good At Changing Our Minds? The latest findings in cognition and neuroscience on our ability to form and change beliefs.  
The Center for ADR - 20th Annual Conference  
June 19 & 20, 2008  
Greenbelt, MD

State Of The Art: Negotiation & Mediation  
National Employment Lawyer's Association 2007 Eighteenth Annual Convention  
June 27-June 30, 2007  
San Juan, P.R.

The Business of ADR  
Arkansas Conflict Resolution Association Annual Meeting  
May 18, 2007  
Little Rock, AR

Navigating the Complex Maze of Profound Injury Cases  
American Bar Association - Section of Dispute Resolution  
Ninth Annual Spring Conference - "ADR in Bloom"  
April 25-28, 2007  
Washington, D.C.

Basic and Advanced Mediation Skills  
40-hr. Mediation Certificate Course  
April 20-24, 2007  
Boston, MA

Ethics in Negotiation  
Samford University, Cumberland School of Law  
Dec. 28 and 29, 2006  
Birmingham, AL

Entrepreneurship for Neutrals  
Marketing Your ADR Practice Teleseminar Series  
August 9, 2006  
Association for Conflict Resolution  
Washington, DC

International Alternative Dispute Resolution  
Summer Program for Masters of Comparative Law Students  
Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, England  
July 2 – August 2, 2006

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES

- continued -

### Intervention Skills - Stopping Impasse Before It Starts

The Center for ADR - 18th Annual Conference and Skills Development Sessions - "Managing Conflict and Removing Barriers to Collaborative Decision Making"

June 21 & 22 & 23, 2006

Greenbelt, MD

### Mediating Death and Profound Injury Cases

American Bar Association - Section of Dispute Resolution

Eighth Annual Spring Conference - "Georgia on My Mind"

April 7, 2006

Atlanta, GA

### Pre-Skills Session: Heavy Metal Mediation

American Bar Association - Section of Dispute Resolution - Eighth Annual Spring Conference - "Georgia on My Mind"

April 6, 2006

Atlanta, GA

### Heartfelt Conversations

International Academy of Mediators - Harvard Conference

April 26 & 27 & 28 & 29, 2006

Cambridge, MA

### Co-Mediation Models

International Academy of Mediators "Perspectives" Conference

November 2005

Dana Point, CA

### Informational and Psychological Impediments to Resolution and Intervention Techniques to Reduce Them

Southern California Mediation Assoc. 17th Annual Conference - "The Absolute Mediator"

November 2005

Los Angeles, CA

### Negotiation Skills Intensive

Shelby County Bar Association

October 2005

Columbiana, AL

### Hot Topics in Intellectual Property – ADR

ABA Dispute Resolution Section in cooperation with the ABA IP Litigation Section.

October 2005.

Las Vegas, NV

**SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES**  
**- continued -**

The Choice to Mediate - Using ADR in Intellectual Property Disputes

Minnesota State Bar  
September 2005  
Minneapolis, MN

Entrepreneurship for Neutrals

Institute for Conflict Management  
July 2005  
Santa Monica, CA

Marketing Your Mediation Practice

Thomas Goode Jones School of Law  
May 2005  
Montgomery, AL

Mediating Death and Profound Injury Cases

American Bar Association - Section of Dispute Resolution  
Seventh Annual Spring Conference - "The Golden State of ADR"  
April 14 & 15 & 16, 2005  
Los Angeles, CA

Case Management Plans for Litigators

March 23, 2005  
Birmingham Bar Association  
Birmingham, AL

Advanced Negotiation Skills - Conference Coordinator and Presenter

Cumberland School of Law Continuing Legal Education  
Samford University  
February 25, 2005  
Birmingham, AL

What You Don't Know Might Hurt You

Calhoun County Bar Association  
January 2005  
Anniston, AL

**SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES**  
**- continued -**

Effective Use of Settlement Counsel and Litigation Counsel in Mediation

Mass Torts Made Perfect  
November 11 & 12, 2004  
The Venetian, Las Vegas, NV

Mediation Can Be Fun!

Annual Forum and Interactive Roll Play  
November 9, 2004  
Birmingham, AL

Lawyer as Communicator – Story Listening and Story Telling

Alabama Bar Institute for Continuing Legal Education (ABICLE)  
October 22, 2004  
Tuscaloosa, AL

“Mediation Can Be Fun!” Conference Coordinator and Presenter

Birmingham Bar Association  
November 2004  
Birmingham, AL

Mediation and Arbitration Advocacy for Legal Services Lawyers

Alabama Center for Dispute Resolution  
October 2004  
Birmingham, AL

Resolution and Resilience

Spring Conference, ABA Section of Dispute Resolution  
April 2004  
New York, NY

“Mediation Can Be Fun!”

Birmingham Bar Association  
November 2003  
Birmingham, AL

DUI Defense in Alabama – Understanding the Draeger

Alabama Bar Institute for Continuing Legal Education  
November 2003  
Birmingham, AL

**SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES**  
**- continued -**

“DUI: The Law In Alabama”

Productions Unlimited

Mobile, AL, September 2003; Dothan, AL, May 2003; Huntsville, AL, March 2003

Getting Ready to Negotiate – Step by Step - Conference Coordinator and Presenter

Birmingham Bar Association

May 2003

Birmingham, AL

“Mediation Can Be Fun!” panelist

Birmingham Bar Association

November 2002 and October 2001

Birmingham, AL

**SELECTED MEMBERSHIPS**

Mediators Beyond Borders, Founding Member, 2006 to present.

Arbitral Women, 2005 to present.

International Academy of Mediators, Fellow, 2004 to present.

Alabama Academy of Attorney Mediators, 2003 to present.

Alabama State Bar 2000 to present.

**REFERENCES**

Eleanor Barr

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## REFERENCES

- continued -

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Stone, Granade & Crosby, P.C.  
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Daphne, Alabama 36526-4828  
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4100 Yonge Street, Suite 606  
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