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University of Idaho College of Law's 8th Annual Northwest Institute for Dispute Resolution, May 17-21, 2004

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University Of Idaho College of Law's 8th Annual Northwest Institute For Dispute Resolution, May 17-21

By Maureen E. Laflin and Mary McGrath

The Eighth Annual Northwest Institute at the University of Idaho College of Law guarantees to be yet another success. The mediation courses offered this year will include Basic Family, Civil, and Advanced Mediation: "Building a Successful Mediation Table," as well as Advanced Effective Advocacy in Arbitration.

The Civil and the Family Mediation courses are designed to meet the requirements for basic mediation training set by most federal and state courts. The Family Mediation course is approved by the Academy of Family Mediators. For continuing education and training, the two specialized courses will be an option for those who would like to learn more and become more effective ADR practitioners.

Lela Porter Love will be instructing the Basic Civil Mediation course this year. Professor Love is a Clinical Professor of Law and the Director of the Kukin Program for Conflict Resolution at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in New York. She has gained acclaim for her success as a mediator through her writings, and she also mediated a simulated product liability dispute for COURT TV. Currently, Lela maintains an active mediation practice, ranging from community and family disputes to complex litigation matters.

Basic Civil Mediation is a 40-hour course that explores conflict resolution, negotiation and mediation theory through lectures, discussions, demonstrations, exercises, and role-plays. The course will look at each stage of the mediation process and various attendant strategies and skills. This course also helps participants gain a deeper understanding of conflict and the dynamics, benefits, constraints, and the skills needed in third-party intervention in settling disputes.

The 40-hour Basic Family Mediation course is geared toward those who wish to practice family mediation or become better prepared to counsel and represent people in mediation. This course creates a comprehensive and practical blend of lectures, discussions, exercises, and role-plays to ensure a thorough understanding of the techniques presented. Further, the course covers the emotional issues confronting couples going through separation, techniques used to assist couples to avoid impasse, guidelines for effecting a fair division of assets, solutions to the dilemmas of parenting from separate households, among many other situations that may arise during family mediation.

The instructor for Basic Family Mediation is Bob Collins, who has practiced family mediation since 1982 and is a founder of The New York Mediation Group. Bob Collins received the Distinguished Faculty Award from the Ackerman Institute for the Family in 2000, and will be teaching the Northwest Institute class for family mediation for the fourth year in a row.

Advanced Mediation: Building a Successful Mediation Table is a course in which experienced mediators will sharpen their tools through interactive mediation activities and extensive guided

discussions with course mates and instructors. Participants will learn new approaches to gender, culture, class, and power issues and also how to work with large numbers of mediation participants, including the public and the press in controversial public cases. The instructors will be Charles B. Wiggins and Donna Silverberg.

Charles B. Wiggins is currently a Professor of Law at the University of San Diego with specific expertise in Negotiation and Mediation, Constitutional and Human Rights Law, and Bioethics. Professor Wiggins is experienced in mediating disputes ranging from community and interpersonal conflicts to complex public policy issues. Donna Silverberg, owner of DS Consulting, a mediation and facilitation firm in Portland, Oregon, has been a practicing mediator since 1988. Donna is currently serving her third term as President of the Oregon Mediation Association and has mediated complex natural resource and public policy cases involving government and other entities.

The specialized course, Effective Advocacy in Arbitration, is a 20-hour course directed by Merlyn Clark and P. Craig Storti. Merlyn Clark is a senior partner with Hawley Troxell Ennis & Hawley, LLP, where he practices primarily in the area of civil litigation, arbitration, and mediation. He has extensive experience in the arbitration process as an arbitrator and an advocate. P. Craig Storti is the managing partner of the same law firm, and he practices mainly in commercial, construction, and employment law litigation, doing arbitration and mediation. Craig is a panelist on the AAA Complex Construction and Commercial Arbitrations Panels for Utah, Idaho, and Montana.

Effective Advocacy in Arbitration explores how the arbitration process works, the advantages and disadvantages of arbitration, and also pre-arbitration considerations. Participants will gain knowledge on how to prepare for arbitration, and guidelines that arbitrators need to follow in rendering decisions.

All of the courses will be held at the University of Idaho College of Law during the week of May 17-21, 2004. Register early, enrollment is limited. For more information, contact Conference Services, University of Idaho P.O. Box 441205 Moscow, Idaho 83844-1205 Toll Free: 1-866-651-5322 or visit our web page at <http://www.law.uidaho.edu/nwinst>.

MAUREEN LAFLIN, the Director of the Northwest Institute for Dispute Resolution, has been an advocate in Idaho for ADR concerns since 1991. Maureen has worked with the state and federal courts and the Bar to promote ADR both in the civil and criminal arena. She is currently a member of Idaho's Evidence Rules Advisory Subcommittee on Mediation Privilege and the Uniform Mediation Act. She teaches ADR courses at the University of Idaho College of Law and the Strauss Institute for Dispute Resolution at Pepperdine Law School.