

MICHELE KERN-RAPPY, ESQ.

Kern Rappy Dispute Resolution PLLC | 12 Manor Drive, Goldens Bridge, NY 10526 | michele@michelekernrappy.com | (914) 646-4259

National Mediator and Arbitrator with over 35 years of experience as the former Senior Mediator and Settlement Coordinator for the NYS Unified Court System, who has mediated over 6,000 commercial and civil disputes. A seasoned veteran whom clients can trust to optimize their settlement success rate. Her persistence, patience, and meticulous attention to detail define how she approaches each case at every stage of conflict resolution. Especially skilled at multi-party mediations where her exceptional case research ethic is thoroughly applied to each party.

EXPERIENCE

Kern Rappy Dispute Resolution PLLC, Resolute Systems, LLC, New York, New York
National Mediator and Arbitrator June 2023 – Present

Well known for her collegiality among judiciary and litigators, her practice includes but is not limited to: business/commercial, construction, insurance, complex energy, personal injury, professional liability, employment, complex matrimonial family issues/ guardianship. Successfully mediated in a wide range of disputes; representative subject areas include: business and commercial claims, including breach of contract, misrepresentation, fraud, and many others; insurance coverage, including environmental, products liability, malpractice, and officers and directors; products liability and personal injury, including pharmaceuticals, asbestos, lead paint, and others; employment discrimination; consumer class actions; intellectual property, including copyright, patent, and trade secrets; environmental contamination; trusts and estates; family law; real estate law; transportation law disputes with a focus on complex contracts, liability and insurance coverage, damaged cargo, employment, classification and labor; and Article 81 Guardianship matters; knowledge of transportation law

New York County Supreme Court, New York, New York
Senior Mediator/ Senior Settlement Coordinator October 1988 – August 2023

Established and was the sole mediator for the first comprehensive in-house Supreme Court Mediation Program of New York County, MED-NJ, at 60 Centre Street. A high performing, seasoned specialist who provides tailored services with the utmost professionalism, using her R.A.I.S.E. Method, a trademarked Roadmap to help litigators navigate the uncertainty of a pending high conflict litigation. Received thousands of referrals from 60 Supreme Court Justices. Served as an ADR trainer and coach for dozens of programs for the New York State Unified Court System. Mentored over 200 law school students.

EDUCATION

St. John's University School of Law, Queens, New York
J.D., May 1988

Baruch College, New York, New York
BBA, January 1985

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Chief Judge ADR Advisory Committee (April 2018-Present)
Eastern District of New York Advisory Council (2024-Present)
WWBA Mediation Committee; Chair (June 2025- Present)
WWBA Insurance Committee; Chair (2024-Present)
NYSBA Dispute Resolutions Section's Insurance Committee; Co-Chair (2024-Present)
NYSBA Trial Lawyers Mediation and Arbitration Committee; Co-Chair (2024-Present)
Family and Divorce Mediation Council of Greater New York, Board of Directors (2021)
Task Force on Mental Health and Trauma Impacted Representation (2021-2023)
New York Women's Bar Association, ADR Committee, Co-Chair (2016-2021), Member (2021-Present)
New York County Supreme Court Mediation Law Internship Program, Mentor (2014-2023)
The American Bar Association, Dispute Resolution Section (2015-Present)
New York State Bar Association, Dispute Resolution Section, Attorney Advocacy Committee; Co-Chair (2019 – 2021), Member (2021-Present)
New York City Bar, ADR Committee (2018-Present)
New York State Council on Divorce Mediation (2017-2023)
New York Association of Collaborative Professionals (2017-2023)
International Association of Collaborative Professionals (2020-2022)

PUBLICATIONS

The Hard Peace: Mediation in New York's Med-NJ Program, New York Law Journal, Nov. 19, 2021.

R.A.I.S.E.™ – A Roadmap for Navigating Early Mediation, Publication in CLM; May 2025

RAISE™ From Within: A Professional Mediator's Guide to Let Go of Stress, Report and Recommendations of the WCBA Task Force on Attorney Well-Being and the Post-COVID Practice of Law, May 2023.

PRESENTATIONS

NYSBA Annual Meeting, Co-Presenter for TICL/DR Section, January 2026 (Upcoming)

NJAPM Fall Conference; "RAISE: the Roadmap to Greater Success in Mediation using Emotional Intelligence; Featured Speaker, November 2025 (Upcoming)

ABA Resolutions Podcast; Topic on Mediation for Litigators, Guest Speaker/Presenter, July 2025

NYSBA; Trial Lawyers Section, Mediation/Arbitration/ADR Committee; *Getting Your Civil Case Settled in Court-Sponsored Mediation*, Moderator, July 2025

NYSBA; Trial Lawyers Mediation and Arbitration Committee and TICL Committee Lunch and Learn Insurance Showcase Series; Founder, Creator and Moderator, Jan. 2025, Mar. 2025 and Fall 2025

NYSBA; Dispute Resolution Insurance Committee, Trial Lawyers and TICL; *Early Resolution: Critical Insights When Insurance Plays a Major Role*; Founder and Moderator, Oct 2025

Westchester Women's Bar Association Insurance Committee; *Early Resolution: Critical Insights When Insurance Plays a Major Role*; Founded and Creator, March 2025

NJAPM (New Jersey Association of Professional Mediators) Webinar: Carl Cangelosi Webinar Series: Insurance Disputes. Panelist and Presenter, April 2025.

Construction Conference Law Panel, CLM; Panelist, Role Play of Advanced Mediation Strategies (September 2024)

Brooklyn Bar Association; *How Mediators and Attorneys Can Support Clients for Successful Process*, (May 2024)

Pace Law School; Judicial Institute Facilitated Court Settlement: The Paradigm Shift from Adversarial to Attorney Advocacy Institute (April 2024)

New York Women's Bar Association, A Paradigm Shift from the Litigation Mindset; A guideline for Insurance Litigators, (March 2024)

FDMC Council, *Mediation with Attorney Involvement; The Role of the Mediator and Attorney* (Feb. 2024)

WillWorkForFood Podcast; Navigating Div. Mediation; Pitfalls in the Shadow of the Law; Transitioning to a Mediation Mindset: Strategies & Technique for Litigators, Facilitator and Participant, July 2024.

New York Judicial Institute, *Case Management & Settlement Conferencing*, New York Judicial Institute (September 2023).

NYSBA, Dispute Resolution, Section, *Effective Mediation Advocacy: Key Skills for Lawyers at the Bargaining Table 3-Part Series*, (2021).

NYWBA, "A Presumptive ADR Update: What Practitioners Need to Know," (September 2021).

New York State Supreme Court, *International ADR Training for Foreign Delegations* (May/August 2017, 2018, 2019).

Bronx County Supreme Court, "ADR Training for Personal Injury Cases," (August 2019)

NYCBA "Change is Here: ADR and the NY Courts – The New Presumptive ADR Program," (2019).

NYSBA, *3-Day Commercial Mediation Training, Facilitator*, (2015)

2-Day Commercial Advanced Mediation Training, Facilitator, 2018

Cardozo Law School, "Fireside Chat with Women in the Tech World," (2018)

New York State Counsel on Divorce Mediation, New York Association of Collaborative Professionals, *Presumptive ADR Update Training, Facilitator* (2018).

St. John's University School of Law, *Duberstein Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition* (December 2017).

NYSBA Fall Meeting: Multi-Party Mayhem (October 2017).

New York County Supreme Court at 111 Centre Street, "Tort Neutral Evaluation Training," (2017)

NYCBA, "An Anatomy of Divorce Program," (April 2017).

New York State Counsel on Divorce Mediation, *2-Part Series High-Conflict Divorce Training*, (2017)

The Gender Fairness Committee of the New York Supreme Court, Civil Branch, and Access to Justice Program, *ADR Training for Divorce Program* (March 2016).

Association for Conflict Resolution Greater New York Chapter, *A Snapshot of Presumptive ADR: What is it and what makes it tick* (2020).

Westchester County Bar Association / Westchester Women's Bar Association Mindfulness Program;
Sponsor, April 2025

HONORS, AWARDS, & CERTIFICATES

Women's History Month 2023 Distinguished Service Award, the Gender Fairness Committee of the New York County Supreme Court, Civil Branch (June 2023).

IFS Certificate in Family Psychology, Internal Family Systems (2019).

Yoga Teacher Certificate with a focus on Mindfulness, Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health (2007).

TRAININGS

Business Law, American Bar Association, Business Section (2023).

Personal Injury Law, New York State Trial Lawyer's Association (2023).

Advanced Commercial Law, New York State Bar Association (June 2019).

Commercial Mediation Training, New York State Bar Association (2005, 2009, 2017, 2019).

Robert Collins Divorce Mediation Training (2020).

Tort Neutral Evaluation, New York State Unified Court System (2019)

New York State Court System Advanced Divorce Mediation Training, New York State Unified Court System (2019).

Basic Mediation & Conflict Resolution Theory, New York City Bar Association (February 2019).

New York State Bar Association Arbitration Training, New York State Bar Association (2017).

ROSTERS

Supreme Court of the State of New York Appellate Division, First Department

Eastern District of New York /EDNY Advisory Council,

New York Appellate Division, Second Department

9th Judicial District

Mandatory Civil Appeals Mediation Program, NYS Appellate Division, Second Judicial Dept.

American Arbitration Association

International Institute for Conflict Prevention & Resolution, Inc.

New York County Commercial and Civil Divisions

Richmond County

Nassau County

Buffalo County

Suffolk County

Third Judicial District