

Melanie Merkle Atha, Episcopal Peace Fellowship, Chicago, IL. Ms. Atha received her J.D. from Vanderbilt University and her B.A., magna cum laude, in Political Science from Birmingham-Southern College. Since 2011, she has been promoting Collaborative Law. She is the Executive Director of the Global Collaborative Law Council, (www.globalcollaborativelaw.com) which is an international collaborative practice group dedicated to expanding the use of Collaborative Law to areas of the law other than domestic relations. She also served as Co-Chairman of the American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution's Collaborative Law Committee. She is Past President of Birmingham Collaborative Alliance (BCA), Alabama's first and only Collaborative Law Practice Group (www.birminghamcollaborative.com), of which she is a founding member. She is a member of the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals (IACP), (www.collaborativepractice.com), the international consortium of lawyers, financial professionals and mental health professionals who are committed to helping clients resolve family disputes outside of traditional legal forums. She founded the Birmingham Bar Association Collaborative Law Committee in 2016, and served as its inaugural chairman. She has extensive training in Interdisciplinary Collaborative Practice. She served on the Alabama Law Institute's Committee on Collaborative Law and the Collaborative Law Rules Committee, and was part of the group which vetted the Uniform Collaborative Law Act ("UCLA"), enacted by Alabama's legislature in May, 2013. (The UCLA went into effect in Alabama on January 1, 2014.) A veteran trial lawyer, Ms. Atha was elected by her peers as a Charter Fellow in The Litigation Counsel of America, a national trial lawyer honorary society. She was recognized by Super Lawyers as one of the top 25 women lawyers in Alabama for 2013, and is regularly listed in The Best Lawyers in America.

Currently, Ms. Atha is also serving as the Executive Director of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship, a nonprofit dedicated to the advancement of justice and the promotion of nonviolence (www.epfnational.org).

Professor Kristen Blankley teaches and researches in the areas of alternative dispute resolution, particularly mediation and arbitration issues. She joined the faculty of the University of Nebraska College of Law in 2010 and is currently the Henry M. Grether, Jr. Professor of Law. Professor Blankley is interested in the intersection of ADR and ethics, both ADR ethics and legal ethics. She has written on topics including collaborative law, mediation, family mediation, arbitration, and access to justice. More information about Professor Blankley can be found <https://law.unl.edu/kristen-blankley/>

Colleen L. Byers, JD, MBA, RYT 200 is the founding principal of Colleen Byers Mediation, LLC. A seasoned business, trust, estate and fiduciary litigator and experienced collaborative law attorney, Colleen focuses on resolving complex business, trust, estate, fiduciary, and family disputes to help business owners, families and individuals find legal solutions outside of the courtroom. Colleen's conflict resolution approach weaves together practical business insight, active listening, and an interest-based negotiation strategy.

Colleen is also a neutral with Alterity ADR, a national panel of mediators and arbitrators committed to improving diversity in the field of conflict resolution. Colleen is triple certified by the North Carolina Dispute Resolution Commission to mediate Superior Court; Family Financial; and matters pending before the Clerk of Superior Court. In 2020, Colleen was named

the Lawyer of the Year by NC Lawyers Weekly. Colleen currently serves as the Vice President of the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Civil Collaborative Law Association.

In addition to facilitating difficult conversations between parties in conflict, Colleen also serves as a business strategist and consultant. Colleen helps legal and financial services professionals with strategic planning, team building, and the development of effective communication and negotiation skills to enhance employee engagement, improve performance, and drive profitability.

Colleen also has a passion for improving wellbeing in the legal industry and serves on the Board of Directors of North Carolina BarCARES. A registered yoga teacher, she regularly speaks on topics including mindfulness and self-care, teaches yoga for high-achieving professionals, and facilitates corporate retreats. Colleen enjoys outdoor adventures with her husband, their two daughters, and their faithful German Shepherd.

Ana Luiza Panyagua Etchalus is a lawyer working in Porto Alegre (Brazil) at Etchalus Advocacia (www.etchalus.com.br), with extensive experience in serving companies and individuals, having dedicated herself in recent years to the ADR environment. Master in International Trade Law from the University of the Basque Country (Spain), Specialized in Legal Psychology from the IMED University (RGS-Brazil), certified mediator by the ICFML (Portugal), Trained in Collaborative Law by the Global Collaborative Law Council, Advanced Practitioner and Certified in Conscious Contracts and certified in Collaborative Contracting from the University of Tennessee (USA), mentor for Canadian companies in Brazil, in an official program of the Government of Canada and a mediator and arbitrator accredited by Eurochambers/Brazil.

R. Paul Faxon, J.D. practices in the areas of closely-held and family business law, commercial real estate transactions, and legal conflict assessment and resolution. He has taught at New England Law School and Boston College Law School. He also serves as a Senior Consultant with Continuity Family Business Consulting. Paul has been involved in Collaborative Law for many years and served as an attorney in one of the first cases to apply Collaborative Law to a business dispute. He is a past President of the Massachusetts Collaborative Law Council and has served on its board of directors and its committees. Paul has presented numerous times at the International Association of Collaborative Professional's North American and European annual conferences and published articles on Collaborative Law topics in trade and professional journals. He has also spoken on conflict resolution at the Family Firm Institute's and Attorneys for Family Held Enterprises' national conferences, as well as the annual meeting of the American Bar Association's Business Law Section. Paul has served as a presenter as well as leader at numerous Collaborative Law trainings, including in Massachusetts, Maryland, North Carolina, Spain, Italy and Holland.

Paul can be reached at pfaxon@rpfaxonlaw.com.

Kelly Gehring is the owner of Shared Story, a private conflict resolution practice that provides mediation, facilitation, training, and coaching services to families, organizations, faith-based entities, and the community at large. Kelly has recently served as a board member for the Nebraska Mediation Association, and chair of the continuing mediator education committee. Kelly serves as special faculty in Creighton University's Negotiation and Conflict Resolution graduate program.

Rachel Goedken, J.D. As Director of the Werner Institute at Creighton Law School, Professor Goedken focuses on nonlitigation dispute resolution – arbitration, mediation, and negotiation. Before joining the faculty, Professor Goedken earned her BS in Psychology and MS in Industrial Relations, then worked in labor relations and human resources for several years before attending law school. Following graduation from William Mitchell College of Law, Professor Goedken served as labor counsel for Northwest Airlines, where she negotiated labor agreements, arbitrated contract disputes, and responded to complaints of employment discrimination. More recently she worked for MidAmerican Energy Company, directing the employee and labor relations staff, and provided appellate arbitration services to the Union Pacific Railroad before teaching at Creighton. She continues to serve as a labor arbitrator and mediator and has been admitted to the AAA and CPR employment arbitrator panels and to the FMCS and NMB labor arbitrator rosters. Professor Goedken teaches ADR, Mediation Process, and Arbitration Advocacy. She became the Director of the Werner Institute in January 2020 after serving as Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

Alissa Hein-Bumgardner, J.D. is the Interim Vice President of Participant Experience at CyncHealth, Nebraska and Iowa’s designated statewide health information exchange after two years on the legal team. She also serves as Chair of the CyncHealth Navigators, a workplace culture committee in its second year. The Navigators is a committee of interdepartmental employees who meet to identify, discuss, and plan ways to promote and to drive the desired culture throughout the organization. Committee members are well-respected team members and are recognized as role models of the organizational values and leadership. As part of her work with the Navigators, Alissa has been leading a series of workshops and discussions about having “mediator’s mindset,” which focuses on building tools for approaching conflict in a way that makes it productive rather than destructive.

Alissa is an Alum of the University of Nebraska College of Law where she earned her Juris Doctorate in 2020. While in law school, she established the Sports, Entertainment and Business Law student organization, and served as its President for two years. Alissa received her undergraduate education at St. Cloud State University (BA, International Relations, Eastern European and Russian Studies). She has over 10 years of business management and leadership experience in multiple industries including sports, business, and healthcare and has extensive experience in training, coaching, and building organizational culture.

Cristina Hiddleston is beginning her 24th year as a high school educator and her fourth year as a mediator .As an affiliate of the Concord Mediation Center in Omaha, Nebraska, she focuses on restorative practices with justice-involved youth. In her school community, she has designed and teaches an elective class in conflict engagement and serves as a conflict coach for her school community stakeholders. Cristina serves as special faculty in Creighton University’s Negotiation and Conflict Resolution graduate program.

Joryn Jenkins, J.D. Joryn’s clients say “She helps people divorce each other without destroying their families.”

Joryn Jenkins received her B.A. from Yale when she was just 19 and her law degree from Georgetown. She is a trial lawyer with 42 years of courtroom experience and taught for two

years at Stetson before opening her private practice, Open Palm, in Tampa. She has well over 40 collaborative matters under her belt and now sometimes serves as a team mentor.

Joryn has published nine books, seven of which are focused on collaborative practice, including *Changing the Way the World Gets Divorced*, *Marketing Your Collaborative Practice*. All of her books are available on Amazon or at www.JorynJenkins.com.

Glenn F. Meier, J.D., is business lawyer and advisor focused on helping company leaders plan legal strategies that account for the needs and goals of all stakeholders. Glenn utilizes many years of experience handling transactions, disputes, and business law issues to provide clients with resources, insights, and perspectives designed to help businesses optimize operations, manage risk, and pursue long-term strategies. Glenn's mediation experience includes more than 100 hours of training at the prestigious Strauss Institute for Dispute Resolution at Pepperdine University.

Glenn regularly serves as outside general counsel to a variety of clients, guiding them through mindful planning with a focus on effective collaboration. He uses his skills and experience as a mediator and legal counselor to help business leaders clarify their thinking and operate their companies in ways that align with the law and their own guiding principles.

The breadth and depth of Glenn's experience is enhanced by the responsiveness and steady demeanor he developed while serving in the U.S. Air Force, Judge Advocate General's Department. In that role, he participated in many criminal trials including complex fraud cases and murder trials – developing courtroom skills that were recognized when Glenn was named to a small group of prosecutors assigned to handle serious cases across the United States.

Glenn is an active and engaged community volunteer, serving as a member of the Las Vegas Rotary Club and a Board Member of the Josh Stevens Foundation.

Marcus Powers, J.D. is the co-founder and Chief of Operations at Zipline Brewing Co. He graduated from the College of Law in 2008 with distinction and an emphasis in water and natural resources. Marcus started his career as an Assistant Attorney General in the Nebraska Department of Justice, focusing primarily on disputes over the hydrology of interstate river systems. His passion for science ultimately led him away from a legal career and, in 2012, he co-founded Zipline Brewing Co.

Marcus acted as head brewer and chief of operations during the company's formative years. Zipline grew quickly into Nebraska's top production brewery and ranks in the top 10% of breweries nationally. Beyond Zipline, Marcus helped found the Great Plains District of the Master Brewers Association in 2019 and currently serves as treasurer. He was also nominated to assume the role of Treasurer for the national Master Brewers Association in October of this year. Marcus was the recipient of the UNL Alumni Early Achiever Award in 2018.

DeAndra Roaché, J.D., is the Founder and President of Cynergis Dispute Resolution Services, an alternative dispute resolution services company that specializes in arbitration, mediation, facilitation, conflict resolution training, conflict management program design, conflict coaching and consulting. Ms. Roaché is also a professional independent neutral concentrating in arbitration, mediation and fact-finding of various disputes such as labor, employment,

construction and other business disputes. She co-chairs a Dispute Resolution Board working group for the International Center for Conflict Prevention and she works with companies, court systems and individuals in various industries to assist with their conflict resolution and conflict management needs.

In addition to an active arbitration and mediation schedule, Ms. Roaché is an adjunct professor at the University of Arizona's James E. Rogers College of Law where she teaches mediation and also serves on the faculty of the Labor Arbitration Institute. Prior to starting Cynergis Dispute Resolution Services, Ms. Roaché amassed approximately a decade of extensive experience in the Labor/Collective Bargaining, Arbitration and Mediation processes unique to the Railroad industry as a labor relations professional in the Washington, DC corporate office of "America's Railroad"- Amtrak. Ms. Roaché serves on several arbitration and mediation rosters and panels. In addition to nearly a decade of labor and employee relations experience, Ms. Roaché was trained in labor relations at Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations-ILR/Scheinman Institute and holds a Master's degree in Conflict Resolution. She is currently a NAA Arbitrator SALON Fellow with the DC/Mid-Atlantic Region of the National Academy of Arbitrators.

John Sarratt, J.D. is the immediate past president of the Global Collaborative Law Council; was the founding president of the North Carolina Civil Collaborative Law Association – a nonprofit whose mission is to assist its members as well as educate the public regarding collaborative law; and since its inception has been co-chair of the Collaborative Law Committee of the North Carolina Bar Association's Dispute Resolution Section. In the latter capacity, John has been course planner for eight training sessions preparing lawyers in North Carolina to resolve any civil dispute using the collaborative process. John is also a Certified Mediator in North Carolina and has served as an American Arbitration Association panel arbitrator. John is a past member of the North Carolina Bar Association Board of Governors, Legal Aid of North Carolina Board of Governors, North Carolina General Statutes Commission, and North Carolina Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism. He has been an adjunct professor of law at both the Wake Forest School of Law and Campbell Law School teaching courses on Collaborative Law. John has been a business litigator for 50 years and has been recognized in the area of business litigation by Business North Carolina Magazine's Legal Elite, Best Lawyers in America, and North Carolina Super Lawyers. For his work in bringing collaborative law principles to all civil disputes, John has been recognized by North Carolina Lawyers Weekly as one of its Leaders in the Law, and received the North Carolina Bar Association's 2022 Peace Award. John earned his undergraduate degree summa cum laude from UNC-CH and his J.D. cum laude from Harvard.

Marc Sheridan, J.D. has represented individuals, closely-held and family businesses, and multinational clients for over twenty years concerning commercial disputes and employment discrimination claims in state and federal trial and appellate courts, and arbitral forums. He has extensive litigation experience representing corporate clients on risk transfer and liability issues involving commercial leases and construction contracts.

In addition to his litigation experience, Mr. Sheridan is a panel mediator for the Supreme Court, Westchester County Commercial Division and Civil Panels, and Westchester County and Bronx County Surrogate's Court Panels, and an employment discrimination panel mediator for the

United States District Court for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York. Mr. Sheridan co-authored the 9th Judicial District Presumptive Mediation Program Rules and the Westchester County Surrogate's Court Presumptive Mediation Program. Mr. Sheridan is also a Board Member for Attorneys for Family-Held Enterprises (AFHE) and the Westchester County Bar Association. Mr. Sheridan is a former Chair of the Westchester County Bar ADR Committee, and a member of the New York State Bar Association ADR Section. Mr. Sheridan has also made various CLE presentations on employment law and ADR topics, including trainings for mediators on mediating personal injury matters and trust and estate disputes.

Over the last decade Mr. Sheridan has become a recognized speaker on Civil Collaborative Practice. He is Co-Chair of the Trainers Networking and Development Committee for the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals (IACP), and the Northeast Regional Director for the Global Collaborative Law Council (GCLC) and has trained numerous lawyers and other professionals on Civil Collaborative Practice both domestically and internationally.

Kate Vitasek is an international authority for her award-winning research and Vested® business model for highly collaborative relationships. Vitasek, a Faculty member at the University of Tennessee, has been lauded by World Trade Magazine as one of the "Fabulous 50+1" most influential people impacting global commerce. Her work has led to 7 books, including: *Vested: How P&G, McDonald's and Microsoft Are Redefining Winning in Business Relationships*, *Getting to We: Negotiating Agreements for Highly Collaborative Relationships*, and *Contracting in the New Economy*.

Vitasek is known for her practical and research-based advice for driving transformation and innovation through highly-collaborative and strategic partnerships. She has been appeared on CNN International, Bloomberg, NPR, and on Fox Business News. Her work has been featured in over 300 articles in publications including HBR, Forbes, Chief Executive Magazine, CIO Magazine, The Wall Street Journal, Journal of Commerce, World Trade Magazine and Intelligent Sourcing.

Mike Zeleny, chief of staff and associate to the chancellor of the University of Nebraska since January 2018, is a senior adviser and reports on a wide variety of strategic and executive duties, including both internal and external relations.

Zeleny previously served as associate vice chancellor for research and economic development. He worked more than 20 years in the Office of Research and Economic Development, assisting with the university's research growth and building its economic development mission. He is active in several community organizations and has served as director of the university's Emergency Operations Command and chair of its Sesquicentennial Steering Committee.

Zeleny, who is originally from Exeter, Nebraska, earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the university in 1993 and a Master of Business Administration in 1996.