

# Mediation Skills Training for Clergy and Lay Leaders

Co-Sponsored By:

Bob Stains and Associates, Conflict Transformation

Boston Law Collaborative Institute

Boston University School of Theology

Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries

Essential Partners

Hebrew College

The Kirva Institute

The Pluralism Project, Harvard University

**When:** Tuesday, October 17,  
2017 at 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Where:** Boston Law Collaborative  
Institute, 99 Summer Street, Suite  
1600, Boston, MA 02110

**Who should attend:** Religious  
leaders, mediators, and other  
professionals who deal with faith-  
based conflicts

**What:** One-day interactive  
training will provide participants  
with an overview of the  
mediation process and an  
introduction to skills and  
techniques used by mediators.

**Cost:** \$150

**How to register:**  
Visit Eventbrite.

## *Mediation Skills Training for Clergy and Lay Leaders*

This one-day interactive training will provide religious leaders with an overview of the mediation process. A portion of the program will be devoted to providing participants with the opportunity to practice these skills in simulations involving faith-based conflicts and coached by experienced practitioners.

Mediation skills can help you more productively engage with Clergy-board negotiations, intra-communal disputes between congregational members, ritual differences among and between denominations, and theological differences that arise in local interfaith clergy committees.

### *Agenda (see next page for Faculty bios)*

**8:30 – 9:00** Registration and light refreshments

**9:00 – 9:30** Welcome, Introductions and Overview of the Training

**9:30 – 12:00** Mediation Process, Principles & Skills

- Overview of the mediation process and principles
- The mediator's toolkit of strategies
- Demonstrations

**12:00 – 1:00** Lunch

**1:00 – 4:40** Mediating Faith-Based Disputes

- Challenges to and strategies for mediating faith-based disputes
- Role play simulations with coaching from the faculty

**4:40 – 5:00** – Q&A and Concluding Remarks

## Faculty Bios



**David Hoffman, Esq.** is the founding member of Boston Law Collaborative, LLC, and teaches Mediation, Collaborative Law and Diversity & Dispute Resolution courses at Harvard Law School, where he is the John H. Watson, Jr. Lecturer on Law. David was named Boston's "Lawyer of the Year" for Mediation for 2016 by the book "Best Lawyers in America" and *U.S. News & World Report* and selected for the 2015 D'Alemberte-Raven Award, the ABA Section of Dispute Resolution's highest honor recognizing outstanding service in dispute resolution.



**Tom Porter** is a trial lawyer, mediator, teacher and minister. He is a lecturer at Boston University School of Theology where he directs a program in Religion and Conflict Transformation. He was the Executive Director of JUSTPEACE Center for Mediation and Conflict Transformation in The United Methodist Church from 2000-2012. He is the editor of the book, *Conflict and Communion: Reconciliation and Restorative Justice at Christ's Table*, the author of *The Spirit and Art of Conflict Transformation: Creating a Culture of JustPeace* and co-author of *The Journey: Forgiveness, Restorative Justice and Reconciliation*.



**Rabbi David Jaffe** David is the Founder and Principal of Kirva, an institute dedicated to helping individuals and communities access Jewish wisdom for peacemaking and sustainable social change. David teaches, trains and consults with clergy, NGO's and schools nationally to develop the skills and habits of heart and mind needed to create healthy, vibrant communities. He works closely with Resetting the Table to transform the destructive nature of the Israel conversation in the North American Jewish community by training people to speak productively across conflict. His book, *Changing the World From the Inside Out*, will be published in September, 2016.



**Audrey J. Lee** is a Senior Mediator at Boston Law Collaborative, LLP and Executive Director of the BLC Institute, a non-profit dedicated to providing education and training in all areas of dispute resolution. She is also faculty for the Harvard Negotiation Institute's Advanced Mediation course offered by the Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School. Prior to joining BLC, Audrey served as a mediator and trainer for the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination where she mediated harassment, disability, age, race, gender and religious discrimination cases.



**Parisa Parsa** is Executive Director of Essential Partners (formerly Public Conversations Project). She is also a Unitarian Universalist minister, and prior to joining Essential Partners in 2015 served in community-based and congregational settings of ministry for 17 years. Parisa's commitment to engaging across differences of all kinds has taken her professional life from an abortion clinic in Albuquerque, through a domestic violence shelter in Roxbury, to the streets of San Francisco's Tenderloin and back to suburban New England. Her interfaith background (the child of a Muslim-Christian marriage) and her life spent between Iran and the US led her to deep study of intercultural approaches to community building and have informed her work and her life in ways she continues to uncover.



**Jeff Seul, Esq.** is co-chair of the Peace Appeal Foundation, a lawyer, and a conflict resolution scholar-practitioner. Jeff is Lecturer on the Practice of Peace at Harvard Divinity School and previously taught in the negotiation and conflict resolution fields at Harvard Law School. He has served as a facilitator, mediator, arbitrator or adviser in a broad variety of disputes. Jeff is also a partner in the law firm Holland & Knight, where he is chair of the Technology & Telecommunications Industry Group.



A leading writer and social activist, **Rabbi Or Rose** is the founding director of the [Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership](#) which promotes religious and cultural literacy, dialogue, and joint action for the common good. He also was founding director of the former Center for Global Judaism. In addition to his duties at the Miller Center, Rose serves as co-director of the Center for Interreligious and Community Leadership Education, a joint venture of Hebrew College and Andover Newton Theological School. Prior to taking this position, Rose was associate dean and director of informal education at the Rabbinical School, where he still teaches.



**Bob Stains** is founder and principal of Bob Stains and Associates, Conflict Transformation, has over 37 years of experience in consulting, coaching, training, facilitating, mediating and non-profit management. He is also Senior Associate at Essential Partners, after serving as Senior Director of Training. Over his career, Bob has created constructive conversations on sexual orientation, religion, race, abortion, social class, gender, firearms and other divisive issues within and between local, national and international organizations. Bob is a co-founder of The Family Dinner Project, consults to the Interpersonal Skills Component of the Harvard Negotiation Project at Harvard Law School, serves on the Executive Board of The Democracy Imperative and as a Guest Scholar Practitioner for Kansas State University's Dialogue, Deliberation and Public Engagement program.

