Alternative Dispute Resolution

FACULTY

Jonathan R. Cohen
Jonathan R. Cohen is University Term Professor of Law and Associate Director of the Institute for Dispute Resolution. He received his A.B., J.D., and Ph.D. (economics) from Harvard University, where he also served as a post-doctoral Fellow at Harvard’s Program on Negotiation. Cohen has lectured at dozens of professional conferences and published more than twenty articles in the field. His writings, especially concerning the role of apologies in legal disputes, have prompted significant changes to legal practice both domestically and internationally.

Robin Davis
Robin Davis, Director of the Institute for Dispute Resolution, has been a Florida Supreme Court certified mediator since 1993 and is a Diplomate of the Florida Academy of Professional Mediators. She served as the ADR Director for the Florida Eighth Judicial Circuit for 14 years and has served as an appointee on various Florida Supreme Court Mediation Committees since 1997. Professor Davis, a Senior Legal Skills Professor at UF Law, has mediated over 2,000 civil and family cases.

Joan Stearns Johnsen
Joan Stearns Johnsen, Senior Legal Skills Professor at UF Law, is the Chair-Elect of the American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution for the 2018-2019 bar year. She is also the Chair of the Mediation Sub-Committee of the ADR Committee of the Litigation Section of the ABA, a member of the Mediator Ethics Advisory Committee for the New York State Unified Court System, and an Academic Board Member of the Miami International Arbitration Society. Professor Johnsen is a Fellow of the Chartered Trust of Arbitrators and certified by the International Mediation Institute. She is also a practicing arbitrator and mediator and is on the panels of the American Arbitration Association and the International Institute for the Prevention and Resolution of Conflict.

Robust Curriculum

INTRODUCTION TO LAWYERING
UF Law has full slate of dispute resolution classes, including Mediation, Mediation Advocacy, Arbitration, International Arbitration, and Negotiation. UF Law teaches students these important skills during the first year in its innovative Introduction to Lawyering course. This required class prepares students with fundamental lawyering skills, including dispute resolution, that are transferable to all practice areas. Introduction to Lawyering also introduces students to the core skills related to professional identity, reputational skills and ethics.

COUNTY COURT MEDIATION CLINIC
Students gain valuable experience by observing mediation of civil matters filed in small claims courts. Students also have the opportunity to serve as “co-mediators” on cases. Upon completion of program requirements, students may acquire status as a County Court Mediator, certified by the Florida Supreme Court.

INTENSIVE ARBITRATION WORKSHOP
UF Law holds an intensive arbitration workshop for students each January. The course, which includes workshops by lawyers and arbitrators, exposes students to different forms of arbitration. Past courses have focused on topics as diverse as International Arbitration and FINRA Securities Arbitration. Professor Johnsen teaches this course.
UF Alternative Dispute Resolution

INSTITUTE FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION
The Institute for Dispute Resolution (“IDR”) seeks to encourage and enhance teaching, research, and service in the field of dispute resolution. IDR sponsors many events, including its premier annual conference that attracts practitioners from around the world. IDR also hosts many speakers, including distinguished legal academics and renowned practitioners, who address faculty and students on issues related to ADR.

DYNAMIC STUDENT ACTIVITIES
UF Law students have numerous opportunities to engage in ADR-related activities.

Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot
Led by Professor Johnsen, students compete in international competitions held in Vienna, Hong Kong, and other cities. The UF Law team recently won the International Chamber of Commerce Pre-Moot in Paris.

Florida ADR Team
The Florida ADR Team competes in American Bar Association sanctioned events, such as the Client Counseling Competition, Arbitration Competition, Negotiation Competition, Mediation Advocacy, and St. John’s Securities Triathlon.

Gators for Alternative Dispute Resolution
This student-run organization provides students with opportunities to learn about ADR practice by connecting them with practitioners and international networks of students.

Recent and Forthcoming Speakers

- Alyson Carrel, Clinical Assistant Professor, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law
- Noam Ebner, Professor, Creighton University School of Law
- Jill Gross, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Pace University Elisabeth Haub School of Law
- John Lande, Isidor Loeb Professor Emeritus, University of Missouri School of Law
- Carrie Menkel Meadow, Distinguished Professor of Law, UC Irvine School of Law