Recent Raves from Training Participants:

“THE PRACTICUM WAS A GREAT EXPERIENCE... Our supervisor really took the time to discuss cases and insure that I was learning at every stage. Just watching how she interacted with disputants was an education. Her professionalism, courtesy and humor made the experience all the more valuable.” — human resource professional

“CDSC’S MEDIATION PRACTICUM PROVIDES EFFECTIVE training for ‘real world’ mediation. The Small Claims cases, which I observed and mediated at the Court, were plentiful and extremely varied. In addition, regular post-mediation discussions (among mediators, observers and the program supervisor) challenged my mindfulness and encouraged my ongoing skills development. Clearly CDSC is committed to training mediators who value reflection in their practice.” — business entrepreneur

“CDSC’S MEDIATION PRACTICUM PROVIDED me with the support and encouragement I needed to quickly move beyond the theory I learned in basic mediation training class to become more comfortable and skilled as a mediator.” — community relations specialist

Established in 1979, the Community Dispute Settlement Center (CDSC), is a private, not-for-profit mediation and training center dedicated to providing an alternative and affordable forum for resolving conflict.

CDSC promotes better ways to understand and deal with conflict through skilled teams of pro bono mediators, training programs in mediation and conflict management, and broad community outreach.

We are committed to making our services accessible to underserved populations and to addressing emerging community needs.
Getting Started: Choose to begin your Practicum with 5 or 10 sessions, with the option to extend your experience in 5-session increments. The schedule is flexible to meet your needs.

5 sessions  
Fee: $300  

10 sessions  
Fee: $500 ($450*)

*Reduced fee is available for newly-trained mediators who participate in CDSC’s Mediation Training and enroll within 2 months of completion.

Prerequisite: Mediation Training

Here’s how it works:

1. Fill out the application form at right indicating your interest and availability. Mediation sessions are held mornings in various courts. The level of each court’s case activity is unpredictable; some days there may be 3 or 5 cases, sometimes no cases.

2. If you are accepted into the Practicum, you will be contacted by the Supervisor to set up your start date. We offer a flexible schedule to accommodate your individual needs and interests. Fee is payable in full (or in installments by arrangement).

3. Your Practicum begins with observing mediation sessions. Your Supervisor or another more experienced mediator, after observing and co-mediating, will have the opportunity to debrief and ask questions. You will learn about seminars conferences, supervision opportunities and other networking and community activities available at CDSC.

4. When you and your Supervisor agree you are ready, you co-mediate with your Supervisor or another more experienced mediator. During your Practicum, you will have the opportunity to develop and explore your own and others’ skills, write referrals and strategies for resolution, and develop other networking and community activities available at CDSC.

5. Your Practicum must be completed within one year of enrollment.

Practicum Supervisor:
Debra Filiurin is the District Court Supervisor for the Community Dispute Settlement Center and oversees the Practicum. Debra, a licensed psychotherapist in private practice, is a REDRESS mediator for the US Postal Service, and has been on the faculty for MGL’s mediation trainings and UMASS/Boston Graduate Department of Conflict Resolution.

For those who want to supplement basic mediation training with hands-on experience, CDSC offers a supervised mediation program. Newly-trained and less experienced mediators, as well as mediators looking to refresh their skills, are provided an opportunity to:

• Observe actual mediations.
• Co-mediate with more experienced mediators.
• Receive supervision and feedback to improve skills.

If you have questions or wish to observe prior to signing up, contact Debra Filiurin, District Court Supervisor, at 617-876-5376.

Application

Name:_______________________________________________________________________________
Address:______________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
Telephone: day___________________________________ eve. _________________________________
E-mail: _______________________________________________________________________________

Mediation Training completed (when/where): ______________________________________________________

District Court sessions are scheduled for mornings. Check preferences:

☐ Waltham  ☐ Woburn  ☐ Cambridge

☐ I would like a free observation session to decide.

☐ This is my application to participate in the Practicum. Check one: ☐ 5 sessions  ☐ 10 sessions

Payment by check or credit card info is enclosed.

Amount Enclosed: $____________________ ☐ Payment by credit card: _____MC _____Visa

Sig.________________________________________ Card #____________________________ Exp.Date_________

For information contact CDSC:
Tel: 617-876-5376 Fax: 617-876-6663
e-mail: cdscinfo@communitydispute.org
www.communitydispute.org

Please detach and mail to:
CDSC
Debra Filiurin
Practice Coordinator
Community Dispute Settlement Center
60 Gore Street
Cambridge, MA 02141
Tel. 617-876-5376 Fax: 617-876-6663
E-mail: cdscinfo@communitydispute.org
www.communitydispute.org