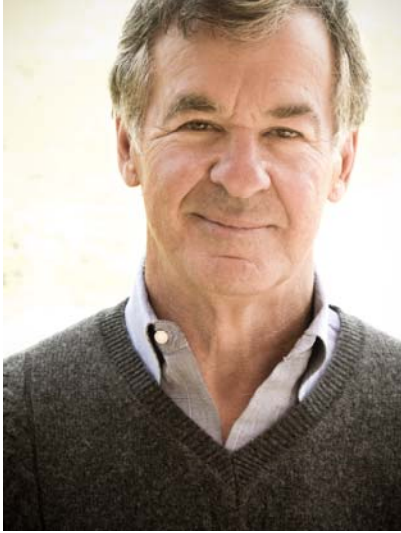


The Center for Understanding in Conflict & The Center for Mediation in Law

Gary J. Friedman



Gary J. Friedman has been practicing law as a mediator with Mediation Law Offices in Mill Valley, California, since 1976, integrating mediative principles into the practice of law and the resolution of legal disputes. Through the non-profit organization which he co-founded, The Center for Understanding in Conflict (formerly The Center for Mediation in Law), he has been teaching mediation since 1980.

Prior to his work as a mediator, he practiced law as a trial lawyer with Friedman and Friedman in Bridgeport, Connecticut. After several years as an advocate, he sought a new approach to resolving disputes through increasing the participation of the parties in the resolution of their differences. At that time, he and his colleague, Jack Himmelstein, began to develop a model of mediation -- the Understanding Based Model -- that is now practiced extensively in the United States and Europe.

As one of the first lawyers to mediate and a primary force in the current mediation movement, he has used this model to complete over two thousand mediations in the last three decades, including numerous 2-party and multi-party disputes in the commercial and non-profit realms, in the area of intellectual property, real estate, corporate, personnel, partnership formations and dissolutions, and family law. Through the Center for Mediation in Law, he has trained lawyers, law professors, therapists and judges in the Center's method of mediation and a mediative approach to lawyering and collaborative practice. Since 1989, he has been training lawyers, judges and psychotherapists in the United States, Europe, and Israel. He has taught courses in negotiation and mediation at Stanford University Law School and the New College of Law and has lectured frequently at numerous other law schools and has taught at Harvard Law School's Program on Negotiation and at the World Intellectual Property Organization in Geneva.

He has written extensively about mediation and conflict resolution and is the author of *A Guide to Divorce Mediation*, Workman Publishing, 1993. In collaboration with the Harvard Law School's Program on Negotiation, he is featured as the mediator in an educational video, *Saving the Last Dance: Mediation Through Understanding*, which applies the Center's model to a highly charged dispute within a non-profit. He is the co-author, with Jack Himmelstein, of *Challenging Conflict: Mediation Through Understanding* (published by the American Bar Association and Harvard's Program on Negotiation, 2008).