

**THE WEST VIRGINIA STATE BAR**  
**Eliminating Obstacles in Mediation with Effective Communication**  
**An Advanced Mediation Training**  
**Bridgeport, West Virginia – July 29, 2021**

8:45-9:00      *Welcome/Introduction*  
Debra Scudiere, Esq., Chair, ADR Committee of The West Virginia State Bar  
Morgantown, WV

9:00-9:50      *Preparation For a Successful Mediation – Panel Presentation*

Facilitator:      Thomas G. Steele, Esq.  
Steele McMunn  
Clarksburg, WV

Panelists:      Elliot Hicks, Esq.  
Hicks Resolutions  
Charleston, WV

Heather Heiskell Jones,  
Spilman Thomas & Battle, PLLC  
Charleston, WV

Sean Sawyer, Esq.  
Higginbotham & Higginbotham  
Fairmont, WV

In this session, four experienced West Virginia attorney/mediators will explore strategies to address issues that sometimes impair the ability to reach a resolution in mediation through activities that may be undertaken before the mediation.

9:50-10:45      *Moving Through Mediation: Addressing Obstacles to Resolution DURING the Mediation (Finding Confidence in Conflict: How to Negotiate Anything and Live Your Best Life)*

Presenter:      Kwame Christian, M.A., Esq.  
American Negotiation Institute, LLC  
Columbus, Ohio

In this session, attorney/mediator Kwame Christian will introduce participants to strategies that often can break barriers that make a resolution difficult. Mediators and advocates will learn how to use questions to build rapport, convey conversation, change tempo, detoxify a difficult environment, and deal with high emotions. They will also learn how to shift power and reality during mediation to help break down barriers.

10:45-11:00      Break

11:00-12:00      *Moving Through Mediation continues*

12:00-1:30      Lunch (on your own)

1:30-3:30      *Moving Through Mediation continues*

3:45-4:35      *The Home Stretch: Evaluation of Damages, Non-Financial Relief, and Other Resolutions in Mediation.*

Co-Presenters: Chelsea Prince, Esq.  
Bowles Rice, LLP  
Morgantown, WV

Gee Lofstead, Esq.  
Spilman Thomas & Battle, PLLC  
Wheeling, WV

In the final session we will explore the components that the mediator and the advocate should consider in their settlement evaluation, including monetary damages, non-pecuniary losses, and resolution beyond money.

4:35-4:45      *Wrap-up*  
Debra Scudiere, Esq. and Thomas G. Steele, Esq.