

Laury Adams – The Spirit of TAM

Since the beginning of her career, Laury Adams has participated in professional activities on local, state, and national levels and has held many leadership roles in professional organizations. In 1985 she joined the newly formed Texas Association of Family Mediators, which became the Texas Association of Mediators (TAM) five years later.

Laury has dedicated years to TAM leadership. As TAM President in 1991, she led the association, published the newsletter, and headed the conference committee. She describes her TAM presidency as both a professional and personal challenge, for it was the year she was going through her own divorce. She had three major goals for TAM during that year: engaging in strategic planning and developing a mission statement, getting the TAM newsletter professionally typeset and printed for the first time, and having a nationally recognized mediator present at the annual conference. Remarkably, in spite of all the things going on in her personal life at the time, Laury was able to achieve all three goals. Her coup in having mediation guru Bill Ury speak at the TAM conference raised the bar and initiated the standard of featuring nationally prominent speakers at all future TAM annual conferences.

Laury was one of the first professionals in Texas to recognize the great potential for mediation in resolving conflict, particularly in the area of divorce. In 1982, Laury completed training as one of Houston's early family mediators. With her combination of a Master's degree in Financial Counseling and mediator training, Laury established [The Adams' Mediation & Financial Resource Center](#) and broke new ground for divorce mediation. With the evolution of the computer industry, she was the first person in the country to use computer technology in working with divorce clients. Subsequently she developed interactive software for clients to use in preparing for divorce, which has evolved into DivorceSavvySavesMoney.

In 1996, Laury formed a partnership with Lee Borden, an attorney in Birmingham, Alabama to make divorce more understandable, more efficient, and more effective. The results of this partnership were a web site that offers extensive free information on divorce at www.divorceinfo.com and DivorceSavvySavesMoney, the first interactive software to help divorcing parties to organize, customize and manage the required information for their divorce.

For 35 years Laury Adams has been a friend, collaborator, and mentor to many mediators across Texas. She is sincerely interested in helping others achieve success in this field she loves so much. Her kindness and generosity are immeasurable. It is for all these reasons and many more that the TAM Board selected Laury Adams to be the first recipient of our Spirit of TAM Award. We see Laury as the embodiment of everything good that TAM represents.



Laury holds a mediation brochure created back in the early 1980's when it was necessary to include the diacritic pronunciation and definition of the word MEDIATION to distinguish it from meditation.

