

International Mediation Development & Leadership Institute (IMDLI)

HOW TO DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT TOMORROW'S MEDIATION SYSTEMS

September 14-18, 2026

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA COLLEGE OF THE LAW, SAN FRANCISCO
333 GOLDEN GATE AVE., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

The [Center for Negotiation and Dispute Resolution](#) at the University of California College of the Law, San Francisco, in partnership with the JAMS Foundation, is proud to present the [International Mediation Development & Leadership Institute \(IMDLI\)](#). This premier training program featuring judges, lawyers, government officials, court administrators, World Bank researchers, and academics from around the world and equips participants with the knowledge to develop robust mediation systems and advocate for systemic reforms in their home jurisdictions.

Overview

This 5-day international training program is designed for senior leaders interested in learning how to cultivate a robust mediation ecosystem in their home country. Top-level U.S. and international experts drawn from court systems, private ADR institutions, and universities share best practices and lessons learned from decades of ADR reform experience—information that is rarely available to the public.

A unique, advanced offering, IMDLI focuses specifically on mediation reform—on how to improve the uptake of mediation in challenging environments through the establishment of public and private ADR centers, passage of legislation, and application of other top-down and bottom-up reforms. It is not a mediation skills training. The program reflects UC Law San Francisco's role as a global hub for innovation in negotiation and dispute resolution scholarship, policy, and education.



Drive reform in law & institutions

IMDLI's curriculum is unique: Unlike 40-hour skills trainings many take as they pursue a mediation career, the Institute equips experienced dispute resolution leaders with the knowledge and tools to create mediation systems and drive legal change in their home jurisdictions. Topics explored include:

- How to design and operate mediation centers (public/court annexed and private)
- How to build capacity and ensure that such centers are sustainable into the future
- How to draft mediation legislation and rules
- The advantages and disadvantages of voluntary, mandatory, and judicial referral models
- How to convince mediation skeptics and secure their buy-in
- The social, political, economic, and legal ingredients and interventions necessary for a mediation center to thrive and for an ADR ecosystem or culture to take root
- What empirical research on ADR tells us about the who, what, where, when, and how of mediation, including what works and what does not

In addition to presentations from prominent academics and mediation system experts, the Institute provides participants an opportunity to workshop questions from their own unique context, providing tailored advice to take home and implement.

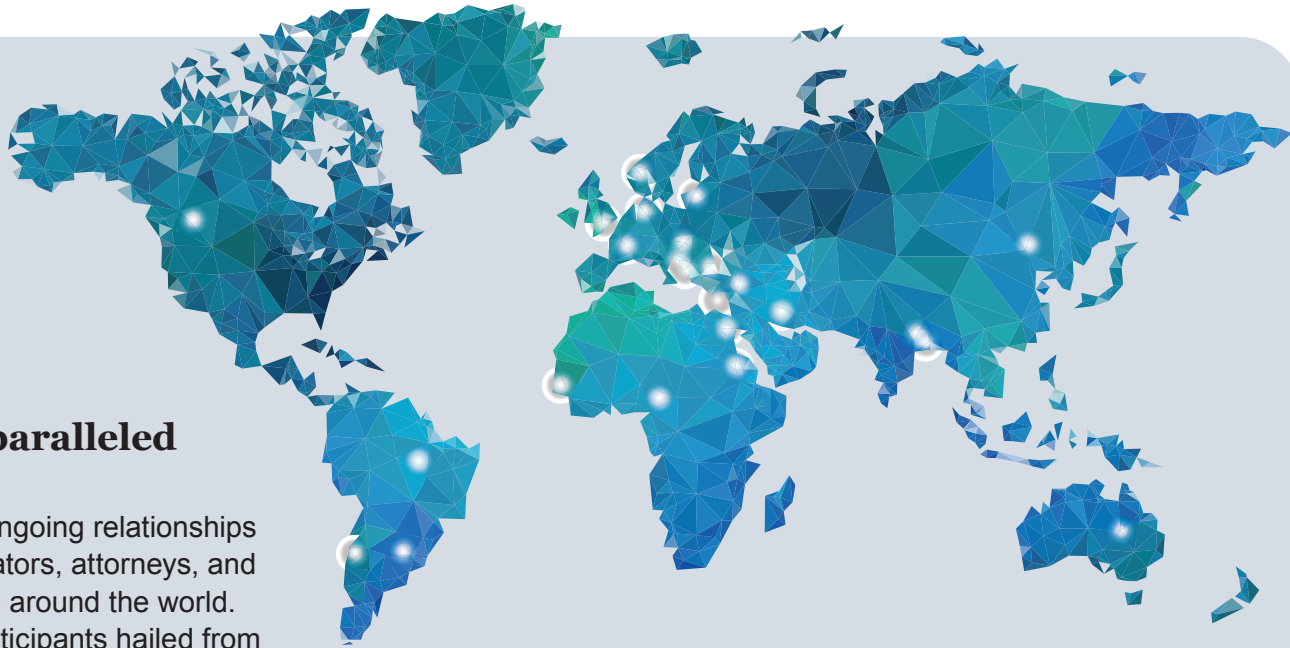


Constantin-Adi Gavrilă,
Senior Mediation Expert at the
ADR Center in Rome, dubbed the
Institute *"the most significant
effort to recognize and promote
ADR policies."*

Connect with leading institutions

IMDLI participants learn from and connect with a range of leading U.S. and international mediation programs and policy bodies.

- Court and institutional administrators based in California, New York, Maryland, the District of Columbia, Italy, and Singapore present best practices and model procedures.
- World Bank researchers offer an Inside glimpse into World Bank's Business Ready country ranking of ADR systems.
- Roundtables and conversations with judges and mediators at the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit provide insight into court-annexed models that assist cases throughout their lifecycles.



Build an unparalleled network

IMDLI facilitates ongoing relationships with leading mediators, attorneys, and policymakers from around the world. In 2025 alone, participants hailed from countries including Brazil, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Ethiopia, Fiji, the Republic of Georgia, Kenya, Pakistan, Romania, Thailand, the Ukraine, and the United Arab Emirates. They included the former Chief Justice of the Rwandan Supreme Court, a former judge of the Zambian Constitutional Court, and counsel at the Legal Affairs Department of the Government of Dubai responsible for spearheading a new mediation center in the emirate. Participants have highlighted the global relationships they built with their colleagues as one of the key advantages they gain from the training. Institute alumni regularly return to San Francisco for additional training opportunities and share updates through the broader IMDLI online network.



Dr. Nudrat E. Piracha,
a Senior Weinstein JAMS International Fellow from Pakistan, summed up participants' reactions to the 2025 program concisely: *"[IMDLI] is a must-have for policymakers, reformers, judges, and champions working towards reforming legal systems."*

What participants are saying:

- *"The training was beyond my expectations, excellent organization, with thoughtful and thought-provoking sessions."* —Judge Zainab Alami, The Gambia
- *"Excellent opportunity to meet and exchange with highest level professionals!"* —Giorgi Tsertsvadze, Georgia
- *"Excellent course structure and organization with world-class speakers!"* —Albertus Primadi, Indonesia
- *"It addressed current practical problems and offered new insights for me to [try]."*—Justice Sam Rugege, Rwanda

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Registration: Attendance is limited to approximately 20 participants. To secure a place, please REGISTER and pay the applicable tuition fee, as set forth below:

REGISTRATION TYPE	TUITION	FEE DEADLINE
Standard Rate	\$2,000	September 7, 2026
Discounted Rate	\$1,749	August 7, 2026
Early-bird Rate	\$1,199	May 7, 2026

Cancellations on or before August 7, 2026, will receive a full refund minus an administrative fee of 7% of the tuition fee. No refunds will be given for cancellations after August 7; however, your tuition fee may be applied toward the price of a future year's training.

If you are in need of a visa letter, please fill out this form:
<https://forms.gle/eFgHDTfaFAzKTzmC>

CNDR will assist interested parties in securing visas to enter the U.S. Space is limited, so please contact Professor Hiro Aragaki, Faculty Director of CNDR (cndr@uclawsf.edu) as soon as possible if you would like to reserve a place or if you have any questions. Further details about the training will be noted and updated on the training website, so please be sure to check for updates.

[More Information on CNDR's Website](#)



"The implementation of the Multidoor Courthouse project at the Regional Court in Poznań—the first program of its kind in Poland—was made possible by the knowledge and practical tools I gained during training at the Center for Negotiation and Dispute Resolution. CNDR uniquely combines theory and practice, demonstrating how to design effective court-based ADR programs and an entire mediation ecosystem. This is an experience that truly transforms the way courts operate."

Judge Piotr Marciniak
President of the Regional Court in
Poznań (Poland)