THE HARVARD MEDIATION PROGRAM

HLS First Year (1L) Student Application – Fall 2017

The Harvard Mediation Program (HMP) is a student practice organization at the Harvard Law School that offers mediation services to the community at local courts and in other contexts through a facilitative, co-mediation model. HMP is an opportunity for first year law students to step out of the classroom and engage with the communities of the Greater Boston area. In addition to Harvard Law students, HMP is composed of staff as well as community members, including professionals and students from other universities. All new mediators will have the opportunity to mediate Small Claims court disputes, Harassment Prevention Order requests, or ad hoc cases.

INSTRUCTIONS & INTERVIEWS:

This is an application for a Harvard Law School first year (1L) law student to become a member of the Harvard Mediation Program. **Before proceeding to complete this application, every student is required to read the accompanying document “HMP Application FAQs” as part of the application process.**

No resume, cover letter, or references need be submitted with this application. **Applications must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 16, 2017 to the HMP Recruiting Directors, Pratik Mehta and Quent Fox. Please email pages 2-5 of this application form to hmprecruitingdirectors@gmail.com.** Early applications are appreciated. If you have trouble sending your application, or any questions or concerns, please contact Pratik or Quent.

In addition to completing this written application, each applicant will participate in a one-hour interviewing session. The one-hour interview, during which applicants co-mediate a mock dispute, will take place during the evening of Tuesday, September 19, 2017 or Wednesday, September 20, 2017 at 6:00 or 8:00 p.m.

You will receive your interview slot via email by the evening of Monday, September 18, 2017.

**TRAINING & MEDIATION REQUIREMENTS:**

In order to begin mediating this fall, you must attend the two weekend training program from 9:00 a.m. – 5:15 p.m. on September 23-24, 2017 and October 14-15, 2017. You must be present for all training hours.[[1]](#footnote-1) Upon completion of training, mediators are required to mediate every other week for two semesters. Semesters do not need to be consecutive.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

Saturday September 16, 2017: Applications due by 5:00 p.m.

**Tuesday September 19, 2017 and Wednesday September 20, 2017**: Interviews.

**Thursday, September 21, 2017**: Final decisions sent via e-mail.

**Saturday & Sunday, September 23-24, 2017:** Basic Training (Mandatory), 9:00 a.m. – 5:15 p.m.

**Saturday & Sunday, October 14-15, 2017:** Basic Training (Mandatory), 9:00 a.m. – 5:15 p.m.

Basic Applicant Information:

NAME:

EMAIL:

PHONE:

1L SECTION:

LOCAL ADDRESS:

Availability to Mediate:

The Harvard Mediation Program offers first year students the unique opportunity to mediate legal disputes that are brought by parties to the local courts. New HMP members are trained by experienced mediators and have opportunities to observe mediations in the courthouse before mediating disputes themselves. Because the 1L schedule may make it difficult for students to attend a small claims session, 1Ls are given preference for the Friday afternoon session which include opportunities to mediate during HMP’s Harassment Prevention Order (HPO) session.[[2]](#footnote-2) There may also be opportunities to participate in ad hoc mediation sessions. By joining HMP as a 1L you will have the opportunity to visit courthouses and actively participate in mediation sessions in your first semester of law school.

Deferral:

You may defer participating in Basic Training and beginning to mediate until spring semester. Alternatively, strong candidates may be offered a guaranteed spot in the spring training class if there is not sufficient space this fall. Spring semester basic training will take place on January 27-28, 2018 and February 10-11, 2018. Please indicate your interest in deferring below:

1. If accepted, I would like to defer until spring semester\_\_\_\_\_
2. I would be willing to accept a spot in the spring training class if not offered one in the fall\_\_\_\_\_
3. I am only interested in participating in basic training this fall\_\_\_\_\_

If you chose option 1, skip to page four. Otherwise, see the next page to rank your mediation day and time preferences.

NAME, SECTION (required):

Please rank all sessions to which you would like to be assigned. If you are not available to mediate during a particular time, please leave the field blank or write “N/A.” Do not be discouraged if your availability is limited. We consciously accommodate students eager to mediate.

You MUST rank at least one of the following:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Rank | Court | Day | Session Time | Transit Time from HLS |
|  | Quincy – Small claims | Tuesday | 1:30 p.m. | 50 min. (car); 50 min. (T) |
|  | Chelsea – Small claims | Wednesday | 9:00 a.m. | 30 min. (car); 60 min. (T) |
|  | Brookline – Small claims | Thursday | 9:00 a.m. | 30 min. (car); 1 hr. (T) |
|  | Cambridge – Small claims | Thursday | 8:45 a.m. | 30 min. (car); 60 min. (T/Bus). Note: Court is located in Medford |
|  | Malden – Small claims | Friday | 9:00 a.m. | 30 min. (car); 45 min. (T) |
|  | Roxbury – Small claims | Friday | 9:00 a.m. | 30 min. (car); 50 min. (Dudley Bus) |
|  | Quincy – Small claims | Friday | 9:00 a.m. | 50 min. (car); 50 min. (T) |
|  | Malden – HPOs | Friday | 2:00 p.m. | 30 min. (car); 45 min. (T) |

Additionally, HMP members may mediate ad hoc cases. These cases are tenant-tenant and animal control disputes, as well as other referrals. We will staff as cases arise. **If you are interested in mediating these types of disputes, please check the box under “Interest” below.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Interest** | Court | Day and Session Time | Transit Time from HLS |
|  | Other – Tenant-Tenant, Animal Control, and other disputes | Wed 9 a.m., Friday 9 a.m.,  and Friday 2 p.m. | Varies |

NAME, SECTION (required):

Questions for Applicant:

1. Why do you want to be a mediator? (150 words or less)
2. Have you had any mediation training or experience? If so, please describe the type of disputes and the approximate number of disputes you mediated. Note: No previous experience is necessary. (150 words or less)
3. Describe any relevant personal, professional, or community experience. (150 words or less)
4. An essential means of improving mediation skills is giving and receiving feedback. Please assess your strengths and weaknesses in this area. (150 words or less)

NAME, SECTION (required):

1. Please list any language(s) in addition to English that you speak fluently. Note: None required.
2. Do you have a car? Note: A car is not required to participate in the program.
3. How did you hear about HMP?
4. Rank your preferences for an interview time here. Leave blank any times that you are not available.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Tues.,  Sept. 19,  2017 | 6:00 p.m. \_\_\_ | 8:00 p.m. \_\_\_ |
| Wed., Sept. 20, 2017 | 6:00 p.m. \_\_\_ | 8:00 p.m. \_\_\_ |

1. Please read, consider, and sign the following:

I understand that if I am selected to participate in the Harvard Mediation Program and I choose to participate in the training, I will be committing to attend my designated mediation session at least every other week for two semesters.

Signature:

Date:

1. Please let us know if there is a particular reason why you would be unable to attend the weekend training program (ex. religious observation). We can work with the applicant to try to accommodate such conflicts. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Important note: Harassment Prevention Orders (HPOs) are civil restraining orders. The cases we mediate involve neighbors, family members, ex-boyfriends/girlfriends, and tenants. Cases are screened by a judge for appropriateness and are not domestic restraining orders (which are a different category of case). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)