

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND
ONE EXCHANGE TERRACE
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903**

**William E. Smith
Chief Judge**

April 11, 2017

Dear Federal Bar member,

I am writing to tell you about the next project of the Litigation Academy – our Mediation Skills Program, which will take place on May 2-5, 2017.

As you may know, the Litigation Academy is an innovative joint project of this federal court, the Roger Williams University School of Law, and the Rhode Island Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. With experienced lawyers and judges volunteering to serve as faculty, the Litigation Academy seeks to provide high-quality, low-cost training to help practicing lawyers who wish to improve their skills.

Our newest program will help lawyers hone their mediation skills with constructive critiques by judges and experienced trial lawyers. This hands-on training will be supplemented by informational lectures. A reception will also be held for all participants and faculty, to give participants a chance to mingle and network.

The faculty for this program includes:

Chief Judge William E. Smith
Judge John J. McConnell, Jr.
Magistrate Judge Lincoln Almond
Magistrate Judge Patricia Sullivan
Judge Ernest C. Torres
Melody Alger
John Barton
John Bulman
Christine Bush
Melissa Darigan
Loraine DelaPorta
Marc DeSisto
Brad Honoroff
Melissa Horne
J. Scott Kilpatrick
Bruce Kogan

Prof. Niki Kuckes
S. MacGillivray
Dennis McCarten
Neal McNamara
Brooks Magratten
Berry Mitchell
James T. Murphy
Stacey Nakasian
Matthew Oliverio
William Poore
J. Richard Ratcliffe
Steven Richard
Todd White
Christopher Whitney
David Wollin
David Zizik

8.0 hours of CLE credits will be available, including 1.5 ethics credits. The cost of the program is \$250 (including course materials). Registration is now open and will close on April 28, 2017.

To register, use this link: <http://events.eventzilla.net/e/litigation-academy-mediation-skills-program--may-25-2017-2138885037>

Some partial scholarships are available based on financial hardship from the Rhode Island Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. Lawyers who would like to apply for such a scholarship must first write to rratcliffe@rhbglaw.com with a brief description of the nature of your law practice and a request to be considered for a scholarship. If you are awarded a scholarship, you will be provided with a special code which should be used when you register for the program.

I hope you will consider participating in this program, or will encourage your associates to do so. If you have questions, feel free to contact one of the Program Co-Directors: Brooks R. Magratten, available by phone at (401) 490-3422 and by e-mail at bmagratten@PierceAtwood.com; or Professor Niki Kuckes, available by phone at (401) 254-4505 and by e-mail at nkuckes@rwu.edu.

Sincerely,



Chief Judge William E. Smith
United States District Court
District of Rhode Island