

Frank Evans Center For Dispute Resolution

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Editor in chief: Prianka Saini

Executive editor: Daizha Marks

Editor: Berenice Collazo



What is the Dispute Resolution Program?

The Frank Evans Center for Dispute Resolution serves as the hub for the Dispute Resolution Program at South Texas College of Law Houston, which prepares law students to become practice-ready advocates through client-centered conflict management, negotiation, mediation, and arbitration. This program bridges classroom theory with practical lawyering and offers comprehensive experiential training anchored by three core pillars.

The Three Program Pillars

1. Academic Curriculum

The program offers a dispute resolution curriculum consisting of specialized courses in negotiation, arbitration, collaborative law, and mediation theory. Students gain unique experiential learning opportunities by participating in real-world mediations of actual court disputes and providing neutral third-party mediation services through the Mediation Clinic. Students can also complete statutory requirements to earn a formal mediation certificate.

2. Interscholastic & Intramural Competitions

Administered in partnership with the Advocacy Program, the competition branch allows students to hone advanced negotiation, client counseling, and dispute resolution advocacy skills in regional, national, and international tournaments. Selected through an annual intramural tournament, traveling team members receive academic credit and intensive mentorship from dedicated faculty advisors and alumni coaches.

3. Dispute Resolution Executive Board

Driven by student leadership, the DR Executive Board fosters an active campus community by organizing educational workshops, networking events, and collaborative student initiatives. The Board expands student engagement across the law school through flagship traditions such as DR Day, practical skill bootcamps, and joint programs co-hosted with other campus organizations.

INTRAMURAL COMPETITION: ADVOCACY IN ACTION

Students aspiring to join the traveling teams must participate in annual tryouts, which are held each September. For the 2026–2027 academic year, the tryouts consisted of two 50-minute negotiation rounds, each focused on a different dispute.

All students are eligible to try out, except for first-semester 1Ls. The tryouts provide an opportunity to demonstrate practical skills in negotiation, client advocacy, and strategic problem-solving while competing for a place on the traveling teams.



Christian Peck on the right. Mehar Iqbal in the middle, and Ana Navas on the left proudly display the 2025 championship trophy they brought home from the ADR triathlon competition.

Student Spotlight

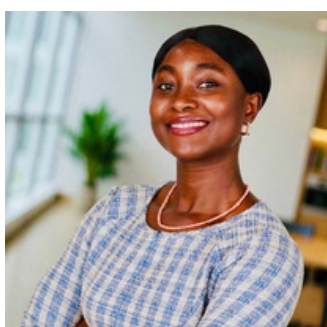


Crystal Zundel

2L. Full Time

What sparked your interest in dispute resolution?

"I think communication is so powerful and can be the key to solving any conflict."



Simbiat Sanni

1L. Part-time

Why did you become interested in dispute resolution?

"I became interested in dispute resolution because I enjoy understanding different perspectives and finding practical ways to resolve conflict. I am excited to strengthen my negotiation and advocacy skills as I continue developing as a future attorney."



George Oversby

2L. Full Time

Why do you want to get involved in dispute resolution?

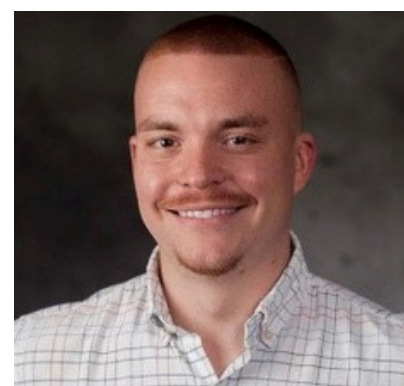
"I wanted to get involved in dispute resolution to participate in advocacy and also improve my negotiating skills!"

Faculty Spotlight: Leaders in Dispute Resolution



Debra Berman

Professor of Law and Director of
the Frank Evans Center for
Dispute Resolution



Johnathan Trimble

Program Administrator for the
Frank Evans Center for Dispute
Resolution

NEGOTIATING YOUR CALENDAR

OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2026



OCTOBER 16

Volleyball Social with First Gen
and Lawtina
Location: Wakefield Crowbar
5:00 to 7:30 PM

OCTOBER 21–22

Advanced Mediation &
Advocacy Skills Institute
Virtual • American Bar Association

OCTOBER 22

DR Day Activities:
Coffee and Breakfast
Tote Bag Decorating
Happy Hour

OCTOBER 24

Texas Mediator Credentialing
Association Annual Symposium
At the law school and live online
FREE FOR STUDENTS

NOVEMBER 21–22

AAA Diverse Student
ADR Summit
New York City
*Accepted applicants may receive
up to \$1,300 for travel and lodging.*