

Understanding Conflict: The Why Behind the What April 12, 2012 – TBA Bar Center

**Program Description**: This program will give attendee's insight into neuroscience and psychological concepts and their practical applications in dispute resolution. Through noted speakers and program materials, attendees will learn new ways of approaching dispute resolution. In addition to experienced mediators, join Chris Guthrie, Dean of Vanderbilt Law School, Drs. David McMillan and Murphy Thomas (clinical psychologists), and Dr. Gary Duncan, M. D. as they discuss their insights and lessons they have learned from the scientific literature and from hard earned experience.

**Program Producer(s):** Kenneth M. Jackson, *Attorney at Law* 

Stephen L. Shields, Jackson, Shields, Yeiser & Holt

Agenda Total Credit hours: 4.75 General, .75 dual

8:30-9:00 a.m. **Registration** 

9:00 – 9:30 a.m. The Psychology of Settlement

This program will introduce several psychological phenomena

that can facilitate, or undermine, settlement. Chris Guthrie, Dean of Vanderbilt Law School

9:30 – 10:00 a.m. **Psychological Theories & Conflict Resolution** 

This session will examine several psychological theories, such as Terror Management Theory, Cognitive Dissonance Theory, and Just World Theory, leading to an understanding of human responses to conflict in mediation sessions and offering

suggestions for mediation practitioners.

Kenneth M. Jackson Dr. Murphy Thomas

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. **Mindfulness & Conflict Resolution** 

Understanding the conflicts that people fight within their own heads; the emotions that fuel conflict; and the actions people take to express their feelings, articulate their perceptions and meet

their needs.

John Blankenship, Blankenship, Blankenship & Hagan, PLLC

10:30 – 10:45 a.m. **BREAK** 

10:45 – 11:15 a.m. Conflict Theories – Insights for the Mediator

Discussion of conflict theories that go beyond the adversary system's assumption that conflict involves a winner and a loser.

Stephen L. Shields, Jackson, Shields, Yeiser & Holt

Dr. Gary Duncan, M.D.

11:15 – 12:00 p.m. Ethical Issues of Dispute Resolution .75 Dual

Facilitated small group discussions of ethics hypotheticals in

employment and family law cases.

Stephen L. Shields, Jackson, Shields, Yeiser & Holt

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Lunch (on your own)

1:00 – 2:15 p.m. **Mediating from the Third Position** 

The Third Position is both a theory and a way to help resolve disputes. It is a tool attorneys can use in negotiations or in mediation. In simple terms it is a process that honors the values of the two protagonists and asks them to choose a third value to use

to filter their ideas and solutions.

Dr. David McMillan, PhD.

2:15 – 2:30 p.m. **BREAK** 

2:30 – 4:00 p.m. Mediating from the Third Position [cont. with Dr. McMillan]

4:00 - 5:00 p.m. Reception

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