The Judge Judith O. Hollinger Program in Alternative Dispute Resolution at the University of Southern California’s Gould School of Law is one of the nation’s longest-standing and most comprehensive offerings in arbitration and mediation. While leading in conflict resolution education world-wide, it is driven to create a positive impact in industry and community.

An essential element of our Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) program is the infusion of experience and dialogue around education into our curriculum, the empowering nexus between theory and practice. As we start 2019, our ADR students continue to amplify academic inquiry with real-life learning environments and events:

Expanding the Dialogue

**Open Online ADR Course / Jan. 20**
On January 20th, Professor Richard Peterson, Director of the Hollinger Program, gave a free online seminar on “The Importance of Negotiation and Dispute Resolution Skills in Today’s World.”

Attended by more than 50 students from around the world, Professor Peterson discussed how to understand conflict, including what causes it and gets in the way of resolving it, and then explained the processes, approaches, and styles used in negotiation that would be helpful in resolving a variety of conflicts. The class received thoughtful questions and engaged an online audience throughout the discussion.

**Politics, Conflict & Leadership / Feb. 23**
Professors Ken Cloke and Joan Goldsmith led a lively discussion on rethinking the nature of politics from an ADR perspective to distill lessons for attorneys and mediators.

Included among attendees were USC Gould’s ADR faculty, alumni and students. This event also offered a MCLE credit and networking opportunity for all.

**USC/JAMS Arbitration Institute Symposium / Mar. 13**
Join us to network with dispute resolution industry experts and earn MCLE credit at our 4th Annual USC Gould/JAMS Arbitration Symposium. Happening at USC Gould on March 13, the one-day event will cover “Best Practices in International Arbitration.”

Attendees will learn about international procedures, efficiencies and industry-specific insights from thought leaders in the field. JAMS, a State Bar of California-approved MCLE Provider, also certifies that this activity qualifies for Minimum Continuing Legal Education Credit in the amount of 6.0 total hours (no ethics).

**Register to attend and learn about the 2019 speakers, programming, transportation and more here**
Deepening the Education

**William Vis Pre-Moot Competition / Feb. 1-3**
USC Gould’s Vis Moot team returned from University of San Diego for the Michael Thorsnes International Arbitration Pre-Moot Competition.

Made up of 11 members, Gould’s team earned a spot as one of the 4 semi-finalists with one team member, Taryn McPherson, achieving an accumulated score of 95.55 and being named second best oralist in the competition.

Professor John Garman is the advisor and traveled with the team. The Vis team now looks forward to preparing for the Vis Moot Competition in Vienna, Austria.

Furthering Career Development

**Mediation Practice Workshop / Feb. 9**
For the second year in a row, the Hollinger Program provided our ADR students and alumni an all-day workshop on how to launch and grow a successful mediation practice.

Entitled "10 Steps to Building Your Mediation Practice," the workshop was led by Wendy Kramer, Distinguished Fellow of International Academy of Mediators, and featured speakers that included Sonia Patel Dalton, who moved from a management position at JAMS to spearheading development of a boutique ADR firm, and Steven Paul, who served as a panelist for Alternative Resolution Centers, LLC and then created his own thriving mediation practice.

Our alumni who had participated in the workshop last year were also invited to return to consult with Ms. Kramer on how they could further develop their individual practices.

**Meet Andrew Culberson**
Andrew Culberson is an ADR professional with over 10 years’ experience as a practitioner, trainer and administrator. As the new Assistant Director of Career Development at USC Gould, Andrew works with ADR students to launch and grow their careers.

Prior to joining USC Gould, Andrew served as Director of the Los Angeles County bar Association's Civic Mediation Project and Veterans Legal Services Project. Andrew previously owned a private mediation practice in the San Francisco Bay Area. He is a published researcher in the fields of psychology, neuroscience and genetics. He received his Bachelor of Science in Cognitive Science from the University of California, San Diego, and his Master of Arts in Conflict Resolution from Portland State University.

From the Director

**The Transformative Power of Alternative Dispute Resolution Education**
Richard Peterson, Director of the Judge Judith O. Hollinger Program in Alternative Dispute Resolution

Students and prospective students often hear me say that the study of alternative dispute resolution is transformative. This is why I believe so strongly this is true.
Benjamin Franklin once said "...in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes." He could just as well have added conflict to these certainties of life. Indeed, conflict is an inescapable part of the human experience, and like "death and taxes", something viewed as undesirable by most people. I often ask students to tell me what first comes to their mind when they think of the word, conflict. Responses frequently include terms like, war, hate, yelling, arguing, fighting, sadness, and destruction. Most of the time the descriptive words used are negative.

However, conflict in and of itself is inherently neither negative nor positive. How we react to conflict makes it one way or the other. One of the first lessons students learn when studying dispute resolution is conflict has the potential to provide individuals, organizations, and communities with opportunities for growth and progress.

In their book, Social Conflict: Escalation, Stalemate and Settlement, Pruitt and Rubin point out five potential benefits of conflict:

1. Conflict contributes to social change ensuring both interpersonal and intergroup dynamics remain fresh and reflective of current interests and realities;
2. Conflict serves to "discourage premature group decision making," forcing participants in the decision making process to explore the issues and interests at stake;
3. Conflict allows for the reconciliation of the parties’ concerns, which can lead to an agreement benefiting both parties’ needs, and often their relationship and organizations;
4. Conflict strengthens intragroup unity by providing an outlet for group members to discuss and negotiate their interests within the group. Without intragroup conflict, the health of the group typically declines;
5. Conflict between groups produces intragroup unity as the conflict provides the opportunity for increased intragroup cooperation while working towards the group’s common goal for the conflict’s outcome.

However, these, and many other potential benefits, are only realized when conflict is dealt with effectively. Indeed, when managed appropriately, conflict has the power to build self-esteem, create opportunity, and challenge people to grow. A primary aim of alternative dispute resolution education is to provide students with the knowledge and skills they need to facilitate the positive effects of conflict while minimizing its potential negative consequences in every context of their lives.

One of the most rewarding aspects of being involved in the USC Gould, Hollinger Program in Alternative Dispute Resolution, is seeing the significant transformation that occurs within students as they journey through the curriculum and apply what they have learned in the diverse environments of their individual lives.

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**WHY ADR at USC?**

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Curriculum based in real-life application

Scholarships that drive diversity & dedication

Established program launched through visionary alumni gift from Judge Judith O. Hollinger, Class of '61

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