

JENNIFER L. EGSGARD, LL.B.

Mediator | Toronto, Ontario

• www.egsgardmediation.com • LinkedIn: Jennifer Egsgard

Distinguished Fellow, International Academy of Mediators

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

A Toronto-based commercial mediator with 18 years of litigation experience, Jennifer brings deep subject-matter versatility, strong analytical skill, and a calm, solutions-oriented approach to resolving complex disputes. She mediates contract, commercial, shareholder, insurance, employment, condominium, IP, personal injury, product liability and other cases, including multi-party and high-emotion conflicts.

A Distinguished Fellow of the International Academy of Mediators (IAM), she completed advanced commercial mediation training with both the Harvard Negotiation Institute and the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR) in London, UK, and serves as a Canadian mediator on the CEDR International Mediator Panel.

She previously practiced civil litigation at Fasken where she served as Vice-Chair of the ADR Practice Group and later founded a litigation boutique. As a mediator she is described by counsel as having “tremendous skill with complicated parties,” a “high level of natural aptitude,” and an exceptional ability to “gain the trust of both sides.”

CALL TO THE BAR

Ontario (2002)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

EGSGARD MEDIATION – Toronto, Ontario

Founder & Mediator | March 2018 – present

- Provide in-person and virtual mediation services across commercial, contract, employment, insurance, intellectual property, condominium, shareholder, personal injury, product liability and other disputes.
- Draw on broad litigation experience to identify legal, business, industry, and interpersonal factors driving negotiation outcomes.

- Deliver training in mediation advocacy, active listening, multi-party mediation strategy, and negotiation preparation.
- Regularly invited to speak at professional organizations, including by the Ontario Bar Association, Canadian Corporate Council Association, Advocates' Society, International Academy of Mediators, Law Society of Ontario, Scottish Mediation, PDAC, UK Civil Justice Council, Toronto Lawyers Association, multinational legal departments, and over 35 Canadian law firms.
- Guest lecturer at Osgoode LLM; led mock mediations at Osgoode Hall Law School and Queen Mary University of London.
- Delivered mediator training for the Ontario Ministry of Government and Consumer Services.
- Quoted by the UK Government in its national announcement of the new automatic mediation scheme.

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION EXPERIENCE

SILLS EGSGARD LLP – Toronto, Ontario | Founding Partner (2012–2019)

FASKEN MARTINEAU DUMOULIN LLP – Toronto, Ontario | Associate; Vice-Chair, ADR Practice Group (2001–2007)

- Acted for plaintiffs and defendants in disputes involving negligence, product liability, contract, IP, wrongful dismissal, personal injury, misrepresentation, environmental liability, estates, procurement challenges, occupiers' liability, and cross-border matters.
- Provided specialized advice on foreign anti-corruption compliance and corporate social responsibility; speaker at ABA, CCCA, and OBA.

OTHER LITIGATION EXPERIENCE

REFUGEE LAW OFFICE (Legal Aid Ontario) – Toronto, Ontario | Staff Lawyer (2008–2012)

- Represented clients in hundreds of hearings before the Immigration and Refugee Board.
- Argued numerous judicial reviews before the Federal Court of Canada.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

- CEDR Mediation Skills Training, London, UK, 2021
- Harvard Negotiation Institute – Mediating Disputes, Boston, MA, 2017
- LL.B., University of Ottawa (Exchange: George Washington University Law School)

- Honours B.A., History & International Development, University of Guelph (Semester abroad in Jaipur, India)

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP & ACTIVITIES

- Distinguished Fellow, International Academy of Mediators
- Canadian Mediator, CEDR International Mediator Panel
- Practice Group Leader, Advocates' Society Arbitration & Mediation Advocacy Group (2023–2026)
- Executive Member, OBA ADR Section (2018–2023, 2025-6)
- Chair, IAM Scholar in Residence Program (2024 on)
- Chair, OBA Working Group on Mandatory Mediation (2018–2023)
- Co-Chair, OBA Working Group on Neutral Diversity (2020–2022)
- Member, IAM Professional Development Committee
- Vice-President (Ontario), International Commission of Jurists (Canada) (2016–2019)
- Transparency International Canada Legal Committee (2012–2019)

SELECT SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS & PUBLICATIONS

- “Introduction to Mediation and Active Listening”, Guest Lecturer at Osgoode Law School ADR Master of Laws
- “Mediation Strategies”, program co-chair, Advocates' Society, April 9, 2025
- “Challenging Court Backlogs Post-COVID”, Panelist, Canadian Bar Association, May 16, 2024
- “Building a Successful ADR Practice”, Panelist, Ontario Bar Association, May 13, 2024
- “In-House Counsel Perspectives on Mediation”, Co-Chair, Advocates' Society CPD, April 17, 2024
- “Preparing for and Advocating at Mediation: A Mediator's Perspective for Lawyers”, LSO-accredited CPD, Toronto Lawyers Association, February 17, 2024; have also given this CPD to more than 35 Canadian law firms virtually and in-person between 2022 - present
- “How to be Effective as Counsel at Mediation”, Panelist at Law Society of Ontario CPD, January 18, 2024

- "Preparing for Success in Arbitration and Mediation", Panelist, June 13, 2023, Canadian Bar Association Panel Discussion
- "Preparing Parties for a Successful Joint Session", facilitator for session in international virtual conference, "Mechanics of Mediation: Preparation Creates Success", hosted by International Academy of Mediators, Winkler Institute, Osgoode Professional Development · May 11, 2023
- "Neutral Diversity in Ontario: A Roundtable Discussion", panel co-chair, Ontario Bar Association Webcast, December 14, 2022
- "Experience of Mandatory Mediation", panelist at UK Civil Mediation Council Conference 2022, "Learning from the Past and Looking to the Future", 16 November 2022
- "Resolving Environmental, Social and Governmental Disputes – A Roundtable led by Dr. Karl Mackie", international webinar hosted by CEDR in London, UK, October 11, 2022
- "The Future of Private International Law in Asia", participant in virtual panel hosted by Asian Principles of Private International Law in which addressed mediation of business and human rights disputes, March 22, 2022.
- Presentation to and discussion with UK Ministry of Justice at Whitehall, in London, UK on Ontario's Mandatory Mediation Program, March 4, 2022
- "Remedy Mechanisms Workshop", webinar for CIM Environmental & Social Responsibility Society discussing mediation in context of mining disputes, January 25, 2022
- "Active Listening: A Key Tool in Legal Work", webinar for Johnson and Johnson Global Legal Team, June 8, 2021
- Lecture and mock mediation, School of Law, Centre for Commercial Law Studies, Queen Mary University of London, London, United Kingdom, March 28, 2021
- "Should be Mediation be Mandatory?", UK New Law Journal March 19, 2021
- "ADR Clauses and Employment Contracts: Impact of Uber v. Heller", Program Co-Chair of Ontario Bar Association Dispute Resolution Panel, virtual presentation, August 27, 2020
- "Corona Conflict Resolution", UK New Law Journal, June 17, 2020
- "History of Mandatory Mediation in Ontario," speaker before UK Civil Justice Council, Judicial ADR Liaison Committee, London, UK, April 27, 2020
- "ADR Clauses and Employment Contracts: How to Avoid Costly Litigation," Program Chair, OBA, Toronto, June 13, 2019.

- “What is the next level for business and government in promoting responsible enterprise? The role of the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (CORE)”, Prospector’s and Developers Association Canada Conference, March 3, 2019, Panel organized by the International Commission of Jurists (Canada)
- "Common Pitfalls in Real Estate Transactions: A Mediator’s Perspective", OBA Institute Program, Real Property Section, Toronto, February 7, 2019
- “How Confidential is Your Mediation Anyway?”, *Advocates’ Journal*, Winter 2018 Issue
- “Business and Government Promoting Responsible Enterprise: The Rise of the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise”, May 30, 2018, Panellist discussing dispute resolution in the natural resource and international business context, University of Ottawa and the International Commission of Jurists, Ottawa.
- “Valuable Strategies for Mediating Multi-Party Disputes”, Ontario Bar Association, Toronto, October 30, 2018

SELECT TESTIMONIALS

- “Tremendous skills dealing with complicated parties and situations... high level of skill and natural aptitude.” — Toronto Litigator
- “Exceptionally difficult job that day — you handled it really well.” — Senior Labour & Employment Litigator
- “Client was very happy, and happy with your process.” — Bay Street Litigator
- “Engaged, efficient, prepared.” — Toronto litigator
- “Uniquely empathetic, sharp and calm.” — Professor Errol Mendes
- “Top-notch legal mind... tactful, composed, resourceful problem-solver.” — Dr. H. Scott Fairley