

Paula Emery

Attorney and Mediator

-----Professional Summary-----

With over twenty-five years of experience as a lawyer, mediator, nonprofit leader, and business professional, Paula honed her influence, public speaking, and organizational skills through 8 years of service at Microsoft, where she owned the business strategy, plans, change management, and financial results for \$1B+ annual revenue business lines. She then took this experience and energy and returned to private practice focused on increasing access to justice and advancing alternative dispute resolution.

-----Employment-----

Adjunct Professor, 12/2022 to Present

Seattle University School of Law – Seattle, Washington

Attorney and Mediator, 01/2018 to Present

[Emery Law and Mediation Services](#) – Seattle, Washington

WSBA Number 53128

- Civil and Probate Mediation Services
- Nonprofit and small business concerns
- Public policy facilitation

Strategic Business Leader, 06/2008 to 06/2016

Microsoft Corporation – Redmond, Washington

- Managed \$1m marketing budget and associated P&L to develop and execute strategies, budgets, and sales plans for cloud services.
- Cultivated trust between Microsoft and customers by delivering executive briefings, technical seminars, and on-site client visits.

Customer and Partner Relationships Manager, 10/2005 to 06/2008

Tatum, LLC (now a Randstad company) – Austin, Texas

Attorney and Mediator, 11/1996 to 10/2005

Sole Practitioner – Austin, Texas

- Capital crimes appeals and habeas corpus litigation (achieving a commutation to life without parole for an intellectually disabled client)
- Civil and family law mediation
- Family law, including divorces, child custody, termination of parental rights and adoption
- Civil litigation, including creditors rights, debtor issues, employment concerns, and related financial issues; and
- Civil appeals.

-----ADR and Nonprofit Leadership-----

Washington State Bar Association; Dispute Resolution Section – Washington State

- Vice-Chair, September 2023 to present; At Large Executive Committee member, September 2022 to September 2023
- Served as section liaison to WSBA [ETHOS Bar Structure Study](#)

King County Bar Association Dispute Resolution Section – Seattle, Washington

Chair, 6/2020 – present; Vice Chair, 06/2019 – 05/2020

- Led the strategy, programming, and facilitation of monthly section meetings, sponsorships, and membership development
- Served on KCBA Strategic Planning Committee

Dispute Resolution Center of King County – Seattle and Kent, Washington

Board President, 10/2022 – 08/2023; Board President-Elect/Vice-President, 03/2020 – 10/2022

- Small Claims Court Volunteer Mediator, 09/18 – 04/20

Giddens School – Seattle, Washington

Executive Committee, 06/2018 – 06/2021

- Led Governance Committee and served as Secretary for 20-member Board of Trustees of independent preschool through 5th grade elementary school, representing a community of 250 students and their families
- Supported Head of School and leadership team in managing and administering \$4.5m annual budget
- Strategic Planning, orchestration and fundraising for \$32M capital project, in partnership with Lake Washington Girls Middle School

Magnolia Cooperative Preschool – Seattle, Washington

General Chair, 05/2015 to 06/2018

- Led Executive Committee and 20-member Board running nonprofit cooperative preschool with more than 200 families
- Managed \$500,000 annual budget
- Completed capital campaign to raise funds and complete 25 years of deferred maintenance of interior and exterior facilities.

-----Education-----

Juris Doctor, 1996

Washington and Lee University School of Law - Lexington, Virginia

Bachelor of Science: Political Science, Communications, 1990

University of Nebraska at Omaha - Omaha, Nebraska, magna cum laude

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----- Publications and Presentations-----

Managing the Machine: Practical Ethics for AI-Assisted Mediation & Arbitration, with Jeanne Marie Clavere, [Northwest Dispute Resolution Conference](#), Seattle, Washington, April 22, 2024

ERPP: Washington State's Pre-Filing Dispute Resolution Program: A Crisis Response to Chronic Housing Instability, with Laurie Sale and Lauren Novack, American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution Spring Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada, May 10, 2023

Dispute Resolution, Residential Evictions, [The Seminar Group](#), with Marilyn Littlejohn, Dispute Resolution Center of King County, November 18, 2022

[The Just Cause Ordinance and an Introduction to RCW 59.18.660: Washington's New Eviction Resolution Pilot Program](#), with Kaitlyn Jackson, Dimension Law, January 5, 2022

[Emerging Issues in Court-Adjacent ADR: Washington's New Eviction Resolution Pilot Program](#), King County Bar Association Continuing Legal Education program, December 9, 2021

[Emergent Issues in Landlord Tenant Law](#), Washington State Bar Association Continuing Legal Education program, with Kaitlyn Jackson, Dimension Law Group; Eric Steven, Steven Law Office; Rani Sampson, Overcast Law Offices, November 10, 2021

[Exploring Small Claims Court Pre-trial Mediation in King County District Court](#), with Judge Anne Harper, King County District Court; Gaye Bammert, King County Dispute Resolution Center; and Win Todd, King County Dispute Resolution Center, September 12, 2019

[Depolarizing Within - Meeting our Ethical Responsibilities within the Current Political Climate](#), with Will Clemmer and Lorraine Howell, Better Angels; and Sophie Morse, Kitsap County Dispute Resolution Center, December 12, 2019

[Women's World Cup Soccer Pay Case Focuses Attention on Sports Mediation](#), King County Bar Bulletin, August 1, 2019

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April 3, 2024

WSBA Section Leadership – Statement of Interest


Hello, and thank you for your consideration. I'm interested in expanding my service to WSBA sections beyond my current vice-chair and Northwest Dispute Resolution Conference planning committee roles for the Dispute Resolution (DR) Section, by serving as Chair of the DR Section and joining the leadership teams for the Environmental and Land Use Law and Administrative Law Sections.

My core interests in serving across these Sections are: 1) to help expand each Section's service to our members by helping produce CLE and miniCLE events; 2) glean and share knowledge of legislative activities and opportunities relevant to myriad members; and 3) further cross-pollinate the existing deep subject matter expertise among these substantive law sections with one another, and incorporating recent advances in conflict resolution practices to support the professional development of the sections members as they participate in mediation, arbitration, negotiations and client counseling; and 4) gaining greater geographic awareness working with members across the state.

In addition to serving private clients as an attorney and mediator, I currently teach the Mediation Skills experiential course at Seattle University School of Law and am working with the law school's administration and the ADR board to help broaden and deepen the educational and mentorship opportunities to support students in their journey toward becoming effective licensed attorneys in Washington.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my interest, and for all each of these Sections does to support the ongoing growth and professional development of legal practitioners in Washington State, through WSBA as well as in your myriad personal and professional roles.

Kindly,



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<https://www.elms.law>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/paulaemery/>