**Caroline M. Petrilla**

Caroline Marie Petrilla J.D., M.A. is a professional mediator with 30 years’ experience in the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and social justice arenas.

As former Assistant Director and Senior Mediator with New Jersey's past state mediation office, she developed and administered ADR programs and mediated a wide spectrum of cases including complex, multi-party litigation involving the public interest. After launching her own mediation office in 2012, she continued providing quality mediation services with a focus on employment matters including pre-litigation interventions. Her overall consensus-building work in some very contentious areas of infrastructure and health care not only saved NJ taxpayers money but also successfully resolved critical safety concerns.

Caroline’s more recent work with Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. (YAP) promotes policies and programs, including mediation and restorative practices, for US and international system-involved youth and families. She also mediates internal employee disputes in the nonprofit organization with which she is currently associated and continues her long-time involvement as a contract mediator with New Jersey’s Agricultural Mediation Program - which she helped developed.

A veteran (21 years) Rutgers University adjunct professor, she enjoys teaching undergraduate and law students conflict management, mediation and leadership skills. She serves on two New Jersey judicial restorative-oriented Juvenile Conference Committees and had the honor of participating in several cycles on the NJ Supreme Court Committee on Complementary Dispute Resolution. A quiet member of the ABA and NJSBA Sections on Dispute Resolution and the Justice Marie L. Garibaldi American Inn of Court for ADR, she is also a humble recipient of the NJ Bar Association James Boskey ADR Practitioner of the Year Award, and New Jersey Legislative Resolution recognition for encouraging, developing, promoting, and strengthening respect for human rights and cultural diversity. An ongoing mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ocean County for 15 years, she was awarded their "Big Sister of the Year" award in 2013 and her “little” (who stands over 7 inches taller than her “big”) was recognized in 2020 for her participation with Caroline in international youth forums.

Caroline has authored various papers on youth-focused restorative practices including an article published by the European Forum for Restorative Justice. (See <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5553-0787>) A paper on the central role of mediation in Latin American Street Soccer methodology as a positive youth development tool is currently pending review. Her presentations include a 2017 workshop in Cape Town, South Africa on the value of restorative justice in promoting resilience in high-risk youth populations.

Caroline earned her B.A. at Mount Saint Mary’s University, Maryland; M.A. at Rider University, New Jersey; JD from Rutgers Law School, Camden, New Jersey.