

Lisa W. Timmons

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As executive director of the Mediation Tribunal Association and the Alternative Dispute Resolution Clerk of Wayne County Circuit Court, Timmons mediates Equal Employment Opportunity disputes for the U.S. Postal Service, discovery motions for Oakland County Circuit Court and pro se prison cases for the U.S. District Court. She is an adjunct professor at her alma mater, and sits on the board of directors of the Detroit Bar Association and the council of the ADR Section of the State Bar.

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Growing up:

I grew up in Detroit, attended Cass Technical High School and loved everything about the city. I am glad to be able to work in the heart of downtown Detroit and the rebirth of the city has been fantastic to watch.

Non-family mentor’s impact:

Two women positively influenced me: Judge Cynthia D. Stephens and Judge Kathleen Macdonald. Knowing both of these women has strongly influenced and impacted me to be the lawyer, community servant and mentor I am today.

First job:

House Page with the Michigan State

House of Representatives when I was an undergrad at Michigan State University. I was appointed by then-Rep. Burton Leland. I learned so much about government, policymaking and networking.

Humbling experience:

Having my grandmother being able to attend my graduation and swearing-in ceremony. She was 90 years old at the time and she sacrificed so much to make sure her children and grandchildren had the support they needed to go to college and graduate school.

Biggest career challenge:

The pandemic. I had never heard of Zoom and had never been on a video-conference. The process of learning about a VPN, videoconferencing and remote work arrangements — all while trying to secure PPE for the office and keep myself and my family safe — was a huge commitment.

Blue-sky goal:

Walk in the shoes of local attorneys Harold Pope, Reginald Turner and Dennis Archer and have a leadership role with the American Bar Association.

If I knew then:

I went to law school as a second career while in my 40s, so I was a different person than if I had attended



straight after undergrad. I went four years straight, part-time in the evenings while working full-time during the day. Honestly, I was afraid that if I took a summer off I would quit, so I just kept going!

Best tip for balance:

I have a picture of my son on my desk with the caption “remember your why” underneath. I want my son and people that I mentor to know that dreams can come true through hard work and persistence.

I might have been:

I was a disability rights advocate before.

Guilty pleasure:

My Peloton bike. I’m coming up on my “century ride” (100th ride).

Favorite getaway:

Zoetry Spa in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

A month off:

Be on the beach and write a blog or book.

