Dianne A. Van Voorhees

Mediator & Collaborative Divorce Practitioner | Attorney | Restorative Justice Facilitator

Mediation4Colorado.com

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Compassionate mediator and attorney with 25+ years of legal experience, including service as a municipal court judge and nearly a decade directing a nonprofit legal services organization. Dedicated to helping families, couples, and individuals across Colorado resolve disputes through accessible, relationship-centered Alternative Dispute Resolution. Practice grounded in deep legal knowledge, emotional intelligence, and a trauma-informed approach — guiding clients toward lasting, mutually satisfying solutions outside the courtroom.

MEDIATION & ADR SERVICES

Full spectrum of ADR services available remotely via Zoom or Webex throughout Colorado:

- Divorce & Family Mediation — parenting plans, custody, property division, spousal support
- Collaborative Divorce — structured, attorney-supported cooperative negotiation
- Civil & Community Dispute Resolution
- Restorative Justice Facilitation — certified facilitator serving the Restorative Denver Program
- Neutral Assessment, Arbitration & Conciliation
- Co-parent Coaching & Communication Facilitation
- Estate & Sibling Dispute Mediation

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Owner / Mediator

Harmony Path Mediation | Westminster, CO (Serving all of Colorado) 2024 – Present

- Founded and operate a mediation practice dedicated to peaceful, cost-effective conflict resolution for families, couples, and individuals — all sessions conducted remotely via Zoom or Webex
- Facilitate divorce, custody, parenting plan, and civil dispute mediations using facilitative and trauma-informed techniques
- Facilitate dialogue as a certified Restorative Justice Facilitator with the Restorative Denver Program
- Apply collaborative law training to support structured, agreement-driven outcomes
- Offer free 15-minute consultations to help clients identify the right ADR pathway

Owner & Attorney

Family Law Harmony, P.C. | Westminster, CO 2019 – Present

- Own and operate a domestic relations law firm focused on non-litigation representation across divorce, custody, adoption, foster parenting, grandparents' rights, and related matters
- Provide legal advice, counsel, and strategic guidance tailored to each client's family law needs
- Negotiate settlements and agreements on behalf of clients to protect their interests and minimize conflict
- Draft and review legal documents including agreements, contracts, pleadings, and correspondence
- Represent clients in collaborative and non-adversarial proceedings, mediations, and negotiations
- Counsel clients on estate planning matters: wills, trusts, powers of attorney, and healthcare directives

Relief Judge

Arvada Municipal Court | Arvada, CO 2015 – 2017

- Presided over traffic infractions, criminal citations, municipal code violations, and parking matters for the City of Arvada
- Developed judicial perspective that directly informs current mediation practice — understanding the full arc from conflict to courtroom

Associate Attorney

The Harris Law Firm, P.C. | Denver, CO 2017

- Domestic relations litigation practice focusing on divorce, custody, post-decree matters, and client advocacy

Associate Attorney

The Burnham Law Firm, P.C. | Denver, CO 2018

- Domestic relations litigation practice focusing on high-conflict divorce, custody, and complex asset division

Associate Attorney

Law Office of Teddy Ann Barry | Denver, CO 2019

- Domestic relations litigation practice with emphasis on divorce, parenting disputes, and negotiated settlements

Executive Director

Metro Volunteer Lawyers | Denver, CO 2007 – 2016

- Led and managed one of Colorado's primary access-to-justice organizations — a pro bono legal referral agency serving approximately 2,500 low-income individuals annually across seven counties
- Founded and established the MVL Legal Clinic at the Denver Indian Center, expanding culturally responsive legal services to the Urban Indian community
- Recruited, trained, and coordinated volunteer attorneys; built lasting partnerships with bar associations, courts, and community nonprofits
- Secured and managed grants; oversaw organizational budgeting and long-range strategic planning
- Produced CLE presentations, online tutorials, and public outreach campaigns to grow attorney volunteer participation statewide

Associate Attorney

Smith & Jolly, LLC | Denver, CO 2006 – 2007

- Advised tribal governments on codes, regulations, and contracts; rendered legal opinions and appeared in tribal, state, and federal court
- Developed expertise in child welfare and the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)
- Represented individuals in domestic relations, personal injury, juvenile defense, and landlord/tenant matters

Associate Attorney

Riggs, Abney, Neal, Turpin, Orbison & Lewis, P.C. | Denver, CO 2003 – 2006

- Managed a high-volume consumer bankruptcy, family law, and civil litigation caseload as the firm's primary bankruptcy attorney
- Supervised staff and mentored junior attorneys
- Consulted clients on diverse matters including water rights, estate planning, criminal defense, landlord/tenant, and consumer debt

Staff Attorney

North American Indian Legal Services, Inc. (NAILS) | Denver, CO 2001 – 2003

- Served as Staff Attorney for the American Indian Juvenile Justice and Advocacy Project (AIJJAP), a nonprofit dedicated to indigent American Indian youth
- Represented juvenile clients as defense counsel and guardian ad litem in truancy and dependency/neglect cases involving the ICWA
- Directed community outreach initiatives to connect clients with culturally appropriate services and resources

Contract Attorney / Solo Practitioner

Various Firms & Independent Practice | Denver, CO 2001 – 2002

- Immigration defense at the Law Office of Arturo Jimenez — high-volume, multilingual practice with clients from around the world
- Litigation preparation for personal injury, medical malpractice, and federal criminal defense at the Law Office of Jonathan Miller
- Animal law contract work at the Animal Law Center under Gretchen Biggs; independent family, juvenile, and landlord/tenant representation

Law Clerk / Associate Attorney

Greene, Meyer & McElroy, P.C. | Boulder, CO 1998 – 2001

- Practiced Federal Indian Law, water law, and general appellate matters

NONPROFIT & CIVIC LEADERSHIP

Trustee

Fort Lewis College Board of Trustees | Colorado 2017 – 2020

- Appointed by Governor John Hickenlooper; served on the governing board of alma mater, which serves a high proportion of rural and Native American students

President

Access to Justice Resource Group | Colorado 2016 – Present

- Directs ongoing efforts to expand access to legal services for underserved Coloradans

Councilmember & Former Chair

Colorado Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Council (JJDPC) | Colorado 2004 – 2013

- Appointed by Governor Bill Owens; elevated to Chair by Governor Ritter (2007–2011); reappointed by Governor Hickenlooper through 2013
- Advocated for children in the juvenile legal system, monitored conditions of juvenile facilities, and coordinated resources to support youth

Member

Colorado Supreme Court Lawyer Well-Being Task Force | Colorado 2018

- Participated in a statewide initiative to address attorney mental health, burnout, and professional wellness

CREDENTIALS & CERTIFICATIONS

- Attorney in Good Standing — State of Colorado Bar (Registration No. 32753)
- 40-Hour Mediation Training — Mares-Dixon & Associates (2021)
- Collaborative Law Training — Colorado Collaborative Divorce Professionals (2018)
- Restorative Justice Facilitator Certification — The Conflict Center

- Colorado Commissioned Notary Public — traditional & remote online notarization (2023–2027)
- Graduate, Colorado Bar Association Leadership Training (COBALT) Program, Class of 2011

EDUCATION

Juris Doctor
University of Colorado School of Law | Boulder, CO

B.A., Political Science | Minor: French
Fort Lewis College | Durango, CO

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Boulder County Bar Association
- Colorado Bar Association
- Mediation Association of Colorado
- Mindfulness in Law Society
- Association of Family and Conciliation Courts
- Colorado Women Owned Law Firms

HONORS & RECOGNITION

- Denver Mayor's Diversity Award — Denver American Indian Commission (2015): established a legal clinic for Urban Indians in the Denver Metro Area
- Local Community Impact Award — Denver Indian Center, Inc. (2015): created a volunteer legal clinic for the community
- Citizen of the Year — Adams Broomfield Bar Association (2012): recognized with the 17th Judicial District ATJ for creating courthouse self-help resources

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA

- The Anatomy of a Gray Divorce — Law Week Colorado (July 2017)
- How to Navigate Through Family Law — The Father Show (November 2016)
- Role Model Interview: Why Should a Girl Want to Be an Attorney or a Judge? — Career Girls® (2016)
- Evictions in Colorado (updated January 2022) — avvo.com
- What Purpose Does Colorado Common Law Marriage Serve? (AVVO Staff Pick, 2022) — avvo.com

VOLUNTEER SERVICE

- Mother Gaia Animal Rescue — foster, train, and support animals in need of homes
- Boulder County Bar Association — volunteer attorney for the Virtual Legal Clinic
- Restorative Denver Program — volunteer Restorative Justice Facilitator

SKILLS & LANGUAGES

ADR: Mediation, Collaborative Law, Restorative Justice, Arbitration, Conciliation, Neutral Assessment
Legal: Family Law, Civil Litigation, Bankruptcy, Landlord/Tenant, Legal Drafting, Contract Negotiation
Leadership: Nonprofit Management, Grant Writing, Strategic Planning, CLE Presenting, Community Outreach
Languages: English (native), Spanish (intermediate), French (intermediate)