

Miriam Ziegler: Statement in Support of Nomination to the Board of Directors of the Mediation Standards Board Ltd



I am a solicitor, Harvard trained mediator and Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner. I started my legal career at Minter Ellison as a graduate lawyer and then transitioned to mediation in 2006 after being selected as one of only four community positions to train in mediation at Harvard Law School. Following completion of this course, as well as the Harvard Program in Negotiation, I practiced as a Harvard mediator in District Courts throughout Boston.

I returned to Sydney in 2007 where I have continued my mediation work since. I have been fortunate to practice in a variety of settings including private practice and community organisations. I have also contributed to several different academic and training programs. I am the co-founder and a director of the Resolution Space, a private practice committed to helping people resolve their disputes outside of court at affordable rates. In addition to my private practice, I am a panel mediator for the Family Law Settlement Service, Community Justice Centre NSW, Legal Aid NSW FDR Early Intervention Panel and CALD FDR Panel.

More recently I have been teaching the next generation of solicitors and mediators as a Law Lecturer and negotiation and mediation trainer at Western Sydney University, University of New South Wales, the College of Law and Relationships Australia. I designed and continue to teach the Negotiation and Dispute Resolution Workshop in Practical Legal Training Program at the University of New South Wales.

My segue into mediation, stemmed directly related from my work as a solicitor and I am acutely aware of the many benefits mediations can bring. I am also aware of the discrepancy in the professional standards required of mediators and solicitors. I believe it is critically important to continue to build on the important work already done by the MSB to continue to develop mediator standards and to improve the public's confidence in these standards. With the growth of Mediation, and its integration in the Australian legal system, I believe this is more important than ever.

My work as both a practitioner and an educator has reinforced to me the enormous potential for growth in ADR and strengthened my commitment to the field. I am in contact daily with people that either want to train in, or engage in, mediation. This motivates me to play an active role in building a strong and vibrant ADR community and strengthening our profession. I have always had a broad interest in public policy stemming from my work early in my career as a research assistant in NSW Parliament. This experience reinforced to me the importance of active involvement and participation to improve systems.

I am fully committed to using all my practical and theoretical experience to improving professional standards for mediators. I have a special interest in mediation ethics, diversity and inclusion and improving outreach to member communities.

I am a team player and if elected, hope to make a positive and worthwhile contribution to the Board. I will work hard to advance the interests of RMAB's, mediators and consumers of mediation services.