



## **Straus Institute Partners with SELPA Administrators of California to Provide Alternative Dispute Resolution Training**

*The institute will provide special education professionals and education leaders with strategies and tools for enhanced collaboration, mediation, and conflict resolution.*

**November 16, 2021**

**Los Angeles** -- The Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution at Pepperdine Caruso School of Law has partnered with Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) Administrators of California to offer training on alternative dispute resolution (ADR) practices for special education professionals across the state of California. In this innovative collaboration, the institute will bring its world-class training and deep knowledge of conflict resolution processes and mediation techniques to SELPAs, Special Education Administrators with the Local Education Agency (LEA), and other education-related professionals to support their capacity to resolve and prevent disputes around special education. The Straus Institute's faculty will design and implement trainings geared towards participants in a variety of roles in the education field and serving diverse stakeholders across the state.

Professor Sukhsimranjit Singh, who serves as the Judge Danny Weinstein Managing Director of Straus Institute, added, "We are honored to collaborate with the SELPA Administrators of California and share our expertise in conflict resolution with education professionals across our state. During a time when these professionals have faced unprecedented challenges, it is our privilege to equip them with the skills and knowledge that can enhance their day-to-day efforts."

"The SELPA Administrators of California are excited to partner with the Straus Institute in providing leadership in special education dispute prevention and resolution," said Patty Metheny, Ed.D., Chair-Elect and ADR Committee Chair of the SELPA Administrators of California. "SELPA administrators have long been leaders in bringing the practices of alternative dispute resolution to resolving conflicts in special education. This partnership will enable educators to learn from internationally-renowned experts in conflict resolution so that they can positively impact students with disabilities and their families during these challenging times,"

The first interactive training will begin on December 6, 2021, and will continue through 2023. Participants will be trained in the foundations of the mediation process, unique negotiation styles, and facilitation of problem-solving around education-related disputes, among other topics.

This partnership is made possible through funding provided by the State of California to address dispute prevention and resolution in light of COVID-19.

### **About the Straus Institute**

The [Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution](#) is one of the world's leading educational programs in the field of dispute resolution. In its nearly 35-year history, the institute has educated thousands of lawyers and non-law professionals on the foundational theories and cutting-edge practices in ADR, both in the United States and around the world. Straus' students and alumni span the globe—hailing from countries like Brazil, China, Germany, India, Japan, and Korea—and of course across the United States and Southern California. The Straus Institute is committed to preparing the next generation of negotiators, peacemakers, and problem solvers and serving as a driving force for improving the culture of conflict in America.

### **About the SELPA Administrators of California**

The [SELPA Administrators of California](#) is an association of professional educators organized to present, review, and evaluate major special education issues for the benefit of the students, families, districts, charter schools, and educators we proudly serve. Its mission is to champion educational access and opportunities for students with disabilities, and they do this by collaborating with stakeholders to influence policy and practice on behalf of students with disabilities. As stated in the by-laws, SELPA Administrators of California accomplishes its purpose by participating in such activities as program planning and evaluation; fiscal planning; legislative analysis and education; review of legal issues; research; dissemination of information; training and technical assistance; and collaboration with the California Department of Education.