

Arbitrator/Mediator

Nature of Work

Some legal disputes are settled with the assistance of a mediator. The services provided by dispute resolution experts, professional negotiators or mediators can be used for careers in legal administration and human resources and within labor unions. Mediators may train to specialize in a particular area of mediation.

A mediator, unlike a lawyer, does not represent any of the parties in a legal dispute. Mediators are hired to be neutral, non-biased, negotiators for everyone involved in the dispute. Using their training in problem solving, mediators work to help opposing parties mutually resolve their legal dispute without a judge. Mediators are often self-employed. To get on-the-job experience, some mediators volunteer their services.

Education and Training

A degree from a two-year or four-year college or university is not necessary for a career in mediation. In some states a certificate of completion from a mediation course may be required, as well as a confidentiality agreement. Mediation courses often include training in negotiation techniques, active listening, conflict management, and how to interpret body language.

Skills

Successful mediators have excellent communication and negotiation skills. They have the ability to help others to problem solve and to see both sides of a legal dilemma.

Wages (Average, State of Oregon, 2013)

- **Hourly:** \$28.15
- **Annual:** \$58,543

