

**Melinda S. Gehris**  
**Hess Gehris Solutions**  
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**DISPUTE RESOLUTION EXPERIENCE:**

**HESS GEHRIS SOLUTIONS**  
Principal

Concord, New Hampshire  
May 2008 – Present

Serve as neutral for mediation, neutral evaluation and arbitration. Act as neutral in hundreds of disputes, privately and through the New Hampshire Probate and Superior Courts and New Hampshire Federal District Court as well as the Human Rights Commission and EEOC. Develop and lead half-day and multi-day basic and advanced training for mediators, neutral evaluators and advocates. Provide conflict management counseling and training for work groups and organizations. Facilitate retreats and workshops for boards of directors and non-profit volunteers. Coach individuals and work groups in conflict resolution. Serve as the Special Master in the Matter of the Liquidation of the Home Insurance Company.

**LEGAL EXPERIENCE:**

**DEVINE, MILLIMET & BRANCH, P.A.,**  
Associate, Litigation Department  
Shareholder, Litigation Department

Concord, New Hampshire  
July 1994 - December 1999  
January 2000 – April 2008

Chaired Insurance Law Practice Group of full service regional law firm with over 70 attorneys. Managed caseload with emphasis on coverage analysis and coverage litigation, including automobile, homeowners, general liability, environmental and directors and officers, employer's liability and health and disability claims. Represented clients in arbitration proceedings and served as arbitrator. Experienced in all facets of state and federal litigation including management and resolution of cases from fact investigation and claim analysis through drafting pleadings, conducting written discovery and depositions, mediation, preparing and arguing dispositive motions and conducting bench and jury trials. Briefed and argued cases for New Hampshire Supreme Court and federal courts. Specialized in alternate dispute resolution, serving as a neutral for disputing parties. Responsible for many clients and oversee associates work for those clients.

**MORRISON, MAHONEY & MILLER,** Boston, Massachusetts  
Associate

September 1991 - May 1994

Responsible for interpretation of liability insurance policies, analysis of coverage issues and preparation of coverage opinions with a concentration in environmental coverage cases. Represented domestic and international insurers in coverage disputes and litigation. Directly involved in numerous continuing multi-party, multi-state litigation cases. Personally handled all aspects of various types of civil litigation including discovery and depositions.

**OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

**ALLSTATE INSURANCE COMPANY,** Harrisburg, Pennsylvania  
Senior Claims Representative

January 1986 - August 1988

**EDUCATION:**

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS,** Boston, Massachusetts  
Graduate Certificate in Dispute Resolution, 2001

**NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW**, Boston, Massachusetts  
J.D. 1991

**ALBRIGHT COLLEGE**, Reading, Pennsylvania  
B.S. Business Administration/Spanish, 1985

**CERTIFICATIONS:** New Hampshire Certified Family Mediator

**BAR ADMISSIONS:**

Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, United States District Courts of Massachusetts and New Hampshire, First Circuit Court of Appeals, United States Supreme Court

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

Alumni Leadership New Hampshire - Class of 2015; Chair Accreditation Workgroup and member of Governance Committee of Five Rivers Conservation Trust; Member of the Dispute Resolution Committee of the New Hampshire Bar Association; Member of the Dispute Resolution Section of New Hampshire Bar Association; Member of the Academy of Professional Family Mediators; Member of the Association for Conflict Resolution; Past-President – New Hampshire Conflict Resolution Association; Past-President and Treasurer of New England Chapter of Association for Conflict Resolution; Trustee – Fuller Public Library

**EDUCATIONAL FACULTY:**

Adjunct Professor – University of New Hampshire School of Law, Concord, New Hampshire

**SELECTED SEMINARS:**

New Hampshire Insurance Adjustors Association Continuing Education Conference; Lorman Education Services New Hampshire Insurance Law; NHBA Emerging Litigation Issues in Year 2000; NBI Directors & Officers Insurance Coverage; New Hampshire Supreme Court Advanced Rule 170 Mediator Training; NHBA Representing Clients in Civil Mediation ; NHBA Small Business Counsel Symposium; NHBA Barriers to Settlement in Mediation; NHCRA Barriers to Settlement in Mediation, Process Obstacles; NEACR Barriers to Settlement in Mediation; Martha's Vineyard Mediation Association Barriers to Settlement in Mediation and 40 Hour Civil Mediation Training; Mediating Workplace Conflict; Advanced Ethical Issues for Mediators; Practical Skills for Mediators; Dealing with Third Parties and Guests in Mediation; Mediator Bias – Myth or Reality?; The Rules of Mediation: Which Ones Should Mediators Bend or Break?

**PUBLICATIONS:**

*Good Mediators Don't Ignore Emotion*, N.H. Bar Journal, Summer 2006, Vol. 46, No. 2

"What Attorneys Need to Know About Mediation Credentialing and Training", Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly (July 24, 2006)

**HONORS AND AWARDS:**

- Named to Best Lawyers in New Hampshire by New Hampshire Magazine
- Named to New England Best Lawyers 2015
- Named Top Attorney in Dispute Resolution in New Hampshire by Business New Hampshire Magazine 2010
- Recognized in Woodward & White's *Best Lawyers in America*® since 2007 in the practice of Alternative Dispute Resolution

