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*The Center for Alternative Dispute Resolution Newsletter  
State of Hawaii, Judiciary*



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## ***Tips for Teaching ADR - a brief summary for those who missed the forum***

John Barkai, Law Professor and Co-Director of the Clinical Program at the William S. Richardson School of Law, offered suggestions for teaching alternative dispute resolution (ADR) skills. Professor Barkai began his ADR work in 1979 as part of the first group of volunteers trained at the Makiki Neighborhood Justice Center, now the Mediation Center of the Pacific (MCP).

Barkai explained how his approach to teaching ADR has been strongly influenced by opportunities to teach non-native speakers of English, Albert Bandura's research on learning by modeling, and the Dr. Fox effect — research that indicates that students who attend highly entertaining lectures learn more and rate the instructor higher. He uses communication gambits, optical illusions, magic tricks, cartoon captioning, exchanges between stuffed animals, and regular opportunities for students to talk to each other into each class. One of his unique teaching methods is what he calls "read-along gambits." Students read out loud in class, either in pairs or as a "full-class chorus", various open-ended questions, active listening statements, and facilitative - and even evaluative - mediator statements which he has created. While using the gambits may be awkward initially, students become more comfortable with practice. Practice greatly increases the likelihood that students will be able to use such phrases during simulations and then later in real-life situations.

Because Professor Barkai believes that ADR skills can have a profound impact on personal life as well as professional life, he also teaches about Tongue Fu, Myers-Briggs types, difficult conversations, apologies, and from the book *Why Can't You Shut Up?*. He believes that when people see the impact of their new ADR skills in their personal life, they will be motivated to further develop ADR skills in their professional life. Professor Barkai shared many other tips and insights that help trainees create a strong foundation for learning and developing ADR skills, while having fun at the same time. His PowerPoint presentation is available for a limited time at <http://www2.hawaii.edu/~barkai/ppt/1%20CADR.ppt> and will later be available from him by request at [barkai@hawaii.edu](mailto:barkai@hawaii.edu). Various links to additional resources are available at his website <http://www2.hawaii.edu/~barkai>.