



Sandra Clark

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Making peace – peacefully

“Mediation is results-oriented, cost-effective and more efficient than litigation in resolving conflicts.”



That's the message of attorney Lisa Collins Werner who owns Consensus Mediation Group in West Knox County. Mediators associated with the group include retired Chancellor Sharon J. Bell, Jean Munroe and Mike Powell.

“You may choose one of our skilled, neutral mediators to handle your dispute in a timely and professional way. Or you may choose to rent our space to hold a mediation or any other sort of a matter that requires a private, confidential and comfortable setting,” Werner said.

The décor and amenities of the Mediation Conference Center are conducive to low-stress discussion. Participants may come with their attorney or without.

Mediations usually begin in a conference room, then may move to break-out sessions in smaller, conversational areas called caucus rooms. The conference center includes a kitchen and meals may be catered for all-day sessions.

Werner said clients come via referral from attorneys, her Web site and contacts made from speaking engagements.

“Family mediation is a fast-growing segment of our business,” she said. Issues range from financial and parenting responsibilities in a divorce to succession in a family business.

Business mediation can include many emotional issues such as employment discrimination or the breakup of a partnership.

“In mediation, participants come to their own decisions. They may not get everything they want, but they have been able to negotiate on

their own terms,” said Werner.

“Litigation polarizes people with attorneys hired to advocate each position. Here the participants sign an agreement to mediate – to make a good faith effort to resolve their conflict and to be respectful.

“Mediators are not judges, deciding right or wrong. The reality is what those individuals are willing to agree to. And it's our job to help them reach that agreement.”

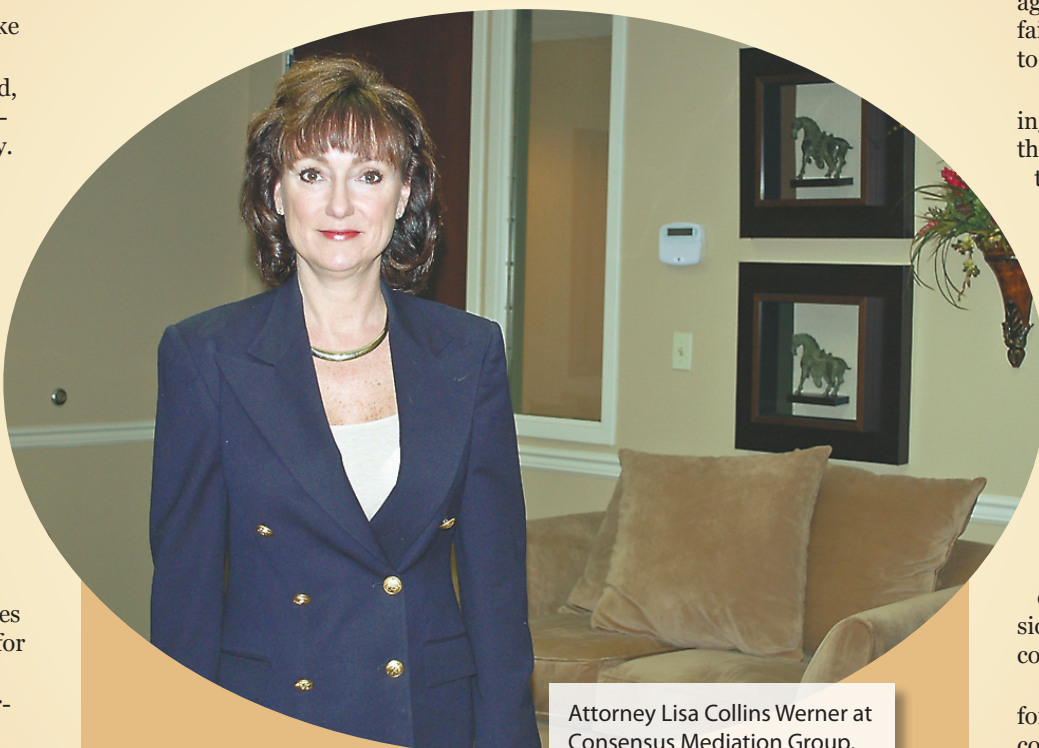
Other services

Werner leases space for mediation or training. She works with companies to train managers how to mediate conflicts in-house; she teaches a class on training employees to self-mediate.

Located at Advantage Place, just off Cedar Bluff Road at I-40, the Consensus Mediation Conference Center is convenient, professional and expertly designed for small conferences.

The space provides a warm, comfortable environment. Small and large conference rooms offer a private and upscale setting unlike traditional meeting spaces. Rooms are available for rent for a half day, full day or longer.

Rooms have multi-line phones, audio visual equipment, teleconferencing, fax and wireless Internet access. Offices are handicap accessible and have free parking.



Attorney Lisa Collins Werner at Consensus Mediation Group. Photo by S. Clark

Bio

Lisa Collins Werner's success as a mediator is built on her exceptional ability to help identify the key issues underlying a dispute and to focus the mediation process on achieving a fair and expedient resolution.

Werner is licensed to practice law in Tennessee, Illinois and Missouri. She brings more than 20 years of experience in business and law to the mediation group. She has background in contract negotiations, employment disputes and real estate conflicts. She has practiced civil litigation and insurance defense.

She gained extensive experience in employment discrimination while managing more than 500 cases for the Missouri Commission on Human Rights.

Werner grew up in Oak Ridge, graduating from Tennessee Technological University in 1983 and the St. Louis University School of Law in 1991. She worked in sales and marketing prior to returning to law school.