

Managing high conflict personalities in legal disputes

LAW 7485

Dates and times: 18, 19 and 20 September, 8.30am – 5pm
and 23 October, 5 – 8.30pm (in intensive mode)

About the Unit: Research indicates that people with personality disorders are increasing in society at large, as well as in legal disputes in particular.

This course focuses on managing personalities in conflict resolution, particularly resolving disputes involving 'high-conflict' personalities and will help students and practising professionals recognise personality styles, choose appropriate intervention techniques, and maintain ethical principles while dealing with difficult people, both professionally and personally.

Five personality disorders will be specifically analysed in terms of their mental health issues and their high-conflict dynamics: borderline, narcissistic, paranoid, antisocial and histrionic. Attention will be paid to patterns of these personality disorders which unconsciously tend toward all-or-nothing thinking, unmanaged emotions, extreme behaviour and a preoccupation with blaming others.

The phenomenon of 'negative advocates' will also be examined. Negative advocates, including family members, friends and some unwary professionals, often join in high-conflict disputes, adding to the confusion and intensity of the conflict. Many of the most effective methods for managing high-conflict people are counter-intuitive, so that practice and discussion are necessary to implement these methods, especially when under stress.

About the guest presenter and lecturer, Bill Eddy LCSW, JD, CFLS: William A. ('Bill') Eddy is an attorney, therapist and mediator, and the President of the High Conflict Institute based in San Diego, California. Mr Eddy provides training to professionals on the subject of high-conflict personalities, providing seminars to attorneys, mediators, collaborative law professionals, judges, ombudspersons and mental health professionals. Mr Eddy holds degrees in law, psychology and social work.

Mr Eddy is the author of several books, including: *It's All Your Fault!: 12 Tips for Managing People Who Blame Others for Everything*; *High Conflict People in Legal Disputes*; and *Managing High Conflict People in Court*.



Enrolment

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