

Students: For your reference, some form of this was sent by Yarn to potential subjects.

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

Let me apologize for the length of this email in advance. I am writing to solicit your help (confirm your participation) in a learning/research project designed by my mediation seminar students at Georgia State University, College of Law. The main purpose of the project is for these students to learn more about mediation by observing a seasoned lawyer-mediator in action and debriefing the experience afterwards. The secondary purpose is to explore how good, seasoned mediators think and particularly how they use analytical techniques. If you agree to participate (confirm your participation), I will randomly assign one of my 11 students to you. That student will contact you soon to ask a few standard demographic questions and schedule an observation of a mediation followed by a confidential interview to discuss the observed mediation.

The observation needs to occur sometime before November 10, 2017. Your assigned student is trained as a mediator and will be using the observation for their GODR registration. More importantly, each student has a good understanding of the process and the need to be unobtrusive during observation and to maintain confidentiality. The post-mediation interview should take no more than 45-60 minutes of your time. Ideally, the interview would take place immediately after the mediation when both your memories are fresh. Although a live observation is ideal for teaching the students and to optimize the interview, I realize that it might be difficult to arrange. If an observation is not possible and I cannot match the student to another mediator for an observation, then I would like for the student to interview you about a recent or memorable mediation. In this case, you could do the interview in person, by phone, or video conference, whichever you prefer. Either way, you are likely to enjoy the interview as it will give you a chance to reflect on and share your experience.

With respect to the secondary purpose, the class as a whole is conducting research on useful analytical techniques as discussed in the [Final Report of the ABA Task Force on Improving Mediator Quality](#). The Task Force called for more research in this area, and my students are responding to the call. We hope this research will be helpful to the field generally. Their final report will be a compilation of the data obtained through the interviews. The report will be in group form with no personally-identifying information. Your name and those of the parties to the mediation will not be disclosed. Any notes taken by the student during the mediation will be for purposes of the post-mediation interview and will contain no identifying information. Indeed, to further protect confidentiality, your student will not use anyone's name in their notes but rather use generic descriptions such as the other lawyer, client X, a manufacturing business, etc. As needed, some facts may be changed in the paper to prevent anyone from recognizing a particular case. Interview notes will be similarly devoid of identifying information. All notes will be kept secured and will be destroyed at the end of the project.

I hope you will help my students (remember you were a law student once, too) and me. Let me know by reply to this email. Don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or

comments you may have.