

COMMON GROUND ASSOCIATES
MEDIATORS, CONFLICT RESOLUTION FACILITATORS AND TRAINERS

"BURIED DEEP INSIDE OF EVERY NO IS A YES."

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Biographical Statement

Darrell L. Puls

College:

B.A. in education from Western Michigan University in 1971.
M.A. in Educational Leadership from Western Michigan University in 1975.
Doctoral program in Labor Relations / Negotiations, The University of Michigan 1976-1979. Certified Labor Relations Specialist, 1978.

I was born and raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan. I attended college after returning home from the Army in 1967. After college I was a teacher in the Wyoming Public Schools outside Grand Rapids, Michigan from 1971 to 1979. I joined the staff of the Michigan Education Association as a Labor Relations specialist in 1979.

I joined the staff of the Washington Education Association in 1982 as Unified Services Director and have lived in the Tri-Cities since. I have served as a professional negotiator for hundreds of labor contracts and specialize in developing and arguing complex arbitration cases. I have served on numerous boards and foundations, including the United Way, The Foundation for Mathematics and Science Education, West Richland City Council, West Richland Planning Commission, and Washington State University Tri-Cities Advisory Board. I was one of the founders of the Benton Franklin Dispute Resolution Center, and was its president.

I was trained as a multi-party dispute mediator in 1990 and began a private practice in mediation in 1994. I have received mediation training through Conflict Resolution Services of Seattle, the Dispute Resolution Center of Snohomish and Island Counties, Benton Franklin Dispute Resolution Center and the Washington State Bar Association, where I am a member of the ADR section. I am a certified and practicing mediator with extensive experience. I have mediated cases in city and county government, schools, corporations, partnerships, labor disputes, interpersonal, family (divorce, custody, asset / debt division, parenting plans, child support), neighborhood, realtor / contractor, workgroup, employer / employee, and so on.

I am also a mediation trainer and conflict resolution consultant and facilitator through my private company, Common Ground Associates. I have trained over a hundred mediators who are currently practicing throughout the Northwest. I have written training manuals for basic mediation skills, multi-party mediations, advanced mediation skills and divorce

mediation. I direct a dispute mediation program for 3,600 school employees and supervise The Mediation Center at The Cathedral of Joy, a court-approved mediation provider in Richland, Washington.

I have been married since 1969. My wife is a practicing paralegal in family law and my daughter is a high school counselor.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Donald J. Puls". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.