

**Russell W. Adkins** is a shareholder with the Kingsport, Tennessee law firm of Wilson Worley PC, where he practices in the field of civil litigation. He is certified as a Civil Trial Specialist by the National Board of Trial Advocacy, and is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates. He has been listed in Super Lawyers of the Mid-South for each of the past six years. He also is a Rule 31- listed General Civil Mediator.

His experience includes representation of plaintiffs and defendants in personal injury cases, professional liability defense of health care providers and first responders, and litigating probate, commercial and employment disputes.

He is a 1990 graduate of the University of Kentucky College of Law. He is licensed to practice law in Tennessee and Kentucky.

Sara Figal is the Executive Director of the Nashville Conflict Resolution Center, a nonprofit organization that provides free mediation for nearly 2000 low-income people each year, helping them de-escalate conflict and restore stability in their families, schools, workplaces, and neighborhoods. In this capacity, Sara was recognized by the Nashville Business Journal as a "Woman of Influence." Sara has a BA from Yale University and a PhD from Harvard University; she has been the recipient of Fulbright, DAAD, and NEH grants, among others; and she is a Rule 31 listed General Civil and Family Mediator with special DV training. Outside of the office, she is a member of the Handweavers Guild of Nashville and the American Tapestry Alliance, and she enjoys volunteering her time through Westminster Presbyterian Church, either by teaching weaving or by joining projects that require her to go outside and get dirty. Sara and her husband have three children, two in college and one still in high school.

**Dr. Cynthia F. Greer** is a mediator, trainer, consultant and designer of conflict resolution systems. She has conducted over 1,350 mediations with most dealing with employment, sexual harassment, family, divorce, corporate and educational disputes. A national provider of mediation training programs, she has developed ADR systems for all levels of governmental agencies and for various for-profit and nonprofit organizations. She is also a mediator and trainer for the United States Postal Service. For nine years, she was the director and senior mediator at the California Academy of Mediation Professionals in Encino, CA. For over 17 years, she was an assistant and associate dean at Pepperdine University School of Law in Malibu, CA. From 1988 until 2015, she taught various ADR classes, including *Interviewing, Counseling and Planning for Lawyers* and *Mediation*, among others, at Pepperdine's Straus Institute of Dispute Resolution. For ten years, she taught at Atlanta's John Marshall School of Law in both the J.D. and LL.M. programs. Since 2010, she has taught for the Institute of Conflict Management at Lipscomb University in Nashville, TN. Her trainings include the *Rule 31 Family Mediation Training* and the *Rule 31 Domestic Violence Training*. Some of her academic courses include: *Family Mediation, ADR in Educational Settings, and Interviewing Counseling, and Planning in Conflict Situations*. Dr. Greer maintains a mediation and consulting practice, Greer Dispute Resolution Services, in Nashville, Atlanta, Ft. Lauderdale and Los Angeles. In addition, she is listed as a Rule 31 General Civil Mediator and Family Mediator in Tennessee where she is also listed as a mediator Specially Trained in Domestic Violence. She holds a doctorate in organizational management from Pepperdine University, a master's in dispute resolution from Pepperdine University School of Law, a master's in community counseling from Georgia State University, and a bachelor's of arts from Lipscomb University.

Linda Harris is currently serving as an independently contracted, executive director for Mid-South Community Justice and Mediation Center, Inc. (Mid-South CJAM). She is a Tennessee licensed attorney, whose private practice currently focuses on mediation, arbitration, and investigations. Linda is a Tennessee Supreme Court Listed Rule 31 civil Law and family law mediator, with a special domestic violence listing. She is a Tennessee Supreme Court ADRC Commissioner and she currently chairs the Education Committee. In addition, she is an U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals Advisory Rules Committee Member. Linda is an independent contractor arbitrator for FINRA and the National Center for Dispute Settlement Auto Warranty Program, and is an EEOC certified EEO counselor and investigator. She has mediated civil rights cases, employment discrimination cases, personal injury cases, property dispute cases, divorces, child custody and visitation cases, and other civil law cases and is included on the panel of mediators for the Western District of Tennessee. Linda is a former Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) for the United States Attorney's Office (USAO) in the Western District of Tennessee (WDTN) in both the civil and criminal divisions. While working as AUSA, Linda served as an instructor/facilitator at the USDOJ's Leadership Institute, an instructor at the National Advocacy Center and was the USAO's Sexual Harassment Point of Contact (POC) for the WDTN. Linda is also a former City of Memphis Police Officer. She is a member of the TAPM, the Memphis Bar Association and the National Bar Association-Ben F. Jones Chapter.

***Jacqueline O. Kittrell, Esq.*** has been the Executive Director of Community Mediation Center in Knoxville, TN, since 2005. She is a Rule 31 listed civil and family mediator, and is listed as specially trained in domestic violence issues. She graduated from University of Tennessee College of Law in 1988 and is a licensed Tennessee attorney. Jackie is active in the Knoxville Bar Association, serving on the Access to Justice Committee, and in the Tennessee Bar Association as a member of the Dispute Resolution and Family Sections. She is an American Bar Association Fellow, and a member of the ABA Family Law and the Dispute Resolution Sections. She is active in the Tennessee Supreme Court's Access to Justice efforts, serving on the Pro Bono Committee with a special interest in how mediators can help in providing access to justice. She is a board member of Tennessee Association of Professional Mediators (TAPM), a past President, and currently serves on the Pro Bono Committee. She is a member of National Association of Community Mediation. She was trained as a Collaborative Family attorney in 2007, is a member of the International Academy of Collaborative Practitioners (IACP), and a founding board member the East Tennessee Collaborative Alliance (ETCA). In her private practice, she takes collaborative and limited scope family cases. Her experience as a legal advocate includes collaborative and limited scope divorce, complex class litigation, medical malpractice, medical peer review and employment cases, civil rights litigation, representing children as a GAL in juvenile and divorce courts. She is originally from Smith County, Tennessee, and has lived in rural east Knox County for 35 years on a heritage farm. She is married to Cliff Honicker; they have three grown children (two sons and a daughter), two daughters-in-law, and a beautiful grand-daughter.

**Daniel Rainey** (<http://danielrainey.us>) is a principal in Holistic Solutions, Inc., and an adjunct faculty member in various graduate dispute resolution programs and law schools. He is currently a Fellow of the [National Center for Technology and Dispute Resolution](#), a member of the Board of Directors for the [InternetBar.Org](#), a member of the Board of Directors and Treasurer for the [Northern Virginia Mediation Service](#), and a founding member and founding Board Member of the International Council for Online Dispute Resolution ([ICODR](#)). He is a member of the ODR Task Force for the American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution, a member of the editorial board for [Conflict Resolution Quarterly](#), and he is one of the Editors-in-Chief of the [International Journal of Online Dispute Resolution](#). Rainey has written over 40 articles and book chapters related to ADR and ODR. He currently is a member of the Supreme Court of Virginia's Access to Justice Commission, Self-Represented Litigants Committee, and he has served as the co-chair of the International Mediation Institute Task Force on E-Mediator Competencies. In October 2017, at the Association for Conflict Resolution annual conference, he received the Mary Parker Follett award for innovation in dispute resolution.

## JOHN R. TARPLEY



John R. Tarpley, a shareholder in our Nashville office, has been involved in complex litigation in the areas of tort, transportation, product liability, professional liability, commercial law, casualty defense, and a wide range of insurance-related matters in both state and federal courts.

Mr. Tarpley has also successfully defended a number of trucking companies and their employees, both at trial and in the mediation of claims and has addressed a wide variety of retail issues from both a general civil and a commercial law perspective. Recently, he has devoted a significant portion of his practice to the mediation and arbitration of civil matters. Certified as a Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 31 mediator, he is regularly hired to mediate a number of civil matters. He has also been inducted into the distinguished Tennessee Academy of Mediators.

A graduate of the University of Tennessee College of Law, he is a former president of the Tennessee Bar Association and a former chair of the ABA Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section. He is the current president of the Nashville Bar Foundation and former co-chair of the NBF Leadership Forum. He served in multiple officer level positions for the NBA and was the founding president of the Nashville Young Lawyers Division. Likewise, he is the past chair of the ABA Journal, the largest circulation general legal publication in the world. He is also a member of the ABA House of Delegates and has represented the TBA there for a number of years. Mr. Tarpley is also extremely active in the American Law Firm Association (ALFA) and formerly chaired the Transportation Practice Group. He is currently a member of the ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary, the committee that reviews all nominees to the federal bench.

As president of the Tennessee Bar Association, Mr. Tarpley established the “Lawyers Care” program and successfully recruited lawyers to do more pro bono work in the state. In addition, he implemented the “Leadership Law” program and continues to be involved in its programming. He was the chair of the committee that created the successful TIPS Leadership Academy. Mr. Tarpley recently concluded a successful term as the president of the board of directors of the Music City Chapter of the March of Dimes and was a member of the 2016 class of Leadership Nashville.



LEWIS THOMASON

**424 Church Street, Suite  
2500 P.O. Box 198615  
Nashville, TN 37219  
(615) 259-1366**

## **ABOUT MR. SHIELDS**

**STEPHEN L. SHIELDS, JD, LLM** is the founding member of Alternative Dispute Resolution Institute and a Partner in the Memphis law firm of Jackson, Shields, Yeiser & Holt. He is a Tennessee Supreme Court Alternative Dispute Resolution Rule 31 General Civil Mediator as well as Rule 31 General Civil Mediation Trainer. Mr. Shields was recently appointed for a three-year term as a Tennessee Supreme Court Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission Commissioner. He is a Listed Mediator in the Mediator Profile Directory of the United States District Court Western District of Tennessee. Mr. Shields is a frequent speaker and author regarding alternative dispute resolution topics. He is also a founding member as well as the Chair of the Mid-South Community Justice and Mediation Center (CJAM). He is the immediate Past-Chair of the Tennessee Bar Association Alternative Dispute Resolution Executive Council and the immediate Past-President of the Tennessee Association of Professional Mediators. In 2015, Mr. Shields was chosen as the recipient of the Grayfred Gray Public Service in Mediation Award. He is an adjunct professor at the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law at the University of Memphis where he is the Director of the Mediation Clinic. He has been listed in Best Lawyers since 1991.



**Beth Oschack Tarter, J.D.**

Beth graduated from the University of Memphis-School of Law in 2005. She spent several years in Memphis as an attorney practicing primarily plaintiff's work in consumer law where she participated in various aspects of alternative dispute resolution. She received a B.S. in Psychology from the University of Illinois and prior to attending law school, spent several years working in social work, as a Foster Care caseworker and other child advocacy positions. Since moving to Middle Tennessee, she worked as a regulatory board attorney for the Board of Licensing Contractors at the State of Tennessee and then in private general practice in Columbia. Recently, before joining The Mediation Center, Beth was adjunct faculty with Columbia State community college and a volunteer with Maury County CASA.

In 2015, she became a Rule 31 Licensed Family Mediator, and beginning in May of 2016 became the Executive Director of the Mediation Center, a non-profit community mediation center based in downtown Columbia since 1995. Since that time she has grown the impact of the Center to surrounding counties and added services such as Parenting classes, a pro se legal resource center kiosk, partnered with the school system as a "tier" community resource regarding truancy intervention, re-instituted a Peer Mediation training program with Maury County schools, and partnered with local Bar and other agencies such as Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee to co-host a Legal Aid clinic serving Maury County. She has two young children, owns a large variety of animals, has been married for 14 years and is also a small business owner with her husband, presenting wildlife educational programs to youth.