

# TAM MEMBER NEWS

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

### Full Members

Laura Alpert, Dallas  
Joshua J. Benn, Bryan  
M. Daisy Everhart, El Paso  
Jeff Sellers, Marble Falls

### Candidates of Membership and Friends of TAM

Jennifer A. Bryant, Houston  
Pamela K. Bergman, Fredericksburg  
Jeri L. George, San Antonio  
Edelmiro Jose Martinez, Laredo  
Deloris Nelson, Houston  
Laura Ouin, Dallas

Robin Pittman, San Antonio  
Rahman Ramznali, Houston  
Tonya Ratcliff, Combine  
Donald R. Rawlins, Dallas  
Sarah Sarahan, Austin

January 28 - April 8, 2017

## MEMBERS ON THE MOVE



**Fran Brochstein** is now in her second term as President of the Houston Chapter of the Association of Conflict Resolution. She was recently appointed to serve on the Galleria Chapter of the State Board of Texas Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee. For more information on Fran, see [www.familylaw4u.com](http://www.familylaw4u.com).



**Ron Gross**, a mediator who specializes in Construction and Religious/Congregational Mediation, has just been elected as the new President of the Southwest Conflict Resolution Network, a 501(c)(6) nonprofit professional organization “dedicated to the facilitation, awareness and advancement of dispute resolution through education, networking and community involvement” (see [swcrn.org](http://swcrn.org)). Ron has also just opened up a new mediation and consulting company called Sunshine Mediation and Consulting. A builder of custom homes for 25 years and an expert witness in construction matters, certified as a Master Builder by the NAHB, Ron brings many years of multi-party mediation and negotiation experience to his mediations. He is a Credentialed Mediator by the Texas Mediator Credentialing Association and is a member of the Texas Association of Mediators and the Academy of Professional Family Mediators.



**Melanie E. Grimes** is the new Chair of the Texas Mediator Credentialing Association's (TMCA) Board of Directors. Melanie has served as the TAM representative on the TMCA Board since 2011. Like TAM, TMCA is a multidisciplinary organization including mediators from a myriad of professions, with a mission to promote quality mediation by offering voluntary credentialing to qualifying Texas mediators. A TAM member since 2002, Melanie is passionate about the field of mediation and is blessed with a private mediation practice based in Dallas, mediating family, probate, civil, and interfamily disputes. She has earned TMCA's highest designation, Credentialed Distinguished Mediator, and received the Louis Weber Award for "Outstanding Mediator of the Year." Learn more about Melanie at [www.mgmediation.com](http://www.mgmediation.com).



**Loretta L. Higgins** completed her Masters of Intercession Mediation at Barnham Graduate School and Seminary (Houston) in December of 2016. In January of 2017, Loretta (a CPA) was accepted into the Doctoral Studies program at Barnham for a Research Doctorate in Biblically Based Accounting Practices. She is the owner of Mediations by Mom. The focus of her practice is accounting consulting, civil mediation/arbitration, and expert witness/litigation support services for civil and family matters. For more information about Loretta, please see [www.mediationsbymom](http://www.mediationsbymom).



**Jerry L. Rios** recently joined the Alabama-based law firm of Lightfoot, Franklin & White, LLC as a Partner. He has more than 30 years of private practice and litigation experience in Texas. In addition to handling mediations and arbitrations, Jerry will now manage Lightfoot, Franklin & White's new Texas-based office located in Houston. Jerry has also recently become a Credentialed Mediator through the Texas Mediators Credentialing Association. For more information on Jerry, see [www.lightfootlaw.com/houston-office/](http://www.lightfootlaw.com/houston-office/).



**Tim Soefje** was recently accepted into the Texas Bar College, an honorary society of lawyers who attend at least double the continuing legal education required by the State Bar of Texas. The Texas Bar College is the only organization in the United States formed for the purpose of promoting and recognizing attorneys who pursue excellence through voluntary attendance of continuing legal education programs. Only 4,000 of the 93,000 lawyers licensed in Texas are members of the College. Tim is a mediator and professional liability attorney with Seltzer Chadwick Soefje, PLLC in Frisco. For more information, see <https://www.realclearcounsel.com/>.