

Dr. Barbara Sunderland Manouso
2019 Susanne C. Adams Award
by Linda W. Gibson

The 26th recipient of the Susanne C. Adams Award is Dr. Barbara Sunderland Manouso, a TMCA Credentialed Distinguished Mediator. The Adams Award was created in 1997 to recognize exceptional and outstanding efforts in promoting and furthering the use of mediation in Texas and to honor its first recipient, Susanne C. Adams.

Susanne Adams firmly believed that mediation is far superior to litigation, and fiercely held to her principles concerning mediation and its role in our litigious society. Through her efforts in the 1980's and early 1990's she helped define the role of mediator as peacemaker and facilitator. She was a pioneer in the Texas mediation movement and a founding member of the Texas Association of Family Mediators, which eventually became the Texas Association of Mediators. As Z. Locke Lewis said in 2005, "[Susanne's] work in promoting and furthering the use of mediation in Texas has been memorialized in this award, so that others who share her commitment can also be recognized and honored for their contributions to the field of mediation. She was a leader who brought inspiration, commitment, service, and sacrifice, to what was, and still is, a growing profession."

Like Susanne Adams, the 2019 Adams Award recipient, Dr. Barbara Manouso, is a leader in the field of mediation with many loyal followers. The many letters of recommendation for Barbara that the Adams Award Committee received reveal that she "has established a diverse network of conflict resolution professionals" and that she "consistently demonstrates her belief, and encourages others to join, in the growth and practice of mediation in Texas and around the globe." Barbara "demonstrates an unwavering commitment to the field of mediation" and "is reliable with her generosity, time, and effort to promote and advance mediation throughout Texas."

Barbara's student and colleague Melissa Back McAlpine reported Barbara was a "central member of the committee with Texas Mediation Trainers Roundtable to create the curriculum for all 40 Hour Basic Mediation trainings across the state. ... More recently, Barbara was the Chair of Education, Research, and Training of the Association for Conflict Resolution International, where she coordinated training materials and requirements, [and] researched and prescribed the proper role of the mediator with regard to the Mediated Settlement Agreement." Melissa added "the entire mediation community of Texas is blessed to have such a strong advocate, promoter, teacher, and believer in the power of mediation and conflict resolution."

Fran Brochstein noted in her recommendation for Barbara that "she has lectured and provided trainings on mediation all over the U.S. as well as internationally. She has served on many ADR boards – locally in Houston, statewide in Texas, and internationally. She has an active mediation training program in Houston offering basic, family, and elder mediation training and arbitration training. ... She is an adjunct professor at the University of St Thomas teaching global mediation skills," and she was "one of the 10 Lifetime

Achievement Award recipients in 2018 [from the] Association for Conflict Resolution – Houston Chapter.”

Barbara Sunderland Manouso has touched the lives of many ADR professionals in Texas and throughout the world. Her enthusiasm for and dedication to the world of alternative dispute resolution is known throughout the State. TAM is honored to present her with the 2019 Susanne C. Adams Award.

Bio of Linda Gibson: Linda Gibson is an attorney-mediator in Temple, Texas. She has been a member of TAM for 26 years and has been a board member for 21 of those years, serving as TAM President in 2004. Linda is the 2015 recipient of the Susanne C. Adams Award. She currently serves as TAM's Historian.