

Mary-Lou O’Kennedy

Mary Lou O’Kennedy is an experienced independent mediator and conflict resolution specialist. She is a Practitioner member of the Mediators Institute of Ireland and was certified in Civil and Commercial Mediation (2006) and in Family Mediation (2007), by [FriaryLaw/ADR](#) (UK) and in Community and Workplace Mediation (2008) by Athena Mediation. Mary Lou has also trained in Mediation Supervision with PMR UK (NOCN) in and in the use of Private Caucusing with [CEDR](#) UK.

She is a [CINERGY™ certified conflict management coach, mentor and trainer](#) (2010) and a certified consultant (2010) and master trainer (2014) of the Centre for Conflict Dynamics, Eckerd College, Florida, and the Institute for Workplace Dynamics, Paris. Mary Lou obtained her primary degree in Social Science from UCD in 1985 and her Masters in Social Work from the University of Pittsburgh, USA, in 1988.

Over the past twenty years Mary Lou has managed and been a director/member of numerous private and non profit companies. Her early management experience was in the Surveys Unit of the Economic and Social Research Institute, then as CEO of County Wexford Partnership Ltd for 11 years and as Managing Director of Tunstall Emergency Response Ltd for a further 5 years.

As well as being a director in a number of private companies, Mary Lou has held numerous directorships of non profit companies. She was Chairperson of Feachtas Ealaion Teoranta (St Michael’s Theatre Management Company, New Ross) for 15 years and was active with other committees, fora and groups concerned with community, social and employment services at local, regional and national level.

More recently she served on the Council of the [MII](#) and as Chairperson of its Education Committee from 2009 to 2011, and is still a practitioner member. She is also a member of the [Irish Commercial Mediation Association](#).

Since 2006 Mary Lou has combined her vast experience with her conflict resolution expertise delivering mediation, one-on-one coaching and training to address disputes in the following areas:

- Family Business Disputes: Succession issues, performance management, shareholdings and interpersonal disputes
- Commercial Disputes: Disputes between directors and shareholders, between shareholders,

- business to business contracts
- Employment Disputes: Allegations of bullying, performance management, interpersonal conflict, reporting relationships, inappropriate behaviour
 - Community Disputes: Disputes between voluntary directors and paid staff, between voluntary committees, neighbours in dispute over property/boundaries and/or lifestyle issues
 - Family Disputes: Inheritance disputes, separating couples and marital breakdown

Mary Lou is a contributing author of a book on Co-mediation titled 'Co-mediation: A Psychological Paired Approach to Mediation'.