Pending approval: Interviewing & Counseling in Domestic Violence Situations
Summer ADR Course: August 10-14, 2015

Course Design & Proposal:
Professor Phyllis Bernard, Director, Center on Alternative Dispute Resolution
Co-Instructors:
Prof. Stephanie Hudson (attorney)
Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, OCU adjunct ADR faculty
Dr. W.L. Haskins, Jr. (family therapist)
Executive Director, COPE and The Fatherhood Project

One credit hour; does NOT qualify for the ADR advocacy certificate; only prerequisite is to have completed the first year required curriculum

Proposed Catalogue Description

This course broke new ground in legal pedagogy when it was first taught as part of the Summer ADR Institute in 1999. During the following decade the Law School’s Mediation Clinic students helped refine the methodology to create a sophisticated, layered approach that helps the attorney identify and help the client deal with physical violence and psychological abuse that may be present not only in divorce and child custody cases, but also regarding wills, real estate matters or transactions involving a family business.

This course introduces aspects of the law concerning domestic violence; but is not a course on the subject matter. Instead, it is designed to help law students and practitioners learn – step by step – how to engage in the difficult conversations necessary to identify and assess:

• risk of suicide and homicide;
• the impact of the presence of firearms;
• dealing with the highly emotional, combative and/or manipulative client;
• fundamental communication skills in active listening, restating and reframing as calming techniques;
• security and self-protection for the attorney, both physically and emotionally; and
• how to work across disciplines with family counselors, mental health specialists, and therapists, whether as support referrals for clients or because they are already involved in a client’s high-conflict situation.