

Heather Croft is Acting Director for the Maryland Court of Special Appeals' Alternative Dispute Resolution Division. As Acting Director, Heather trains and supervises staff attorney-mediators and manages the daily operations of the ADR Division. Heather is involved in all aspects of the Court's ADR process, including screening cases to determine whether ADR will be recommended to the Court, communicating with counsel prior to mediation to discuss the case, co-mediating with Senior Judges to help parties resolve their disputes cordially and collaboratively, and assisting the Court with Orders and Remands to help dispose of the appeal and underlying legal issues as appropriate.

Before joining the Court of Special Appeals' ADR Division, Heather had the pleasure of serving as a Senior Law Clerk for the Honorable Douglas R.M. Nazarian of the Court of Special Appeals. As a Senior Law Clerk, Heather wrote numerous civil and criminal draft opinions, conducted extensive legal research, and analyzed complex legal matters. Prior to clerking for Judge Nazarian, Heather worked as a Deputy Public Defender for the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office, where she managed a high-volume case load, conducted jury trials, and negotiated optimal outcomes for her clients.

Heather received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Comparative History of Ideas from the University of Washington, graduating *Magna Cum Laude*. Subsequently, she received her Juris Doctorate from Southwestern Law School in Los Angeles, California, where she was the recipient of the merit-based Paul Wildman Scholarship as well as the Dean's Merit scholarship for her outstanding academic achievement. Heather continues to enhance her knowledge and skills by attending continuing legal education classes and advanced mediation seminars.

Heather serves as a board member for Services from the Heart, a backpack buddies program serving three Anne Arundel County elementary schools.