

Bernie Mayer, Ph.D., has provided conflict intervention services for families, schools, public interest groups, communities, NGO's, unions, corporations, and governmental and agencies throughout North America and internationally for over 40 years. He is Professor Emeritus of Conflict Studies, Creighton University, and a founding partner of CDR Associates, a conflict intervention firm headquartered in Boulder, Colorado.

Before focusing on conflict intervention, Bernie was a child and family therapist in New York City and Boulder, Colorado. Bernie is a prolific author of books and articles, including *The Dynamics of Conflict*, *Beyond Neutrality*, *Staying With Conflict*, and *The Conflict Paradox*. His newest book, with Jacqueline N. Font-Guzmán, is the *The Neutrality Trap* (2022). He received the 2015 John M. Haynes Distinguished Mediator Award, presented by the Association for Conflict Resolution, the 2013 President's Award and the 2009 Meyer Elkin Award presented by the Association of Family Conciliation Courts, and has twice received the CPR International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution's Book of the Year Award.

Bernie also brings a long history social activism to his approach to conflict. Starting in his adolescent years in Cleveland Ohio, Bernie has participated in anti-war, environmental, civil rights, union, anti-racist, and pro-democracy movements. He has worked against sexist practices and policies and for gender affirming values. He has provided training in non-violent approaches to social change for anti-nuclear and other social change movements, and has applied these values and tactics to his work on ethnic conflict and more generally to conflict intervention efforts. As an activist, he has been shot at doing voter registration in Mississippi in the 1960's, been arrested several times in non-violent protests, and has helped deal with internal conflicts within a variety of social advocacy efforts.

Bernie has long been concerned with the limits that a commitment to neutrality as a central identifying characteristic of mediators has put on the growth and impact of conflict engagement professionals. He has written about the confusing way in which we use terms such as neutrality, impartiality, and objectivity and how this has affected our work and how we are perceived by the general public. In his most recent book (*The Neutrality Trap*), he and Professor Font-Guzmán discuss the relationship between conflict intervention and social justice advocacy and in particular the way in which a commitment to a neutral stance can interfere with social change efforts.