

Mock Mediation Session 3:

# Conference



# What is a Conference?

**Definition:** A conference involves ALL parties in the mediation (mediators, clients, and advocates) discussing the issue at hand.

**Purpose:** Open communication and dialogue among the parties; They can discuss their views, concerns, and potential solutions in a collaborative environment.



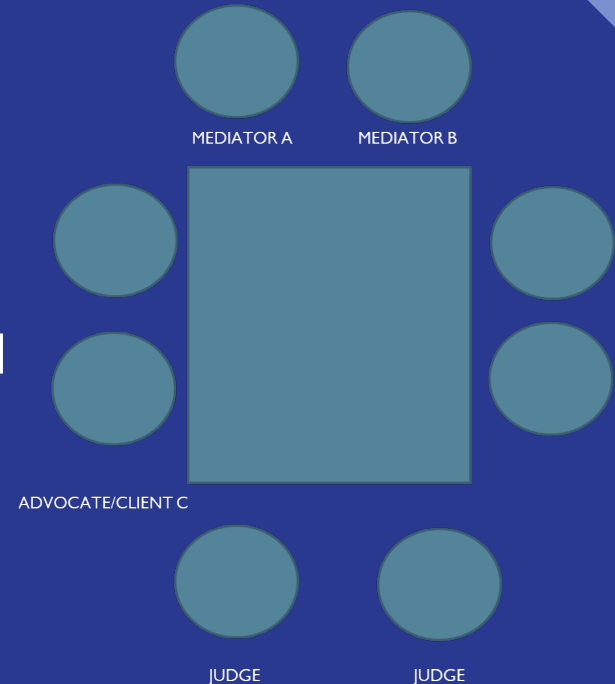
# Components of a Conference

- **Timing:** Conference usually occurs after opening statements.-Co mediators and all parties must conduct at least one meaningful conference (10 minutes minimum).
- **Agenda Setting**The mediators establishes a clear agenda to guide the conversation and keep it structured.
- **Venting and Clarification**Parties express feelings and frustrations, followed by clarifications to ensure mutual understanding.

# Components of a Conference (cont.)

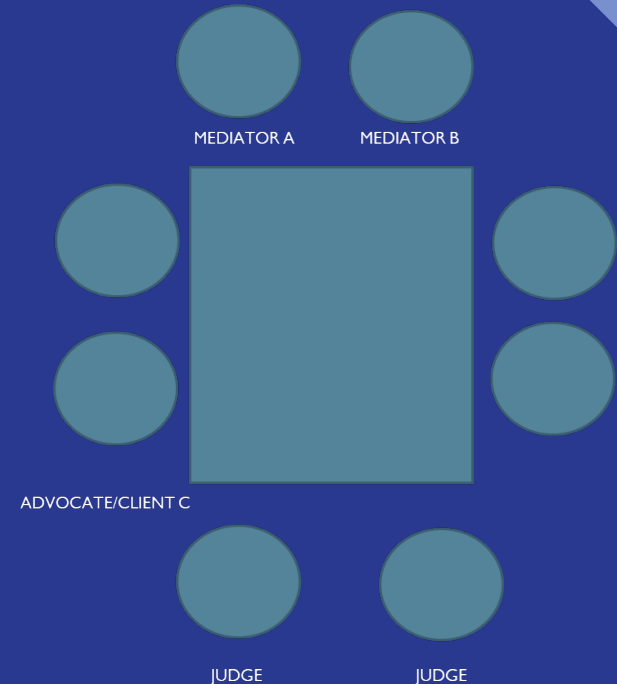
- **Information Exchange** Open sharing of relevant details and insights that may affect the resolution.
- **Status of Offers/Demands** Review of the current status of offers and demands and explore potential compromises.

**\*There may be more than one conference.**



# Components of a Second Conference

- Disclosure of agreed upon information from Caucus.
- Clarifications.
- Re-evaluation of Positions
- Negotiation: Demands, Offers, Counter Offers.
- Creative Solutions.
- Resolution, Impasse, Next Steps.



# Caucus vs. Conference

	<b>CONFERENCE</b>	<b>CAUCUS</b>
<b>PARTICIPATION</b>	Involves all parties	Involves only one party and the mediator
<b>FOCUS</b>	Aims to foster dialogue	Provides a space for private discussion
<b>USE</b>	Used for collective problem -solving	Strategic for negotiation and addressing sensitive topics

# Role of the Mediator

\*Mediators worksfor both partiesnot againsteither party

During a conference, mediators should...

- **Guide** parties towards right path to reach a common goal.
- **Follow rather than lead** lead from rear, allowing them to go where they choose and intervene when they go towards danger or in wrong direction.

# A Good Mediator...

- Listens
- Asks, doesn't tell
- Guides, doesn't push
- Displays patience, concern, gratitude, understanding, empathy, and acceptance without judgment
- Maintains confidentiality



# Questions?

Evaluation Survey: