

Randall E. Butler

Curriculum Vitae

Personal

Native Houstonian, Sixth Generation Texan, now residing in Boulder, Colorado

Married since Aug. 25, 1973 to Katherine Simmons Butler - two daughters, two sons-in-law, six beautiful & brilliant grandchildren

Conflict Resolution

Butler Consulting Group/Butler Mediation Services Founder & Owner

1995 to Present

- Mediated over 2000 complex legal disputes involving major institutions in Houston and Fortune 500 companies since 1995
- Consulted to help resolve congregational conflicts within several large churches and a synagogue in Houston, Texas
- Designed and led a team of mediators to conduct a mediation process in a multi-district litigation involving over 12,000 plaintiffs and multiple defendants

Conflict Transformation & Leadership Training

The Peacemakers Podcast Executive Producer and Host

Jan. 2017-present

One purpose of the podcast is to amplify voices for peace building – the voices of men and women calling for people of good will to come together to build bridges of understanding across their differences in order to link arms in collaborating to serve the common good. Another purpose is to tell the stories of people actively engaged in serving the common good and peace building. Multiple episodes are online at ThePeacemakersPodcast.com.

The Institute for Sustainable Peace Founder, CEO & President

Jan. 2007-present

• In the United States

- Designed and facilitated a workshop Nov. 10, 2018 with 52 participants, in Boulder, CO, entitled “How Do We Engage Diverse Voices In Constructive Conversations To Bridge The Divides Among Us?”
- Served as subject matter expert and speaker on the subject, “What Is Our Ability To Agree & Work Together Across Deep Divides” at the Energy Scenario Planning project for the State of Pennsylvania, July 17-19, 2017 at the invitation of the Shell Scenario Planning Team
- April 20-21, 2017 designed and facilitated a workshop entitled: “Can We Talk? How To Have Civil Conversations In A Deeply Divided Society” for 40 leaders in the Synod of the Sun of the Presbyterian Church, USA
- Co-designed and co-facilitated a “Dialogue Workshop: How Do We Host Diverse Voices In Powerful Conversations About Hard Topics?” Sept. 18-19, 2015 in Houston, TX, involving a diverse group of 80 community leaders, activists, community organizers, mediators, and facilitators. Workshop began with a World Café Dialogue focused on “How will we write the next chapter of the story of race in America?” Participants were introduced through exercises and adult learning experiences to several dialogic processes including

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Generative Dialogue, Theater of the Oppressed, Open Space, and Conflict Transformation.

- Facilitated Jewish/Muslim Dialogue Groups in partnership with Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston, November 2007 to 2016.
 - Designed and facilitated with the Christian/Jewish/Muslim Dialogue Group a Café Dinner Dialogue attended by 100+ Christians, Jews, and Muslims from greater Houston, June 2014.
 - Consultant to American Leadership Forum – facilitated Core Class XXX 2012-2013, Community Development Sector Class 2013-2014, and the Transformational Dialogue day for Core Classes XXXIII & XXXIV and Criminal Justice 5 Sector Class.
 - Designed and facilitated the Connecting Communities Project 2011-2013 in partnership with the Kinder Institute for Urban Research at the request of its co-directors, Steve Klineberg and Michael Emerson that brought together 51 leaders in Houston from the four main demographic groups to address how to insure that Greater Houston develops into an inclusive, equitable, and united multi-ethnic metropolitan region.
 - Designed and facilitated two Candidate Cafe Dialogues in 2010 and 2012 involving candidates for Congress, Texas State Senate and House and 100+ members of the Houston community, co-sponsored by the American Leadership Forum, the League of Women Voters, and the Association of Conflict Resolution – Houston.
 - Led an interactive program for business school students “Should Businesses Do Business With Totalitarian or Oppressive Regimes - Creating a Framework for Moral Decision Making,” as part of the Ethics Roundtable Series, University of St. Thomas, November 2012.
 - Co-designed the 9/11 Tenth Year Commemoration program in Houston with Emilee Whitehurst - Rothko Chapel and Sandy Bernhard, Houston Grand Opera, September 2011.
 - Designed and facilitated the HISD Cafe Dialogue November 16, 2010 involving 75 community leaders, the Superintendent of HISD, and board members.
 - Facilitated final meetings in 2010 of the Scenario Planning Groups of the Center for Houston’s Future, helping them complete the 2040 Scenario Planning Process.
 - Designed and facilitated a community dialogue project at the request of Mayor Bill White in Alief in partnership with Houston Department of Health, Dept. of Neighborhoods of the Mayor’s Office, and Texans Together, June 2009. Residents of a large rent assisted apartment complex gathered in dialogue with representatives of the mayor’s office and health department to address issues they face in their community. Outcome: after school programs for at- risk youth in a community center created by the residents with the help of Texans Together in an apartment donated by the owner of the complex.
 - Trained facilitators of IMGH Amazing Faiths Dinner Dialogues in 2009 and consulted on the design of Amazing Faiths Dinner Dialogues, 2010.
 - Facilitated IMGH Amazing Faiths Dinner Dialogue in the home of Annise Parker 9 City Comptroller and later Mayor) & Kathy Hubbard, November 2008.
- International Activities
 - Designed & Facilitated **United in Diversity for Peace - Using Non-violent Means To End The Conflict In South Sudan**, at Drake University, Des Moines, IA, September 30-October 1, 2017, sponsored by Coalition of Advocates for South Sudan

- Designed the program with facilitators' handbook for South Sudan Unite Youth Leadership Conference, in Omaha, Nebraska, for members of the South Sudanese diaspora, June 24, 2016.
- Designed 2nd Annual Conference of Global Partnership for Peace in South Sudan, "Building Trust & Doing Good," held in Boston, Mass. July 31-Aug. 2, 2015.
- Designed & spoke remotely to Healing & Reconciliation Workshops with South Sudan Women United attended by South Sudanese women leaders from tribes in conflict Spring 2014.
- 2007 – 2014 Designed, led a team that organized, and co-facilitated 15 Transformational Leadership Workshops attended by 300+ activists and leaders from Sudan, Darfur, and South Sudan, including leaders of the Sudan Revolutionary Front, human rights activists, the vice-chairman of the Democratic Unionist Party of Sudan, the Secretary General of the UMMA Party of Reform & Renewal of Sudan (and former Sudanese Minister of Tourism & Cultural Antiquities), the Editor-in-Chief of the largest independent newspaper in Sudan, members of the Secretariat of the SPLM in America, a member of the South Sudan parliament, the chairman of the Youth League of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, and the first Ambassador to the United Nations from South Sudan.
- Traveled to Khartoum and Juba in Sudan in October of 2009:
 - Gave a press conference carried by all seven television stations including Al-Arabiya and Al-Jazeera, seven newspapers, and the Sudan Radio Service
 - Met with 75 leaders in ten days, including Sudan's Minister of Labor, Sudan's Minister of Transportation Roads & Bridges, the leader for the Northern Sector for the SPLM, the Secretary General of the SPLM, the South Sudan Peace Commission, the Peace & Reconciliation Commission of the Legislative Assembly of South Sudan, the Executive Committee of the Youth League of the SPLM, the Minister of Regional Cooperation, and Sadiq Al-Mahdi – former Prime Minister of Sudan.
 - Made presentations to the Darfur Bar Association and a group of activists at Katim Adlan Center in Khartoum. Spoke to two different gatherings of activists and leaders.
- Helped design and lead the ROM Leadership Development & Peace Gathering, Fuzine, Croatia – each summer from 2002 to 2011 working with 500+ young leaders from all the ethnic groups in the Balkans
- Co-led and facilitated first TRUTH trip with Rev. Steve Quill taking a group of Christian Pastors, Jewish Rabbi, and Muslim Business Leaders to Croatia & Macedonia to meet with peace activists and leaders April 26-May 5 2010

Cook & Butler, LLP
Partner

1991-1999

- Represented clients in complex litigation involving Fortune 50 multi-national corporations
- Co-managed a boutique litigation firm with annual revenues in 8 figures

Fulbright & Jaworski, LLP
Partner

1981-1991

- Served as lead attorney defending hundreds of medical malpractice cases

- Clients included Memorial Hospital System, Hermann Hospital, Baylor College of Medicine, St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, Texas Children's Hospital, Hospital Corporation of America, Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word
- Coordinated lawyer recruiting for the Health Law Section for seven years
- Supervised medical residents from Baylor College of Medicine providing research support for the section

**Fourteenth Court of Civil Appeals
Briefing Attorney**

1980-1981

- Researched and co-authored over 40 published opinions

Thought Leadership

Recent Public Speaking & Appearances

- "Conflict Transformation & Human Rights in War-Torn Countries: My Experience With Sudan And South Sudan" (including brief account of the conflicts in Sudan & South Sudan. The focus will then shift to the potential role for multi-national corporations and lawyers in fostering peace in conflict affected countries) at the 29th Annual International Law Conference of the State Bar of Texas, February 2017
- "Toward An Inclusive, Equitable, & United Multi-ethnic Society in Greater Houston," Houston Assembly of Delphian Chapters, May 30, 2015
- Served as a panelist for the Doing Business in Africa program of the International Law Section of the Houston Bar Association, May 22, 2015
- "Conflict Resolution Through Faith," guest lecture, Religions in Dialogue course, UH-Clear Lake, March 24, 2015
- "Inner Peace & Outer Peace," Brith Shalom Synagogue, Houston, September 2014
- "Building Community Unity," Spring-Klein Chamber of Commerce, September 2014
- "Building Community Unity," Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce, June 2014
- "Peacebuilding," Houston Rotary Club, April 2014
- "Living Your Values Series," Emory Weiner Upper School, February 2014
- "Bridging Differences," Dialog Institute of the Southwest, January 2014
- "The Spiritual Practice of Discernment," Grace Presbyterian Church, January 2014
- "Deep Engagement for Practical Peacebuilding," Inaugural Dinner, Alliance for Compassion & Tolerance, October 2013
- "The Spiritual Practice of Discernment," First Presbyterian Church, September 2013
- Served on panel addressing inter-racial tension on Sunday Morning Live radio program with Marcus Davis, KMJQ 102.1, July 2013
- Interviewed Rev. Bill Lawson, on camera and before a crowd in a program of ISP with American Leadership Forum, April 2013
- "Signs of Hope," Ordinary Life Class, St. Paul's United Methodist Church, February 2013
- Presentation at Houston Holocaust Museum re El-Malam Peace Project, April 2012

- Interviewed Imam Faisal Abdel Rauf before an audience at the Rothko Chapel in May 2011
- Interviewed Shirin Ebadi, Nobel Peace Prize winner and human rights attorney and activist in Iran, before a large crowd, March 2010 in Houston, TX
- Delivered the Fellers Lecture of the Institute for Spirituality and Health, Houston Medical Center, May 2010, on the topic of “Peace Building Across the Ocean and Across the Street”
- Appeared monthly to talk about Peacebuilding with Ada Edwards on Dialogue with Ada Edwards on KROI 92.1 FM, 2008-2009
- Multiple guest appearances on ABC-13 Weekend News in Houston, TX as commentator on conflict in Sudan/South Sudan
- Moderated panel discussion of interfaith leaders with Tariq Ramadan, Islamic Scholar and Oxford Professor, at the Rothko Chapel, 2010
- *Principles of Conflict Resolution*, Peacemaking Mission Trip – Northern Ireland and Rep. Of Ireland – Summer 2000

Publications

- “Dialogue Amidst Cacophony” in the peer-reviewed international journal, *Educatio*, Spring 2015
- Blogs at <http://instituteforsustainablepeace.wordpress.com>
- Published legal articles have appeared in *South Texas Law Review*; *University of Houston Law Review*; *Specialty Law Digest: Health Care*; *Texas Lawyer*; and *Legal Times*.

Other Teaching Experience

- Adjunct Professor, Master’s Level Course - *International Conflict Resolution*, International Studies – University of St. Thomas, Houston, Texas – Spring 2003
- Adjunct Instructor, Conciliation Training Practicum; Institute for Christian Conciliation – 2000
- Adjunct Instructor, Attorney Mediator Institute, late 1990s, Basic and Advanced Mediator Training
- Adjunct Professor, University of Houston Law Center, Medical Malpractice Course -1993 & 1996

Education & Training

Formal Education

- Bates College of Law, University of Houston: J.D. with Honors, 1980
- Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary: Dean’s List, 1976-77
- Houston Baptist University: B.A. with High Honors, 1976

Training, Certification & Licensure

- “The Public Policy Facilitator’s Toolbox: Designing Processes for Multi-Stage Initiatives,” (led by Bill Potapchuk, MA, MS) Innovations in Collaboration and Conflict Resolution – Skills Enrichment Institute of the Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution, University of Texas Law School, July 29-30, 2010
- Certification – Myers Briggs Type Indicator – administration and interpretation, 2007
- Conciliation Training & Advanced Practicum; Institute for Christian Conciliation, 1999
- Harvard Negotiation Project: Negotiation Workshop, Harvard Law School, 1997

- Advanced and Basic Mediator Training: Attorney-Mediator Institute, 1995
- Licensed Attorney – State of Texas, 1980 to present

Recognitions & Awards

- Professionalism Award– Garland R. Walker Inns of Court, Houston, Texas, 2011
- Ben & Julie Rogers Ecumenism Award, Anti-Defamation League - Southwest, 2010
- Bar Register of Preeminent Attorneys, Alternative Dispute Resolution
- “AV”-rated: Martindale-Hubbell – since 1985

Professional Memberships

- The Mediation Association of Colorado, Professional Membership
- Associate Member, Taos Institute
- Society of Organizational Learning
- Association of Attorney Mediators
- Advisory Board – The Frank Evans Center for Conflict Resolution
- Association for Conflict Resolution- Houston Chapter - President (2010)
- State Bar of Texas, 1980 to present
- Houston Bar Association, 1980 to 2018
- Houston Bar Foundation – Life Fellow

Leadership in the Community

- Participated in the Global Stakeholder Design Summit, held at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, where over 170 representatives of civil society, business, and government came together to create the National Peace Academy
- Center for Houston’s Future – Leadership Forum Graduate, Fall 2008
- Steering Committee, Amazing Faiths Dinner Dialogues, IMGH
- Elder & Teacher, First Presbyterian Church, Houston, 1997- 2017
- Mentor – High School Accountability Group, FPC Youth Ministry, 1997-2006
- Board of Directors, BEAR- BE A Resource for CPS Kids, Harris County Children’s Protective Services, 1998-2000
- Board of Directors, River Oaks Baptist School Endowment, 1991-1997, President
- Board of Deacons, River Oaks Baptist Church, 1990-1996, Chairman 1994-1996
- Board of Trustees, Houston Baptist University, 1990-1992