



HOUSTON'S 50 MOST INFLUENTIAL WOMEN OF 2017

Fran Brochstein

Attorney and Mediator

President, Association for Conflict Resolution, Houston Chapter

“Brochstein does volunteer mediations through the Harris County Dispute Resolution Center and Houston Volunteer Lawyers.”

Fran Brochstein has lived her life using Albert Einstein's observation on difficult times: “In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.”

Brochstein attended law school at South Texas College of Law in her early 30s with a nine-month-old baby at home. She became a divorced, working mother while still attending law school.

After graduation, Brochstein worked at Houston Volunteer Lawyers as the AIDS project coordinator when the AIDS epidemic was new and devastating.

Next, she opened her own law firm, practicing in the area of family

law to help people in crisis.

In 2003, Brochstein was diagnosed with breast cancer and used this time to reflect. After much introspection, she decided to make a dramatic change and, in 2004, she took her first mediation course.

Brochstein has been selected several times as one of the best attorneys/mediators in Houston by both *Houstonia Magazine* and *H-Texas Magazine*. In 2017, Expertise.com named her as one of the top 20 mediators in Houston.

Today, Brochstein serves on the board of the Texas Association of Mediators and is the president of Association for Conflict Resolution – Houston Chapter.

Working has only been a part of Brochstein's life. Her father taught her it is a privilege to be living in Houston, Texas in the U.S. It was from his example of anonymous charitable giving and involvement with numerous nonprofits that she learned the importance of giving back to your community.

She served as an officer in several clubs at Bellaire High School. She was president of Phi Gamma Nu Business Fraternity at the University of Houston and served on the volunteer board for Houston Blood Bank.

After college, Brochstein served as president of the Galleria Chapter of the American Business Women's

Association. In law school, she served as vice president of Delta Theta Phi Law Fraternity-STCL.

Brochstein has served on numerous boards, including Houston Congregation for Reform Judaism (president, unprecedented three, non-consecutive terms), Steven's House (an intermediate care facility for people with HIV/AIDS), the International Alliance of Holistic Attorneys, Delta Theta Phi Law Fraternity – Houston Alumni (president) and the national president of Phi Gamma Nu Business Fraternity.

Brochstein currently serves on the State Bar of Texas Committee for the Unauthorized Practice of Law and on the Houston Bar Association's Fee Dispute Committee.

Brochstein shares knowledge and experience with new mediators by teaching at the Harris County Dispute Resolution Center's Family Law Mediation Training and Manouso Mediation & ADR Services. Brochstein does volunteer mediations through the Harris County Dispute Resolution Center and Houston Volunteer Lawyers. She also accepts pro bono legal clients through Lone Star Legal Aid and Houston Volunteer Lawyers.

Brochstein is married to Jimmy Jones, senior Assistant Harris County Attorney. Her daughter, Sarah, lives in Austin with her husband, John Haney.

