

NORTH CAROLINA LAWYERS WEEKLY

Kate Deiter-Maradei

Deiter Mediation, Raleigh

Before founding Deiter Mediation in Raleigh in 2013, Kate Deiter-Maradei was an associate, senior associate and partner at Teague, Campbell, Dennis & Gorham LLP. She received a bachelor's degree from Pennsylvania State University and a law degree from the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Law. She conducts pro bono mediations in criminal district court for Carolina Dispute Settlement Services and is an active member of the North Carolina Bar Association and Wake Women Attorneys. She has received numerous awards, including the Triangle Business Journal's "40 Under 40" award, Lawyers Weekly's Women in the Law Award, the News and Observer's Tar Heel of the Week Award, the N.C. Bar Association's Citizen Lawyer Award, the Super Lawyer Rising Stars Award, and the Women of Justice Award; and received an AV Preeminent Rating from Martindale-Hubbell. She's been an active volunteer at many educational, community and women's organizations.

What do you consider your most significant professional achievement?

My greatest professional accomplishment is founding Deiter Mediation. It was a huge leap to leave partnership at my former firm to launch my own business. It has been so rewarding to run my own business and I am so glad that I chose to do it. I really enjoy the independence and flexibility of having my own firm and shaping its direction. I have been able to expand my volunteer and pro bono activities and work with so many wonderful people.

In July 2016, I began organizing a facilitated dialogue in the Triangle area bringing together African-American

citizens and law enforcement officers. The purpose is to build and strengthen those relationships in our community. I connected with Essential Partners, a nonprofit based out of Cambridge, Massachusetts, and began collaborating with them. In October 2016, I organized a training run by Essential Partners for 12 community leaders. At the training, the group learned to facilitate discussions about high-conflict topics in a productive manner.

I secured commitments from the chiefs of police of Durham, Raleigh, Chapel Hill and Cary to participate in the project. Additionally, I worked with the group to secure participation from 12 African-American citizens. On March 21, 2017, the group met and underwent the first dialogue. The feedback was very positive and the same group is in the process of doing two more dialogues. Many of the participants are going to undergo the training to conduct additional dialogues in the community.

What do you consider your most significant personal achievement?

Above all, I consider my three kids, Jack, Eleanor and Rose, to be my greatest accomplishments. They are clever and warm and make me so proud. I strive to make sure they are happy, healthy and safe every day. My daughters are African-American and they have been the catalyst for my enhanced commitment to improving race relations in our community. As our nation's attention turned towards police policies and community relations, I felt compelled to do something significant to build and strengthen relationships and that would have a sustained impact.



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