

NORTH CAROLINA LAWYERS WEEKLY

RISEING STAR AWARD

Kate Deiter-Maradei

Deiter Mediation Raleigh

Law School: University of
North Carolina School of Law

Undergraduate:
Pennsylvania State University



After Kate Deiter-Maradei's father was diagnosed with cancer, she and her husband bought a house so her parents could move from Pennsylvania to Chapel Hill where Deiter-Maradei was in her third year of law school. She helped her mother take care of her father in his final days, and attended all of his medical appointments. Today, she honors her father's memory by giving back through community service.

What inspired you to start your own mediation firm?

I loved practicing as a civil litigator. But over time I found the work I enjoyed most involved alternative dispute resolution. My favorite days were those spent mediating claims or collaborating with opposing counsel regarding a resolution to a dispute. I have been overwhelmed by the support of my friends, family and col-

leagues throughout the launch of Deiter Mediation. The biggest hurdle for me has been learning all of the new systems necessary to run my firm effectively. On the other hand, I really enjoy the independence and flexibility of having my own firm and shaping its direction.

What inspires you to go to work each day?

I am inspired by the people whom I get to work with. I really enjoy interacting with people, and mediating allows me to meet new people and foster existing relationships with my friends and colleagues. It also is rewarding to work with two groups of people who come to the mediation in conflict and leave the table in agreement.

What is your favorite way to spend family time?

Family time is all about fun. I have been blessed with an amazing husband who is a kind and supportive partner. We enjoy traveling, sharing meals with friends and laughing with our little ones.

How do you balance community service with your workload?

My parents raised us to appreciate our good fortune and enjoy helping others.

I have structured my work to allow me to devote time to volunteering in my community. Engaging and helping people in this way is something that is critically important to me and I make it a priority on my calendar. I derive joy from my pro bono and volunteer work and it rejuvenates me as an attorney, a mediator and a person.

Describe something about yourself others would be surprised to know.

First, I completed an auto mechanics class when I was in high school. I learned how to change the oil, what a catalytic converter does and how to label the parts of an engine. Second, I grew up playing street hockey with my brother and I broke my nose while playing on a club team at Penn State. Third, one of my favorite hobbies is matchmaking, and I am pleased to announce that one of the couples I introduced recently got engaged.

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