

# Boston Law Collaborative, LLC

Photos

We began with two people (David Hoffman and Stacey Bran)  
as the Boston Office of The New Law Center in June 2002.  
By December 2002, there were 7 of us.



From left to right: Stacey Bran, Olive Larson, Richard Wolman,  
Melissa Filgerleski, David Hoffman, Diana Kierein, Diane Noel

# In August, 2003, we became Boston Law Collaborative, LLC



From left to right: Richard Wolman, Diana Kierein, Olive Larson, Melissa Filgerleski, Dina Beach Lynch, David Hoffman, Susan Miller, Israela Brill-Cass, Vicki Shemin

September 2003 – construction of a bigger space for BLC



This article appeared in the  
*American Bar Association Journal* in October 2003.

KEEVA ON LIFE AND PRACTICE

## A MULTIDOOR LAW OFFICE

Divorce Clients at this Firm Can Get Team  
Advice on Emotional and Financial Issues

STEVEN KEEVA

**I**T WAS IN GALVESTON, TEXAS, IN THE FALL OF 2002 that Boston lawyer and mediator David Hoffman had something of a revelation. It happened in a break-out session during the annual meeting of the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals. There were about 80 people in the room, and the topic of discussion was multidisciplinary teams—in this case, lawyers working together with therapists and financial professionals.

“I asked the assembled group for a showing of hands:

professionals. Key members of the Boston Law Collaborative include Harvard psychologist Richard Wolman and certified financial planner Susan Miller. Another is Dina Beach Lynch, who provides Web-based conflict management information and advice.

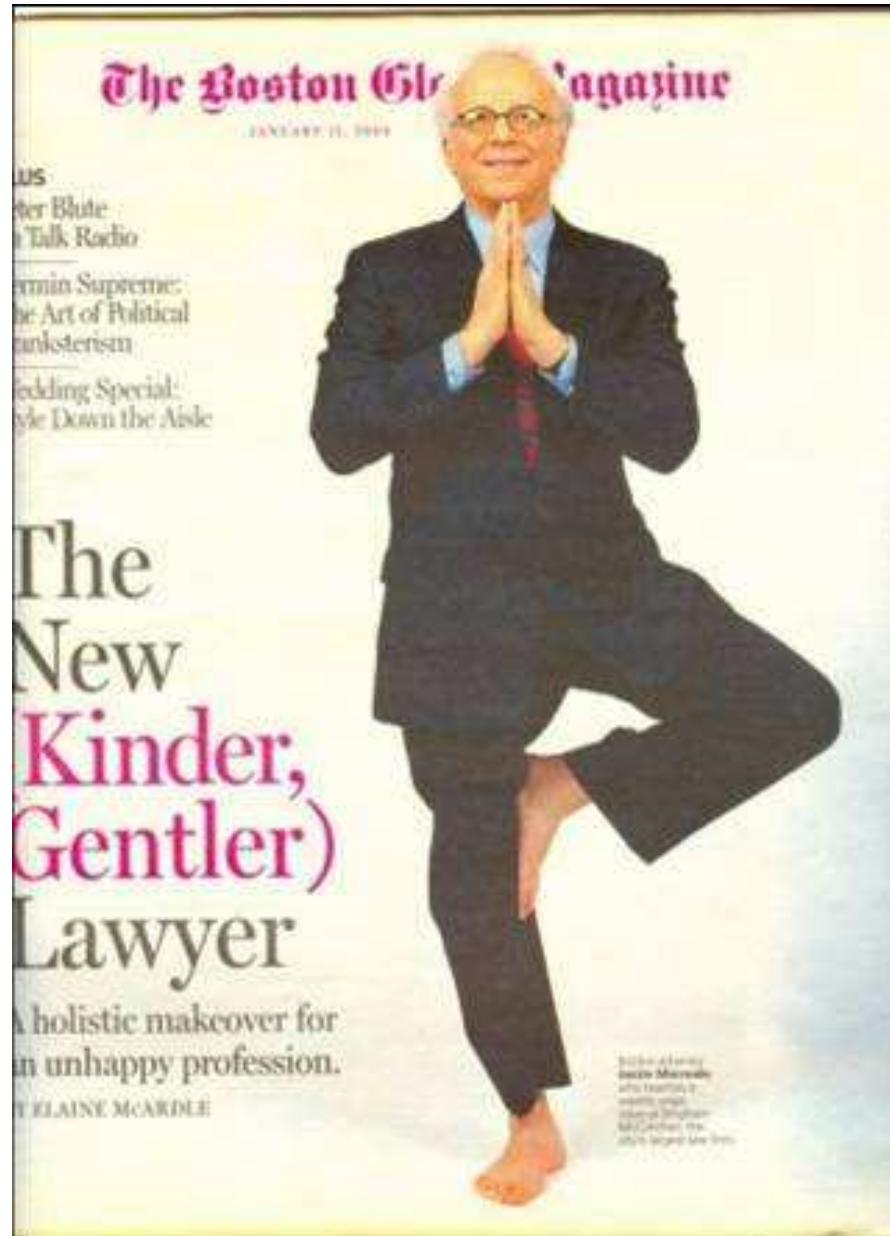
Before the firm opened, Hoffman ran the Boston office of The New Law Center, whose other office, in Newton, Mass., was entirely dedicated to achieving collaborative solutions to legal problems. For them, going to court was not an option.

It was for Hoffman, even though his strong preference was, and remains, for collaborative processes. An experienced family lawyer and a gifted mediator, he chose not to eschew the option of going to court. To him, it is a tool, among many others, that can be useful to clients, particularly in family law when it may be necessary to defend a complaint or, in cases of domestic violence, to seek protective orders.

In fact, the two offices developed in their own ways to the point where they agreed to separate, with the Boston office becoming the BLC.

What Hoffman envisioned, and what he now oversees, is based on a model that has existed for some time, though it has rarely been used. The basic idea is to offer clients a range of approaches to resolving their problems. What Hoffman and Co. are trying to add to that is the

Then this article, mentioning BLC, appeared in the Boston Globe Magazine (January 2004), and the phone started ringing like crazy



On January 1, 2004, Olive Larson joined  
David Hoffman as a Member of BLC



# Still growing: BLC - 2004



From left to right: Richard Wolman, Susan Miller, Dina Beach Lynch, Vicki Shemin, David Hoffman, Melissa Filgerleski, Dan Sinrod, Olive Larson, Bob Koure, Amy Hannes, Israela Brill-Cass, Diana Kierein, Katherine Liu, Julie Hoyt

# Walking for a good cause: a BLC contingent (2005)



From left to right: Nicole DiPentima, Lenore Pellani, Ian Catmur, Melissa Filgerleski, Matt Pike, Francy Foral, Lily Hoffman-Andrews, and David Hoffman

# Boston Law Collaborative, LLC - June 2006



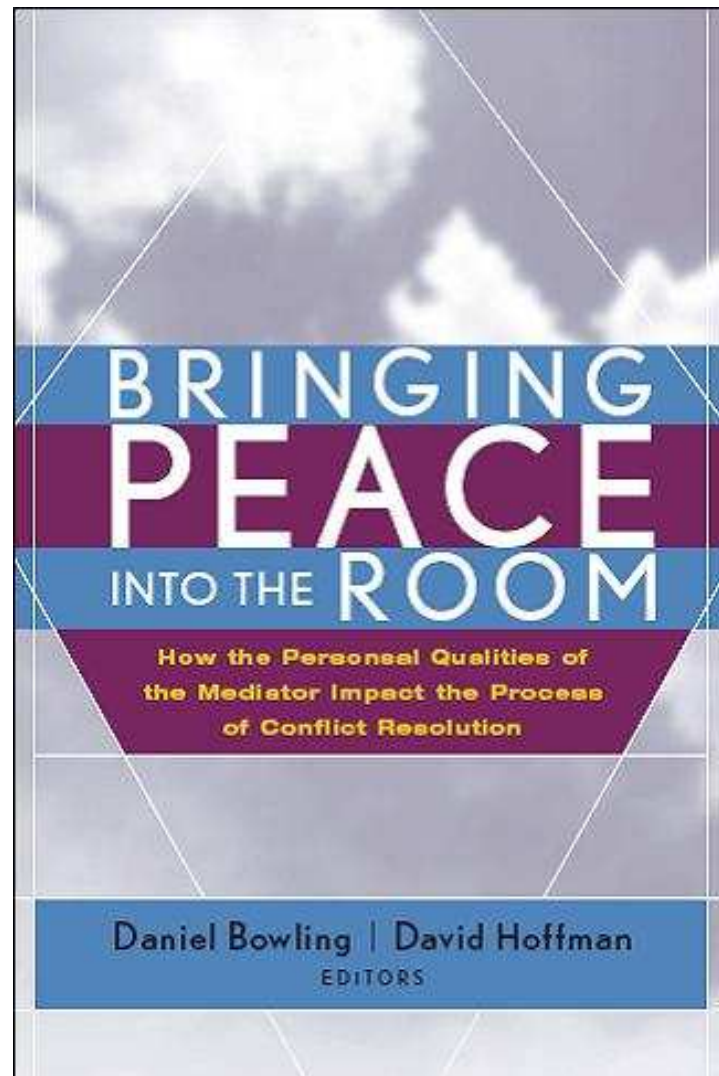
From left to right: Keri Dailey, Richard Wolman, Sarah Kenney, Nicole DiPentima, Mary LaCivita, Olive Larson, Susan Miller, Lenore Pellani, Dan Garrelick, Dina Beach Lynch, David Hoffman, Vicki Shemin, Craig Silverman, Israela Brill-Cass

## Helping one of our favorite charities with a community service day: BLC at Cradles to Crayons in 2008

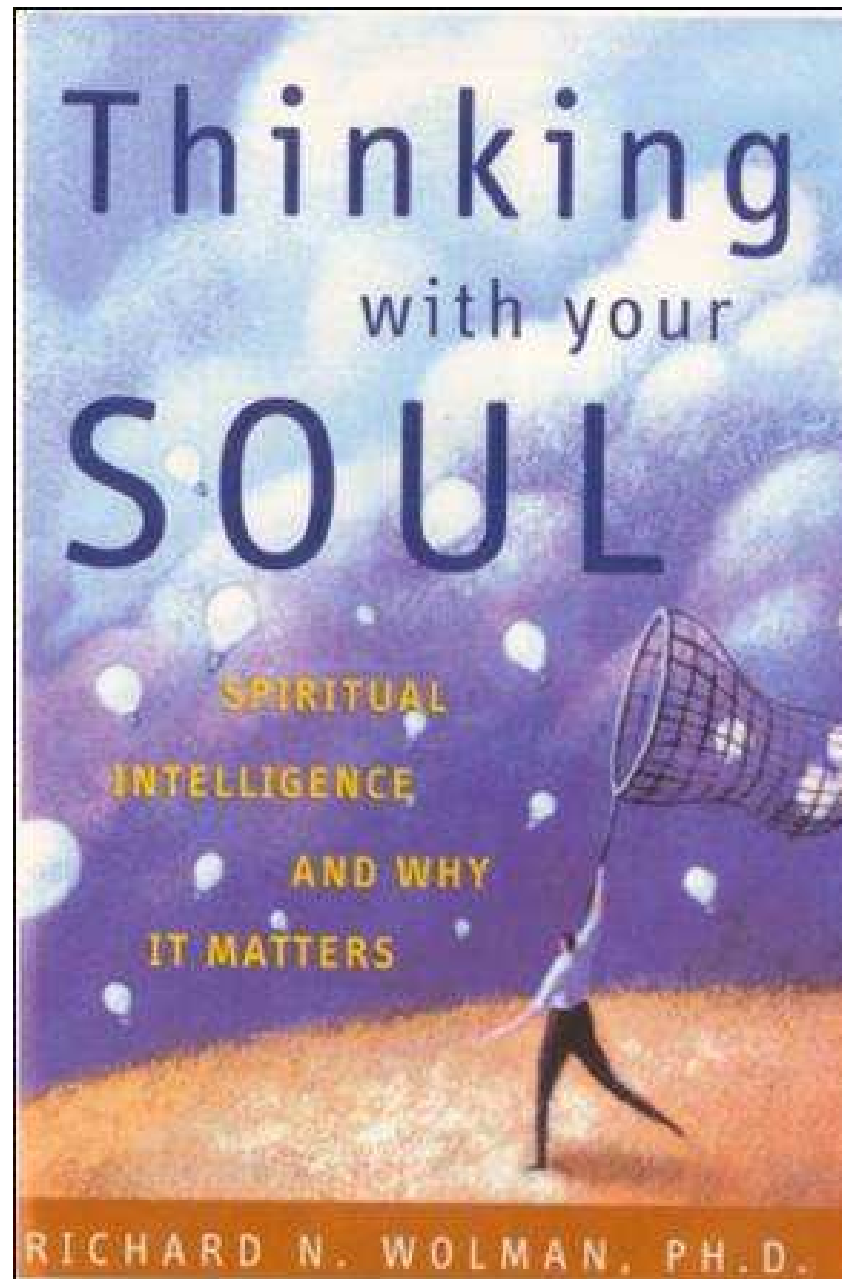


From left to right: Vicki Shemin, Lenore Pellani, Mary LaCivita, Israela Brill-Cass, David Hoffman, Nicole DiPentima, Christopher Horwood, Sarah Kenney, Craig Silverman, Ben Kaberon

One of our favorite books  
(we have LOTS of copies in the office . . .)



Another favorite title, by BLC Affiliate Richard Wolman



# One of our recent workshops - on an important subject



For more information, contact  
Nicole DiPentima  
Direct Line: 617-439-4700 x200  
NDiPentima@BostonLawCollaborative.com

Workshop:  
**“Exploring the Crossroads of Diversity and Spirituality”**

*Friday, October 3, 2008 – 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.*



Workshop Leaders (left to right):  
Homer La Rue, David Hoffman, Marvin Johnson, and Daniel Bowling

This interactive program will focus on how an understanding of racial diversity issues can be deepened by personal and spiritual insights, and how those insights can enhance our work on racial diversity issues in both our work and personal lives. In plenary session presentations and small group meetings, the workshop leaders will facilitate discussion and engagement about balancing and integrating mind, heart, and soul in an increasingly diverse world, with a particular focus on conflict resolution. Attendees will participate in dialogue that begins to break through the underlying psychological barriers that divide our world along racial lines.

# A recent mediation training at BLC



## Mediation Skills Workshop for Construction Professionals Tuesday, December 2, 2008

### Mediation Faculty:

**David A. Hoffman**, Founding Member, Boston Law Collaborative, LLC

**Stuart Baker**, Founder, Conscious Cooperation

**John W. Fieldsteel**, Founding Partner, Urbelis & Fieldsteel, LLP

**Israela Adah Brill-Cass**, Executive Director, Boston Law Collaborative, LLC

### This Program includes:

- A one-day workshop to introduce participants to Alternative Dispute Resolution and the principles of mediation and how and why it works.
- Introduction to the "Mediator's Toolbox" and the four basic mediation skills
- Role play observation and participation - each participant will observe a mock mediation of an actual construction dispute and have an opportunity to serve as a mediator, observed and critiqued by an experienced mediator/role play coach.
- Notebook of resources and articles.

### Faculty



**David A. Hoffman** is the founding member of Boston Law Collaborative, LLC, where he serves as mediator, arbitrator, and attorney. He is past chair of the American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution and teaches the Mediation course at Harvard Law School.

**Stuart Baker** is the founder of Cooperation in Construction and has been a construction professional since 1980. In addition to construction and business experience, he has years of experience and training in social services, mediation and human dynamics.



**John W. Fieldsteel** is a founding partner at Urbelis & Fieldsteel, LLP where his ADR work is concentrated in resolving design and construction disputes throughout New England and New York. He has served as a neutral and auditor in over 800 cases during the past 20 years.

**Israela Adah Brill-Cass** is Boston Law Collaborative's Executive Director and ADR Case Manager. She is a skilled facilitator and mediator and has designed and implemented programs and trainings in conflict resolution for the Commonwealth and the courts.



# A visit to our offices



# A visit to our offices



Our reception area

## A visit to our offices



One of our conference rooms (the Wolf Kahn room)

## A visit to our offices



Another conference room (the Rothko room)

## A visit to our offices



Our reading room – for clients and the BLC team

# A visit to our offices



**Heroes and heroines** (Rosa Parks, Mahatma Ghandi, Rev. Martin Luther King, Eleanor Roosevelt, Albert Einstein, Nelson Mandela)

# BLC Today



From left to right: Nicole DiPentima, Richard Wolman, Vicki Shemin, David Hoffman, Marc Marrero, Susan Miller, Olive Larson, Craig Silverman, Israela Brill-Cass, Mary LaCivita, Lenore Pellani, Mandy Swamy

# Boston Law Collaborative, LLC

Photo credits:

Mandy Swamy, Israela Brill-Cass, Bob Koure,  
John Kennard, David Hoffman