

Bioethics Mediation: How to Resolve Health Care Disputes

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Building on the theory published in their new book, *Bioethics Mediation*, co-authors Nancy Dubler and Carol Liebman presented a talk entitled “Bioethics Mediation: How to Resolve Health Care Disputes” to a crowd of over 60 at the Columbia University Law School. Dubler and Liebman have a successful history of collaboration and described their work together recognizing the need for a model of mediation specific to bioethics. In health care settings perplexing or difficult conflicts arise in choosing appropriate or ethical patient care, especially in life-threatening situations. A bioethics mediator is a professional who has been trained in classic mediation techniques, and how these apply to health care situations. The benefit is that the mediator comes to the conflict situation as a neutral party without having previously formed opinions favoring one point of view or another. As such, the mediator helps disputing parties arrive at a constructive and principled solution. Typically, a bioethics mediator is employed by a hospital so he or she also has familiarity with hospital policy and culture.

Nancy Dubler works as a clinical ethicist at Montefiore Hospital. She drew on actual patient cases to demonstrate the application of bioethics mediation. Audience members participated by asking questions and putting themselves in the role of the bioethics mediator.

More information on *Bioethics Mediation* by Nancy Dubler and Carol Liebman is available [here](#).