

Sharon Ellison, M.S., Director of the Institute for *Powerful Non-Defensive Communication*, is an international communication consultant, an award-winning speaker, and the author of *Taking the War Out of Our Words*. She and her daughter, Ami Atkinson, produced the audio-book, *Taking Power Struggle Out of Parenting* winner of a Benjamin Franklin Award. Sharon has developed a communication process that gives people the ability to eliminate defensiveness in both professional and personal interactions. Sharon was one of 55 invited participants at an International Symposium, co-sponsored by the Minnesota Collaborative Law Institute with a grant from the Fetzer Institute. She was also an invited participant at the International Symposium on Human Dignity and humiliation at Columbia University, focused on the role of language in international conflict resolution. The guest speaker at the 11th annual Kaplan Lecture, Sharon received an honorary award as a pioneer in the field of communication.



In the field of collaborative family law ~ Sharon has been a speaker for the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals (IACP) annual conferences, as well as for state and regional conferences in both the US and Canada. She also provides training programs for collaborative practice groups. US practice groups include: San Francisco, CA; Chicago, IL; Minneapolis, MN; Milwaukee, WI; Taos, NM; Harrisburg, PA; Pittsburg, PA; Dallas, TX; Maryland; New Jersey; and New York. Canadian groups include: Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg, Ontario, and Quebec. Sharon has had papers published, including by the Collaborative Law Journal and for a Texas Bar Association, Collaborative Law Conference, as well as an article for the Marin, CA Collaborative blog.

Sharon has been a speaker for groups in related professions, including:

~ **Law:** 9th Circuit Court, Annual Conference the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts; Superior Courts of Los Angeles, Napa, and Sacramento; US Department of Justice; US & Canadian Bar Associations, and the Law Societies of Canada, bi-annual conference for family law judges and attorneys.

~ **ADR:** American Bar Association, International DR Conferences; the Association of Conflict Resolution, international conference; US Navy, International ADR Conference; Northern California Dispute Resolution Association, Annual Conferences; State Bar of Georgia, Annual ADR Conference; Federal Court Mediators, NH & Maine; ADR Working Group for the Federal Government, Washington D.C., and the Centre for Dispute Resolution, London, England.

~ **Mental Health:** Marriage and Family Therapists (MFT) continuing education provider; University of California, San Francisco Medical School, Langley Porter Psychiatric Institute; Center for the Vulnerable Child; Children's Protective Services of Oregon.

~ **Finance:** Ernst and Young; Wells Fargo; and the Institute of Divorce Financial Analysts.

In the vital area of cultural competence, Sharon has spoken for organizations such as: the UC Berkeley Staff Diversity Facilitator Network; and the Women's Global Health Imperative. She is dedicated to enhancing performance, creating leadership with integrity and building strength of community in every environment.