

BRUCE COTTRILL

In the New Zealand context, the institutionalization of mediation, its mandatory nature under certain circumstances through legislation, and its general acceptance as a profession in its own right brings with it new and hitherto unexplored responsibilities. Along with the mediator's obligations founded in tort, contract, legislation and through their own professional organizations comes the personal obligation to continuous improvement and the discharging of safe and thoughtful practice.

Accordingly, mediators' must turn their minds to availing themselves to the professional development and supervision options available to them, and to develop where appropriate specific interventions and tools to ensure that these new obligations are met. There exists an urgent call for a better understanding and the more universal provision of developmental and supervisory "best practice" mechanisms for mediators.