



SPEAKER'S BIO



DAVID THALER

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FMCS Commissioner David Thaler currently serves as the Senior Advisor to the Director of FMCS as well as the Agency's Chief International Affairs Officer. In his role as Senior Advisor to the Director, Commissioner Thaler develops medium and long-range policy initiatives for the Agency in matters of mediator performance management, service delivery, and education and training. He also advises the Director regarding the implementation of the same. In addition to his role as Senior Advisor, Commissioner Thaler also serves as the Head of the FMCS Office of International Affairs. In that role, he designs, administers and delivers U.S. technical assistance programs that involve the training of foreign governmental mediators in advanced mediation and labor relations skills. He often delivers services in Spanish and, in November 2019, he delivered a program in Portuguese. Commissioner Thaler has worked in Argentina, Bangladesh, Canada, Colombia, the Czech Republic, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Hungary, Italy, Mexico, Mozambique, Panama, Peru, Portugal, South Korea, Thailand, Uganda, and Vietnam, in addition to training incoming delegations from China, Haiti and Tajikistan. In 2015, Commissioner Thaler was named to the international roster of mediators for United Nations and United Nations Staff Management Committee.

From 2005 until 2018, Commissioner Thaler served as a field mediator in the Metropolitan New York Field Office, mediating disputes in the areas of collective bargaining, grievances based on violations of collective bargaining agreements, and equal employment opportunity. While in the New York Area, Commissioner Thaler also trained labor and management partners in relationship development and conflict management and designed mediation and conflict management systems for educational and health care institutions, working with several large hospitals to design systems for managing conflict workplace conflict on a departmental level on an ongoing basis. Commissioner Thaler has also served as an instructor of incoming classes of new federal mediators and on the faculty of the FMCS Institute for Conflict Management.

Commissioner Thaler holds a master's degree in Public Policy from Harvard University, a J.D. from New York University, where he was a Norman Ostrow Scholar and an editor on the Moot Court Board, and a B.A. in International Relations and Spanish, Summa Cum Laude, from Tulane University, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Commissioner Thaler has also authored or co-authored several publications relating to workplace issues for several international organizations and U.S. government agencies. Since 2014, Commissioner Thaler has been an Adjunct Professor of Conflict Management at Drew University, where he was the 2018 recipient of the Thomas H. Kean Award for excellence in graduate teaching.