

A Research Agenda for  
Special Education Dispute Resolution

Robert McKelvain, PhD

Professor of Psychology  
Abilene Christian University  
robert@mckelvain.com

Mediator & Consultant  
Family Dispute Solutions, LLC  
325 669 9327

How do we accelerate the progress of practice-relevant research in special education dispute resolution?

Value of Research

- Improve practice
- Improve training
- Enhance credibility
- Enhance accountability
- Develop theory

Social Influencing Practices

- Examples: Mediation and Facilitation
- Definition and Description

Lessons from History of Research on Social Influencing Practices

Challenges for a Research Agenda

- Research infrastructure
- Designing practice-relevant research
- Communicating to community of practice

Proposals to Meet the Challenges