Carrie Menkel-Meadow and Me

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Carrie and her student and friend Ana Silva.

I first met Carrie Menkel-Meadow in 2003 at Georgetown's Foundations of American Law programme. I was a Fulbright student from Chile.

Now, I am Law Professor. I was born and raised in the south of the country and I studied at the Catholic University of Chile (in Santiago) before moving back home to start working as a teacher at the Law School of the Catholic University of Temuco, a pioneering place because, since its creation 30 years ago, it has required all its students to take an alternative dispute resolution (ADR) course. It was to be a few years after taking up my post at Temuco that I would fulfil my dream of pursuing an LLM in the United States (US).

During that first week in Georgetown we experienced many classes and encountered many teachers. But it was Carrie who made such a huge impression on me that I decided I should take a class with her … even

though she was talking about US procedural law! There was something in her teaching style that was really engaging. And then I found out that her real areas of expertise (she has many) are negotiation and mediation—the focus of my LLM programme! So, needless to say, I decided to sign up for her course. I remember being terrified that it would be oversubscribed but I was lucky enough to get in and from then on it was a privilege to listen to her lectures and hear her reflections in the class. Furthermore, she always made time to meet with her students in her office—no matter how busy she was (and she is constantly busy with her numerous work projects).

The course Carrie was teaching that semester was her Negotiation and Mediation Seminar. Having taken the Harvard Negotiation intensive week-long seminar in 2002, I was impressed by her nuanced approach to negotiation but, most of all, by her wisdom and her generosity. I remember thinking how great it would be if a short version of her vision for negotiation were to be made available for the wider public. At the time, Carrie was working on her casebooks, which had not yet been published, so we set up a heavy folder containing the photocopied materials that would later become her *Dispute Resolution: Beyond the Adversarial Model* casebook (2018).

Then, in the second semester, I took her general ADR course and asked her to supervise my LLM paper, which she very generously did. My topic centred upon a group of indigenous Chilean women who were opposed to the construction of a hydroelectric dam on their ancestral property. She took an interest in the subject matter and supported me as I worked towards completion of my assignment.

I can honestly say that, for me, she was the single most important professor on my LLM Programme. She made my stay in Georgetown truly worthwhile and, most of all, memorable. I think I represent many international students in this regard.

Over the years, and notwithstanding the distance between the US and Chile, she never forgot about me. Furthermore, she has honoured me with her continuing mentorship and even her friendship, as she has done with many students over her long teaching career. I still remember my surprise in 2005 when I received on my doorstep a heavy package – it was a signed copy of the first edition of *Dispute Resolution: Beyond the Adversarial Model*! It was a very generous gesture—and the book became an invaluable teaching aid.

Carrie has always had a very close connection with South America, especially Argentina and later on also with Chile. A few years after my



Carrie, Ana and Bob in Buenos Aires in 2009.

LLM, through an invitation from another Chilean student (Carlos Silva, a colleague who was Carrie's student in 2004-2005, but not related to me), she spent a few weeks in Alberto Hurtado University in Santiago, as a Fulbright Senior Specialist. From Santiago, Carrie and her husband Bob drove the 700 kilometres to visit me and my family in my city of Temuco. We made time for some sightseeing in the "lake district" of Villarrica and Pucón, and also drove north to the Andes foothills to see the actual dam we had written about in my LLM Paper (the Ralco Dam). In my department at the Catholic University of Temuco, Carrie even taught a mediation seminar, which I translated for our Spanish-speaking audience. It was a great experience to be able to teach with her.

A couple of years later, she invited me to Buenos Aires to give a lecture at the Southwestern University Summer Programme, where she taught for many years. There she introduced me to her colleagues, distinguished professors who accepted me as one of their own.

Lately, she has honoured me by mentioning my name in the "Acknowledgments" in her book *Negotiation. A very Short Introduction* (2022). And she did it again in her *International Conflict Resolution Processes* (2025), marking another coincidence in our lives, as we both also teach International Law—a field closely related to peace and dialogue.

In February 2024 I visited her at UC Irvine, where she gave a lecture about International Conflict Resolution and invited me to attend her negotiation class, which brought back so many memories!

Having said all that, the most important thing for me is that my students at the Catholic University of Temuco, who will probably never pursue studies in the US, can benefit from Carrie's work because her casebooks, her *Negotiation: A Very Short Introduction* and her *International Conflict Resolution Processes* have all contributed enormously to my teaching. Furthermore, her influence in my life and on my teaching has been immense. She has been like an intellectual mother to me.

The only other thing that I would like to say is: "Carrie, I am so lucky to have met you … THANK YOU!"

Postscript

Another privilege that comes with Carrie's friendship is to meet and spend time with Bob, First-Gentleman extraordinaire … his intelligence, charm and witty sense of humour makes it a pleasure to talk to him every time we have had the joy of his company. He has also honoured me with his friendship.

About the author

Ana M Silva *is a Chilean Lawyer and Law Professor at the Catholic University of Temuco, Chile, and Santo Tomás University in Temuco. She studied Law at the Catholic University of Chile (graduated 1992). In 2003 she received a Fullbright Scholarship and subsequently was awarded an LLM from Georgetown University in 2004. She holds another Master's degree in State, Democratic Society and Law from the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU) (2024). See her* LindkedIn profile *for further details.*

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