

Louise Phipps Senft

BLINK of an Eye™ Founder and Executive Director



Louise Phipps Senft is an attorney and nationally recognized Transformative Mediator for complicated business, family, divorce, and organizational Issues. She is the author of the best-selling book, *Being Relational: The Seven Ways to Quality Interaction & Lasting Change* (2015). She is a nationally recognized writer and trainer of Mediation and Conflict Transformation Skills from a Relational Mindset and has trained 1000's of professionals. On August 5, 2015, Louise's life was changed in the blink of an eye when Archer, one of her five children, was tragically injured in a 2015 diving accident at the ocean, rendering him a quadriplegic. She spent months living by his side in ICUs and hospitals battling for his life, paralyzed from the neck down, and for the quality of his care. She and her family responded with love and fierce advocacy. Archer's choice to live and be hopeful has been a beacon to many.

In caring for Archer, Louise learned that most hospitals do not have Spinal Cord Injury expertise and that most doctors are not trauma-informed. In addition, she recognized that her mediation skills were critical in navigating the complexities of the healthcare system, and that most families did not have those skills. To address these issues, she founded in 2020 the Integrative Center for Trauma Healing, Advocacy, and Transformation, I C THAT, now known as Blink of an Eye™ non-profit to fill the gap. Blink of an Eye™ provides a rapid response HEAL Team and trained Navigators to support families in the first 30 days of injury and through the transitions of the first Miracle Year. Blink of an Eye™ is a beacon for relational and trauma-informed



approaches to SCI families in crisis bringing them cutting-edge SCI medical expertise as well as hope, emotional and spiritual support, and navigation tips.

Louise also created the *Blink of an Eye™ Podcast* in 2020 focused on storytelling with trauma-healing insights for listeners across the globe. The Podcast features her own origin story as well as interviews with trauma healers from all disciplines. She also hosts the Dear Louise series, highlighting those living with SCI who are heroes or caregivers.

Prior to Archer's injury, she founded Baltimore Mediation in 1993 and mediated and advised thousands through their conflicts and crises. Louise was named a top CEO in the state of Maryland, a top CEO of a minority-owned business, and was awarded on multiple occasions the distinguished "Top 100 Women" in Maryland honor. Her mediation and teaching touched thousands of lives for the better with a message to believe in human capacity even as conflict unfolds while facing life's setbacks.

A Midwesterner who hails from Springfield, Illinois, she is a University of Virginia graduate and attended Washington & Lee University School of Law. She graduated with honors and was voted by her peers and the law faculty as the Most Outstanding Law Student. She was Chair of the International Moot Court Program and Founder and President of the first Women Law Students Organization. She was also elected the first woman law representative to the 100-year-old Honor System at the traditionally all-male undergraduate campus. Upon graduation, she and her husband took the bar exam and travelled west in a van with one tent, a small stove and a cooler, camping under the stars in 20 US state parks for two 1/2 months before moving to Baltimore where she practiced law at Whiteford, Taylor & Preston.

After seven years as a litigator, she decided to forge a new alternative way to resolve legal disputes through face-to-face dialogue. She founded Baltimore Mediation, the first mediation firm in Maryland and the U.S. with a focus on face-to-face quality dialogue. Thirty years later, Baltimore Mediation remains a beacon of transformative practices and is one of the most successful mediation firms in the U.S. Louise pivoted her professional practice and her SCI life experience to Blink of an Eye™.

Whether through her Podcast *Blink of an Eye™*, the Blink of an Eye™ non-profit, her national best-selling book *Being Relational*, or her blogs and inspirational speeches, Louise brings a message of hope and living life with the qualities of Being Relational - leaning into the art of living a fully authentic life, advocating for what is possible, which is good for self and good for others.