

County Mediation Matters

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Creativity can solve almost any problem. The creative act, the defeat of habit by originality, overcomes everything.

- George Lois

Big Changes Afoot!

As many of you have already heard, Robin Davis will be leaving as the ADR Director effective July 1, 2008. She joins the faculty at the UF College of Law as a Skills Instructor in the Mediation Clinic Program and Associate Director of the Institute for Dispute Resolution. We will continue to see Robin on a regular basis, however, when she accompanies clinic students to court on Friday mornings. Congratulations Robin!

Also effective July 1, 2008, Judge Green and Judge Jaworski will be rotating to criminal divisions. Judge Mary Day Coker and Judge William Davis will be our new civil division judges. Please join us in welcoming them both to the civil bench.

More Reminders – Please Note

- Remember to make contact with parties as soon as possible after you are assigned a case. Even before you ever approach the mediation desk to pick up the court file, make sure that the parties know who you are and understand that you will be with them shortly. If a plaintiff has multiple cases, you should leave the jury box when the first mediation case is assigned in order to make contact with the first defendant. You can then wait by the door to make contact with subsequent defendants. We cannot stress enough how important it is to follow this procedure. Our observations from the other side of the courtroom confirm that mediators who follow this protocol facilitate a much smoother and user-friendly process.

- There are live microphones in the jury box. Everything you say is being recorded and monitored by court reporting staff and becomes a matter of public record. Act professionally and discretely at all times.

- If you arrive at the courtroom after court has started, do not walk to your seat in the jury box while the judge is giving the opening statement. Wait until after the first case is called. It is perfectly fine to wait in the

back of the courtroom, but walking across the courtroom while the judge is talking is disruptive and distracts litigants from the important message at hand.

- It is never permissible for a mediator to write in the court files. If you need to correct or update information in the file, write the changes on a separate piece of paper and include the loose paper in the file when you return it to the Clerk.

Observation of Mediators

Program staff will be observing all mediators on an ongoing and continuing basis. At a minimum, observers are looking to establish that all mediators are delivering the required opening statement and otherwise abiding by the Rules of Ethics governing mediators. The ultimate objective, however, is to help everyone become the most effective mediator that they can be.

2008 Court Holidays

Monday, May 26 th	Memorial Day Holiday - Courthouse closed
Friday, July 4 th	Independence Day Holiday - Courthouse closed
Monday, September 1 st	Labor Day Holiday - Courthouse closed
Tuesday, September 30 th	Rosh Hashanah Holiday - Court Administration closed
Thursday, October 9 th	Yom Kippur Holiday - Court Administration closed
Tuesday, November 11 th	Veterans' Day Holiday - Courthouse closed
Thursday and Friday, November 27 th and 28 th	Thanksgiving Holiday - Courthouse closed
Thursday and Friday, December 25 th and 26 th	Christmas Holiday - Courthouse closed

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Persons with a disability who need any accommodation in order to participate should call Jan Phillips, ADA Coordinator, Alachua County Courthouse Family and Civil Justice Center, 201 E. University Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601 at (352) 337-6237 within two (2) working days of your receipt of this notice; if you are hearing impaired, call (800) 955-8771; if you are voice impaired, call (800) 955-8770.

Eighth Judicial Circuit County Mediation Program Results

1st Quarter Statistics January through March 2008

County	Cases Mediated	Written Agreements Reached	Percent Written Agreements	Pending Continued Cases	Continued Cases Defaulted
Alachua	146	100	71%	6	2
Baker	20	15	79%	1	0
Bradford	20	14	74%	1	0
Gilchrist	2	1	100%	1	0
Levy	8	5	63%	0	0
Union	4	4	100%	0	0
Total	200	139	73%	9	2

2008 Year-To-Date January 1 through May 16, 2008

County	Cases Mediated	Written Agreements Reached	Percent Written Agreements	Pending Continued Cases	Continued Cases Defaulted
Alachua	266	179	72%	18	2
Baker	27	20	77%	1	0
Bradford	30	20	74%	3	0
Gilchrist	7	3	50%	1	0
Levy	13	7	54%	0	0
Union	6	6	100%	0	0
Total	349	235	72%	23	2

Note: The percentage of written agreements does not include pending continued cases.