

# County Mediation Matters

A Publication of the Administrative Office of the Court

Volume 8, No. 4

April 2002

***The game of life is the game of boomerangs. Our thoughts, deeds and words return to us sooner or later, with astounding accuracy.***

- Florence Shinn (1871-1940)  
Writer

## Re-Certification and CMEs

As an increasing number of you near your re-certification date, we have been getting more and more questions regarding what to do if you are short of CME hours when it comes time to submit your application. In these situations, the DRC suggests the following procedure.

Send in the renewal form and payment with as much of the CME form completed as possible. When the DRC receives an incomplete form, they automatically generate a certified letter stating that the mediator has 90 days from the date of the letter to meet the CME requirements. During those 90 days there is no fee penalty and the mediator remains certified. If the mediator fails to return the renewal form within the 90 days, the certification will lapse. To restore certification, the mediator must pay double fees and complete the required CME. CME credits that are earned after the normal re-certification date to satisfy a deficiency in CME hours may not be double counted in the subsequent renewal period.

This procedure is intended to be used in cases of hardship. It is NOT recommended as standard operating procedure. We strongly encourage mediators to complete the required sixteen CME hours in advance of the certification deadline.

## CME Luncheon

This month's CME luncheon will be on April 19<sup>th</sup> in the Grand Jury Room at noon. Please also note that our last CME luncheon until September will be on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Audio Tapes

We are looking into buying several audio tapes from past conferences for use by volunteers to help fulfill the CME requirement. Please let us know if you attended any particularly good sessions at either of the last two DRC conferences that you think would make a good addition to our library.

## March and 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Stats

Volunteers mediated 64 cases in Alachua County in March. Fifty-eight percent were settled, with the outcome pending in two cases. Eight of 12 cases were settled in the neighboring counties, with the outcome pending in one case. In the first quarter of 2002 there were 200 cases mediated in the circuit. Agreements were reached in 61 percent.

## Speaking of Statistics

Don't worry, the ADR department is not mathematically challenged (most of the time). Some of you have commented recently that the percentages in the monthly statistics appear to be incorrect. When reviewing the stats, please remember that continued cases that are pending are not

included in the computation of the percentage of cases in which a written agreement is reached. For example, if out of ten cases mediated in Bradford County, two continue, six settle, and two impasse, the percentage of cases settled is 75 percent (six out of eight) not 60 percent (six out of ten). When a continued case is resolved, the statistics are updated to reflect either settlement or impasse.

## Reminder

The monthly newsletter may now be viewed online at [www.circuit8.org/pubs](http://www.circuit8.org/pubs). Please call or e-mail Janet if you would like to read the newsletter online instead of getting a hard copy in the mail. We would very much enjoy reducing the numbers of copies that we mail.

## Upcoming Events and Dates

April 19 - CME Luncheon  
May 10 - CME Luncheon

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If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in county mediation proceedings you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the Court Administrator's Office by phone at (352) 337-6237 or in person or in writing at 201 E. University Ave, Gainesville FL 32601 within 2 working days of your receipt of this newsletter; 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**

### **March 2002**

| <b>County</b>    | <b>Cases Mediated</b> | <b>Written Agreements Reached</b> | <b>Percent Written Agreements</b> | <b>Continued Cases Pending</b> | <b>Continued Cases Defaulted</b> |
|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Alachua</b>   | <b>64</b>             | <b>36</b>                         | <b>58%</b>                        | <b>2</b>                       | <b>0</b>                         |
| <b>Bradford</b>  | <b>2</b>              | <b>2</b>                          | <b>100%</b>                       | <b>0</b>                       | <b>0</b>                         |
| <b>Gilchrist</b> | <b>1</b>              | <b>1</b>                          | <b>100%</b>                       | <b>0</b>                       | <b>0</b>                         |
| <b>Levy</b>      | <b>7</b>              | <b>5</b>                          | <b>83%</b>                        | <b>1</b>                       | <b>0</b>                         |
| <b>Union</b>     | <b>1</b>              | <b>0</b>                          | <b>0%</b>                         | <b>0</b>                       | <b>0</b>                         |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>75</b>             | <b>44</b>                         | <b>61%</b>                        | <b>3</b>                       | <b>0</b>                         |

### **2002 Year-To-Date** January through March

| <b>County</b>    | <b>Cases Mediated</b> | <b>Written Agreements Reached</b> | <b>Percent Written Agreements</b> | <b>Continued Cases Pending</b> | <b>Continued Cases Defaulted</b> |
|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Alachua</b>   | <b>170</b>            | <b>98</b>                         | <b>62%</b>                        | <b>12</b>                      | <b>1</b>                         |
| <b>Baker</b>     | <b>5</b>              | <b>2</b>                          | <b>50%</b>                        | <b>1</b>                       | <b>0</b>                         |
| <b>Bradford</b>  | <b>5</b>              | <b>3</b>                          | <b>75%</b>                        | <b>1</b>                       | <b>0</b>                         |
| <b>Gilchrist</b> | <b>1</b>              | <b>1</b>                          | <b>100%</b>                       | <b>0</b>                       | <b>0</b>                         |
| <b>Levy</b>      | <b>15</b>             | <b>7</b>                          | <b>50%</b>                        | <b>1</b>                       | <b>0</b>                         |
| <b>Union</b>     | <b>4</b>              | <b>2</b>                          | <b>50%</b>                        | <b>0</b>                       | <b>0</b>                         |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>200</b>            | <b>113</b>                        | <b>61%</b>                        | <b>15</b>                      | <b>1</b>                         |

Note: Percent written agreements does not include continued cases that are pending.