

County Mediation Matters

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Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

-Margaret Mead

Identification Badges

All right everybody. It's official. Word has come down from the top. All Court Administration personnel, including volunteer county court mediators, **must** wear their court identification badges prominently at all times while working. It is **not** sufficient to simply have your badge available in your briefcase or purse - it must be worn while you are in the courthouse for mediation. Robin and Janet are responsible for ensuring that all volunteers display identification as mandated by the Court Administrator - and will take the heat for volunteers who do not comply.

Conference Attendees

We plan to have (or had, depending upon when you read this) a contingent of twelve representing the Eighth Circuit at the County Mediation Summit on August 22nd. If you are eligible for a stipend, please be sure to submit your receipts and proof of attendance to Janet. Also, please let us know if a session you attended was particularly good, and you think that we should consider purchasing the audio tape for our library.

Stipulated Judgment

It is perfectly proper for parties to settle their dispute by the defendant agreeing to have a judgment entered. As long as both

parties agree on the amount of the judgment, there is no need to set the case for hearing. All the mediator needs to do is write on the Results of Mediation form something to the effect that "The parties agree to the entry of a judgment in the amount of \$100 against the defendant Sam Smith." Don't forget to include the correct judgment amount and, of course, both parties must sign the form.

July Stats

Volunteers mediated 60 cases in Alachua County in July and settled 62 percent. The outcome is pending in seven cases. Six of ten cases were settled in the neighboring counties. Circuit-wide, the year-to-date settlement rate is 62 percent.

CME Luncheon

The September CME Luncheon is scheduled for September 20th in the Grand Jury Room. Alison Gerencser will present a program entitled "The Mediator's Toolbox."

Peer Observations

Several of you have already completed your annual requirement to observe and be observed by at least one other mediator. The general sentiment seems to be that this is a very worthwhile endeavor. In order to get the very most from the process, we ask that observers

not participate in the mediation (i.e., co-mediate). Individual mediators have different ways of getting to the same place, and part of the observation process is to see different mediation styles and approaches.

Fall Mediation Clinic

It's time once again for the UF Law School's Fall Mediation Clinic. As in the past, we are asking volunteers to assist with the mentorship of the eight clinicians. Students are scheduled to begin their observations on September 13th and, hopefully, will begin co-mediating on September 27th. Please let us know your availability to help with the clinic by completing and returning the enclosed form, or just call or e-mail Janet.

How to reach us:

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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

July 2002

County	Cases Mediated	Written Agreements Reached	Percent Written Agreements	Continued Cases Pending	Continued Cases Defaulted
Alachua	60	33	62%	7	0
Baker	1	1	100%	0	0
Bradford	3	2	67%	0	0
Gilchrist	0	0	NA	0	0
Levy	4	2	50%	0	0
Union	2	1	50%	0	0
Total	70	39	62%	7	0

2002 Year-To-Date

January through July

County	Cases Mediated	Written Agreements Reached	Percent Written Agreements	Continued Cases Pending	Continued Cases Defaulted
Alachua	407	244	62%	16	8
Baker	11	8	73%	0	0
Bradford	18	12	67%	0	0
Gilchrist	1	1	100%	0	0
Levy	27	13	48%	0	1
Union	10	5	50%	0	0
Total	474	283	62%	16	9

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

Name: _____

Please indicate your interest in mentoring law students in the Mediation Clinic. Remember that mentors should be willing to spend approximately 15 minutes after each observation or co-mediation to discuss the session with the students.

_____ You may assign me student observers _____ time(s) during the
Fall 2002 mediation clinic.

_____ You may assign me student co-mediators _____ time(s) during the
Fall 2002 mediation clinic.

_____ I prefer not to have student observers.

_____ I prefer not to have student co-mediators.