

County Mediation Matters

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What is important is to keep learning, to enjoy challenge, and to tolerate ambiguity. In the end there are no certain answers.

- Marina Horner

Thank You, Betty!

After six years of faithful service to the citizens of Levy County, Betty Haeseker has decided to hang up her mediator hat. First certified in February 1998, Betty mediated 134 cases for the Levy County court. We are very grateful to Betty for her years of diligence, dedication, and hard work on behalf of the mediation program. We will miss you, Betty!

2004 Peer Observations

It's a new year and time for a new round of Peer Observations and Information Exchange (POIE). Each volunteer is required to observe and be observed by one of the other active volunteers at least one time during the calendar year. The purpose of the POIE is to learn from the different approaches and techniques of your fellow volunteers, not to critique them. Remember, also, that this is NOT a co-mediation. Please be considerate of your fellow volunteers, and do not interject your opinions and thoughts into the mediation. This is a "learn by watching and listening" exercise.

We've Moved!

The ADR/Mediation department is officially moved in to Suite 303. The mediators' morning gatherings will be held in the mediation room in our new suite and not in the Grand Jury Room.

Stats

Volunteers mediated 101 cases in Alachua County in January and February and settled 63 percent. The outcome is pending in seven cases. Twenty-two cases were mediated in the neighboring counties, with agreements reached in thirteen cases or 59 percent. The year-to-date settlement rate for the circuit is 62 percent.

CME Luncheon Schedule

The dates for the next two CME Luncheons are scheduled for March 26 and April 30. We have not yet set the date for the May/June luncheon, which will also be our last CME Luncheon before the summer hiatus.

The February CME focused on court procedure and the proper completion of the Results of Mediation form. If you did not attend the luncheon, you are required to listen to the tape. All mediators are responsible for knowing and understanding the information presented at the February luncheon. The program in March will feature presentations by Tim Moran, our law school intern, and Alison Gerencser with several of the mediation clinic students.

Delinquency Mediation

The following people have signed up to mediate juvenile delinquency cases: Louise Brown, Sharon Cooksley, Mel Fried, Norma Green, John Ives, Susan Lindgard, Donna O'Connor, Michael Phillip, Saul Requesens, Pat Rosbury, Lisa Strawder, and Dot Whittle. If you are not listed, and would like to participate, please let Janet know. As discussed at our January CME luncheon, mediators who have never mediated a delinquency case will be required to observe at least one delinquency mediation prior to mediating a case on their own. Mediators will be paid \$50 per case. You will not be paid for observing. In addition, we cannot pay your parking when you are at the courthouse mediating a delinquency case. And finally, please be patient, as these cases are not scheduled very frequently.

Election Time Courthouse Ethics

In keeping with Admin. Order No. 8.460, Code of Ethics for Court Staff, please remember that political activity on court property by anyone working for the court is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, the display and distribution of literature, badges, stickers, signs, or other items of political advertising on behalf of any party, committee, agency or candidate for political office and solicitation of money or signatures for candidacy. The entire Code of Ethics is available online at <http://circuit8.org/ao/index.html>.

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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

January 2004

County	Cases Mediated	Written Agreements Reached	Percent Written Agreements	Pending Continued Cases	Continued Cases Defaulted
Alachua	58	36	64%	2	0
Baker	4	0	0%	0	0
Bradford	5	5	100%	0	0
Gilchrist	2	2	100%	0	0
Levy	2	0	0%	0	0
Union	2	2	100%	0	0
Total	73	45	63%	2	0

February 2004

County	Cases Mediated	Written Agreements Reached	Percent Written Agreements	Pending Continued Cases	Continued Cases Defaulted
Alachua	43	23	61%	5	0
Baker	1	1	100%	0	0
Bradford	3	2	67%	0	0
Gilchrist	0	0	NA	0	0
Levy	2	0	0%	0	0
Union	1	1	100%	0	0
Total	50	27	60%	5	0

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