

County Mediation Matters

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Listening is a magnetic and strange thing, a creative force. The friends who listen to us are the ones we move toward, and we want to sit in their radius. When we are listened to, it creates us, makes us unfold and expand.

- Karl Menninger

Web Site Information

Yikes! It's been almost two years since we first solicited information to include in the directory of certified county court mediators to include in the 8th Circuit ADR Website. Those who wish to have their name included on the site, or those who would like to make changes to their entry, please complete the attached ADR Web Site Information Form. In order to protect our volunteers' privacy, we will not include a mediator on the web site without specific written authorization.

New Clinicians

We are poised to begin mentorship of a new crop of law students enrolled in the Civil Mediation Clinic at the University of Florida on February 1, 2002. And as always, we are asking each volunteer to tell us the extent to which he or she is willing to assist with mentoring. Please fill out the enclosed form or let Janet know of your preferences. Remember, you can earn up to two CME credits during each renewal cycle for mentoring.

CME Luncheon

Hopefully this newsletter will arrive in time to remind all of you of the CME luncheon on January 11th at noon. Everyone is encouraged to attend. Lunch will be provided.

December and End-of-Year Stats

Volunteers mediated 71 cases circuit-wide in December. Agreements were reached in 61 percent. In Alachua County, 33 of 58 cases (65 percent) were settled, with the outcome pending in seven cases. Six of 13 cases were settled in the neighboring counties.

During 2001, the program mediated 897 cases circuit-wide, including 780 cases in Alachua County. This represents an overall increase in the number of mediations of more than 10 percent for the circuit, and more than 12 percent for Alachua County when compared with 2000. The number of cases filed remained relatively unchanged. The overall settlement rate in 2001 was 64 percent, compared with 66 percent in 2000.

PLEASE READ!!

Everyone has been doing an excellent job of remembering to bring parties without attorneys in attendance back to Judge Nilon's court if they are unable to resolve their case. However, if your case settles, it is equally important that you let Janet and the Clerk in the courtroom know that you have finished your case. On Judge Nilon's court days, both Janet and the Clerk wait in the courtroom for all of the cases without attorneys to complete mediation, and Judge Nilon stays "on call" to talk to

parties who do not settle. We have had a couple of instances recently in which a case was settled, the file returned to the Clerk on the first floor, and we were still waiting in court for the mediator to return.

Financial Assistance for CME

We will once again be providing a stipend to mediators who were active in 2001 for assistance with expenses associated with fulfilling the CME requirement. Volunteers who mediated ten or less cases will be eligible for up to \$100 in reimbursement. Those who mediated more than ten cases will be eligible for up to \$200. Remember, these funds can be spent on expenses related to any activity that fulfills the CME requirement for county mediation. Expenses for any activity for which you intend to claim reimbursement must be preauthorized.

How to reach us:

Robin Davis, ADR Director
Administrative Office of the Court
Phone: 352-491-4417 Fax: 491-4667
E-Mail: rkd@circuit8.org

Janet Hearn, Program Manager
Administrative Office of the Court
Phone: 352-491-4645 Fax: 491-4667
E-Mail: jkh@circuit8.org

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.