

County Mediation Matters

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The past gives us experience and memories; the present gives us challenges and opportunities; the future gives us vision and hope.

- William Arthur Ward (1921-1994)
Journalist

CME Stipends For 2003

The County Mediation Program has budgeted a maximum of \$250 stipend per active volunteer mediator in 2003. The stipends go toward reimbursing mediators for CME programs that they attend in fulfillment of their re-certification requirements. In order to be eligible for this amount, you must have mediated a minimum of 10 cases in 2002 and continue as an active volunteer through 2003. If you mediated less than 10 cases in 2002 and will remain a program volunteer through 2003, you are eligible for CME reimbursement of a maximum of \$75 this year.

As in years past, stipend recipients are free to spend the money for CME programs of their choice. In planning how to use your stipend, please remember that this year, in lieu of the County Mediation Summit and Annual Conference For Mediators and Arbitrators, the Dispute Resolution Center is co-sponsoring the Annual Conference of the Association for Conflict Resolution (ARC). The joint conference will be October 15-18 at Coronado Springs Resort, Walt Disney World, Orlando. Even though the DRC has arranged a reduced registration fee for Florida's volunteer county mediators, the overall costs to attend will be higher. Hence, the slightly higher stipend this year for

our most active volunteers. The registration fees for volunteers are as follows: \$50 for the pre-conference institute on Thursday, October 16th; \$50 for half-day October 16th from 12:30 to 5:00 pm; and \$100 for full-day, Friday, October 17th plus half-day Saturday, October 18th. Volunteers may register for any combination of the above. Depending upon the option(s) selected, the registration fee will range from \$50 for a half-day session to \$200 for the entire conference. Accommodations and meals are extra.

December and Year-End Stats

Volunteers mediated 37 cases in Alachua County in December and settled 74 percent. The outcome is pending in two cases. In the neighboring counties, four of eleven mediations resulted in agreements. For the year, volunteers mediated 834 cases in the Eighth Circuit and settled 61 percent with outcomes still pending in 12 cases. By comparison, there were 892 cases mediated in 2001, with settlements reached in 64 percent.

Tracking Cases

Several of you have asked about finding out how mediated cases that went to trial were decided. This information is available online at www.clerk-alachua-fl.org/clerk/civdep.html. You will need to know

either the case number or litigants' names in order to look up the case.

CME Luncheon

The next CME Luncheon will be on February 14th in the Grand Jury Room. John Ives and Liz Jones will facilitate a discussion of several ethics scenarios that were presented at an ethics workshop at the DRC County Mediation Summit in August, 2002. The program is planned to run about one and a half hours, so attendees will be receiving up to 1.8 CME ethics credits.

Important Dates

January 20 - Courthouse closed for Martin Luther King holiday
January 31 - Transformative Mediation- Fulfilling the Promise, UF Law School
February 14 - CME Luncheon
February 21 - Domestic Violence Summit, Gainesville
February 28/March 1 - FAPM Advanced Mediation Seminar and Pre-Seminar Workshop, Orlando

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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

December 2002

County	Cases Mediated	Written Agreements Reached	Percent Written Agreements	Continued Cases Pending	Continued Cases Defaulted
Alachua	37	26	74%	2	0
Baker	2	0	0%	0	1
Bradford	8	4	50%	0	0
Union	1	0	0%	0	0
Total	48	30	65%	2	1

2002 Year-To-Date

January through December

County	Cases Mediated	Written Agreements Reached	Percent Written Agreements	Continued Cases Pending	Continued Cases Defaulted
Alachua	723	444	62%	12	14
Baker	18	12	67%	0	1
Bradford	39	25	64%	0	0
Gilchrist	2	1	50%	0	0
Levy	37	16	43%	0	1
Union	15	7	47%	0	0
Total	791	470	61%	21	15

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