

County Mediation Matters

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*Then sing, young hearts that are full of cheer,
With never a thought of sorrow;
The old goes out, but the glad young year
Comes merrily in tomorrow.*

- Emily Miller

Mediation At Reichert House

The Reichert House is an after school program for at risk students between the ages of 12 and 17 years. It is operated under the Community Resources Division of the Gainesville Police Department. Some of the activities available to the students include academic assistance, vocational training, etiquette training, and anger management techniques and training.

County mediation volunteers Bob Cohen and Carl Woodham have recently undertaken the task of teaching mediation to the staff and students at the Reichert House. If you would like to assist in this very worthwhile endeavor please contact Bob at bobcohen@ivs.edu. Additional information about the Reichert House can be found at www.gainesvillepd.org/reichert_house.htm.

Mediation Intern

For the second year in a row, the ADR department is hosting an intern during the spring semester. Tim Moran is a third year law student and is very enthusiastic about mediation. He hopes to observe as many mediations as possible during his time here and then enroll in the county mediation clinic next fall. Please be sure to welcome Tim the next time you are here.

Spring Mediation Clinic

The law school clinicians for the Spring Mediation Clinic are scheduled to begin mentorship with the program on February 7th. As always, we are asking you to let us know the extent to which you wish to participate with mentoring the students by completing the enclosed form and returning it to Janet.

ABA Competition For Law Students

The American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution is sponsoring the fourth annual Representation in Mediation Competition. This competition, in which law students role-play as advocates and clients in a mediation setting, measures how well students model appropriate preparation for and representation of a client in mediation as well as provides students a valuable opportunity to experience mediation. The law school is looking for volunteers to act

as the mediator in the role plays for the first round of competition on the evening of Tuesday, January 27th. Please contact Alison Gerencser at 392-0412 or at gerencse@law.ufl.edu if you are interested in helping out or if you have any additional questions about the competition.

Room Changes

We are moving our offices! In the near future, the Alternative Dispute Resolution Program will be officially relocating from Room 400 to Suite 303 on the third floor of the Civil/Family Justice Center. We hope you will pardon our mess!

Also, PLEASE NOTE that effective immediately, small claims pre-trials will be held in Courtroom 2C.

Stats

Volunteers mediated 111 cases in Alachua County in November and December and settled 60 percent. The outcome is pending in 5 cases. Twenty-six cases were mediated in the neighboring counties, with agreements reached in 15 cases. For the year, 847 cases were mediated in the circuit with an overall settlement rate of 60 percent. The stats include 53 PIP insurance cases referred to mediation in October and December, none of which settled. When these cases are not included, the settlement rate for the year is 65 percent.

CME Luncheon Schedule

The dates for the next four CME Luncheons are scheduled for January 23, February 27, 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.

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

November - December 2003

County	Cases Mediated	Written Agreements Reached	Percent Written Agreements	Pending Continued Cases	Continued Cases Defaulted
Alachua	111	64	60%	5	0
Baker	6	4	67%	0	0
Bradford	8	7	88%	0	0
Gilchrist	0	0	NA	0	0
Levy	7	1	17%	1	0
Union	5	3	60%	0	0
Total	137	79	60%	6	0

2003

January through December

County	Cases Mediated	Written Agreements Reached	Percent Written Agreements	Pending Continued Cases	Continued Cases Defaulted
Alachua	728	426	60%	17	11
Baker	18	13	76%	1	0
Bradford	34	25	74%	0	0
Gilchrist	8	6	75%	0	0
Levy	47	21	46%	1	0
Union	12	9	75%	0	0
Total	847	500	60%	19	11

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

Name: _____

Please indicate your interest in mentoring law students in the Spring 2004 Mediation Clinic. Remember that mentors must be willing to spend approximately 15 minutes after each observation or co-mediation to discuss the session with the student(s).

_____ You may assign me student observers _____ time(s) during the Spring 2004 mediation clinic.

_____ You may assign me student co-mediators _____ time(s) during the Spring 2004 mediation clinic.

_____ I prefer not to have student observers.

_____ I prefer not to have student co-mediators.