

County Mediation Matters

A Publication of the Administrative Office of the Court

Volume 9, No. 5
June 2003

The earth's about five thousand million years old. Who can afford to live in the past?

*Harold Pinter
Playwright*

Reimbursement for CME

If you attended the four hour mediator ethics seminar presented May 9th by Kimberly Kosch and would like to use part of your annual stipend to receive reimbursement for the \$30 registration fee, please let Janet know so that she can prepare the reimbursement request. You will need to provide a copy of the Certificate of Attendance that you received at the conclusion of the seminar.

May Stats

Volunteers mediated 59 cases in Alachua County in May and settled 63 percent. The outcome is pending in ten cases. Eleven cases were mediated in the neighboring counties, with agreements reached in seven cases. Year-to-date, 319 cases have been mediated in the circuit with an overall settlement rate of 65 percent. During the same period last year, the program mediated 322 cases throughout the circuit and had an overall settlement rate of 62 percent.

Website

We've been working on developing a page on the ADR web site that we will use as much as possible to provide information and updates to volunteers. The process is ongoing, but starting this month, the current and upcoming months' mediation schedules will be posted on the site. In addition, the "planning calendar" that we usually send out with the monthly schedules is available at

the site. Each month I will send an e-mail when the final schedule is posted. Those of you with internet access can print the schedule and calendar directly off the web. Of course, schedules will continue to be mailed to those of you who do not have ready access to the web site and to those of you who tell us that you would like to continue to receive a hard copy each month. We are hopeful, however, that the site has been set up to make it easy for everyone to print their own schedule and calendar.

The link to the volunteers' web page is:

<http://www.circuit8.org/adr/volunteers.html>

We'd like to hear your comments and suggestions on how we can continue to improve the site.

Rules of Mentorship

Under the rules governing the certification of mediators, a mediator trainee may receive credit for a co-mediation only if he or she mediates the complete case. This may involve multiple mediation sessions. If a case is continued for mediation, the trainee must co-mediate all subsequent sessions in order to claim credit for the co-mediation. Therefore, mentors must not sign the trainee's co-mediation mentorship form when the outcome of the mediation session is a continuation.

This restriction does not apply to the observation portion of the mentorship requirement. In this case, the rules state that the trainee must observe four mediation sessions, the outcome of which may be impasse, written agreement, or continuation.

Don't Forget...

A case can be settled by the defendant agreeing to the entry of a judgment. Simply state on the Results of Mediation form that the defendant agrees to entry of a judgment and specify the total amount. The mediator should also list the individual components of the judgment (i.e., principal, interest, court costs, attorneys fees).

Important Dates

July 4 - Court Holiday - No Court
July 25 - No Court
October 15-18 - DRC/ACR Joint Conference, Coronado Springs Resort, 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

May 2003

County	Cases Mediated	Written Agreements Reached	Percent Written Agreements	Continued Cases Pending	Continued Cases Defaulted
Alachua	59	31	63%	10	0
Baker	1	1	100%	0	0
Bradford	3	1	33%	0	0
Gilchrist	1	0	0%	0	0
Levy	5	4	80%	0	0
Union	1	1	100%	0	0
Total	70	38	63%	10	0

2003 Year-To-Date

January through May

County	Cases Mediated	Written Agreements Reached	Percent Written Agreements	Continued Cases Pending	Continued Cases Defaulted
Alachua	276	174	67%	15	2
Baker	5	4	80%	0	0
Bradford	13	7	54%	0	0
Gilchrist	3	2	67%	0	0
Levy	19	8	44%	1	0
Union	3	3	100%	0	0
Total	319	198	65%	16	2

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