

County Mediation Matters

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There can be no happiness if the things we believe in are different from the things we do.

*Freya Madeline Stark
Writer, (1893 - 1993)*

Upcoming CME Opportunities

Take advantage of a great opportunity to earn ALL of your CME ethics credits in one afternoon. On May 9th from 1:00 to 4:45 p.m. the North Central Florida Mediation Council is sponsoring a mediation ethics seminar featuring Kimberly Kosch as the guest speaker. The cost to attend this seminar is \$30. The registration fee also includes your annual membership in the NCFMC. Attendees will earn up to four CME credits in all areas of certification, including four ethics credits.

Volunteers may use their 2003 stipend to attend this seminar. If you plan to attend and are eligible for reimbursement, please let Janet know so she can submit pre-authorizations. We are unable to reimburse expenses that are not pre-authorized by the county (their rule, not ours). The seminar is to be held in the County Commission chambers on the second floor of the County Administration Building.

As an added bonus, immediately prior to the ethics seminar, Kimberly will be our guest for the volunteers' May CME luncheon. We plan to have a very informal "Ask The DRC" session before Kimberly hops across the street for the ethics seminar. Please note that we will be starting the luncheon 30 minutes early in order to give Kimberly time to gear up for the seminar. Lunch will be delivered at 11:00 a.m. with

the program beginning at 11:30 a.m. This is our last luncheon until September, and we look forward to seeing everyone there.

March and April Stats

Volunteers mediated 95 cases in Alachua County in March and April and settled 62 percent (68 percent in March and 57 percent in April). The outcome is pending in ten cases. Twenty cases were mediated in the neighboring counties, with agreements reached in eleven cases and the outcome pending in one case. Year-to-date, 249 cases have been mediated in the circuit with an overall settlement rate of 66 percent. During the same period last year, the program mediated 271 cases throughout the circuit and had an overall settlement rate of 61 percent.

Mentoring

We are grateful to each and every one of you for the time and assistance you give to mentoring new county mediators. The mentorship work that you do provides mediator trainees with the foundation for their future success as mediators and ultimately enhances the mediation profession as a whole. In addition to providing mentorship to new program volunteers and UF law school clinicians, our program also assists mediator trainees who have recently completed non-DRC sponsored mediation trainings.

These individuals do not wish to volunteer for a mediation program so have opted instead to pay for one of the training programs available through private providers. One of the functions of the Eighth Circuit's mediation program is to assist all local mediator trainees with the mentorship phase of their training. We expect the number of requests for mentorship support to continue to grow as mediation becomes an increasingly popular means of dispute resolution. Hopefully, we never ask too much of any one individual with respect to mentoring, but if we ever do, please don't hesitate to let us know. We want all of the mediators to continue to enjoy their work and would much rather give you a needed break than to have you feel overwhelmed with observers and co-mediators.

Important Dates

May 9 - CME Luncheon, 11-12:30

May 9 - Ethics Seminar, 1-4:45

May 16 - No Court

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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

March-April 2003

County	Cases Mediated	Written Agreements Reached	Percent Written Agreements	Continued Cases Pending	Continued Cases Defaulted
Alachua	95	53	62%	10	1
Baker	3	2	67%	0	0
Bradford	9	6	67%	0	0
Gilchrist	1	1	100%	0	0
Levy	5	0	0%	1	0
Union	2	2	100%	0	0
Total	115	64	62%	11	1

2003 Year-To-Date

January through April

County	Cases Mediated	Written Agreements Reached	Percent Written Agreements	Continued Cases Pending	Continued Cases Defaulted
Alachua	217	140	68%	11	1
Baker	4	3	75%	0	0
Bradford	10	6	60%	0	0
Gilchrist	2	2	100%	0	0
Levy	14	4	31%	1	0
Union	2	2	100%	0	0
Total	249	157	66%	12	1

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