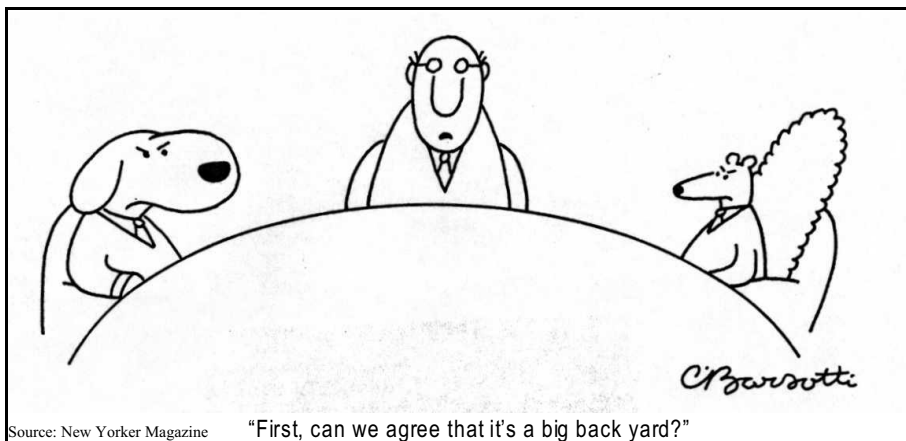


County Mediation Matters

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make the duplicate copies easier to read. Please continue to return the very last (*non-carbon*) copy to the Program. Finally, a reminder that the digits "01" at the start of the case number on the forms for Alachua County do not represent the year 2001. They are the identifier for Alachua County and are the first two digits in all Alachua County cases. Other counties have a different two digit identifier.

Persistence Pays

Regardless of what parties may posture at the start of the mediation, in most cases litigants want to leave with a settlement. Mediators must be *persistent* and *listen* very carefully when working with recalcitrant parties. Consider the following tips and rules of thumb the next time you are up against a seemingly impossible situation.

- Never declare an impasse without at least attempting a caucus. It's simple human nature that parties will not admit vulnerabilities in front of their "adversary." You will learn things and can explore options in caucus that you can't in joint session.

- Listen, *listen*, **listen** for clues. If you hear one of the parties say "he insulted my wife", there's a very good chance that this case is not about money at all. Caucus. Explore options. (Hint: An apology might be all that's needed.)

- Don't expect progress to be made in giant leaps. Progress is made in baby steps. Again, persistence is the key to a mediator's success.

- Relay all offers regardless of your opinion of the offer. Not only is this the mediator's ethical obligation, but you have absolutely no way of knowing how the other party will respond unless you ask. No harm ever came from asking.

Holiday Appreciation Luncheon

Don't forget the annual Holiday Appreciation Luncheon for volunteers on Tuesday, December 17th at Napolitano's. If you would like to participate in the "grab bag" gift exchange please bring a wrapped gift costing in the \$10 price range.

October Stats

Volunteers mediated 74 cases in Alachua County in October and settled 51 percent. The outcome is pending in seven cases. Three cases out of six mediated in the neighboring counties was settled. Year-to-date, volunteers have mediated 701 cases in the Eighth Circuit and settled 61 percent.

A Word About Forms

Many of you may have already noticed that all four parts of the new Results of Mediation forms are now white. This seems to

Important Dates

November 28-29 - Thanksgiving
December 17 - Holiday
Appreciation Luncheon
December 24-25 - Christmas
December 27 - 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.

Happy Thanksgiving!!

Eighth Judicial Circuit County Mediation Program Results

October 2002

County	Cases Mediated	Written Agreements Reached	Percent Written Agreements	Continued Cases Pending	Continued Cases Defaulted
Alachua	74	34	51%	7	2
Baker	0	0	NA	0	0
Bradford	3	2	67%	0	0
Gilchrist	0	0	NA	0	0
Levy	2	1	50%	0	0
Union	1	0	0%	0	0
Total	80	37	51%	7	2

2002 Year-To-Date

January through October

County	Cases Mediated	Written Agreements Reached	Percent Written Agreements	Continued Cases Pending	Continued Cases Defaulted
Alachua	612	369	62%	15	13
Baker	15	11	73%	0	0
Bradford	25	16	64%	0	0
Gilchrist	1	1	100%	0	0
Levy	36	16	44%	0	1
Union	12	6	50%	0	0
Total	701	419	61%	15	14

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