

# County Mediation Matters

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**Service is the rent we pay to be living. It is the very purpose of life and not something you do in your spare time.**

- Marian Wright Edelman

## Web Site

Please continue to let Janet know of any problems that you have accessing any portions of the ADR web site. Examples include files not opening or pages that are very slow to load. We are trying to get web site issues worked out, but part of the difficulty lies in the fact that things that work from the computer here at the courthouse, don't work on your home computers. Any help you can give us in identifying problems is very much appreciated.

## New Office Hours

Janet has temporarily increased her working hours from 24 to 30 hours per week in order to accommodate her additional responsibilities as the interim program manager for the Delinquency and Adult Criminal Mediation programs. Her new office hours are Tuesday through Friday.

## Upcoming Luncheons

Bruce Delaney, former program manager for the Delinquency and Adult Criminal Mediation programs, will be our guest speaker at the CME Luncheon on November 21<sup>st</sup>. He will be talking about mediating juvenile restitution cases. Why should county mediators be interested in this topic? Because county mediators are eligible to mediate these cases on a rotating basis for a flat fee of \$50. Participation is optional, of course, but if you are interested in being on the rotation list to mediate juvenile cases, your attendance at the CME luncheon will be extremely worthwhile.

The annual Holiday Appreciation Luncheon will be held December 16<sup>th</sup> from noon to 2 pm at Cross Creek Restaurant adjacent to the Best Western Gateway Grand Hotel just west of I-75 off 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Be sure to set aside this date, and 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 103 cases in Alachua County in October and settled 46 percent. The outcome is pending in eight cases. Twelve cases were mediated in the

neighboring counties, with agreements reached in nine cases. Year-to-date, 715 cases have been mediated in the circuit with an overall settlement rate of 60 percent. During the same period last year, the program mediated 699 cases throughout the circuit and had an overall settlement rate of 60 percent.

## Reminders

- Please do not be late for court. If you cannot avoid being late, do not enter the courtroom until the judge has finished her opening statement. Parties in the courtroom need to focus on the judge's instructions, and interruptions are both distracting and discourteous.

- Continued mediations must be scheduled by the Clerk. **ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS.** Mediators should not be writing anything at all on the continuation line, including directions such as "60 days."

- Once you have returned the parties and the court file to the Clerk to set either a trial or a continuation date, say goodbye to the parties (quietly) and move away from the table. Do not hang around while the Clerk confers with the parties about scheduling.

- Please remember to check the boxes in Janet's office for anything that may have been placed there for you.

## Important Dates

November 21 - CME Luncheon

November 27-28 Courthouse closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

December 16 - Holiday Appreciation Luncheon

December 26 - No Court

January 2<sup>9</sup>, 2004 - No Court (corrected)

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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

### October 2003

County	Cases Mediated	Written Agreements Reached	Percent Written Agreements	Pending Continued Cases	Continued Cases Defaulted
Alachua	103	44	46%	8	0
Baker	2	2	100%	0	0
Bradford	4	3	100%	1	0
Gilchrist	2	2	100%	0	0
Levy	4	2	50%	0	0
Union	0	0	NA	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>

### 2003 Year-To-Date

January through October

County	Cases Mediated	Written Agreements Reached	Percent Written Agreements	Pending Continued Cases	Continued Cases Defaulted
Alachua	621	360	60%	21	11
Baker	13	9	82%	2	0
Bradford	26	17	68%	1	0
Gilchrist	8	6	75%	0	0
Levy	40	20	50%	0	0
Union	7	6	86%	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>11</b>

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