

County Mediation Matters

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*We are rich only through what we give,
and poor only through what we refuse.*

- Anne-Sophie Swetchine
1782 - 1857

- Always have the defendant(s) sign the Results of Mediation form first. This will help to avoid the situation in which the defendant leaves the mediation without signing the form.
- Volunteers who have completed the requirement for observing and being observed by another mediator will be given priority in scheduling and in assignment of cases on rotation.

Tentative CME Luncheon Dates

We will be starting the CME Luncheons again in September. In order to maintain some consistency and help everyone with planning busy schedules, we are tentatively planning to have the luncheons on the third Friday of the month, September through November 2007 and January through May 2008. If it turns out that the Bar Luncheons are scheduled on these days, then we will have our CME Luncheons on the second Friday of the month. We will keep you posted.

Calendar

Please note the following important dates in 2007.

Wednesday, July 4	Independence Day Holiday - Courthouse closed
Friday, July 13	No pre-trials
Monday, September 3	Labor Day Holiday - Courthouse closed
Thursday, September 13	Rosh Hashanah Holiday - Court Administration and Mediation office closed
Friday, November 9	No pre-trials
Monday, November 12	Veterans Day Observed - Courthouse closed
Thursday and Friday, November 22 and 23	Thanksgiving Holiday - Courthouse closed
Monday and Tuesday, December 24 and 25	Christmas Holiday - Courthouse closed

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Persons with a disability who need any accommodation in order to participate should call Jan Phillips, ADA Coordinator, Alachua County Courthouse Family and Civil Justice Center, 201 E. University Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601 at (352) 337-6237 within two (2) working days of your receipt of this notice; if you are hearing impaired, call (800) 955-8771; if you are voice impaired, call (800) 955-8770.

2007 DRC Conference

The 16th Annual DRC Conference is scheduled for August 23rd through 25th at the Rosen Center Hotel in Orlando. By now you should have received your registration form and brochure in the mail. If not, we have a few extras in the office. The same information is also available online at www.flcourts.org.

The annual conference is a great opportunity to pick up nearly all of the CME requirements for your current renewal cycle. Remember, you now must report two credits of domestic violence education and one credit of cultural diversity training, in addition to four hours of mediator ethics training, each time you re-certify.

If you are an active volunteer mediator, the program will reimburse you for travel up to the equivalent of two nights in the hotel at the DRC rate (\$99 per night plus tax). In addition, we will reimburse your registration fee. You must, however, notify us in advance of your intention to attend so that we can prepare the proper pre-authorizations. You will not be reimbursed unless pre-authorizations have been submitted.

Reminders

Just a few reminders to help court run more smoothly:

- Make contact with unrepresented parties as soon as you are assigned to their case. Sometimes this will mean that you'll have to follow them out of the courtroom to introduce yourself, then return to the courtroom to pick up the file and await possible assignment to additional cases.
- Use the room to which you are assigned. Believe it or not, there are actually other things taking place in the courthouse and in the Mediation Suite on Friday mornings besides your particular small claims mediation. Changing rooms causes conflicts with other scheduled activities for which rooms have been pre-assigned.

Eighth Judicial Circuit County Mediation Program Results

2nd Quarter Stats April through June

County	Cases Mediated	Written Agreements Reached	Percent Written Agreements	Pending Continued Cases	Continued Cases Defaulted
Alachua	165	112	70%	5	0
Baker	12	10	91%	1	0
Bradford	14	13	93%	0	0
Gilchrist	5	4	80%	0	0
Levy	3	2	67%	0	0
Union	4	4	100%	0	0
Total	203	145	74%	6	0

2006 Year-To-Date January through June

County	Cases Mediated	Written Agreements Reached	Percent Written Agreements	Pending Continued Cases	Continued Cases Defaulted
Alachua	347	234	68%	5	4
Baker	33	25	78%	1	0
Bradford	18	17	94%	0	0
Gilchrist	10	7	70%	0	0
Levy	7	6	86%	0	0
Union	8	8	100%	0	0
Total	423	297	71%	6	4

Note: The percentage of written agreements does not include pending continued cases.