

2010 DRC Conference Canceled

This year's Annual Conference for Mediators and Arbitrators, scheduled for August 2010, has been canceled by the Dispute Resolution Center of the Florida Supreme Court.



Greetings,

This past year has left us with a flurry of emotions ranging from joy to empathy; while exploring every avenue for possible resolution in divorce mediation with child parenting coordination. But today, it is one of thanks to all who have supported Resolute Mediation & Arbitration Inc since its inception in 2005.

The past year also brought with it many economic hurdles and setbacks like the cancelation of the Annual Mediator's Conference, the yearly event where we could shake hands share experiences and learn from each other.

To fill this void and to facilitate the sharing of information and concerns among mediators, RM&A INC has shifted its focus more on the needs of the Supreme Court certified mediator to sharpen our trade. However, we can only accomplish this if you send in your comments or advisories to share with others. We do not wish to serve as any official function or advisory. These functions are better left to the governing entity for Supreme Court Certified Mediators. Our goal is to connect certified mediators through this channel with the hopes of enriching our field.

You will find the latest ethics advisory and opinions from those who wish to voice their opinion as well as comments from the various directors of a Dispute Resolution Center around the circuits. We will also attempt to inform you of courses offered by fellow mediators to gain CME hours.

Over the past year RM&A Inc has faithfully served both the business community and the private citizens to finding solution to various matters. Our goal is to strengthen our relationship with the Central Florida community and become the number one resource for dispute resolution services.

Again, we hope everyone benefits from our newsletter and we thank you in advance for your comments.

Sincerely,

Guno O. Ritfeld

President

ACROSS THE CIRCUITS

*A Benefit Poker Run is being held in honor of Dennis Speer, a local motorcyclist, who was seriously injured during Bike Week on Saturday April 10th, 2010 at 12pm. For more information and to make a donation, call Chris at 321-663-9777.

*Read the Administrative Order regarding Foreclosure Mediation in the Ninth Circuit:

[Foreclosure Mediation Admin. Order](#)

*Circuit Judge A.W. Nichols III will not seek re-election this year as a Family Court judge in the Fifth Circuit. Nichols was appointed in 1992.

*A Program Manager is being sought in the Thirteenth Circuit for their Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation program. Applications are due by Friday, April 30, 2010.

[Click here for more information](#)

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Latest MEAC Opinions

as Posted by the Florida Courts

Advertising/Solicitation

* In this opinion, the question of mediation service advertisements is addressed in terms of accuracy, honesty and misleading information.

[MEAC Opinion 2009-008](#)

Procedures

* The question raised came from a new mediator questioning the process in small claims cases and whether or not it's appropriate to insert the original claim amount into the final paragraph of the settlement form.

[MEAC Opinion 2009-010](#)

Conflict of Interest

* The committee determined that it is in fact a conflict of interest for a mediator to mediate a case when one of the mediator's law partners is presently working on transactional legal services for the firm representing the party to the mediation.

[MEAC Opinion 2009-09](#)

General Information

* Can a mediator use their training or experience to provide parties with an explanation of a judgment?

[MEAC Opinion 2009-07](#)

Mediators Sought in Europe

Two years ago, as a result of the unstable economy, many European Union member states became entangled in commercial conflicts. The court system was not prepared for the large volume of cases and ensuing litigation costs that followed.

Looking for an answer to their problem, the EU Commission created a directive that encouraged EU members to implement mediation as an alternative to cross-border courtroom battles.

The directive must be implemented by June of 2010, giving EU Members only 2 months to find capable and skilled mediators.

[Full Story](#)

If you need more CME hours, here are some upcoming/online options:

[Online CME Courses](#)

[Mediation Training Center](#)

[Mediation Training Group](#)

[Convention Recordings](#)

Trainings Across the Country

"Advanced Facilitation Skills"

April 22-23, Fairfax, VA

www.nvms.com

"17th Annual NW Dispute Resolution Conference"

April 30-May 1, Seattle, WA

www.mediate.com/nwadr

History of Mediation in Orlando

1948- The *St. Petersburg Times* reports that Florida wants, "a state mediation board."

1957- Florida's Governor names its first Director of the new Mediation and Conciliation Services, Clyde N. Mills

1970s- Citizen Dispute Settlement Centers were created to address community conflicts.

1988- Civil trial judges were allowed to refer cases to Mediation or Arbitration.

1992- The Ninth Circuit (Orange & Osceola counties) begins conducting court ordered mediation cases.

1997- The current 23-story courthouse was built to accommodate the growing number of cases and programs.

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"Before You File Suit, Call Resolute!"