



From the Director

HERE WE GO 2017!

My best to all of you as we begin this year with a fresh calendar and 80 degrees. We would not have a Center for Dispute Resolution without you!



First up, Appellate Mediation Training

February 1st

Alabama State Bar.

Allison Skinner and Jim Rives are the lead trainers for the day, and we have a great panel of appellate mediators to share their experiences:

- **Marty Van Tassel (Upchurch, Watson, White and Max),**
- **Sam Kok (Dominick Feld Hyde, PC),**
- **Bill Ratliff (Wallace Jordan, Ratliff & Brandt, LLC), and**
- **Sally Bowers (Proctor & Vaughn, LLC).**

CLE hours: 6.8 including 1 hour ethics.

If you are interested in attending and have not registered just give us a call (334) 517-2248 or (334)269-0409, and we will send you the registration form.

Roster Renewals. Mediators and arbitrators should have received a **roster renewal** letter with the annual survey and your profile sheet to review. Please return those to us as soon as possible with your input. We report our statistics to the Supreme Court of Alabama, and your participation is crucial. Just a reminder, that in Alabama, we register neutrals, we do not certify. Private Judges, yours will be arriving shortly.

Parents are Forever Family Mediation and Foreclosure Prevention/Mortgage Modification Mediation Programs Continue! You'll find statistics and information about these programs in this e-news.

Please feel you can call us at any time for business resources, speakers, information. See what we have provided at www.alabamaadr.org

National And International ADR Events

Juris Conferences, LLC
13th Annual Leading Arbitrator's Symposium



April 10, 2017

Vienna, Austria

<http://cepublic.jurispublishing.com/vaw.asp?riid=4930&id=+IQSmgomKnOE6gv8/YHD2Q>

ABA Section of Dispute Resolution
19th Annual Spring Conference



April 19-22, 2017

San Francisco

http://www.americanbar.org/groups/dispute_resolution.html

Mark your calendar...



The Institute for Conflict Management's Annual Southeast Conference on Conflict Management

Wednesday, May 10, 2017, Lipscomb University • Nashville, Tennessee

- Keynote guest, Peter Robinson, Managing Director, Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution
- Nationally-known speakers leading each breakout session
- CLE and CME credit
- Breakfast and lunch provided

2017 In-State Mediation Training

(all approved for CLE and roster registration as long as applicant meets other requirements)

- **General Civil (20 hours CLE)**
Birmingham: March 9-11, June 8-10, September 7-9, December 7-9, 2017
- **Divorce/Family Mediation (40 hours CLE)**
Birmingham: February 3-7, May 4-8, August 18-22, November 2-6, 2017
- **Domestic Violence Mediation (14 hours CLE)**
Birmingham: May 22-23, November 16-17, 2017
- **Advanced Divorce/Family Mediation (12 hours CLE)**
Birmingham: March 7-8, 2017
- **Teaching Mediation/Train the trainer (16 hours CLE)**
Birmingham: May 9-10, 2017

These classes have been reviewed by participants, and with a predominance of 5 Stars!
For more information go to www.mediationmedia.com or contact Troy Smith, JD at 800 ADR FIRM

Private Judging In Alabama

For cases in contract, tort, or combination of contract and tort or for DR cases private judges are available to hear cases quickly. Decisions are appealable in Alabama courts.

For a list of private judges: http://www.alabamaadr.org/web/roster-judges/index.php?aop_pj=&text=&AddCounty=&action=Search

Parents Are Forever Family Mediation Program Continues in 2017

We just finished the first quarter of the new court fiscal year, October –December 2016.

Much thanks for this program goes to acting Chief Justice Lyn Stuart and Julia Weller, with assistance from Larry Israel.

Our annual grant from the Court provides us with funds to mediate with parents who need to agree to a parenting plan and a financial plan. Total family income must be \$60,000 or less and there must be children. The courts use a special order to enable parents to enter the program, protect confidentiality, and alert parents to what is expected of them.

Mediators are expected to give pro bono time to each case, accept a set amount per hour, and submit a confidential invoice and case report to the Center.



Parents Are Forever Family Mediation Program

Statistics for the quarter, Oct. 1-Dec 31, 2016

- 23 Mediations
- 15 Agreements
- 3 Partial Agreements
- 5 With no agreement
- Mediators gave 37 hours and 55 minutes of pro bono time
- Average family income: \$45,360
- Number of children benefitting: 40

16 counties sent cases out of 39 participating

Foreclosure Prevention/Mortgage Modification Mediation Program Continues In 2017

Thanks to our grantees the Alabama Law Foundation (and Tracy Daniel) and the Alabama Civil Justice Foundation (and Sue McInnish) the assistance to homeowners in trouble is continuing.

We have mediated 6 cases and paid \$5,866.20 to mediators. We currently have 6 cases waiting for mediation. Four homeowners were over income and did not qualify. One homeowner was sent to LSA, not mediation, due to exigent circumstances.

Results included

- (1) Foreclosure sale stopped, homeowner who had gone into bankruptcy due to health care costs was allowed time to sell an extra car and get caught up with mortgage;
- (2) Foreclosure had already occurred and an ejection suit filed, mediation allowed eviction to be delayed as part of the dismissal;
- (3) Compensation obtained for former owner with delay allowed so former owner could acquire resources to move;
- (4) Home saved, repayment agreement;
- (5) Conference and referral to another provider;
- (6) Parties too far apart in goals to settle



If parties have qualified for legal assistance through LSA or Volunteer Lawyers, a mediator can work with the homeowner's lawyer and the servicer to develop an agreement that will benefit both. We pay the mediator.

All Alabama trial judges were notified and sent information about the program, but a reminder is helpful. We don't want any money to be returned!

[More about the Foreclosure Prevention/Mortgage Modification Mediation Program](#)

FYI

ADR Career Resources http://www.americanbar.org/groups/dispute_resolution/resources/career.html



Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution

"Providing for the Speedy, Efficient, and Inexpensive Resolution of Disputes and Prosecutions."

**7th Judicial Administrative District
Job Announcement:
Alternative Dispute Resolution Program Coordinator**

Applications accepted: thru January 27, 2017

[Click here for more information](#)

JULY



Looking forward to Point Clear in July and ADR panel of speakers.
Thanks, **Martha Cook**, chair of the ASB Dispute Resolution Section.

Alabama Center for Alternative Dispute Resolution goes Social!

Did you know we're on Facebook? Visit our page at <https://www.facebook.com/alabamaadr> and Like us to keep up with the latest news and happenings at the Alabama Center For Dispute Resolution!

We're also on Twitter! While we don't have a lot of "fast-breaking news," we have a Twitter account to keep you up on the latest. Follow us @AlabamaADR at <https://twitter.com/alabamaadr>

We've been blogging for years! Get news when we learn it. Access training information. Learn the latest. Read our blog or sign up for the RSS news feed. Go to <http://www.alabamaadr.org/blog/>

And now we have a YouTube channel! We are loading videos and pointing to reference videos related to our favorite topics... mediation, negotiation, arbitration, restorative justice, etc. [Visit Alabama Alternative Dispute Resolution Center on YouTube.](#)

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