

Summary Report (5-11-07)

Mediation Subcommittee of The Missouri Bar ADR Committee

Key Developments

ABA Task Force on Improving Mediation Quality

The ABA Section on Dispute Resolution formed a Task Force on Improving Mediation Quality in 2006. "In the first phase of its work, the Task Force is investigating concerns about the quality of mediation services in commercial and other civil cases and developing realistic proposals to improve the quality", says Task Force member John Lande, Director of the Master of Laws (LLM) in Dispute Resolution Program and Associate Professor of Law at the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law, in an update on the ABA website. Focus groups are being held in ten major cities in the country. According to Professor Lande, initial feedback suggests participants have different understandings of the mediation process, their role in it, and their expectations of the mediator; participants can enhance the quality of the mediation process with careful advance preparation; and lawyers hiring mediators want better information to select mediators. More information from the focus groups will be published in the Spring issue of Dispute Resolution Magazine. (5-11-07)

April Proclaimed Mediation Month

On March 14, 2007, Governor Matt Blunt proclaimed April 2007 to be Missouri Mediation Month. The proclamation was sponsored by the Association of Missouri Mediators and coincided with the 2007 Heartland Regional Conference of Mediators. It is available on the ADR Committee page of the Missouri Bar website at the following link: <http://members.mobar.org/pdfs/mediator.pdf> . (5-11-07)

2006 ADR Commission Report to the Missouri Supreme Court

The changes to the practice of mediation recommended to the Missouri Supreme Court by the ADR Commission were summarized and discussed at the Fall Meeting of the ADR Committee of the Missouri Bar by Kathleen Bird. To review a summary of the recommended changes, go to the Fall 2006 Committee Meeting Minutes, Mediation Subcommittee Report, on The Missouri Bar website (www.mobar.org). (5-11-07)

Upcoming Training

Divorce Mediation Training; Quincy, IL; May 18-20, June 1-2, 2007; Sponsored by Marta J. Papa.

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts Annual Conference; Washington, D.C.; May 30-June 2, 2007; Go to www.afccnet.org for details.

Mediation Training for Civil Cases; Columbia; June 6-8, 2007; Sponsored by the Center for the Study of Dispute Resolution & MU Law School Center for Continuing Legal Education. Go to www.law.missouri.edu/cle or call 573 882-2052 for information.

Mediating Conflict in Organizations; Kansas City, KS; June 6, 2007; Sponsored by Johnson County Community College; Call 913 469-2323.

Family Mediation Training; Osage Beach, MO; July 12-14, July 20-21, 2007; Sponsored by M.A.R.C.H. Mediation.

Civil and Family Mediation Training; Springfield; July 18-22, 2007; Sponsored by Washington University School of Law and Missouri State University. For information, contact C.J. Larkin (larkin@wulaw.wustl.edu) or Charlene Berquist (CharleneBerquist@MissouriState.edu).

Civil and Employment Mediation Training; Springfield; July 18-22, 2007; Sponsored by Washington University School of Law and Missouri State University. For information, contact C.J. Larkin (larkin@wulaw.wustl.edu) or Charlene Berquist (CharleneBerquist@MissouriState.edu).

Civil Mediation Training; Kansas City, KS; July 25-27, 2007; Sponsored by Johnson County Community College; Call 913 469-2323.

Communication Strategies and Techniques for Mediators/Negotiators; Kansas City, KS; August 8, 2007; Sponsored by Johnson County Community College; Call 913 469-2323.

Domestic Relations Mediation Training; Kansas City, KS; August 23-25, 2007; Sponsored by Johnson County Community College. Call 913 469-2323.

Association for Conflict Resolution Annual Conference; Phoenix, AZ; October 24-27, 2007; Go to www.acrnet.org for details.

Association of Missouri Mediators Annual Conference; November 3, 2007; Details TBA.