



ADR NEWS

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Contacts

Tennessee Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission

- Howard H. Vogel, Esq.
Chairperson, Knoxville
- Hon. George H. Brown, Jr. (Ret.)
Memphis
- Linda Nettles Harris, Esq..
Memphis
- Hayden D. Lait, Esq..
Memphis
- C. Suzanne Landers, Esq.
Memphis
- D. Tracy Shaw, Esq.
Nashville
- Edward P. Silva, Esq.
Franklin
- Virginia Lee Story, Esq.
Franklin
- I.C. (Jack) Waddey, Jr., Esq.
Nashville
- William T. Wray, Jr., Esq.
Kingsport
- Mary Ann Zaha
Chattanooga

Supreme Court Liaison

- Chief Justice Sharon G. Lee

Programs Manager

- Claudia M. Lewis, Esq.

Programs Assistant

- Lara A. Daley

Send questions and comments to: Tennessee ADR Commission

Administrative Office of the Courts
Nashville City Center, Suite 600
511 Union Street
Nashville, TN 37219-1768
Phone: 615-741-2687
Fax: 615-741-6285

Email: Claudia.Lewis@tncourts.gov

Web: www.tncourts.gov

IMPORTANT NEWS



(Left to Right: Hayden D. Lait, D. Tracy Shaw, C. Suzanne Landers, ADRC Chair Howard H. Vogel)

The Commission members above were recognized at the October ADRC Quarterly Meeting for their outstanding service & dedication to the ADRC, the practice of mediation & the state of TN during their terms on the ADRC. Their terms expire January 9, 2016.

The Commission modified Policy 10 & adopted Policy 22, both of which were effective January 1, 2016. The modification to Policy 10 is noted by language that has been stricken through.

Policy 10. "Effective January 1, 2008, all mediators listed pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 31 will be required to submit reports as prescribed by the Commission, regarding any mediation beginning on or after January 1, 2008, except as to matters pending in state courts outside of Tennessee ~~and the Federal Court System~~. Mediators will have 15 calendar days from the date of the last mediation session to submit the report to the AOC. This policy does not affect any other reporting obligation required of a Rule 31 listed mediator." (Modified 1-1-16)

Policy 22. Rule 31 mediators will be required to report federal system mediations through the AOC online process. (Adopted 1-1-16)

Also, the Commission deleted the "Date Order of Reference filed" & added "Federal" to the "Select one court type" on the online mediation report.

PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES

MEDIATOR OF THE DAY PROGRAM STARTING TO CATCH ON

By: Stephen L. Shields & Linda Seely

As some of you may be aware, the Access to Justice Commission has endorsed what we have previously written about as the “Mediator of the Day program.” That program (as established in Memphis) involves one General Sessions Judge having a *pro se* litigant docket and prior to calling the docket, the “Mediator of the Day” advises the litigants that they may utilize the mediator’s services without cost. The litigants can announce to the court that they want their case referred to the mediator; and, on occasion, the judge has required the litigants to go to mediation. The success rate has been very good. Many of the cases involve family members and emotions are high and really should not be in court at all. Mediation is by far a better venue for resolving such disputes. Subsequently, we suggested that the Mediator of the Day program be implemented in all General Sessions Courts (or even other courts). Many General Sessions Judges were interested and enthused about the possibilities and we got immediate responses from at least eight counties in all three regions (West, Middle and East). Many of these programs are underway; however, one program that immediately started under the leadership of Linda was the Madison County (Jackson) Mediator of the Day program. That program works very similar to the program in Memphis and it has been a success. One of the Jackson mediators familiar with the program described it this way:

“Every Monday morning, Judge Harvey's clerk divides the cases into three stacks with the *pro se* litigants set to go first up. Judge Harvey reviews the cases and selects 1 or 2 to send to mediation. At docket call, he instructs the litigants about the availability of mediators to assist in resolving the disputes. There have only been about 3 court sessions when the litigants did not take advantage of the opportunity to mediate. Out of all the cases actually sent to mediation, about half reach a settlement. According to Judge Harvey, the program works great, he is very happy with it and hopes it continues.”

Another Jackson mediator, Mary Jo Middlebrooks, has remarked, “... I have been very pleased by the experience. Originally I set aside the whole day, but it's never taken me past noon. The litigants are much nicer to each other than I thought they would be and I've been able to keep everyone in the same room for the most part.”

The program works and provides mediators with a great opportunity to serve *pro se* litigants. If any of you are interested in working on the development of a Mediator of the Day program in your area, please let us know. Email Steve at sshields@jsyc.com or Linda at lwseely@hotmail.com. We will provide you with forms and training (TAPM has a training in the works) for mediators in the program.

UPCOMING ADRC APPROVED CONTINUING MEDIATION EDUCATION (CME) OPPORTUNITIES

January 19, 2016.....Mediation-Remaining Neutral in the age of Social Media & Search Engines, Knoxville, TN
For more information, email: rbrown2456@aol.com

For approved internet training courses and more information on the courses above, go to:
<http://www.tncourts.gov/programs/mediation/resources-mediators/continuing-meditation-education>.

~ Roll Call ~

Congratulations to the following Newly Listed Rule 31 Mediators!
These mediators were approved for listing at the ADRC Quarterly Meeting on October 15, 2015.

Mrs. Heather G. Anderson, Family
Mrs. Beverly W. Bell, General Civil
Ms. Wanda Bermudez-Carde,
General Civil/Family/DV
Mrs. M. Beth Brooks, Family
Mr. Danny M. Camper, General Civil
Mr. Robert P. Bramlett, General Civil
Ms. Tuesdae N. Campos, General Civil
Ms. Sarah J. Carter, Family
Mr. Thomas J. Dancison, Jr., Family
Dr. Malinda Davenport-Crisp,
General Civil/Family
Mr. William J. Eledge, Family
Ms. Lynn Sherrill Ewing, General Civil/Family
Mr. Mark A. Free, Family
Ms. Kaye M. Ford, General Civil
Ms. Elizabeth A. Garrett, Family
Mr. Daniel R. Goodge, Family
Ms. Amy E. Gentle Grubb, Family/DV
Ms. Katie H. Hagan, Family
Mr. Randy L. Halstead, General Civil
Ms. Michele D. Hodges, Family
Ms. Mary I. Hunter, General Civil/Family/DV
Ms. LaMeka S. Ivy, General Civil/Family

Mr. John G. Jackson, General Civil
Ms. Jo Ann Klyczek, General Civil
Mrs. Jennifer K. Kuczmariski, Family/DV
Mrs. Cara E. Lynn, Family
Ms. Carleen A. Marburger, General Civil/Family
Ms. Kelsy A. Miller, Family
Ms. Miakia L. Nathaniel, Family
Ms. Rachel A. Newton, General Civil
Ms. Stacie L. Odeneal, General Civil/Family
Mr. Joseph S. Ozment, Family
Ms. Athena T. Pendergrass, Family
Mr. Scott A. Rhodes, Family
Dr. Judith C. Rice, Family
Mr. George L. Rice, IV, Family
Mr. Michael J. Rocco, General Civil/Family
Ms. Eileen J. Rogers, General Civil
Hon. James Y. Ross, Sr., General Civil
Mr. James Sanders, General Civil/Family/DV
Mr. Shawn R. Seliber, General Civil
Ms. Daphnie L. Swift, Family
Ms. Eugenia W. Tanner, General Civil
Ms. Brittany L. Thomas, General Civil
Hon. Gary R. Wade, General Civil
Ms. Lauren G. Zechman-Denney, Family

Important ADRC Dates

January 26, 2016.....ADR Commission Meeting, Administrative Office of the Courts, Nashville
March 1, 2016.....Rule 31 Mediator Applications Deadline for ADRC review on April 26, 2015
April 26, 2016.....ADR Commission Meeting, Administrative Office of the Courts, Nashville

We Would Like to Hear From You!

In an effort to encourage education and communication between and for Rule 31 listed mediators, the ADRC accepts proposed article submissions from Rule 31 listed mediators and others in the *ADR News*. All submissions may or may not be published and are subject to editing according to the Program Manager's discretion. If you are interested in submitting an article for possible publication in the *ADR News*, please contact Claudia Lewis, AOC Programs Manager, at Claudia.Lewis@tncourts.gov.