

Los Angeles Superior Court – Public Information Office
111 N. Hill Street, Room 107, Los Angeles, CA 90012
publicinfo@lacourt.org www.lacourt.org

NEWS RELEASE



March 19, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LASC TO RECOGNIZE MEDIATORS AS PART OF MEDIATION WEEK IN CALIFORNIA

Beginning today, the Los Angeles Superior Court will recognize the efforts of mediators and settlement officers from various organizations as part of Mediation Week in California, the third week in March.

LASC utilizes the efforts of these third-party organizations to help resolve civil, probate and dependency cases, saving litigants time and money, and the resolutions are often more lasting and satisfying to both sides.

Mediation programs reduce court filings, pretrial motions and trials and help to reduce future disputes between parties.

“The Los Angeles Superior Court is pleased to recognize and thank a talented and skilled group of individuals for their service to the public as mediators and settlement officers,” said Presiding Judge Kevin C. Brazile. “We know that people with legal disputes are often more satisfied with the outcomes of their cases when they are able to participate in mediation. The Court also benefits, as fewer cases go through lengthy and costly litigation, freeing up scarce court resources for other disputes. Mediation Week is an opportunity for the Court to say ‘Thank You’ to those who help provide access to justice.”

On March 19, Judge Samantha Jessner, supervising judge of civil, will be hosting mediators and settlement officers from Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles, Association of Southern California Defense Counsel, American Board of Trial Attorneys, Department of Consumer and Business Affairs, Center for Conflict and Resolution, California Academy of Mediation Professionals, Mediation Center of Los Angeles, and JAMS, Inc.

“The collective efforts of mediators and settlement officers contribute to civility and the efficient resolution of disputes, while promoting positive outcomes for litigants,” said Judge Jessner. “Mediation Week is an opportunity to publicly recognize these volunteers and will no doubt

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inspire more people to consider mediation when they have a dispute, or to become mediators themselves.”

Settlement officers and mediators who handle probate cases will be recognized by Presiding Judge Brazile, Probate Supervising Judge David J. Cowan and Judge Clifford L. Klein on March 20, 2019.

“LASC wants to thank the many experienced probate lawyers who volunteer their time to serve as settlement officers in contested probate cases,” said Judge Cowan. “Their considerable efforts make it possible for the Court to have sufficient time to hear the most difficult cases requiring trial. Most importantly, mediation allows litigants to come to prompt, practical and less expensive resolution of their problems and, in turn, move on with their lives.”

Juvenile dependency courts also utilize the work of mediators, and informal dispute resolution is encouraged for some dependency cases. It will also host a Mediation Week celebration, but as dependency cases are confidential, the event will not be open to the public.

“When parents and children engage in successful mediation, those cases are more likely to result in dependent children returning to safe and healthy homes, reductions in the time they require in out of home care, promote more effective rehabilitation, and diminish recidivism in delinquent youth,” said Juvenile Supervising Judge Victor H. Greenberg.

In 2009, the Judicial Council of California recognized the third week in March as Mediation Week in California to “commend the efforts of the individuals and organizations that make mediation and mediation programs available to the citizens of California.”

- WHO: Mediators, settlement officers, judicial officers, and justice partners.**
- WHAT: LASC will honor the volunteers who participate in the settlement programs at the Court.**
- WHEN: Civil: 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 19, 2019.
Probate: 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 20, 2019.**
- WHERE: Stanley Mosk Courthouse, 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles 90012, Presiding Judge’s Courtroom, Room 222.**

Please notify the Court’s Public Information Office at 213-830-0815 if you plan to attend or require further information.

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