



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

News Release

PublicInfo@lacourt.org

Superior Court of Los Angeles County Recognizes “Mediation Week” as the Court Celebrates Its Volunteer Mediators and Encourages Attorneys to Apply to the Court’s Mediation Volunteer Panel

April 10, 2026, Marks the Deadline to Apply for the Court’s Mediation Volunteer Panel (MVP) Virtual May Training Session

March 18, 2026

The Superior Court of Los Angeles County recognizes March 16-20 as “Mediation Week” to highlight its Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) programs, acknowledge the efforts of volunteer mediators and encourage attorneys to apply to the Court’s Mediation Volunteer Panel, Presiding Judge Sergio C. Tapia II announced today.

“The Court is committed to fostering, supporting, and expanding the many ADR resources available to help Los Angeles County litigants resolve their disputes without going to trial,” Presiding Judge Sergio C. Tapia II said. “The contributions by attorneys and mediators who volunteer their time is invaluable, and we are deeply grateful for their service. Their efforts frequently lead to mutually agreeable settlements that streamline case resolution, strengthen court operations, and allow litigants to find peace.”

The Court is incredibly appreciative of its volunteer mediators for their work resolving civil disputes at a time when civil resources are under significant strain. Last year, the Court received over 98,000 unlimited civil filings, a 38% increase in unlimited civil filings since 2022, placing additional pressure on judicial resources. In 2025, the Court received more than 195,000 limited civil filings, an increase of 87% since 2022.

The Court has multiple ADR programs across small claims, unlawful detainer (eviction), limited and unlimited civil, civil harassment, family law, and probate case types. In 2025, the Court processed more than 10,000 referrals to ADR programs, a result of the contribution of hundreds of mediators and settlement officer volunteers. On average, the programs reported a 50% resolution rate last year.

During Mediation Week, the Court will host an ADR Volunteer Recognition Ceremony and present special recognition to more than 300 mediators and settlement officers who had more than five ADR volunteer assignments in 2025.

ADR Programs:

- **Resolve Law LA (RLLA)** provides three-hour virtual no-cost Mandatory Settlement Conferences for personal injury and non-complex employment cases.
- **Dispute Resolution Program Act (DRPA)** provides day-of-hearing no-cost mediation services for small claims, unlawful detainer, and civil harassment matters, primarily for self-represented litigants.
- **Temporary Judge Unlawful Detainer Settlement** program deploys temporary judges to facilitate the no-cost settlement of eviction cases on the day of trial at four courthouse locations: Stanley Mosk, Governor George Deukmejian (Long Beach), Compton or Santa Monica courthouses.
- **The Mediation Center of Los Angeles (MCLA)** manages a panel of mediators that the Court may refer unlimited civil or probate cases to for low-cost mediation.
- **The Civil Mediation Resource List** includes organizations that have agreed to provide a limited number of low-cost or no-cost mediation sessions with attorney mediators or retired judges.
- **The Family Law Daily Settlement Officer (DSO)** program provides voluntary no-cost settlement conferences for parties who appear in family law matters in-person or virtually.
- **The Pro Bono Probate Settlement** program provides parties with a no-cost opportunity to resolve probate, trust, estate, guardianship or conservatorship cases.
- Members of the Court's **Mediation Volunteer Panel (MVP)** provide three hours of no-cost mediation for unlimited civil cases referred to the MVP. In 2025, MVP mediators conducted more than 1,000 mediation sessions, reporting a 47% resolution rate.

Join the Mediation Volunteer Panel:

Attorneys interested in serving on the Court's MVP may learn more about the program and download an application [here](#).

For those attorneys who do not have previous training, the Court offers a 25-hour, MCLE-certified mediation training program. The next training will take place virtually over three days, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on May 18, 20 and 22. The deadline to apply to the training session is April 10, 2026. Attorneys must commit to coordinate and conduct a minimum number of pro bono mediations for the MVP. Contact the Court's ADR Office with any questions by emailing MediationPanel@lacourt.ca.gov.

About the Superior Court of Los Angeles County

The largest trial court in the nation, the Superior Court of Los Angeles County serves a population of almost 10 million in 36 courthouses with a jurisdiction covering over 4,000 square miles that includes 88 cities, 140 unincorporated areas and dozens of law enforcement agencies. The Court is steadfast in its mission to serve our community by providing equal access to justice through the fair, timely and effective resolution of all cases.

For more information on the Court's current programs and services, follow the Court on X ([@LASuperiorCourt](#)), Instagram ([@LASuperiorCourt](#)), Threads ([@LASuperiorCourt](#)), or visit the Court's website, www.LACourt.ca.gov.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Volunteer mediators and settlement officers: Five or more volunteer assignments in 2025

Mediation Volunteer Panel (MVP)

Jackielyn Abellada	Elisha Cronin	Lonnie Giamela
Albert Abkarian	Joanna Curtis	Carol Gillam
John Aitelli	Matt D'Abusco	Stephen Goldberg
Timothy Alger	Aurenne Datner	Matthew Goodwin
Alireza Alivandivafa	David DeGroot	Alice Graham
Anthony Amoscato	James DeRoche	Marc Grismer
Daniel Chad Anderton	John Derrick	John Hanover
Maurice Attie	Gerald DeSimone	Corey Hanrahan
Jason Barth	Patrick DiFilippo	Farha Haq
Lindsey Bayman	Alexis Djivre	Nina Hawkinson
Stephen Benardo	William Domnarski	Robert Hendricks
Lee Blackman	Scott Bradley Dormer	Katherine Huang
Howard Blumenthal	Allison Eckstrom	Ciro Immordino
Michael Booser	Alexander Erwig	Jeanne Jorgensen
Jason Booth	Diane Faber	Sidney Kanazawa
Craig Breitman	Joseph Faucher	Frank Kaplan
James Burgess	Mark Fingerman	David Karp
Paul Carter	James Fitzgerald	Eydith Kaufman
John Case	Mayra Fornos	Miles Kavaller
Leigh Chandler	Shirin Forootan	Aaron Kemp
Nicholas Cipiti	Leora Freedman	Joan Kessler
Nicholas Connon	Robyn Frick	Ellen Kim
Ronald Cooke	Christopher Gansen	Aimee Kirby

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Bradley Knyppstra	Lee Mendelson	Brad Seiling
Kenneth Korea	Scott Miller	Steven Sepassi
Gideon Kracov	Robert Mockler	Gene Sharaga
Jeffrey Kramer	Byron Moldo	Zev Shechtman
Linda Guthmann Krieger	Paul J. Molinaro	MyKhanh Shelton
Stephen Kristovich	Ronald Monitz	John Shenk
Christine Kurek	Justin Morello	Zachary Shepard
Matthew Lane	Santosh Narayan	Jeremy Shulman
Craig Lang	Shelley O'Connor	Andrew Smith
Jean Lawler	David Oken	Lilit Solmer
Michael Leb	Robert Parris	Gary Soter
Gi Nam Lee	Andrew Pauly	Gary Stern
Bruce Levenson	Daniel Platt	Michael Strauss
Ted Levin	Phyllis Pollack	Martin Sullivan
Margaret Levy	Kent Raygor	Michael Tenenbaum
John Libby	Patrick Rendon	Stuart Tochner
Stephen Lobbin	Timothy Reuben	Frederick Ufkes
Michael Ludwig	Peter Rosen	Azin Valafar
Helen Luetto	Gene Royce	Eric Wannan
Michael Mandel	Cynthia Sandoval	Edward Weiman
Barbara Mandell	Andrew Satenberg	Jonathan Weinman
Jill Manning	Gerald Sauer	Douglas Weisband
Fatemeh Mashouf	Michael Scott	Edward Weiss
Richard McNeil	Schwimmer	Leslie Werlin
Carol Medof	Richard Segal	Gregory Wood

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Center for Conflict Resolution (CCR)

Stephanie Andrews	Al Jerome	Michael Petty
Johan Arias	Yanning Jiang	Leslie Pogue
Sparrow Caldwell	Violet Johnson	Joy Qiao
Reem Chamas	Lakisha Shanee Jones	Ariella Rabbani
Angela Chu	John Joo	Chloe Rastegar
Carissa Ciampaglia	Gideon Kracov	Salina Renteria
Nicholas Cipiti	Rhea Kumar	Lauren Richardson
Lee Cohen	Aaron Larks-Stanford	Benjamin Ruiz
Sherri Craig	Jessica Locke	Daniel Schwarz
Catherine Davis	Bryon Makel	Lloyd Segal
George Davis	Hannah Martin	Yejin Seo
Siena Deck	Marie McGrath	Noah Stein
Caitlin Donnelly	Christopher Mercado	Katie Swanson
Benjamin Donoho	Leili Mokhtari	Jennifer Johnston Terando
Bryn Doyle	Nikola Nasto	elizabeth uretsky
Basma El Ajou	Asma Nidmansour	Jaivi Verma
Viktorya Ford	Max Olsthoorn	Yufei Wang
John Gannon	Alfie Parker	Christopher Welch
Gayle Glazer	Denver Patterson	Patrick Yoergler
Odalys Hernandez	Bruce Paul	
Wesley Higbee	Pam Perlmutter	

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California Lawyers for The Arts (CLA)

Samantha Flores

Aaron Larks-Stanford

LA County Consumer & Business Affairs (DCBA)

Deborah Askew

Morteza Mostafavi

Shawn Sawyer

Susan Dashe

Ryan O'Riordan

Benjamin Serverian

Logan Hill

Steven Penn

Adam Thaw

Tanzila Huda

James Rich

Marsha Williams

Andrea Martinez-
Gonzalez

Jacob Row

Family Law Daily Settlement Officer Programs (DSO)

Jeffrey Alpert

Paul Duron

Michael Lindley

Robert Bare

Matias Flores

Bruce Mandel

Joel Beckman

Jami Fosgate

Melinda Manley

Steven Blunt

Janine Frisco

Monica Marroquin

Matthew Breddan

Diana Fukushima

Randy Medina

Richard Brover

Abbas Hadjian

Brian Douglas Mitchell

Stuart E. Bruers

Nolan J. Hiett

Janice Munoz

William Burkitt

Steve Hoffman

Norma Nogueta

Elizabeth Castaneda

Linda House

Tyrrell Nunez

Stephen Cawelti

Ian Jones

Shazad Z. Omar

Shannon DeBiase

Deian V. Kazachki

Nadine Orliczky

Michael Donnelly

Kristina Kendall-Gkikas

Ravi Parmar

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Heidi Post	Sandy Roxas	Sharmila Singh
Cynthia Quintero	Stephen Sargeant	Kandy Sullivan
Kabir Randhava	Michael Sarris	Julianne Vandergrift
Carina Reyna	Renee Shaffar	Heikki A. Veharanta
Emily Robinson	Sergey Shvartsman	

Mediation Center of Los Angeles (MCLA)

Lisa Baker Morgan	Wendy Fassberg	Stephen Marcus
Phillip Barbaro	John Glowacki	William Molfetta
Jeff Bases	Gianna Gruenwald	Bennett Root
Joel Bertet	Stephen Hewitt	Barry Ross
James Cameron	Richard Hoefflin	Marc Sallus
Robert Cohen	Sean Judge	Myer Sankary
David Coher	Wean Khing Wong	MyKhanh Shelton
John Derrick	Anthony Khoury	Jennifer Johnston
Lori Dobrin	Lydia Liberio	Terando
		Eric Wannan

Pro Bono Probate Settlement Program

Melody Dosch	Kira Masteller	Joel Simon
Richard Hoefflin	Nancy Reinhardt	

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Resolve Law Los Angeles (RLLA)

Leslie Abbott	Thomas Feher	Justin Marquez
Alireza Alivandivafa	Mark Fingerman	Azad Marvazy
John Anderson	Shirin Forootan	Fatemeh Mashouf
Daniel Chad Anderton	Jeffrey Freedman	Kathryn McGuigan
Julie Arias Young	Robyn Frick	Lee Mendelson
Melissa Avila	James Gallo	Scott Miller
Lindsey Bayman	Paul Gleason	Paul J. Molinaro
Jeanne Behling	Justin Goodwin	Ronald Monitz
Polina Bernstein	Marc Grismer	Justin Morello
Joel Bertet	Christopher Heikaus Weaver	Jeremy Naftel
Jason Booth	Stephen Kalpakian	Michael Nebenzahl
Bradley Bowles	Phyllis Kupferstein	Shelley O'Connor
Matthew Burrows	Christine Kurek	Michael O'Connor
Laura Cox	Matthew Lane	Scott Page
Matt D'Abusco	CJ Lee	Drew Pomerance
Steven Dadaian	Daren Lipinsky	David Ratner
Gerald DeSimone	Devon Lyon	Jamie Rudman
Alexander Eisner	Maria Mancini	Michael Scott Schwimmer
Imad Elias	Barbara Mandell	Brad Seiling
Richard Ergo	Frank Marchetti	Janice Seller
Louis Fazzi		

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Steven Sepassi

Lilit Solmer

Eric Wannon

MyKhanh Shelton

Eric Steinert

Edward Weiman

John Shenk

Gary Stern

Mark Weiner

Zachary Shepard

Peg Carew Toledo

Laura Withrow

David Shraga

Nicole Torrado

Kenneth Wright

Jeremy Shulman

Jeffrey Vallens

Jeffrey Sklar

John Vukmanovic

Temporary Judge Unlawful Detainer Mandatory Settlement Conferences

Allison Berger

Aaron Kemp

Rebecca Mocciano

Michael Eyre

Lydia Liberio

Robb Strom