

The Insider

Issue # 5



**DISPUTE
RESOLUTION
CENTER**

THE REASONABLE APPROACH TO RESOLUTION

Your Monthly Source for What's Happening at the DRC



Don't love the one you're with? We can mediate.

In This Issue:

Attorney Corner...2

Board Highlight...2

Mediator Minute...3

Upcoming Events...1

Fast Facts from January

29 Mediations

16 Agreements

73 Volunteer Hours

Upcoming Events

- 2/22-2/23 TAM Conference- Office Closed
- 2/28-3/1- Basic Mediation Training
- 3/6-3/8- Basic Mediation Training Cont.
- 3/12- Board of Directors Meeting
- 3/14- Muffins with Mediators
- 3/27-3/29- Family Mediation Training
- 3/30- Good Friday - Office Closed

Visit our website at www.bvdrc.org for more details and times.

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"We need to form a conflict-resolution team to settle the dispute over who should be chosen for our conflict-resolution team."

Attorney Corner

Why Are Intake Forms an Important Part of Mediation?

As a part of the scheduling process, the DRC sends out a confirmation letter with the rules, fee schedule, and an intake form attached. We ask that you return the completed intake before the start of mediation.

But **why** is **returning the intake** important? Two reasons:

1. We want to make sure your mediator is as prepared as possible to help your client reach an agreement. Knowing the case background and goals for mediation helps your mediator focus on what needs to be accomplished during your 4-hour or 8-hour session.
2. The DRC wants to make sure you have the right mediator for your case. Mediators have different levels of experience and subject matter knowledge. Knowing details about your case allows the DRC staff to pair you with the appropriate mediator.

Remember, you can view our scheduling calendar online at www.bvdrc.org.

Why do all Family Mediators have to take the Family Violence Supplemental Training?

Effective September 1, 2017, SB 539 changed the Texas ADR Code (Civil Practice & Remedies Code), Section 154.052(b) to include "a minimum of four hours of family violence dynamics training developed in consultation with a statewide family violence advocacy organization."

Current family mediators are "not required to comply with the requirements imposed by that section, as amended by this Act, until January 1, 2018."

Board Member Highlight



Robert Stanberry

Robert Stanberry is an Attorney and Coordinator of the Blinn College Paralegal and Criminal Justice Program and serves as Chair of the college's Academic Standards Committee. He earned a B.S. from Baylor University and J.D. from the University of Houston. He practiced Law in Houston and College Station, primarily in the areas of estates, elder, family and probate law. He continues to practice law part-time in addition to his administration duties at Blinn. He has been at Blinn College since 2007, and a professional mediator since 2008. As an outside activity, he runs the scoreboard for football and basketball games in College Station ISD.



Mediator Birthdays

Nicole Pottberg- 4th

Harry Laxton Jr.- 7th

Richard Cadbury produced the first box of chocolates for Valentine's Day in the late 1800s.

73% of people who buy flowers for Valentine's Day are men, while only 27% are women.

Teachers receive the most Valentine's Day cards, followed by children, mothers, wives, sweethearts, and pets.

Mediator Minute

Where Can I Get 15-Hours of Continuing Education Per Year?

Getting all your continuing education hours is not only time consuming but can be costly. To maintain a credentialed mediator status, you need to log at least 15 hours per year. So where can you get all of these hours without breaking the bank?

If you want to get a large number completed at once, the TAM Conference and the TMCA Symposium are great places to start. TAM hosts an annual 2-day conference (in San Antonio this year) which will give you 8-10 of your 15 hours in one weekend. TMCA hosts an annual 1-day Symposium which will give you 6-7 of your hours in only 1 day. However, there are fees associated with both of these trainings. Visit their websites at www.txmediator.org and txmca.org to find out more information.

A second option is to attend our local training sessions at the DRC. We offer a 1-hour Muffins with Mediators training once a month, and a 2-3 hour Roundtable training quarterly. Our trainings are free, and open to anyone who wants to attend. For more information, you can visit our website at www.bvdrc.org.

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