

Vision Statement:

The vision of the Washington Mediation Association is for people to value and utilize collaborative, respectful, and non-adversarial means of dispute resolution, and for these means to be accessible to all. Practitioners will uphold the highest levels of impartiality, integrity, professionalism, and expertise.

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President's Message

President's Letter

As incoming president of Washington Mediation Association for 2007-2008, I'm excited about the initiatives discussed by our very capable and enthusiastic WMA Board at our most recent meeting. Primary among our objectives for the year is a dedication to making a statewide effort of outreach to educate the public about mediation. This project will have a positive effect on all of our members, including volunteer mediators, private practice mediators, and DRC's, by helping the public to understand mediation and see it as a viable option for conflict resolution.

WMA is involved in an unprecedented coordinated project to focus public awareness on alternative dispute resolution on Conflict Resolution Day on October 18. Through the combined efforts of many Puget Sound area conflict resolution organizations, including the King County DRC, King County Inter-Local, Federal Executive Board ADR Program, City of Seattle ADR Program, UW Law School, Seattle University Law School, Washington State and King County Bar Associations, Resolution Washington, and several interested private practice mediators, a full day of activities is being planned for Conflict Resolution Day. *Check the news page on the WMA website for details.*

Beyond that one week in October, WMA's Education/Outreach Committee is developing various opportunities to keep mediation in front of the public eye throughout the year. Some of these include, articles written by WMA members on various topics in mediation for publication in smaller newspapers and newsletters throughout the state; a panel of mediators to present and discuss various mediation topics at public venues and possibly on the radio; production of a public service announcement about ADR.

The Board is always interested in member input on our efforts, and would very much appreciate your ideas and suggestions for potential newspapers/newsletters and public venues that might be interested in a presentation or panel about mediation. Feel free to contact your Regional Representative or me.

Enjoy your autumn and any nice weather while you can!

Kathleen Nichols
WMA President

Useful Links

**Resolution
Washington, Dispute
Resolution Centers**

**Mediate.Com, news
and mediation
services**

**Association for
Conflict Resolution**

**Federal Mediation &
Conciliation Service**

**Conflict Resolution
Information Network**

Peaceweb

**Sojourners Online:
Religious and Societal
Peacemaking**

**Victim Offender
Mediation Association**

**Intractable Conflict
Knowledge Base
Project**

Online Journals:

**The Online Journal of
Peace and Conflict
Resolution**

WMA Begins Credentialing Study

The WMA Board has begun a study into creating uniform credentialing standards for mediators in Washington State, which currently has no state-mandated standards. Though most mediators are well trained, the lack of standards allows anyone to call him- or herself a mediator. One result is that mediation consumers have no assurance that the mediator they contact to help them through a dispute has any conflict resolution training, let alone adequate training.



The WMA already has a strong program of mediator credentialing in 14 conflict resolution areas with each requiring documented training and experience. Only those mediators who meet WMA certification standards are currently listed on the WMA website.

The committee plans to work closely with Resolution Washington (the organization of dispute resolution centers) and the Washington State Bar Association dispute resolution section in this endeavor. The final report is due in October 2008.

Please send your comments and suggestions to committee chair Darrell Puls: dpuls@charter.net.

Seattle Mediates Complaints against Police



Every police department receives citizen complaints against officers – it is simply a normal part of police work. The public does not always understand what the officers are doing or why they are doing it, and the officers often have no time to explain. These complaints are always investigated and, in most cases, the officers are exonerated. However, there often remains a frustrating

sense for citizens of facing the “blue wall” and the feeling that the investigators have covered up police misconduct.

To counter this and bring greater transparency to process, the Seattle Police Department and the unions representing officers in mid-2005 negotiated an agreement where officers and citizens could voluntarily mediate these complaints. Thirteen cases were mediated in 2006. Though agreement was not always reached, in each case the participants reported that mediation provided them an avenue to talk and reach a greater understanding of each other’s perspectives, and agreed that mediation provided a better avenue of resolving complaints than the “old” investigative process.

To read about the Seattle PD process and view the report, go to: <http://www.seattle.gov/police/opa/Mediation.htm>

Law School Offers October Training



The University of Washington School of Law is offering a four day, 36 CLE credit (including 2 Ethics credits) basic mediation

Conflict Quotes: Diplomacy

*Don't ever slam a door;
you might want to go
back.* – Don Herold

*The art of acceptance is
the art of making
someone who has just
done you a small favor
wish that he might have
done a greater one.* –
Russell Lynes

*Diplomacy is the art of
fishing tranquilly in
troubled waters.* –
Christopher Herold

*Diplomacy is the art of
jumping into troubled
waters without making a
splash.* – Art Linkletter

*Sometimes in the world
of diplomacy it is very
important to have a
pretext to return after
having said goodbye.* –
Peter Ustinov

*Think twice before
saying nothing.* -
Unknown

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skills training at William Gates Hall on the Seattle campus October 5-7 and 20-21. The faculty are Julia Ann Gold, director of the Mediation Clinic, and Alan Kirtley, mediator and Associate Professor of Law.

This basic skills training course will locate mediation among the array of dispute resolution processes, and examine the differences between facilitative and evaluative mediation. Participants will learn a step-by-step process to assist parties in conflict to find mutually agreeable solutions. Through a mix of theory and practice, participants will learn the skills, tools and processes used by mediators.

This training is appropriate for: counselors, lawyers, public servants, business managers, teachers, administrators, law enforcement, human resource directors and those wishing to succeed through collaboration with others.

For more information, call the CLE Department, University of Washington School of Law, 206-543-0059 or 1-800 253-8648. E-mail address: uwcle@u.washington.edu or check out the brochure at <http://www.uwcle.org/mediationtrainingoct2007.pdf>

Dollars to DRC's

The Washington State legislature has allocated approximately \$25,000 per year for two years to each Dispute Resolution Center in Washington. The centers are free to use the money in ways that expand conflict resolution capacity within the various communities. This is the first time that the Legislature has allocated money for community dispute resolution services and shows the increased presence of alternative dispute resolution on the legislative radar.

The DRC's currently are funded through a combination of fees for services, grants, and surcharges on small claims filing fees in the various courts.

Common Ground Helps Bury Long-Running Dispute

Adapted from www.news.com.au June 27, 2007



Mediation and handshakes ended a five-year battle between an Australian Christian group and an Australian Muslim group. The battle began when Catch The Fire Ministries allegedly vilified Muslims in a newsletter.

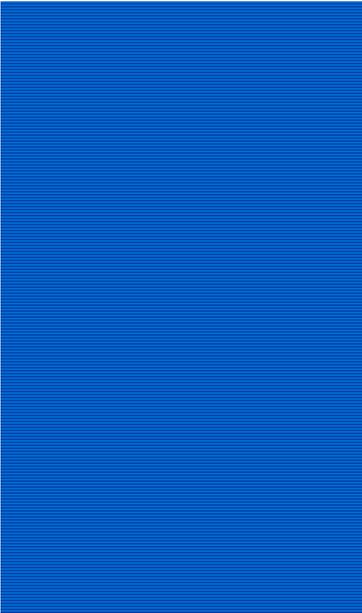
Catch the Fire pastor Daniel Nalliah said he was relieved the long-running case was now over.

"No-one expected it to be so prolonged," Pastor Nalliah said.

He said the two parties were able to resolve the matter after seven hours of mediation last Friday. "On the same day, my wife Maryse delivered a baby girl so I had had just two hours sleep before mediation," Pastor Nalliah said.

"We found ourselves in a very friendly environment talking about the baby. The mediation brought two communities to a closer relationship - there was a lot of goodwill and a lot of shaking of hands."

In a joint statement the ICV, Pastor Nalliah and Pastor Daniel Scot, who aired the offending comments at a seminar, said they recognized the



rights of all to express their own religious beliefs, while also recognizing everyone's dignity and worth.

Former Islamic Council of Victoria president Yasser Soliman said he welcomed Pastor Nalliah's comments and hoped the two communities could move forward together. "It's most important for people in this day and age to be talking directly to each other rather than talking about each other," Mr Soliman said.

Questions? Answers!

Do you have questions about mediation, WMA certification, or WMA itself? Send us your questions! We will select those with the highest general interest and answer them in the next newsletter.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION DAY IS OCTOBER 18!