



NEWS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA • COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
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Release: Immediately
Date: 09/17/08

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San Diego Superior Court Seeking New Applicants for Civil Mediation Program

The San Diego Superior Court's Civil Mediation Program is seeking new applicants during its Fall Open Application Period, beginning September 22, 2008. The Civil Mediation Program is designed to assist parties with the early resolution of their dispute by facilitating communication between disputants and assisting parties in reaching a mutually-acceptable resolution of all or part of their dispute. Parties may stipulate to mediation before or at the case management conference, held approximately 150 days after filing. The court maintains a panel of approved mediators who meet specific qualifications and agree to comply with certain ethical and program requirements such as charging parties \$150 per hour for the first two hours of mediation and their regular hourly rates thereafter and filing a Certificate of Insurance with the court each year or agreeing to waive any and all claims against the Superior Court in connection with mediating court-referred mediations.

The court has a new, fillable Mediator Application form and has recently revised its Mediator Manual, which includes detailed information concerning the various aspects of the Civil Mediation Program and panel requirements, including training, experience, and ethical requirements. Applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, but interested applicants must have a bachelor's degree and at least 32 hours of mediation training, including one basic course consisting of ten hours of classroom training and ten hours of experiential training. In

addition to satisfying all other application and program requirements, applicants must have mediated or co-mediated at least six mediations of at least two hours in duration and maintain a mediation practice or primary place of business within the county.

The new Mediator Application form and Mediator Manual will be available on the court's website at <http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov/pls/portal/url/page/sdcourt/civil/adr> or can be obtained by visiting the Mediation Program Office, located at the Hall of Justice of the San Diego Superior Court, 330 West Broadway, Room 241, San Diego, (619) 450-7478. All applications must be received by the Mediation Program Office on or before the close of business on Friday, November 7, 2008. Successful applicants will be notified by mail and must attend a mandatory Mediator Orientation on Wednesday, January 14, 2009. Questions regarding the Mediator Application or the Civil Mediation Program may be directed to Milica Novakovic, the Mediation Program Coordinator, at milica.novakovic@sdcourt.ca.gov.

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