



# NEWS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA • COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
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## **San Diego Superior Court Observes Mediation Week**

The San Diego Superior Court and the State Judicial Council are joining other courts and organizations around the state in designating the third week in March (3/15/10-3/19/10) as Mediation Week. The event is designed to increase public awareness of the availability and benefits of court mediation programs.

Mediation is a confidential, voluntary process in which a trained mediator facilitates communication between disputants and assists parties in reaching a mutually acceptable resolution of all or part of their dispute. The mediator is not the decision-maker and does not resolve the dispute -- the parties do. However, a mediator is often able to more fully explore the parties' underlying interests, needs and priorities. Mediation is a flexible and less formal process that may reduce the time and costs often associated with a formal trial.

Studies have shown that court mediation programs save the parties time and money, improve satisfaction with the courts' services, and reduce future disputes and offenses. California Superior Courts increasingly encourage and offer mediation for a broad range of issues and case types.

The San Diego Superior Court currently offers a voluntary Civil Mediation Program for general civil cases, facilitates a Small Claims Mediation Program, and provides mediation services for child custody and visitation disputes through Family Court Services. In upcoming months, the

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court will also launch a new on-line Civil Mediator Search and will make available a Probate Mediator List.

Mediation Week informational tables will be set up outside the jury lounge at the following court locations:

- **Tuesday, March 16, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.** in the North County Regional Center located at 325 South Melrose Drive in Vista, CA
- **Thursday, March 18, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.** in the Hall of Justice located at 330 W. Broadway in downtown San Diego, CA.

For more information about the San Diego Superior Court's mediation programs, please visit the Court's ADR webpage at <http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov/adr> or contact the Mediation Program Coordinator at [Milica.Novakovic@sdcourt.ca.gov](mailto:Milica.Novakovic@sdcourt.ca.gov). For more information about Mediation Week, please visit the California Courts Web site at [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/adr/events.htm](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/adr/events.htm).

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