



**COURT OF APPEAL  
THIRD APPELLATE DISTRICT**

**APPELLATE MEDIATION PROGRAM  
2890 GATEWAY OAKS DRIVE, SUITE 210  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95833**

December 15, 2007

ARTHUR G. SCOTLAND, PRESIDING JUSTICE  
RICK SIMS, ASSOCIATE JUSTICE  
AND APPELLATE MEDIATION COMMITTEE CHAIR  
ANNE K. MELINE, PROGRAM COORDINATOR  
RENE ACKERMAN, JUDICIAL SECRETARY TO PROGRAM  
PHONE: 916-274-5882  
FAX: 916-641-6527  
EMAIL: ANNE.MELINE@JUD.CA.GOV

Dear Bar Association President,

The Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, is pleased to announce that it is again recruiting attorneys and retired judges to participate in a third mediator training course for the Court's Appellate Mediation Program. Launched in October 2006, as a method to speed the case resolution process and to reduce costs to the litigants and the Court, the success of this program has prompted the need for this additional training. The training is scheduled for May 2008.

Civil appeals present a special challenge for the mediator. Dispute resolution at the appellate level is substantially more difficult than at the trial level. Typically, a party has obtained a final judgment, and as respondent on appeal, perceives the matter as one that will handily be affirmed by the Court of Appeal. Further, a great deal of money and time has already been invested in the litigation and positions are deeply entrenched. Because of these unique characteristics, the Third District has selected Dana Curtis Mediation as the entity best qualified to provide its mediators with the ability to manage the intricacies of appellate mediation. Therefore, all mediators on the Third District's panel must be trained by Dana Curtis. Dana Curtis Mediation limits the number of participants in each training course to 24 participants.

Since its inception in 2006, the Appellate Mediation Program has held mediator trainings in July 2006 and March 2007. As with the previous training courses, this third training is held at no cost to the participants. In consideration for the no-cost training, the Court only asks its mediators to accept up to four mediation referrals. Preparation and the first four hours the mediations is pro bono and any mediation time exceeding four hours may be charged at an agreed-upon hourly rate.

As President of your County Bar Association, you may be aware of attorneys or retired judges in your area who might be interested in this program. We are currently accepting applications from those who are interested in serving on the Court's mediator panel and encourage all attorneys and retired judges from throughout the 23 counties served by the Third District Court of Appeal to apply.

Enclosed is a copy of the Mediator Application and an announcement you may wish to post prominently in your facility. We would appreciate it if you would share this information with any prospective mediators. Moreover, if your Bar Association is meeting between now and the application deadline date of March 15, 2008, please contact the Mediation Program Office for additional information, or if convenient, an appearance by a member of the Appellate Mediation Program Committee at your meeting to answer questions regarding the program.

Thank you for your assistance. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Very truly yours,

ANNE K. MELINE  
Mediation Program Coordinator