



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

Standing Resolution

RECOGNIZING THE THIRD WEEK OF MARCH AS

Mediation Week

Whereas mediation is a dispute resolution process in which a neutral third person facilitates communication between the parties to a dispute to help them reach a voluntary and mutually acceptable agreement;

Whereas for decades California community dispute resolution organizations have used mediation to resolve countless neighborhood disputes before formal legal proceedings were initiated and have been instrumental in the development and operation of mediation programs to resolve legal proceedings filed with the courts;

Whereas during the past several decades, California trial and appellate courts have increasingly encouraged, offered, and provided mediation to assist litigants in resolving a broad array of disputes that are filed with the courts, including civil, family, juvenile, and criminal matters;

Whereas mediation offers many potential benefits to litigants, the courts, and the public, including increasing participants' satisfaction with the dispute resolution process and outcome, while reducing court filings, pretrial motions and trials, the time from the filing of an action to disposition, court workloads, litigants' costs, future disputes between the parties, and recidivism;

Whereas the availability and success of court mediation programs are largely attributable to the efforts of judicial officers, court staff, and justice partners, including community dispute resolution organizations, local government agencies, state and local bar associations, mediation organizations, and individual mediators, many of whom contribute significant time and resources toward conducting mediations;

Whereas widespread public awareness of the nature, availability, and benefits of mediation and court mediation programs is important to ensuring the use of these programs and access to justice; and

Whereas the Governor and other California state and local officials and agencies traditionally recognize the third week of March as Mediation Week;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Judicial Council of California and the Administrative Office of the Courts recognize the third week of every March as Mediation Week, commend the efforts of the individuals and organizations that make mediation and mediation programs available to the citizens of California, and encourage the courts to recognize those individuals and publicize their mediation programs during Mediation Week.

I have hereunto set my hand this 12th day of March, 2009.

Attest:

Signatures on Original

RONALD M. GEORGE

*Chief Justice of California and
Chair of the Judicial Council of California*

WILLIAM C. VICKREY

Administrative Director of the Courts