



NEWS RELEASE

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Court of Appeal to Launch Mediation Program for Civil Cases

Sacramento—The Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, will offer a mediation program to parties in civil cases that the court finds suitable for settlement, Administrative Presiding Justice Arthur G. Scotland announced today.

Designed to speed the case resolution process and to reduce costs to both the litigants and the court, the program will use trained mediators, provide facilities for mediation conferences, and have full-time support staff to assist mediators and the parties.

The court will provide free appellate mediation training to attorneys, retired judges, and lay mediation specialists who are selected to participate in the program. A mediator must have sound mediation skills and an understanding of the appellate process.

In consideration for the free mediation training, participants must accept up to four mediation referrals. Preparation and the first four hours of the mediations will be pro bono. Thereafter, with the agreement of the parties, mediators may charge an agreed-on hourly rate.

Applications are currently being accepted from individuals who are interested in serving as mediators in the Third Appellate District's mediation program. The mediator application may be found at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courts/courtsofappeal/3rdDistrict/forms.htm>.

Those interested should complete the application, attach their resume, and return it to: Cheryl Butler, Supervising Administrative Specialist, Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, 900 N Street, Room 400, Sacramento, 95814, 916-654-0209.

The court expects that mediation training will be held in June 2006 and that mediation of cases will begin in fall of 2006.