

# THE CENTER LETTER

Volume 10 Issue 4

November 2022

## *November is National Gratitude Month A Time to Celebrate and Give Thanks!*



November is typically a time for reflection on thankfulness - recognizing the things, people, and aspects of life that we appreciate. At The Mediation Center of the Pacific (MCP) we are grateful for and appreciate all of you. The dedicated mediators who have already invested 6,125 hours mediating this past year between January and September 30. The generous donors who help us attain our fundraising goals, enabling us to continue serving the large number of referrals we receive. And the invaluable partners who help us assist vulnerable members of the community who typically wouldn't access our services on their own. A very big mahalo to each and everyone of you.

Because of your generous support and dedication to mediation and the work of MCP, we continue to serve a record number of clients (10,806 involved in mediations alone between January 1 and September 30) and manage more cases than any prior year (3,531 cases were opened between January 1 and September 30). More importantly, the clients continue to reaffirm the value of mediation and the services that MCP provides. Their gratitude is reflected in the feedback they provide every day, including the comments that are found in this issue of the Center Letter.

*"Our mediators were fantastic! We really appreciate their help in resolving this issue with our tenant. They offered an additional session and additional time and took time to understand our case. They were both very professional and guided us through the whole process and expertly maneuvered both parties into an agreement taking away unnecessary headaches and stress for all parties. Thank you!"*



## Strengthening Services



*"Thank you Mediation Center of the Pacific! Your team is simply amazing!!!"*

To support the development of a new strategic plan, the MCP Team engaged in a half-day retreat reviewing operations and brainstorming ideas for improving efficiency and strengthening client and mediator support. The session involved discussions regarding how the team interfaces, the importance of every position, and how those working relationships can be improved. Recommendations for the integration of more technology and future workshops and educational opportunities were agreed upon as next steps. MCP is fortunate to have such a dynamic, dedicated team leading operations and ensuring services are uniformly provided to everyone.

## MCP Mediators Recognized at the 2022 Pro Bono Celebration

Congratulations to Clyde Namuo and William "Bill" Darrah for their recognition at the Hawaii Access to Justice Commission's annual Pro Bono Celebration on October 27th at the Supreme Court. Clyde was honored by MCP for his many years of service as a volunteer mediator for both District Court and domestic mediations. In total, Clyde mediated 353 cases, comprised of 376 sessions and over 596 hours since starting as a volunteer mediator.



Bill was honored by the Hawaii State Bar Association for his countless hours as a Family Court volunteer settlement master, a member of the Hawaii Supreme Court's



Committee on Statewide Divorce Practice Reform and Permanent Committee on Hawaii Family Court Rules, and the First Circuit Family Court's Procedures Improvement Group, as well as for serving as the editor of the Hawaii Divorce Manual since 1990. MCP and the community are fortunate to benefit from the generosity of these two outstanding people!

## Mediation Training: In-Person Training is Back!

After nearly two and a half years of training mediators via Zoom, the MCP Team was excited to conduct the first in-person Basic Mediation Training on October 20 - 22. Sixteen people from diverse backgrounds participated. Lawyers, union representatives, professors, and more filled MCP's training room, while still comfortably keeping appropriate distancing. The energy was inspiring and the positive feedback rewarding.

Mahalo to panel presenters Kale Feldman, Judge Erika Ireland, and Judge Mike Town for sharing your expertise; to mediators Kim Holzman and Owen Tamamoto for the outstanding mediation demonstration; and to mediators Mimi Beams, Chuck Buckla, Signe Godfrey, Iris Ito, Carol Lockwood, Bruce McEwan, Jo Ann Kocher, Teena Urban, and Bill Watts, for your superb mediator coaching.

*"Great job! Thank you for an EXCELLENT training experience!"*

*"I could not have predicted the amount of skills and helpful learning that resulted from my participation."*



## Working Together to Strengthen Hawaii's Communities

MCP was pleased to work with Hawaii Appleseed Center of Law & Economic Justice (Hawaii Appleseed) on their evaluation of the eviction mediation program created in response to Act 57 and managed by MCP on Oahu over the past year.



*"Holding mediation prior to litigation rather than during is likely to help mediation participants avoid an eviction filing and from developing entrenched positions, which can reduce the pressure on tenants to accept settlements that require them to move out, increasing the likelihood of tenants remaining in place."*

*- Hawaii Appleseed report, p. 5*

published by Hawaii Appleseed, **Eviction Prevention Through Hawaii's Tenant-Landlord Mediation Program**, they found that the Program successfully assisted over 1,200 tenants and landlords to avoid eviction.

Based on their findings, they recommend that pre-filing eviction mediations be continued, paired with rental relief, to allow for further study of its efficacy.

To read the full report go to:

<https://hiappleseed.org/publications/eviction-prevention-mediation-hawaii>



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# Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Trainings and Events

## Annual Recognition and Holiday Gathering

December 12th, Café Julia, YWCA

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

**Keynote Speaker:** Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald

Register via the link below

<https://mcp808.wufoo.com/forms/annual-holiday-recognition-celebration/>

## Divorce Mediation Training

The Clarence T. C. Ching Mediation Training Institute, 1301 Young Street

\$650 per person

**February 21 - 23, 2023**

**Thursday and Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. & Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

Register here:

<https://mcp808.wufoo.com/forms/divorce-mediation-training/>

*Divorce Mediation offers a custom model for mediators to assist divorcing couples in negotiating agreements on property division and custody and visitation issues, while focusing on the "best interests of the child." The training is interactive and provides individualized coaching during simulated mediations.*

## Basic Mediation Training

The Clarence T. C. Ching Mediation Training Institute, 1301 Young Street

\$650 per person

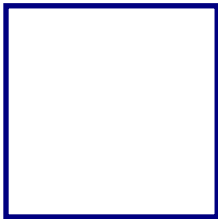
**March 30 - April 1, 2023**

**Thursday and Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. & Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

Register here:

<https://mcp808.wufoo.com/forms/basic-mediation-training/>

*The Basic Mediation Training offers an introduction to mediation basics and the core skills of effective listening, asking powerful questions, maintaining neutrality, interest identification, negotiation, agreement writing, ethical considerations, and managing challenges. The training is interactive and provides individualized coaching during simulated mediation practice.*



  
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