

Official Proclamation

by the Second Judicial Circuit of Florida

WHEREAS, the beginning of alternative dispute resolution in the United States can be traced to the Community Relation Service established through the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which provided a constructive model of dealing with conflict, while the first Court-sponsored program in Florida was established in Miami 1975; and

WHEREAS, the Second Judicial Circuit entered Administrative Order 1985-31, In Re: Citizens Dispute Settlement Program on July 11, 1985, establishing the Citizens Dispute Settlement Program in Leon County; and

WHEREAS, the Second Judicial Circuit entered Administrative Order 1993-03, In Re: Leon County Court Mediation Procedures on March 4, 1993, authorizing county civil mediation in cases deemed appropriate by a Leon County judge; and

WHEREAS, the Second Judicial Circuit entered Administrative Order 1994-01, In Re: Establishment of a Neighborhood Justice Center Planning Committee, to plan for a "pilot center in one community in Leon County" to provide a method to "resolve disputes in a less litigious and costly manner"; and

WHEREAS, the Second Judicial Circuit entered Administrative Order 2001-01, In Re: Neighborhood Justice Center, which formally established a Neighborhood Justice Center with one of its purposes to "utilize volunteers to provide mediation and other dispute resolution resources. . . to resolve interpersonal, economic, landlord-tenant, and other conflicts that may arise with the neighborhood"; and

WHEREAS, while funding for the Neighborhood Justice Center ended, the Second Judicial Circuit's interest in alternative dispute resolution using volunteer mediators strengthened; and

WHEREAS, to formalize the alternative dispute resolution activities of the circuit, the Second Judicial Circuit entered Administrative Order 2006-05, In Re: Second Judicial Circuit Alternative Dispute Resolution Program, updated as Administrative Order 2018-09, In Re: Second Judicial Circuit Alternative Dispute Resolution Program, which formalized alternative dispute resolution services throughout the circuit for county civil, domestic relations, and juvenile dependency cases; and

WHEREAS, the Second Judicial Circuit has been honored to have wonderful, dedicated volunteers who became Supreme Court Certified County Civil Mediators, maintained their certification, and provided mediation services for free to all parties, saving the court and citizens time and money by creating a safe, neutral forum for parties to resolve their issues, proving an amazing benefit to this Circuit and community;

WHEREAS, the Second Judicial Circuit wishes to recognize and honor these Supreme Court Certified County Civil Mediators for providing this invaluable service;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Chief Judge of the Second Judicial Circuit, State of Florida, on behalf of all duly assigned judges, that:

We are forever grateful for and thankful to the Second Judicial Circuit volunteer mediators for their selfless service and enduring dedication to our communities.

Dated this 26th day of March, 2019.



Hon. Jonathan Sjostrom
Chief Judge