



Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

BRIDGES

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A TIME TO CELEBRATE



Karen Cole, Jane Millar, Caroline Smith

Just in case you had not heard, the Alternative Dispute Resolution Section of the Michigan Bar Association Conference proved to be an exciting time for Northern Community Mediation. Not only did the staff participate in some exciting sessions, the Friday evening dinner party was a time for celebration. The Nanci S. Klein Award recognizes an organization or individual who has made a significant contribution to the field of alternative dispute resolution. This year's recipient was Executive Director Jane Millar. However, as Jane pointed out, "This award really belongs to Case Managers Karen Cole and Caroline Smith, NCM's 55 volunteer mediators and NCM's remarkable Board of Directors."

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"I have good news and bad news," a defense attorney told his client.
"First the bad news. The blood test came back, and your DNA is an exact match with that found at the crime scene."
"Oh, no," cried the client. "What's the good news?"
"Your cholesterol is down to 140."

AN IDEAL USE OF MEDIATION

"LAS VEGAS (AP) — Casino giant MGM Resorts International is entering settlement talks with plaintiffs who allege negligence led to the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history on the Las Vegas Strip. In a statement Friday, the company said it hopes to avoid years of litigation in civil lawsuits in federal courts in Nevada, California and five other states."

"A U.S. District Court judge approved an agreement between the company and plaintiffs' attorneys suspending court action in favor of out-of-court talks and canceling a scheduled Monday hearing in Los Angeles."

"The agreement to seek mediation comes after federal court panel this month denied MGM Resorts' request to centralize 13 lawsuits stemming from the Oct. 1, 2017, shooting. The company owns the hotel from which a gunman unleashed the massacre and a concert venue where 58 people were killed and hundreds were injured."

SIGNATURES ON AGREEMENTS

The basic policy is that when an agreement is reached, all of the involved parties should sign the agreement prior to their departure from mediation. In those cases when the party(ies) have a reason to sign the agreement later, be certain to include in the mediation agreement that they will return the signed agreement to NCM within 24 hours. Include the specific time and date. If NCM does not receive such document within that timeframe, the case manager can then close the case without agreement.

OUR ATTORNEYS ARE GREAT

NCM is fortunate in that not only do the attorneys with whom we interact support the mediation process, they often help the process along. That is why when attorneys are present at mediation we should consider their client and them as a unit. It only makes sense to capitalize upon their input and expertise to expedite matters.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Holiday Party	Tuesday, December 11	4:30pm-6:00pm
Annual Meeting	Thursday, January 17	Noon – 1:00pm

USELESS FACT

The word "queue" is the only word in the English language that is still pronounced the same way when the last four letters are removed.