

LIBERTY ENLIGHTENING THE WORLD



The actual name of the statue is Liberty Enlightening the World; Statue of Liberty is only a nickname. She was designed by Auguste Bartholdi, a French sculptor. He modeled the face after his mother, Charlotte, and basically has won all the Son of the Year awards ever since.

MCMA ON THE MOVE

The Michigan Community Mediation Association is a non-profit, professional organization consisting of the Executive Directors of the 17 Citizen Dispute Resolution Program (CDRP) centers in Michigan. The mission of the Association is to benefit and strengthen, with a unifying voice, Michigan's Community Dispute Resolution Program Centers through strategic advocacy, collaboration, and innovation. In order to help achieve this goal, MCMA plans to hire an Executive Liaison. This individual will be responsible for taking the MCMA goals and transforming them into action. He/she will assist in identifying, acting and securing statewide opportunities for the CDRP. The posting for this position is available on the NCM website at <https://www.northernmediation.org/jobposting/>

WAY TO GO

Board member and mediator Emily Hoffman has successfully passed the New York Bar exam. What a shame that Michigan will not acknowledge her bar degree from Australia and allow her to take the Michigan Bar exam.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"In every crisis, doubt or confusion, take the higher path - the path of compassion, courage, understanding and love." Amit Ray

STATUS REPORT

- Since the middle of March, as of June 3, 2020, NCM has facilitated 18 Zoom mediations. Of those mediations, 72% reached an agreement. That compares to an agreement rate of 66% for those face-to-face mediations from the beginning of the year to the middle of March.
- NCM has tentatively scheduled some face-to-face mediations beginning the middle of July. If there is a jump in the number of reported COVID-19 cases in Charlevoix and Emmet counties following the Fourth of July weekend, these mediations will be cancelled giving the parties the option of mediating via Zoom or waiting until face-to-face mediations are offered.
- For face-to-face mediations,
 - Parties will have to provide their own water. No coffee will be offered.
 - Parties will be required to sign a Liability Release Waiver. A copy of this document is on the NCM website at <https://www.northernmediation.org/covid-19/>
 - The mediation room is set up so that parties will be seated at least six feet apart.
 - The number of participants will be limited to five or six individuals.
 - The staff has put in place a safety plan, which includes the sanitizing of rooms both before and after mediation.
- NCM is continuing to encourage the use of Zoom as the option of choice.
- MI-Resolve is now available throughout the state of Michigan. This program gives disputants an opportunity to resolve their conflict online and works very much like exchanging e-mail messages. So far, NCM has had two, MI-Resolve cases.
- Of considerable concern is July 15, which is the date that landlords can again begin eviction proceedings. Special directives from the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) have put processes in place to help relieve the huge influx of cases that is anticipated, as well as to prevent undue stress relating to potential homelessness. NCM is working with the courts to be a part of that process.

OUR SYMPATHY

On June 22, Bill O'Brien died. Bill was a mediator for NCM and came to us through the recommendation of Herb Carlson. Bill was 90 years old and is survived by his wife Jo.

USELESS FACT

Babies are born without kneecaps.