

TWO IMAGES



On the left is a picture of what the main hallway of the Northern Community Mediation Office has looked like for the past seven weeks. There is no activity, no sound—just an empty hallway. In contrast, on the right is the newest addition to the NCM family. Benjamin Clark Hoffman was born at 10:43am on Saturday, March 29. He weighed 8lbs 13 oz. His mother is board member Emily Hoffman. In typical Australian lingo, she said that they are “besotted with him.”

MORE CONGRATULATIONS

Although they are not new attorneys in town, a new merger of attorneys has created a new firm. Jane Nelson (a former mediator for NCM), Jenny Deegan (often representing clients at mediation), Claire Forster (one of my mentees from Leadership Little Traverse). And Amy Stikovich (a NCM mediator) together are able to offer expertise in many different areas of law. As they explain, it can be a “one stop shop for our clients.”

ADVANCED MEDIATOR TRAINING

The Advanced Mediator Training scheduled for Friday, May 29 has been re-scheduled to Friday, September 11. Everything else remains the same. It will take place from 8:00am to 5:00pm in the Reycraft Room of the Perry Hotel. A continental breakfast will be served at 7:30 and snacks will be provided in the afternoon. Presently, the class is full, but if you are interested, call the NCM office and we will put you on the waiting list.

USELESS INTERESTING FACT

Infectious virus. Spread person-to-person by direct or indirect contact. Symptoms vary from no symptoms to death. Diagnosis based upon patient’s history, physical exam and ongoing symptoms. Virus can be isolated from patient’s tissues to confirm diagnosis. What is it? POLIO.

APPRECIATION GALA

The Appreciation Gala will still take place on Thursday, May 28. It will, however, have a different look. We will gather together via Zoom from 5:00pm to 6:00pm. Of course, you may want to enjoy your evening drinks and appetizers, which means that you will have to bring your own. As has been the practice in the past, at the Appreciation Gala, we will recognize the award recipients for Veteran Mediator of the Year, Rookie Mediator of the Year and Advocate of the Year. You will receive a Zoom invitation to this event later in the month. We do hope all of you will be able to make it to the party.

MEDIATOR ROUND TABLE

Thank goodness for Zoom. Our Mediator Roundtable scheduled for Tuesday, June 9 from 4:30pm to 5:30pm will take place via Zoom. Originally, the focus of the discussion was to relate to divorce and parenting time. Due to the circumstances, we may have to postpone that topic to our September 15 Round Table. As with the other Zoom events, you will receive an invitation as the date gets closer.

FACE-TO-FACE MEDIATIONS

When will we return to scheduling face-to-face mediations? The answer to that question is being answered in a recently submitted press release.

“In determining when NCM will return to offering face-to-face encounters, several factors enter into that decision: 1) expertise of medical professionals; 2) mandates from Lansing; 3) guidelines from the State Court Administrative Office and the Office of Dispute Resolution in Lansing; 4) feedback from the courts; 5) input from other local organizations; 6) advice from community leaders; 7) last but certainly not least, the safety, health and well-being of the NCM staff and volunteer mediators.”

It is unlikely that consideration will be given to scheduling face-to-face mediations prior to the middle of June. When and if that happens, we may impose certain requirements. Due to the fact that Brother Dan’s uses the downstairs on Mondays and Tuesdays, mediations will be scheduled only on Thursdays and Fridays. Additionally, we may require that temperatures of all participants have to be taken as they enter, and if someone has a temperature, the mediation will be cancelled, and we may require that everyone wears a face mask, which will be provided by NCM. If these sound draconian, so be it.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

NCM does not want to be responsible for the spread of COVID-19.