



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **DC Court of Appeals Launches Appellate Mediation Program**

WASHINGTON - The District of Columbia Court of Appeals (DCCA) is launching an appellate mediation program for cases in which all parties are represented by counsel. Civil cases -- including probate, child custody and visitation, and marital property cases and DC agency appeals -- will be eligible for mediation.

Beginning with cases filed on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, appellants will be required to file a Screening Statement with the Notice of Appeal or Petition for Review that will provide information that will assist the Court in selecting cases for mediation. If a case is selected for mediation, participation in the mediation process will be mandatory. Parties, counsel and non-parties with authority to settle the case will be required to participate in the mediation. Cases will be mediated by volunteer mediators, selected and trained by the Court, at no charge to the parties.

“The DC Court of Appeals is excited to have an appellate mediation program; such programs have been successful in the federal courts and in many other state courts in resolving disputes in a way that is satisfying to both parties. Appellate mediation will help the Court to meet its strategic goal of resolving cases in timely and efficient manner, while ensuring procedural fairness” said Chief Judge Eric T. Washington.

The DCCA Mediation Program Coordinator, Ms. Scottie Reid, is responsible for the day to day operation of the program and will handle the recruitment and training of mediators. While the parties involved in cases selected for mediation are required to participate, parties and/or attorneys whose cases have not been selected, but who are interested in requesting mediation, may do so by contacting Ms. Reid. She can be reached at 202-879-9936 or at [areid@dcapeals.gov](mailto:areid@dcapeals.gov). Mediations will generally be held in Court Building B (510 4<sup>th</sup> St. N.W.).

For more information on the program, go to [www.dccourts.gov/appellatemediation](http://www.dccourts.gov/appellatemediation).

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