

STATEWIDE ADR COMMISSION

Meeting Notes
12.17.15, 9-11:30am

Attendees: Elizabeth Jeffreys, Staff

Justice Chávez	Judge Sánchez (PH)	Jennifer Foote
David Levin	Phil Dabney (PH)	Susan Laughlin
Mary Jo Lujan (PH)	Susan Barnes Anderson	Mari Gish
Sharon Ortiz	Jeanette Rael	Torri Jacobus
Duane Castleberry	Kevin Spears	

Guests: Justice Nakamura Shannon Driscoll, AOC – Mag. Ct. Mediation Program Mngr.

Absent: Laura Bassein Sara Stevens (ex.) David Smoak Sharon Ortiz

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INTRODUCTIONS

2016 Changed to the Commission’s Composition

Justice Chávez introduced **Justice Nakamura** as his replacement on the Commission as of January 2016. Justice Chávez will be stepping down from the Commission, but not from the Bench. He characterized Justice Nakamura as a most effective administrator, with valuable experience at the Metro Court and the Second Judicial District Court.

Welcome Justice Nakamura!

Justice Chávez also announced that David Levin will be the new Chair of the Commission, and that all of the Commissioners’ terms that were expiring at the end of the year were renewed. In addition, Kevin Spears and Darcy Bushnell indicated renewed commitments to the Commission.

Judge Castleberry extended gratitude to Justice Chávez for his dedication and commitment to the Commission. **David Levin** asked the Commission to take a few moments to acknowledge the progress of ADR in New Mexico. He noted the dedication of early ADR pioneers, and shared the expression of one, Phillip Crumb, who would say, “who would have thought?”. “Who would have thought ...” (1) that the National Center for State Courts would devote a report to the development of ADR in NM, (2) that Justice Chávez would step forward and take the lead, helping to lay the path for progress, and (3) that the new appointment would be someone as talented and wonderful as Justice Nakamura?! The formation of this Committee, and the groundbreaking efforts would not have been possible absent the leadership and pioneering spirit of Justice Chávez. David Levin ended with, “Those of us who value dispute resolution owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to these Justices.”

Thank you, Justice Chávez!

Shannon Driscoll was introduced by **David Levin** as his replacement to manage the Magistrate Court Mediation Program.

2015 Annual Report

The Commission submitted its 2015 Report to the Supreme Court last week. It has not been posted to the web because the transition to a new website is underway.

Website Update

JID's contractor, Real Time Solutions, is working with various court entities to develop website maps. The ADR website map is complete. The new site will centralize all ADR information, encompassing appellate, district, magistrate, metro & children's court mediation program. The ADR site will contain links to each court's ADR website page (if there is one developed). There is some discussion about whether a separate portal will be developed to provide access to forms and other information for court employees, contractors and/or volunteers. There will be many advantages to a new website, including ease of the site manager to change and add materials. Elizabeth notes that to change the font size in the current Joomla system, she had to learn computer code. The new site will function more like a WORD program, so that it will be more user friendly.

Spring JEC Scholarship Recipients

Justice Chávez announced the recipients: Judge David Segura, Santa Fe Magistrate Ct. & JoAnn Valdez, Fourth Judicial District Court. He informed Justice Nakamura that he received the scholarship in the early days of the Commission and returned to school to take the mediation course. Justice Nakamura is a step ahead – she has already taken the mediation training!

Susan Barnes Anderson expressed concern that the notice of the scholarships not mislead people into thinking that anyone could be chosen. She asked for clarity in the notice that the Commission is looking for folks who will benefit their courts by receiving the training. Justice Chávez suggested that perhaps a more targeted approach would better serve the needs of the Commission. We could solicit applications from specific individuals that we believe would best benefit the courts from the training.

FEATURED PRESENTATIONS:

METROPOLITAN COURT MEDIATION DIVISION [Power Point Presentation & Handbook]

Presenter: **Susan Barnes Anderson**

The Metro Ct. Mediation program was established in 1986, so it celebrates its 30th Anniversary next year! Susan Barnes Anderson was involved initially as a mediator, and is now the Program Director, as well as a Commissioner.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION [Power Point Presentation]

Presenter: **Jennifer Foote**

Jennifer Foote is the newest member of the Commission, and she is also a member of the Access to Justice Commission. A collaborative effort between the Commissions could increase access to ADR for self-represented litigants around the state. Current ATJ projects include a Self-Represented Litigant's Guide, Kiosks (primarily for family court to assist w/SRL forms), and Outreach. Note that the NCSC Report gives examples of other states doing outreach for ADR services through public library systems.