

Notice to the Bar

Statewide Expansion of Economic Mediation Program – Need for Additional Qualified Mediators

The Supreme Court has amended Rule 1:40-5(3)(b) to expand the economic mediation pilot program statewide. Each vicinage thus must have in place by January 1, 2007 a post-Matrimonial Early Settlement Panel (post-MESP) program for mediation of the economic aspects of divorce. The purpose of this Notice is to invite interested qualified mediators to apply to serve as a mediator in this program.

Education/Experience Requirements

Qualified mediators of economic issues in family disputes must meet one of the following sets of educational and experiential requirements:

- (1) **Attorneys**
 - a. Juris Doctor (or equivalent law degree)
 - b. Admission to the bar for at least seven years
 - c. Licensed to practice law in the state of New Jersey
 - d. Practice substantially devoted to matrimonial law
- (2) **Non Attorneys**
 - a. Advanced Degree in psychology, psychiatry, social work or allied mental health field, business, finance, or accounting, or a CPA
 - b. At least seven years experience in the field of expertise; and
 - c. Licensed in New Jersey if required in the field of expertise.

Application Review Process

Applications by mediators for inclusion in the roster of mediators for this program must include copies of training certificates and will be reviewed by a joint Credentials Committee of the Supreme Court Committee on Complementary Dispute Resolution and the Supreme Court Family Practice Committee.

Mediation Training

In addition, all mediators participating in the program must complete 40 hours of mediation training approved by the Joint Credentials Committee, with a minimum of 25 hours of that training to be completed before inclusion on the roster and an additional 15 hours within one year after inclusion on the roster.

Annual Continuing Education

Following completion of the 40 hours mediation training, mediators on the roster of mediators for this program must attend a minimum of four hours of annual continuing education as set forth in Rule 1:40-12(b)(3).

Applications for inclusion on the roster of mediators for this program can be obtained on the judiciary website (www.njcourtsonline.com).

/s/ Philip S. Carchman

Philip S. Carchman, J.A.D.
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

Dated: September 26, 2006