

Update

Summer 2011

Foreclosure Mediation Bill Passes into WA State Law

On Thursday, April 14, Governor Chris Gregoire signed into law the "Foreclosure Fairness Act," giving homeowners the option of face to face mediation with the bank or company servicing their mortgage.

Of the 27 states which do not require court approval of foreclosures, Washington is only the 3rd to adopt this type of program.

Dispute Resolution Centers (DRCs) around the State are preparing to offer foreclosure mediation services to residents as early as July, 2011.

Resolution Washington, the statewide association of DRCs, provided valuable input to policy makers as the bill was crafted and several members provided testimony that helped advance the bill. DRC mediators are identified within the bill as one category of eligible mediators. As efforts now shift to enacting the bill, DRCs are in dis-

cussion with the Department of Commerce regarding training for these mediators.

The Bellevue Neighborhood Mediation Program is proud to be a member of Resolution Washington, and a contributor to the development of cutting edge uses of mediation.

"We anticipate this program will provide some relief to homeowners who've found themselves in need of both direct communication with their lenders, and a plan for how to move forward. We look forward to bringing this resource to the Bellevue Community," says Andrew Kidde, Co-Manager of the Bellevue Neighborhood Mediation Program and President of Resolution Washington.

The BNMP is dedicated to educating and training the public in peaceful conflict resolution skills, and providing trained mediators to empower the community to resolve conflicts in



equitable and cooperative ways. More information can be found at

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/business/technology/2014768269_foreclosures14.html

The bill as passed can be seen at <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/2011-12/Pdf/Bills/House%20Passed%20Legislature/1362-S2.PL.pdf>

For additional information, please contact the Bellevue Neighborhood Mediation Program at 425-452-4091 or

mediation_info@bellevuewa.gov.



Swimming with Dolphins



Photos taken by
Peter Sugarman,
BNMP Conciliator,
on his trip to
the Caribbean

BNMP Congratulates Andrew Kidde,

Winner of WMA 2011

Outstanding Contribution Award

On April 29, 2011, an impressive gathering of WMA members came together for the annual WMA meeting and announcement of this year's winners of the Outstanding Contribution Awards, where it was announced that BNMP Co-Manager Andrew Kidde had been awarded the "State of the Art Award." Congratulations, Andrew!

Fairly Legal:

The Television Series

(New season coming Fall 2012 on the USA Network)

A Review by Darcy Hollie, BNMP Mediator

After watching several episodes, my assessment is that I can only imagine the mediator who has a life like Kate Reed. Beautiful and smart, she lives on a sailboat in sunny, San Francisco and always seems to have interesting and paying mediation clients. Kate is a former attorney-turned-mediator, working for her step-mother's law firm, situated in a handsome, craftsman-styled office. Kate's step-mother, Lauren, continues to remind Kate that as a mediator, she is paid less and is therefore a second-class citizen in the legal food chain. There is Kate's ever present, always willing assistant, Lorenzo, who continues to arrange all details of Kate's life—wouldn't that be nice? Finally, there is the love-interest; ex-husband, Justin Patrick, who is an Assistant District Attorney and often in need of Kate's mediation services, or attention.

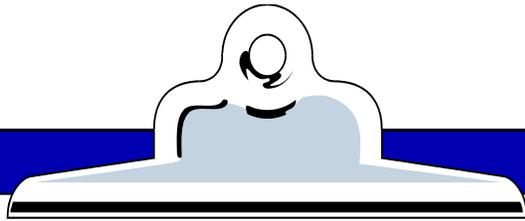
Kate is there to espouse the benefits of mediation over court—we like this. However, she always seems to have the time to personally seek out her clients, find solutions to all of their personal and legal problems. A settlement is arranged and everyone's lives are happier and better as result of her involvement. Oops---she does offer casual legal advice, (such as how a jury or judge would rule) but, oh well, she is HELPING her clients! She can even mediate on the fly—such as stopping a fist fight between her cab driver and a cyclist. Both were too preoccupied by their coffees, and nearly collided. Kate jumps out, stops the fight and gets them to identify their underlying values and what caused their distractions. The problem is solved once she educates them on the benefits of a healthy breakfast beyond caffeine and the world is an improved place!

Is it realistic? Not a chance. Is it fun? Sure.

PS—A nice thing, one sponsor is Peace First, which uses cooperative games and community service activities to empower elementary school students to be peacemakers.

You can see a new season of Fairly Legal on the USA Network in the Fall of 2012.

www.usanetwork.com/series/fairlylegal/



Parent—Teen Update

By
Gwen Jones

School's out for summer! Over the summer, we don't have in-service trainings or truancy workshops. However, we'll have practice sessions so that everyone can use their mediation skills.



Although there are usually fewer mediation cases over the summer, there may be opportunities for people to observe mediations, and I will let you know when those opportunities arise. Everyone is encouraged to observe mediations when there is an opportunity to do so, and to make an effort to attend practice sessions to prepare for actual mediation. Our next practice session will be on Friday, July 15th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in room 1E-120. I will notify you of the dates and times of additional practice sessions as they come up.

Congratulations to all of the graduating seniors, and thank you for all your help over the years! I hope you all have an enjoyable summer vacation!

BNMP Training Opportunities For Mediators and Conciliators

Parent-Teen Practice Session:

Parent-Teen Mediation Practice Session

with Gwen Jones

Fri., July 15th, from 1-3 PM in Room 1E-120



VOLUNTEER NEWS

Congratulations to the Parent-Teen Mediation Program's graduating seniors!

Maddie Hagen	Gonzaga University
Benjamin Trnka	University of Chicago
Ellen Burd	University of Washington
Weina Chen	UC Berkeley
Yael Horwitz	Pitzer College
Aisha McKee	Loyola Marymount University
Sabine Whitney	University of Denver

Program Staff:

Program Co-Manager:	Cheryl Cohen	-	452-5222
Program Co-Manager:	Andrew Kidde	-	452-5288
Program Assistant	Gwen Jones	-	452-2897

City of Bellevue website: <http://www.bellevuewa.gov>
(Look for the Mediation Program under "Neighborhood Information")

Conflict Management and Negotiation Training

Class of 2011



Back row, left to right: Jim Werner, Greg Grannis, Ivy Wilson, Joe Granger, Reilly Pittman, Narima Amin, Brian Ward, Peter Sugarman. Front Row, left to right: Daniel Jackson, Jeanne Grote, Claudette Granahan, Nura Adam, Sally Nichols, Liz Stead, Sarit Ellinger, Michal Galitzky, Karen Yellman.

BELLEVUE **NEIGHBORHOOD MEDIATION PROGRAM**

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