

THE CENTER LETTER

Volume 12, Issue 4 December 2018



THE MEDIATION CENTER OF THE PACIFIC

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The MCP Team is grateful to the mediators, supporters, funders and friends who helped to make 2018 a wonderful year. We are fortunate to end the year with an outstanding staff, a vibrant board of directors led by enthusiastic President Steve Holmberg, loyal donors whose generosity helped MCP to grow services and create new programs to meet community needs, and fabulous mediators who invested over 4,000 hours at MCP, family court, all of the district courts and other locations throughout the island.

We are excited to start the new year and celebrate 40 years of mediation in Hawaii. In addition to feature stories in the Hawaii Bar Journal, Midweek and more, on April 13th, the Annual Under the Mediation Moon will provide music through the years and honor mediation champions, William Darrah, William Hoshijo, Dee Dee Letts and Bruce McEwan. It will be a night to remember!



**Best Wishes for an
Exciting & Fun-Filled
2019!**

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*Bringing people together to talk,
negotiate and resolve conflict creatively.*

CONGRATULATIONS!



The annual recognition and holiday gathering on December 7th honored mediators, friends and supporters of MCP and peaceful problem-solving in Hawaii. While the event is MCP's "mahalo" to everyone who assists MCP throughout the year, a few select individuals were recognized for their willingness to go above and beyond. This years honorees included:

John Stallman (Mediator of the Year), **Serena Pascual (Apprentice Mediator of the Year)**, and **Toby Allen (District Court Mediator of the Year)**. **Nalani Fujimori-Kaina, Executive Director of the Legal Society of Hawaii**, received the **Lawyer as Problem-Solver Award** for her consistent work in promoting mediation and dispute resolution to increase access to justice for all. **Sherry Fieser** was recognized with the **Friend of the Center Award** for her generosity in donating her time to assist Client Services in scheduling mediations. **Poranee Natadecha-Sponsel** received the **Special Recognition Award** for her long-time commitment to MCP assisting with mediations, as well as with the annual fundraiser and outreach. **Jessica Gong, Digital Sales Manager for the K5 Home Team**, received the **Conch Shell Award** for creating a television ad to promote the early use of mediation and for helping MCP navigate the digital world. And finally, the **Association for Conflict Resolution Hawaii Chapter Board** received the **Peacemaker Award** for their enthusiastic efforts in promoting conflict resolution in Hawaii by securing proclamations from the Governor, Mayor and the City Council in honor of Conflict Resolution month and regularly educating the community about the value of mediation and dispute resolution processes.



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Congratulations to mediators **Tom Mitrano** and **Kristin Bryant** for being honored at the October 25th Pro Bono Celebration at the Hawaii Supreme Court. Over the past six years, the Hawaii Access to Justice Commission has hosted the celebration to honor outstanding individuals and law firms who donate their time to increase access to justice in Hawaii. This year, the Mediation Center of the Pacific nominated Tom Mitrano as an honoree in recognition of the hundreds of hours he has dedicated to mediating a broad variety of cases, including complex domestic cases, as well as for mentoring new mediators and assisting with the many trainings conducted by MCP throughout the year.

Kristin Bryant, also an avid mediator and volunteer trainer for MCP, was recognized by the University of Hawaii's Elder Law Program for the many hours she invests assisting with the Elder Law Program, and in particular, her outreach to the elderly community and older veterans.

MCP was proud to have Tom and Kristin recognized at this important event. We are grateful to them for all of the time they invest helping vulnerable members of Hawaii's communities. Congratulations!



FALL TRAININGS: MEDIATION SKILLS FOR EVERYONE

MCP maintained a busy training schedule over the past few months including: a three-day Basic Mediation Training for 15 participants, three Mediation Skills for Managers Trainings for 79 participants (including six police captains and sixty-seven principals from the Honolulu District), and a half-day Mediation Workshop for 22 participants (from twenty-one different countries) with the Institute for Climate and Peace. The MCP staff is grateful to the mediators who assisted with the various trainings from providing mediation demonstrations to mentoring and providing feedback during the practice mediations. It is the involvement of the experienced mediators that makes the trainings exceptional!



Fond Aloha



Thelma Rodelle Bell Ezer
December 10, 1931—December 16, 2018

The MCP staff and long-time mediators were saddened to learn of the passing of Thelma Ezer, a former staff member and mediator for the Neighborhood Justice Center (currently the Mediation Center of the Pacific). Thelma was the 2nd full-time volunteer at the Neighborhood Justice Center, starting in May 1980 and later joining the staff as the manager of the client services department, both scheduling cases and managing mediators for more than 15 years.

Everyone at MCP is grateful for Thelma's pioneering work. Many of the processes and procedures which are used at MCP today to manage cases, collect client information, and assign mediators to appropriate cases, were established or refined under her supervision. Thelma's work was instrumental in creating a smooth and orderly case management process that allowed MCP to steadily increase the referral sources for cases and the number of cases mediated for many years.

In the early 1980's, mediation as a means of resolving conflict was not well known or understood. Thelma vigorously spread the word about MCP and mediation to anyone who would listen. She worked closely with Family Court judges to steadily increase the number of cases referred to mediation at MCP to resolve paternity and divorce issues and pioneered the on-site mediation of domestic cases at Family Court by mediating them herself.

Thelma formed and nurtured relationships with many other entities as diverse as automobile dealers and numerous city and state government agencies. Thousands of new cases involving consumer-merchant issues, juvenile restitution cases for graffiti and property damage, and parent-child mediations were the result. Thelma also played an active role in supporting peer-mediation programs in Oahu schools.

MCP was extremely fortunate to have Thelma as a volunteer and staff member. She played a pivotal role in making MCP the largest community mediation center in Hawaii, and one of the only a handful of mediation centers nationwide that has been in continuous operation for nearly 40 years. She will always be remembered.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Accelerated Divorce Mediation Training

Thursday, January 24 & Friday, January 25, 2019 9:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.
and Saturday, January 26, 2019 9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

Basic Mediation Training

Friday, March 1, 2019 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 2, 2019 9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.
Friday, March 8, 2019 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 9, 2019 9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

To register for trainings go to www.mediatehawaii.org/training/
For additional information contact: mcpadmin@mediatehawaii.org
Seating in trainings is limited. Early registration is encouraged.

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF MEDIATION, UNDER THE MEDIATION MOON!

Saturday, April 13th, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Hawaii Convention Center

To purchase a table and sign up for the silent auction go to:
<https://MCP40Years.givesmart.com>

