

# THE CENTER LETTER

Volume 15, Issue 1

JANUARY 2021



THE MEDIATION CENTER OF THE PACIFIC

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Mahalo to all for your very generous support over the past year. While 2020 was the most challenging year ever for many people, thanks to each of you, MCP was able to thrive and continue providing services for Oahu's communities. Thanks to your generous support, despite the pandemic, MCP achieved significant outcomes including:

- ◆ Purchasing, renovating, and moving into a new building
- ◆ Quickly transitioning services to remote platforms
- ◆ Creating new programs to address community needs stemming from the pandemic
- ◆ Managing over 2700 cases, 842 of which were landlord-tenant cases
- ◆ Conducting a twenty-four hour Basic Mediation Training for 20 diverse participants from as far away as Texas and Washington, D.C.

The complexity and number of in-house cases mediated was higher this year resulting in an increase of over 500 case management hours as compared to the prior year. This number will continue to climb as the District Courts reopen and refer more cases to mediation, and other requests in the areas of foreclosures, condominium, special education, civil rights, and family matters involving the care of an elder member, also continue grow. With MCP's services needed more than ever, we are so grateful to the amazing mediators who continue to mediate in-person, via telephone, and via videoconference.

With your continued support and generosity, MCP is prepared for another ambitious year, including engaging in important collaborations with Catholic Charities, Aloha United Way, the Harold K. Castle Foundation, Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, and others, to promote landlord-tenant mediation; re-instituting the Divorce Law in Hawaii program via Zoom; initiating a series of Conflict Prevention and Management in the Workplace workshops; and more. Most importantly, we wish for you, our valued supporters, a safe, healthy, and prosperous New Year!



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

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2020 HONOREES!

On December 18th, MCP held its Annual Recognition and Holiday Gathering via Zoom. While we couldn't share food and drape our honorees with sweet-smelling flower lei, it was a joyous celebration and an opportunity for MCP to thank our generous supporters, wonderful mediators, outstanding Board of Directors, and committed staff. It was a time to pause and recognize the great work of mediators and community leaders who went above and beyond in 2020.

MCP was fortunate to have Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald provide opening remarks for the event. He praised the mediators for their great work and reinforced the importance of MCP's services, particularly during the pandemic. Mahalo to Chief Justice Recktenwald for taking time from your busy schedule to support the Annual Recognition.

Congratulations to all of the honorees (see below)! We are so grateful for your outstanding work!



**Mediator of the Year**  
GEORGE CLIFFORD



**Apprentice Mediator**  
KENDRA EPSTEIN



**Above and Beyond**  
CHUCK BUCKLA



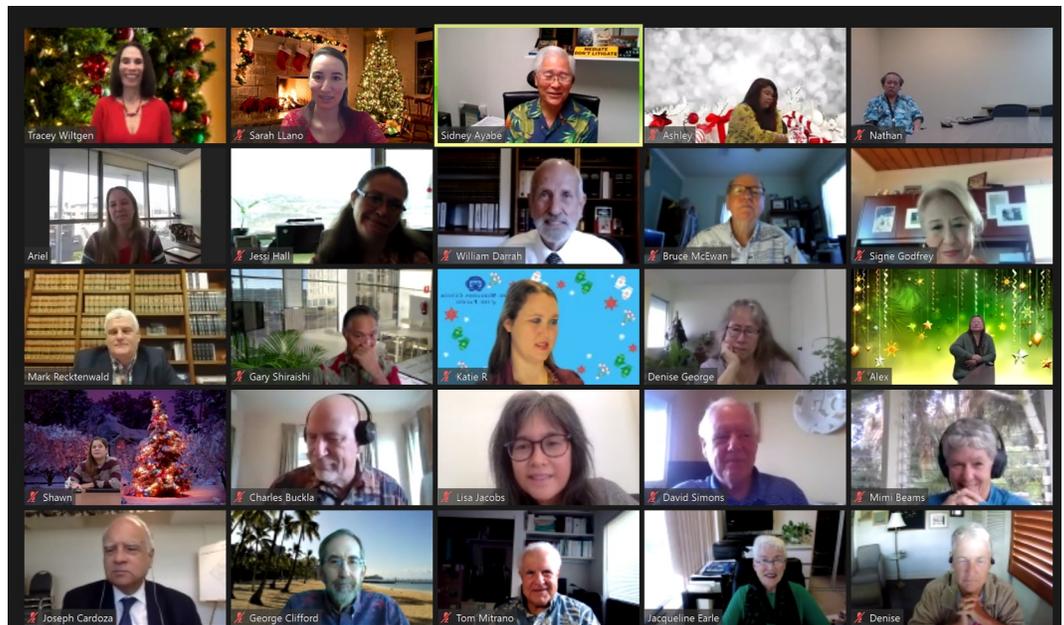
**Lawyer as Problem Solver**  
JUDGE JOSEPH CARDOZA, RET.



**Special Board Recognition**  
PRESIDENT SIDNEY AYABE



**Peacemaker**  
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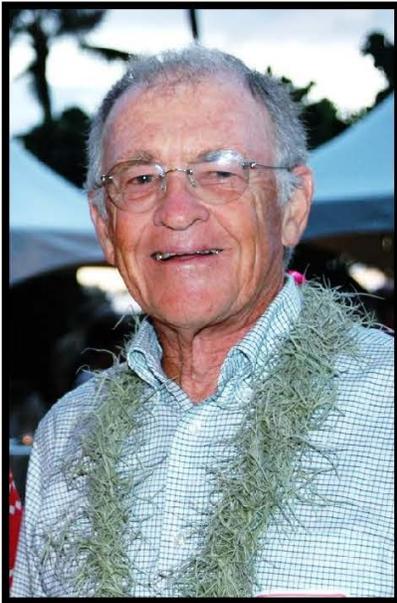
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## ***ALOHA AND MAHALO***

### **DR. DAVID CHANDLER**



The Board of Directors, staff, and mediators of the Mediation Center of the Pacific (MCP), bid a fond Aloha to Dr. David Chandler, Professor Emeritus in the University of Hawaii's College of Social Science, Department of Sociology, mediator, and founding member of the Neighborhood Justice Center of Honolulu (NJC), now MCP. David passed on December 31, 2020. His legacy as a mediator, conflict resolver, and champion of the underserved in Hawaii's communities, lives on.

David was one of the first volunteer mediators for NJC and helped to create the "Hawaii Model of Mediation" that is still a cornerstone of the basic mediation trainings conducted by MCP and the other community mediation centers throughout the state.

He was passionate about ensuring that mediation was accessible to all, and generously dedicated his time and financial resources to support this value. David served on the Board of Directors from the beginning until 1995, helping shape the direction and policies of the center. He was instrumental in adapting the basic mediation process to divorce mediations when the courts requested that divorcing couples be referred to mediation. He also served as a regular volunteer mediator from the inception of NJC until 2019 when he relocated to the East Coast. David was a favored mentor and trainer for hundreds of new mediators, many of whom continue to volunteer their services for MCP today.

David was a true believer in mediation and the core concepts that people are the best source to resolve their own conflicts. He was a master at the art of mediating, and a pillar in the success of MCP.

## MCP RECEIVES \$250,000 FROM THE CLARENCE T. C. CHING FOUNDATION



*Pictured left:  
Bob Fukioka, Tracey  
Wiltgen, Cathy Ching,  
Tertia Freas, Sidney  
Ayabe*

On December 22nd, The Clarence T.C. Ching Foundation presented MCP with the first installment of a \$250,000 grant to support the purchase and renovation of MCP's new building. In recognition of the generous grant, the training room located in the building will be named the Clarence T.C. Ching Mediation Training Institute. "We are so grateful to The Clarence T.C. Ching Foundation for the generous grant that helped us to fulfil a long-time dream of having a permanent home that will solidify MCP's position as a central dispute prevention and resolution resource for Oahu's communities, particularly for individuals in the low-income population," reported Board President, Sidney Ayabe. "We are honored to be part of Clarence Ching's commitment to our community, and we applaud the generous support the Foundation gives for the benefit of individuals and families statewide."

The Clarence T. C. Ching Foundation was founded in 1967 by businessman, developer and philanthropist Clarence T.C. Ching. The organization exists to fulfill Mr. Ching's vision of helping people in need. Today, as a charitable, private 501(c)(3) organization, the Foundation annually donates monies to public and private educational institutions and health and social service organizations.

## BASIC MEDIATION TRAINING TRANSITIONS TO ZOOM

With the support of Cares Funds that MCP was awarded, MCP equipped the mediation and the training rooms with videoconference equipment in late September. The equipment provides clients and mediators with reliable equipment in a secure, safe place to participate in and conduct remote mediations, thereby increasing accessibility for all. Additionally, the new equipment enabled the MCP staff to transition Basic Mediation Training to the Zoom platform (class photo on the right). The participants were quick to adjust to the online environment and gave the training high praise. Following the first training in December, MCP recruited four new volunteer mediators. Another Basic Mediation Training is currently scheduled for March.



## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

### **Accelerated Divorce Mediation Training** *(Online via Zoom)*

\$600 per person

**Thursday, Feb. 18, Friday, Feb. 19, & Saturday, Feb. 20, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

*Divorce Mediation offers a custom model for a neutral mediator to assist divorcing couples in negotiating agreements on property division and custody and visitation issues, while focusing on the "best interests of the child."*

### **Basic Mediation Training** *(Online via Zoom)*

\$600 per person

**Thursday, March 4, Noon - 5:15, Friday, March 5, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Saturday, March 6, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. & Sunday, March 7, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

*Basic Mediation offers an introduction to a facilitative model of mediation and the core skills of effective listening, asking powerful questions, maintaining neutrality, interest identification, negotiation, agreement writing, ethical considerations, and managing challenges.*

### **Advanced Mediation Training** *(Online via Zoom)*

\$600 per person

**Thursday, April 8 and Friday, April 9, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
& Saturday, April 10, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

*Build on basic mediation skills and learn how to modify the process to work with attorneys, challenging personalities, multiple participants, cultural differences and more.*

### **Mediation Skills for Managers** *(Online via Zoom)*

\$175 per person

**Friday, April 16, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

*Managers learn an 8-step informal mediation process to empower employees to resolve their own disputes.*

Go to [www.mediatehawaii.org](http://www.mediatehawaii.org) to register for trainings or  
contact [mcpadmin@mediatehawaii.org](mailto:mcpadmin@mediatehawaii.org) for additional information

\*Seating in trainings is limited. Early registration is encouraged.