



a center for conflict resolution publication

CAUCUS[®]



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Caucus is published by the Center for Conflict Resolution (CCR), a not-for-profit corporation working with individuals, communities, courts and other institutions to manage and resolve conflict.

CCR'S COMMUNITY CONSENSUS PROJECT MEDIATORS HELP SETTLE MAJOR PUBLIC DISPUTE

The parties to a long-running federal class-action case successfully resolved their conflicts with the assistance of the Center for Conflict Resolution's Community Consensus Project—a program designed to provide expert mediators to assist local governments, advocacy groups and community organizations in their efforts to resolve public disputes.

The *Hispanics United vs. Village of Addison* case was referred

"If mediation can work in this case, it has unlimited potential!"

to the Community Consensus Project by Magistrate Judge Morton Denlow in September 2001. Since then, mediators Lynn Cohn and Rocco Spagna have worked with representatives of the Village of Addison, the Hispanics United coalition and the U.S. Department of Justice to reach an agreement on issues arising from a consent decree negotiated over five years ago.

When the *Hispanics United vs. Village of Addison* case came to the Center for Conflict Resolution for possible mediation, the parties had already been embroiled in disputes for over seven years. The dispute dated back to the early 1990s, when the Village of Addison embarked on a redevelopment plan. As one party put it, the "litigation has been hotly contested, difficult and complex."

The redevelopment plan, started by the Village of Addison, included the demolition of apartment buildings. In response to the plan, a coalition of affected residents and housing activists formed and filed a federal class action discrimination case to stop the demolition. The position of the Village of Addison was that the redevelopment plan would eliminate urban blight and crime by removing boarded-up and vandalized buildings. The Hispanics United coalition, along with the U.S.

Department of Justice, claimed that the redevelopment plan was a disguised way of pushing the Latino community out of Addison.

After several years of litigation and negotiation, the parties reached settlement and a consent decree was entered in 1997 that included, among other things, an agreement to replace torn down buildings with affordable housing. The parties continued forward under the terms of the consent decree, but as one party stated, "while the disputes had decreased in number, they had increased in intensity." In the midst of several ongoing disputes, Judge Denlow suggested the parties try mediation through the Community Consensus Project.

With a certain amount of skepticism on everyone's part, the mediation sessions started in November 2001 and the final

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session was held in February 2002. During these sessions, mediators Lynn Cohn and Rocco Spagna displayed their signature patience, understanding and determination in working to bring the parties toward an agreement. By the final session, the parties had come to an agreement on numerous difficult and contentious issues arising from the original 1997 consent decree. One party stated, "I was astonished we reached an agreement." Others noted that the mediators were "extraordinarily talented and tireless" and "the most effective and successful mediators" they could recall. One summed it up by saying, "If mediation can work in this case, it has unlimited potential!"

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**THE WORLD'S REMARKABLE
CONFLICTS & RESOLUTIONS
RELIVED**

AT CCR'S 1ST ANNUAL FUNDRAISING GALA

On March 7, 2002, 250 judges, lawyers, corporate professionals and CCR volunteers traveled through time to relive the world's remarkable conflicts and resolutions at the Center for Conflict Resolution's 1st Annual Fundraising Gala, *Peaces*

Through Time:

Conflict

Resolution

through the Ages

at the Chicago

Historical Society.

The first annual benefit introduced many to the organization's mediation and training services through a brief comedic recap of the world's historical conflicts. From biblical banishment to Watergate, the comedic sketch reflected the evolution of conflict and the benefits mediation has in resolving disputes. The program was part of an evening complete with cocktails, hors

d'oeuvres, a silent auction and exploration of museum exhibits including *The American Presidency: A Glorious Burden*.

The support generated will go toward the advancement and expansion of CCR's pro bono mediation programs and training services that assist over 4,500 Cook County residents each year.

Peaces Through Time was underwritten by Robert A. Clifford of Clifford Law Offices and sponsored by numerous firms, businesses and individuals.

CCR greatly appreciates everyone who lent their support in making *Peaces Through Time* a memorable and successful evening. We look forward to seeing everyone next year!



CCR WELCOMES PHILIPPINE VISITORS

When a number of prestigious Philippine guests came to Chicago - *including* the Chairperson of Bangsa Bai Livelihood Movement, Inc., the City Councilor of Cotabato City, Chief and Senior Specialists from the Department of Trade & Industry, and an Assistant Professor from the University of the Philippines' Institute of Islamic Studies - the Center for Conflict Resolution was one of the places they requested to visit.



process works to 'selling' individuals on mediation.

"The visitors were very interested in the services provided by both CCR and CAADRS," stated Stephanie Neuroth, CCR's Director of Mediation Services. "They were specifically interested in the findings from ADR research, CCR's training methods and how to implement mediation services in their court system and community."

On April 11, 2002, CCR's Stephanie Neuroth, Suzi Schrader, Deb Klecha and the Center for Analysis of Alternative Dispute Resolution Systems' (CAADRS) Jen Shack welcomed the Philippine guests to CCR's downtown loop office. The nine individuals sat down to discuss the methods of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in the United States and hit on a variety of topics ranging from how the mediation

The Philippine guests were traveling across the United States and Chicago was one of their major stops on their visit. The visit was organized through the International Visitor's Center of Chicago. Having recently met with other international visitors from South Africa and Serbia, CCR looks forward to meeting with other visitors from around the globe to discuss the field of ADR and mediation.

COMING MID-SUMMER, LOOK FOR

WWW.CCRCHICAGO.ORG

ON THE WEB

CCR WINS

at the Fat Tuesday Challenge

The Chicago Bar Foundation hosted their Second Annual Fat Tuesday Challenge on February 12, 2002. The evening was host to a wide array of athletic competitions where top finishers designated their cash prize to a legal aid organization of their choice. CCR was the recipient of donations from the first and second place finishers of the pool tournament and from the third place finisher in darts. CCR would like to thank the individuals and their companies for their contributions.

Shirley Campos
Templeton & Associates

Tom Iutzwig
24 Seven Copies

Sarah Shippy
Solomon Smith Barney

Peaces Through Time Pictures

(from top left, going clockwise)

1. Laner, Muchin, Dombrow, Becker, Levin and Tominberg, Ltd. supporters, David Manjarres and Josh Dombrow
2. CCR Executive Director, Bradley Ginn addresses the attendees
3. Board member, Beverly Huckman with Rush Presbyterian colleagues, Paula Brown and Dr. Sharon Byrd
4. CCR mediators, Kent Lawrence and Lynn Cohn, with this semester's Northwestern Law School volunteer mediators
5. Longtime CCR mediators, Lorna Lucken Steuer and Anita Rowe

CCR SEEKS MEDIATORS FOR NEW BRIDGEVIEW PROGRAM

The search is on for mediators and new volunteers to mediate cases at CCR's newest court program beginning this fall in Bridgeview. The Center for Conflict Resolution announced the organization's expansion of services to the Fifth Municipal District Courthouse, where CCR is scheduled to mediate cases on Tuesday mornings.

"Bridgeview is looking forward to working with the Center for Conflict Resolution and having their mediators as a part of our courtroom," stated Fifth Municipal District Presiding Judge Anthony S. Montelione. "Offering mediation as an option is a chance for the parties to create their own resolution and will assist us in handling our daily court call more efficiently."

Bridgeview is the eighth court program added to CCR's list that includes the First, Third, Fourth, and Sixth Municipal District courts, misdemeanor branch courts, Chancery Court and Juvenile Court.

CCR is in the process of recruiting and training new mediators specifically for the Bridgeview program. CCR welcomes current volunteer mediators who would like to be involved in getting the program up and running. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer mediator or are a current volunteer and would like to be placed or assist at the Bridgeview program, please contact Suzi Schrader, Director of Volunteer Development at (312) 922-6464 extension 21.

W E L C O M E T O T H E W O R L D

CCR'S FUTURE MEDIATORS

**Congratulations to our mediators on the arrival of their newest bundles of joy.
We welcome the little ones into the CCR family!**

Eleanor Hartrick De Fer and Margaret Dempsey De Fer, daughters of **Kathryn Hartrick**, CCR mediator and trainer were born on December 26, 2001.

On January 30, 2002, Lily Rose Smith McSheffery was born to **Marilyn Smith**, CCR mediator, trainer and Community Consensus Project Director.

Twin boys, Carter Jake Loevy and Ethan Justice Loevy were born to CCR mediator and trainer **Danielle Loevy** on March 29, 2002.

Former Case Management Team Leader **Erica Wade Elcock** gave birth to her second son, Elias Zachary Elcock on April 8, 2002.

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