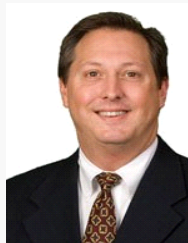


# Creative Dispute Resolutions, LLC

Mediation, Arbitration, and Other Dispute Resolution  
Services Throughout Maryland and Washington, D.C.

E-Newsletter  
April, 2010

## FEATURED MEDIATOR



**Mark F. Scurti, Esq.**

Mark Scurti is one of the most active and visible attorneys in the Baltimore, Maryland area. In addition to his law practice in Towson, Mark frequently serves as a mediator and arbitrator for various family law and commercial disputes. Mark is the past President of the Baltimore City Bar Association, a member of the ADR Section of the State Bar, a tireless contributor to the state and local communities, and a Maryland "Super Lawyer" in the field of bankruptcy law. Mark's primary practice areas include domestic disputes (divorce, child custody, child support, alimony, marital property), collaborative law, bankruptcy, business/commercial matters, and same-sex/LGBT law.

To review Mark Scurti's complete biography, please [click here](#).

## MORE Info

Interested in learning more about mediation, arbitration, or our other ADR services? Please contact us with any requests or questions you may have, or to inquire about a free seminar or presentation to your organization regarding the various ADR options.

Tel: (301) 977-8002

[Email Us](#)

## Feature

### Mediation Myth #2

This month, we move on to the second common misperception surrounding mediation – that settling cases will open the floodgates to more litigation. This is often a fear of larger-sized companies who think that word will spread that they are "easy marks" for people looking for free money. While companies may have a legitimate concern about creating future litigation, agreeing to mediate their current disputes is not likely to do so. In fact, if anything, seeking to resolve one's disputes through mediation may actually help diminish the likelihood of future lawsuits. Unlike litigation, mediation is a confidential process conducted outside the public's eye, and settlement agreements reached through mediation often contain a confidentiality provision prohibiting a discussion of the settlement terms. Moreover, an early resolution to the dispute ends the parties' searches for witnesses and documents, which, if prolonged through the discovery process, only lead to more people becoming aware of the allegations.

- Erik C. Johnson

[Back to top](#)

## Recent ADR Developments and News

### Foreclosure Mediation

This past week, the Maryland General Assembly passed a mediation program designed to help resolve some of the massive number of foreclosure actions throughout the state. In 2009 alone, there were over 43,000 foreclosure filings in Maryland. The program, which will likely go into effect this summer, allows homeowners to request a mediation session with the lender and an administrative judge if previous efforts between the parties to modify the loan are unsuccessful. If mediation is requested, the foreclosure action in circuit court is put on hold for approximately 60 days. While it remains to be seen how effective the program becomes, it does serve as evidence that the concept of mediation is being embraced more and more these days to help tackle some of our biggest challenges.

[Back to top](#)

### D.C. Teachers and Mediation

As further evidence of the power of mediation to help resolve seemingly intractable problems, there was an article in the Washington Post several weeks ago (Metro Section, April 9, 2010) detailing the mediated breakthrough between D.C. Schools Chancellor Michelle Rhee and the Washington Teachers' Union. Former Baltimore Mayor Kurt Schmoke served as the parties' mediator after their collective bargaining negotiations had all but collapsed. With the assistance of Mr. Schmoke as the neutral mediator, the D.C. school system and the teachers' union finally reached a tentative agreement on a host of thorny labor issues. According to the Post article, both sides said that the tentative agreement would not have come about without the use of mediation.

**New Addition to CDR**

---

Know someone who  
may be interested  
in our ADR  
services?

## FORWARD

[Forward](#) this email  
to a friend.

---

## UNSUBSCRIBE

[Unsubscribe](#) from this  
newsletter.

Creative Dispute Resolutions is pleased to announce the addition of the Hon. James P. Salmon (Ret.) to its panel of mediators and arbitrators. Judge Salmon recently retired from the Maryland Court of Special Appeals, where he served as an appellate judge for the past 15 years. Prior to that, Judge Salmon served as an associate judge for the Circuit Court for Prince George's County and as a trial attorney and litigator. Judge Salmon will provide ADR services for a variety of civil matters, including business/commercial disputes, personal injury and malpractice claims, premises liability, products liability, insurance-related actions, and other torts.

[Back to top](#)

---

---

## Upcoming Events

### "How to Save Time and Money with ADR"

The Maryland State Bar Association sponsored a free webinar last week on the subject of ADR and how it can help businesses save time and money. The program covered the types of ADR, the benefits associated with each, when they are appropriate, and why ADR is a far more efficient and effective process for resolving disputes than protracted litigation. If you missed it, you can still access the archived webinar, which will be posted on the ADR Section's page on the Maryland State Bar Association's website shortly.

### Advanced Negotiation and Mediation Training -- June 25-26, 2010

Ellen Kandell and Joyce Mitchell are leading a two-day advanced negotiation and mediation training course on June 25-26 in Silver Spring, MD. The training course will, among other things, explore conflict styles, teach advanced skills for dealing with impasse, discuss the various types of effective communication skills, and examine in detail the role of the mediator in the room. Registration information for this valuable training can be found [here](#).

## Exhibitions

Creative Dispute Resolutions will be an exhibitor again at both the Bar Association of Montgomery County's Law Day (on May 14) and the Maryland State Bar Association's Annual Meeting in Ocean City (June 9-12). If you plan to attend either or both of these events, please stop by our booth and say hello (and eat our world-famous peanut brittle).

Copyright © Creative Dispute Resolutions, LLC  
211 Little Quarry Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20878  
(301) 977-8002 | [info@creativedisputeresolutions.com](mailto:info@creativedisputeresolutions.com)

You're receiving this newsletter because you are a client or you signed up at [CreativeDisputeResolutions.com](http://CreativeDisputeResolutions.com) or on a written sign-up sheet at one of our presentations or exhibitions.

---

Having trouble reading this email?

[View it in your browser](#) or [download a PDF to read offline](#).

---

Not interested anymore? [Unsubscribe Instantly](#).