

# Creative Dispute Resolutions, LLC

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

E-Newsletter  
November, 2009

## FEATURED MEDIATOR



***Hon. Ann N. Sundt  
(Ret.)***

Prior to her retirement from the Montgomery County Circuit Court in March, 2008, Judge Sundt had several distinguished careers working as a high school teacher, a family law attorney, and a domestic relations master. Judge Sundt now uses her considerable expertise and knowledge of family law matters and her unique understanding of the benefits associated with mediation in her work as a highly-regarded mediator and neutral case evaluator. Judge Sundt's practice areas include all aspects of family law disputes, including divorce, child custody/visitation, alimony, child support, and marital property issues.

## Feature

### Family Law/Divorce Mediation

Much like a death in the family, a divorce often produces strong and deep-seated emotions. When the divorce also carries with it questions about the custody of the children, visitation rights, and/or significant marital property disputes, the resulting emotions and acrimony can run especially high. Trying to resolve these important issues through litigation, however, can be difficult, time-consuming, expensive, and, ultimately, unsatisfying.

Because of the shortcomings associated with the litigation of family law matters, other alternatives such as collaborative law and mediation have become increasingly more popular. Unlike litigation, mediation allows the parties to discuss their issues in a confidential setting, to explore creative (not strictly legal) opportunities for resolution, to maintain control of the outcome, and to discuss the underlying issues and problems thoroughly. Mediation also typically offers significant savings in both time and money when compared to the length and expense of taking a family law case through discovery, hearings, trial, and possible appeals. Moreover, a binding agreement reached through a mediated settlement is more likely to be adhered to because both parties had a hand in crafting it.

- Erik C. Johnson

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## Recent ADR Articles and News

### Mediation and Arbitration Video Podcasts

Erik Johnson of Creative Dispute Resolutions recently filmed two video podcasts on mediation and arbitration for Legal River. The five-minute videos cover the basics of these processes and explain how ADR can assist businesses resolve their disputes more effectively and efficiently than protracted litigation. Please take a [look](#) and let us know what you think. [Back to top](#)

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

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## 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](#)

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Know someone who may be interested in our ADR services?

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## Uniform Collaborative Law Act

Like mediation, collaborative law is gaining momentum as a more satisfying, successful, and dignified way of resolving disputes than protracted litigation. Seen most often in family law disputes, collaborative law brings the parties, their attorneys, and possibly a team of other experts, mediators, and/or coaches together in a problem-solving environment that is designed to foster resolutions outside of court. In July, 2009, the Uniform Law Commission passed the Uniform Collaborative Law Act ("UCLA"), which will likely be presented for consideration to the American Bar Association early next year and then on to various state legislatures. The UCLA creates standards and protections applicable to the collaborative law process and is designed to establish a certain baseline of uniformity across jurisdictions. For more information about the collaborative law process, we recommend visiting [www.darcyshoop.com](http://www.darcyshoop.com).

## Foreclosure Mediation

According to a recent article in the Maryland Daily Record, Governor O'Malley is considering a push for legislation that requires some effort at mediation before the foreclosure and eviction processes get underway. Foreclosures remain a big problem not only in Maryland, but across the country. Courts are struggling with the number of foreclosure actions being filed, and homeowners are finding it difficult to negotiate loan modifications directly with their mortgage lenders. Depending on how it's structured, a mandatory mediation program for these types of cases could make a big difference.

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## Upcoming Events

### December 7, 2009 -- Maryland SHRM Conference

On Monday, December 7, 2009, the Maryland chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) will be holding its annual statewide conference in Adelphi, Maryland. Creative Dispute Resolutions will be an exhibitor at this conference and providing information to attendees about how ADR can help with their workplace, labor, and employment-related disputes. Please stop by our booth if you plan to attend.

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