

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of New York
Supports Mediation Settlement Day - October 20, 2016

Statement of Chief Judge Carla E. Craig

“The courts of this country should not be the places where the resolution of disputes begins. They should be the places where disputes end - after alternative methods of resolving disputes have been considered and tried.”

*Hon. Sandra Day O’Connor
Former Associate Justice
United States Supreme Court*

On behalf of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of New York, we are pleased to lend our support to the Fifteenth annual Mediation Settlement Day in New York on Thursday, October 20, 2016. We applaud the many bar associations, law schools, and other organizations in our District that have joined this worthy effort in the past to raise awareness of the promise of mediation as a dispute resolution tool, including the Brooklyn Bar Association, the Brooklyn Women’s Bar Association, the Brooklyn Law School and its Mediation and Securities Arbitration Clinics, the Queens Mediation Network, the Safe Horizon’s Brooklyn Mediation Center, and other organizations. We also acknowledge our colleague, Judge Elizabeth S. Stong, who is Honorary Chair of Mediation Settlement Day-2016.

Mediation Settlement Day aims to raise awareness of parties involved in court cases, arbitrations, and other potentially litigated disputes as to the benefits of settling disputes through mediation. This is especially important in bankruptcy cases, where the resources of the parties may be limited, and the interests of both debtors and creditors are well served by the prompt resolution of disputes. Our Court’s Alternative Dispute Resolution Program uses mediation in appropriate circumstances to assist the parties and their counsel to resolve their disputes in ways as efficiently and effectively as possible. Our Court’s Loss Mitigation program facilitates the exchange of information and negotiations between mortgage lenders and homeowners to see if a mutually beneficial agreement can be reached.

We encourage all lawyers and parties who appear in our Court to consider mediation as a useful, efficient, and productive way to resolve their disputes. We also acknowledge and thank the many mediators on our Court’s Mediation Register who serve in court-annexed mediations on both a compensated and *pro bono* basis. Their efforts are essential to the success of our Program.

Information about our Court’s Alternative Dispute Resolution Program and Mediation Register is available from our web site, www.nyeb.uscourts.gov, and from our Clerk of Court Robert A. Gavin, Jr.

Hon. Carla E. Craig, Chief Judge

August 16, 2016