NEW MEXICO SUPREME COURT'S

STATEWIDE ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMISSION

For Immediate Release

October 22, 2015

2015 MEDIATION AWARDS ANNOUNCED

The New Mexico Supreme Court's Statewide Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission is pleased to announce the first annual recipients of awards recognizing achievement in mediation. The recipients earned the praise of their respective courts by consistently demonstrating outstanding skill, effectiveness, dedication and professionalism in mediation, as well as by having a positive impact in their communities.

The prestigious 2015 Mediator of the Year Award was presented to:

- Robert Rambo - New Mexico Court of Appeals

In addition, four recipients received recognition as Outstanding Mediators in service to the courts and their communities. The 2015 Outstanding Mediators are:

- Barbara Ann Kazen - First Judicial District Court
- Benjamin Cross - Ninth Judicial District Court
- Diane Grover – Thirteenth Judicial District Court
- Erin Anderson - Second Judicial District Court

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) encompasses a wide variety of methods that are used to resolve conflicts between people. Mediation, settlement facilitation and arbitration are common forms of ADR offered by courts as less expensive and quicker alternatives for folks who wish to avoid a full court process. Mediation provides an opportunity for individuals who are in a

dispute to discuss concerns and to design a mutually satisfying resolution to some or all of the issues with the help of a trained professional.

The Statewide Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission was formed by the New Mexico Supreme Court in 2011 to help develop, organize and monitor court-connected ADR services across the state. The Commission provides resources to courts and the public, and recognizes local innovation and success in state court ADR programs and services. More information can be found online at: https://alternativedisputeresolution.nmcourts.gov/

Additional recipient information, by city:

Albuquerque:

- Robert Rambo has been able to resolve cases considered by many to be hopeless for mediation. These cases had already run their course in the trial courts and litigants had long adopted hard positions with no intent to settle. His patience and diligence served to resolve disputes. He also has helped others by coaching mediators at the UNM law school.

- Erin Anderson created a new program from scratch to mediate mortgage disputes. In her first year she resolved over a third of her cases in a way that resulted in a restructuring of mortgages allowing people to keep their homes. Many lenders are now requesting her program, which is a turnaround since the beginning.

- Diane Grover has been a standout mediator for over seven years, handling the most sensitive divorce and custody cases. Her positive but realistic outlook helps people stay focused on the key issues rather than their interpersonal conflict. She readily acts as a mentor to new mediators and shares her accumulated knowledge.

Santa Fe:

- Barbara Ann Kazen moved to Santa Fe over 10 years ago and established herself as a premier mediator. She established Resolution Day which is held twice a month and has more than 30 volunteer attorneys participating. She also offers discounted mediation rates for others when needed, but will not turn down litigants who cannot afford to pay her. She is active in the community and put together a pro bono Continuing Legal Education program for her district this year.

Clovis:

- Benjamin Cross is a certified mediator and has resolved more than 85 percent of the 250 cases he has mediated in the last several years, which has taken a significant burden off of the courts. He is a good listener and can communicate with people from all walks of life. He has been a key figure in creating Adoption Day, which has created many permanent families, and Constitution Day and Law Day for local schools.

Caption information for attached award ceremony photo, left to right: David Levin, Commission Co-Chair, Benjamin Cross, Diane Grover, Robert Rambo, Erin Anderson, Supeme Court Justice Edward Chávez, Commission Co-Chair. Not pictured: Barbara Ann Kazen.

For More Information, Contact:

Elizabeth Jeffreys

Statewide ADR Coordinator

Administrative Office of the Courts

505-827-4855