



January 2011

## TERI DUOS NAMED MEDIATOR OF THE YEAR

The Dispute Resolution Center hosted its 2010 Annual Mediator Appreciation Dinner on December 1 at the Pompano Club, Port Neches, Texas. It was an enjoyable evening of fellowship and celebration and also an opportunity for Jefferson County to express appreciation to DRC Mediators who so graciously serve our community. Guest speaker was the **Honorable Joe Deshotel, Texas State Representative, District 22**, who provided an entertaining and insightful view of mediation from a political view. We were also privileged to have a number of elected officials join us; Commissioners Eddie Arnold, Michael Sinegal and Commissioner-Elect Brent Weaver attended, as well as Judges Randy Shelton and John Stevens and Mayor Becky Ames.

**Teri Duos** was named **Mediator of the Year** for her outstanding contributions to the DRC. Teri completed basic training in 1997, victim-offender and family training in 1998, and advanced court-annexed training in 2000. In 13 years of service, we estimate Teri has mediated 130 cases and donated nearly 700 hours to the Center. She joined the DRC training team in 2001 and has been a steady source of help at our numerous community service events. Teri lives in Orange with her husband, John. Teri is an active supporter of Shangri La Botanical Gardens as well as several other community programs. Teri exudes a kind, quiet, wise patience with people and has a wonderful way of making everyone around her feel calm. *Congratulations, Teri, on a very well-deserved honor.*



**Teri Duos**  
2010 Mediator  
of the Year

Special recognition was given to eight mediators for outstanding performance and/or achievement at the DRC in 2010: **Nancy Kirchmer, Thomas Sigeo, Trent Devenzio, Jerome Delafosse, Robert Morehouse, Debra Jolivet, Jimmy Hamm and Debra Wester**. Also recognized for outstanding service were mediators elected to the **2010 Ethics & Peer Review Committees: Mary Beth Jones, Don Sample, Duncan Woodford, Nancy Beaulieu, Jim Paull and Tim Womack**.



*Debbie Womack with members of 2010  
Ethics & Peer Review Committees*



*Commissioner Michael & Yvette  
Sinegal, Mayor Becky & Rodney Ames  
and Cheryl Weaver*

Community Partners recognized at the banquet were the **Jefferson County Reserve Deputies** and the **Better Business Bureau of Southeast Texas**. Also acknowledged was the DRC's most resilient partner, **Matthew Francis**, for his continued designation of the DRC as recipient of funds donated by the **Mobil Retiree Volunteer Program** and for the many hours spent managing the logistics of our Thursday night mediation sessions.

## After 23 years, DRC Executive Director announces resignation



*Cindy Bloodsworth*

*"Cindy has been a great Executive Director of the DRC...but more than that, she has encouraged and inspired us to develop our skills and talents, and has provided us the tools necessary to do that."*

Just one of the many compliments stated during our special presentation to **Cindy Bloodsworth**. She has left the DRC for a position with the Conference of Urban Counties in Austin, Texas. Her passion for the DRC was evident and although we wish her much success as she embarks on her new "Journey", she will be sorely missed by everyone associated with the DRC.

Thank you so much for all you have done for the DRC, the citizens of Jefferson County and mediation as a whole.



*Winter Weldon & Debbie  
Womack make special  
presentation to Cindy*

Over 20 years of  
service promoting  
peace in our  
community.

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**Debbie Womack**  
Mediation Supervisor  
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# Mediator Meanderings

Advanced family mediation training was offered in November and we are proud to recognize these mediators who completed the course:

*Cheryl Bob, Jack Butler, Kevin Sekaly Cribbs, Debra Hebert, LaRee Monk, Robert Morehouse, Elsa Oxford, Karen Schexnayder, Tamara Spears, and Bonnie Vessel*

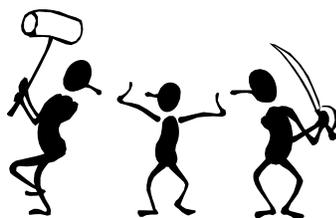
In October of 2010, **Terry Jackson**, received his Master Electrician's License. Congratulations Terry!



For the second year in a row, **Debbie Womack** and her husband, **Tim Womack** were named King and Queen of Krewe DeJa' Vu with the Southeast Texas Mardi Gras. Way to go Debbie & Tim!!



If you have any accomplishments or announcements you would like included in the newsletter, please contact Debbie or Winter at (409) 835-8747.



## 2011 TAM Annual Conference

February 25 - 26, 2011  
Crowne Plaza Riverwalk - San Antonio

The Magic of Conflict Resolution will be the conference theme with our keynote speakers sharing the mystery of their skills, tricks and useful illusions as they address the overall magic of our vocation of Mediation. The Conference Co-Chairs, Don Philbin and Melynda Gulley, invite you to mark your calendars and join us for the 2011 TAM conference.

### Why join the Texas Association of Mediators?

The Texas Association of Mediators (TAM) is a multi-disciplinary organization established to provide leadership and education in the field of mediation. Comprised of a statewide network of mediators, TAM foster the sharing of information and experience among its members. Learn more at [www.tx.mediator.org](http://www.tx.mediator.org)

One of our very own mediators, Nancy Beaulieu, took the oath of office on Monday, January 3rd as Justice of the Peace, Precinct One, Place Two. She was sworn in by Judge Larry Thorne in front of family and friends. Nancy replaces Vi McGinnis, who retired after more than 20 years as justice of the peace. Way to go Nancy!! We look forward to working with you in your new capacity as Judge!!



Newly elected Commissioner Brent Weaver has been appointed as the Dispute Resolution Center's Court Liason. We congratulate and look forward to working with Commissioner Weaver.



You Talk to Us...



We Talk to You...

Mediators affiliated with the DRC will soon receive in the mail a *DRC Program Report Card*. Please take time to complete this survey when you receive it; this survey is an important part of our quality review. These surveys are to be returned to the Jefferson County Human Resource Dept. The DRC Program Report Card gives you, the mediator, a chance to rate a range of DRC activities from the mediator perspective. Staff support, training and communication are just some of the areas of performance that will be under consideration. We want your feedback.

Part of the DRC mission is to provide a positive and worthwhile volunteer opportunity for you while also serving citizens of Jefferson County. Please take time to complete this survey.

## KBMT Mediation Day 2011

Plans are underway now for our KBMT Mediation Day. Dates to be announced soon - stay tuned!!

# Spring 2011 Ethics Inservice Program

Mediator Ethics: "Up Close and Personal"

Presented By:  
**JOHN D. KENYON**  
Mediator & Consultant  
Houston, Texas

Wednesday, March 23, 2011  
5:30 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

Meeting Site:  
Jefferson County Agri-Life Auditorium  
Courthouse Annex 1 Bldg—2nd Floor  
Beaumont, Texas

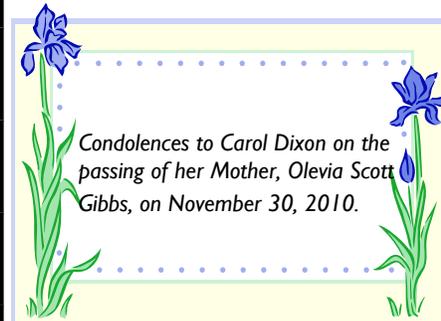
How do we really navigate through the ethical complexities encountered in real-life mediations? This workshop will address why just knowing the codes of conduct for mediation is not always enough to practice ethically in this challenging field. We will develop our personal "Why I Mediate" statement which will guide and support us to uphold the highest of mediator ethics. Don't miss this great opportunity!

A Me-  
Re- diator



**John Wasser**  
December 18, 1944—November 25, 2010

John Wasser passed away on November 25th after a brief battle with lung cancer. John had been a mediator with the DRC since 1999 and was recognized as Mediator of the Year in 2001. We will miss his support of and contribution to the Dispute Resolution Center.



May words of comfort rest gently upon your heart, and in time may they become words of healing.

membered....

## 2011 DRC LEADERSHIP ELECTED

DRC mediators elected 6 of their peers to serve as members of the esteemed Ethics and Peer Review Committees. These committees are an integral part of the grievance process available to review problems that might occur with cases handled at the DRC. Election to these committees reflect the ethical standards, leadership and professionalism of these individuals.

**ETHICS REVIEW COMMITTEE**  
**Dana Wasser, Trent Devenzio, Michelle LaBrie**



**PEER REVIEW COMMITTEE**  
**Mary Beth Jones, Duncan Woodford, and Karen Schexnayder**

We also want to thank the mediators who served on these committees in 2010: *Mary Beth Jones, Don Sample, Duncan Woodford, Nancy Beaulieu, Jim Paull, and Tim Womack.* Complaints regarding mediators come far and few between at the DRC and there were **no** complaints requiring review in 2010. Yet these mediators stood by ready and willing to perform their duties and we appreciate their service. Thank you all for making our organization great!!!

The greatest contribution of third parties to processes of reconciliation often is not their communication or negotiation skill, nor their capacity for process design; rather, it is their discipline and commitment to stand alongside the people in their journey, wherever it may be taking them.

-John Paul Lederach, professor of Conflict Studies,  
Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia

## Conflict Resolution Day

*Edited from AResolution Magazine  
Author, Sharon Press*

On October 21st, celebrations took place around the world in honor of Conflict Resolution Day. This annual event was created by ADR in 2005 to:

- Promote awareness of mediation, arbitration, conciliation and other creative, peaceful means of resolving conflict;
- Promote the use of conflict resolution in schools, families, businesses, communities, governments and the legal system;
- Recognize the significant contributions of (peaceful) conflict resolvers, and
- Obtain international synergy by having celebrations happen around the world on the same day.

This year was the biggest celebration to date! Internationally, there were events in Portugal, Japan, Argentina, Italy, France, and the Bahamas. In the United States, there were celebrations in California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Oregon, Virginia, and Washington DC. The activities ranged from seminars, webinars, and conferences to peace walks, poetry contests, informational sessions, proclamations, and training sessions. In New York alone, over 100 organizations held events to celebrate Conflict Resolution Day! Deciding that one day was not nearly sufficient, Colorado participated in a month of activities from radio programs, book clubs, film screenings, to interfaith dialogues.

We at the DRC are inspired by the creativity and enthusiasm for Conflict Resolution Day around the nation!

Conflict Resolution Day 2011 will take place October 20, 2011.

### DRC SURVEY CARD *What Clients Say...*

“Mediation was very productive and positive. Gave important points for me to consider and listened to my concerns.”

“Michelle LaBrie was great! She really made my client feel at ease! Thanks!”

Trent, Jean, and LaRee were very knowledgeable and helped this situation for 1<sup>st</sup> timer. I was comfortable through out mediation .”

“This was quite helpful and a great session. Thank you for assisting us with this situation.”



### You can help promote mediation and advance peace !

The DRC has a speaker's bureau available to visit with your group or organization. Information about the mediation process, mediation training and other issues regarding the judiciary and alternative dispute resolution make an interesting topic in many settings.

Call Debbie at 835-8747 for more information.



### Dispute Resolution Center of Jefferson County

Jefferson County Courthouse-Annex I Bldg  
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Beaumont, TX 77701

Over 20 years  
of service  
“Promoting Peace in  
Our Community”