



# news

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## **Sixth, Seventh and Twenty-Second Judicial Districts assigned new mediators** *La Plata and Ouray County attorneys to serve as Office of Dispute Resolution mediators*

DENVER – The Colorado Judicial Branch’s Office of Dispute Resolution (ODR) announced today that for the first time in recent years, courts in the state’s southwestern corner will have additional trained, experienced mediators to provide mediation services.

Angela Buchanan of Durango will serve courts in the Sixth (Archuleta, La Plata and San Juan counties) and Twenty-second (Dolores and Montezuma counties) judicial districts; Irwin Borof of Ridgway will serve the court in the Seventh Judicial District (Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel counties). Buchanan and Borof, both of whom are licensed attorneys, will serve on a part-time basis as independent contractors for court-ordered mediation. Fees for such contractors are paid by parties to the case, or by federal and state funding which is provided for parties who cannot afford the cost of mediation.

The two, hired at the request of the courts in their districts, join current ODR mediators in the Sixth and Seventh judicial districts: Peter Bogardus of Crested Butte, Barbara Hughson of Durango and Patricia Winslow of Olathe.

Buchanan and Borof will work on domestic relations and civil cases, but could handle other case types as the District Court judges deem appropriate, mediating three to five cases per month

through the ODR. On average in Colorado, 64 percent of domestic relations cases are resolved in mediation, an alternative dispute resolution process that can help reduce court caseloads by resolving cases outside the courtroom.

“It’s not the conflict that’s the problem, rather how it’s handled. Mediation and other alternative dispute resolution processes provide a mechanism for our courts and communities to resolve conflicts in a constructive way, and ODR ensures it’s done in a professional, affordable and efficient manner,” said Winslow, the southwest regional program administrator for the Office of Dispute Resolution.

Mediator applicants are required to have at least 40 hours of mediation training; considerable experience mediating disputes; substantive knowledge of Colorado law in the area in which they will be mediating; and familiarity with court procedures in civil and/or domestic relations cases.