

Announcement: March 3rd, 2010 Matrimonial Mediation Program Westchester County

Hon. Alan D. Scheinkman, Administrative Judge of the Ninth Judicial District, is pleased to announce the establishment of a pilot project for mediation of contested matrimonial actions in Westchester County. Mediation is a confidential process that may result in a faster, more convenient, less expensive, and less acrimonious settlement than might be the case in the normal course of litigation. A neutral mediator helps disputing parties to identify issues, clarify perceptions, and explore options for a mutually acceptable outcome. Mediators have significant training and experience in family mediation and in opening paths of communication that emphasize common ground and encourage cooperation. Mediation is not appropriate in all cases and referrals to mediation will be made by the court. Applications are now being accepted for participation by qualified mediators. Mediators will offer an initial 90 minute session free of charge and may thereafter charge the parties up to \$300 per hour, with mediators being encouraged to work on a sliding scale to take into account the parties' financial circumstances. Additional information is provided in the Matrimonial Mediation Rules. The Rules and the Mediator Application Form are posted in the Matrimonial Section of 9th JD Web site: <http://www.nycourts.gov/courts/9jd/Matrimonial.shtml>

Hon. Alan D. Scheinkman, J.S.C.
Administrative Judge, Ninth Judicial District
Westchester County Courthouse
111 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
White Plains, New York 10601