

# Office of the Mayor

CITY OF NEW YORK



# Proclamation

**WHEREAS:** NEW YORKERS ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR BETTER, SMARTER, AND MORE INNOVATIVE WAYS OF DOING THINGS—INCLUDING IN LEGAL DISPUTES. IT IS IN EVERYONE'S INTEREST TO FOSTER AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE PROBLEMS ARE SETTLED CONSISTENTLY AND CONVENIENTLY. AS PART OF SUCH EFFORTS TO RESOLVE MORE DISPUTES OUTSIDE OF THE COURTS AND IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR MORE PEOPLE, WE ARE PROUD TO JOIN THE NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM IN CELEBRATING MEDIATION SETTLEMENT DAY.

**WHEREAS:** MEDIATION OFFERS A FLEXIBLE AND CONFIDENTIAL PROCESS FOR PARTIES WILLING TO WORK TOWARD A RESOLUTION. AND WHETHER YOU ARE A TENANT OR A LANDLORD, WHETHER YOU WORK FOR A BANK OR ARE ONE OF ITS BORROWERS, NO ONE WANTS TO SPEND MONEY UNNECESSARILY. THE SYSTEM HAS BECOME TOO EXPENSIVE, AND THERE IS TOO MUCH AT STAKE FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO MAY NOT BE ABLE TO AFFORD EXPERT LEGAL REPRESENTATION. MEDIATION CAN HELP KEEP COSTS DOWN, AND UNLIKE A JUDGE OR A JURY, A MEDIATOR CAN GUIDE PARTIES TOWARD A RESOLUTION OR SUGGEST ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS TO THEIR DISPUTE.

**WHEREAS:** THE LEGAL COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT CAN ACCOMPLISH GREAT THINGS WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER. AT OUR URGING, THE STATE PASSED A LAW PROVIDING ALL OWNERS OF ONE- TO FOUR-FAMILY HOMES FACING FORECLOSURE ACCESS TO SETTLEMENT CONFERENCES. BECAUSE OF THAT LAW, AND BECAUSE OF THE LAWYERS WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO REPRESENT HOMEOWNERS, THOUSANDS MORE NEW YORKERS HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO NEGOTIATE WITH THEIR BANKS IN GOOD FAITH—AND KEEP THEIR HOMES. WE CAN REPEAT THIS SUCCESS IN OTHER AREAS OF THE LAW. THANKS TO THE HARD WORK AND DEDICATION OF OUR MEDIATORS, BAR ASSOCIATIONS, AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS, I AM CONFIDENT THAT NEW YORK WILL CONTINUE TO EMPOWER OUR RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES, AND CREATE A MORE JUST WORLD.

NOW THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, IN RECOGNITION OF THIS IMPORTANT EVENT, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20TH, 2011 IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK AS:

“MEDIATION SETTLEMENT DAY”



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO  
SET MY HAND AND SEAL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK TO BE AFFIXED.

*Michael R. Bloomberg*  
MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG  
MAYOR