



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, the Empire State recognizes the value of initiatives that seek to mitigate the conflicts and disputes which are a part of daily life and, in recent years, there has been growing recognition that many disputes can be resolved effectively through mediation and other alternative dispute resolution processes; and

Whereas, beyond the solutions offered by the judicial system, mediation is a powerful problem-solving tool for all kinds of conflicts, from family disputes, to community disputes, to multimillion dollar business-related disputes; and

Whereas, an effective tool for resolving disputes, mediation can be a cost-saving and efficient approach in which a trained, impartial mediator helps parties negotiate and reach a settlement by finding a mutually acceptable agreement; and

Whereas, New York State is at the forefront of nationwide efforts to assist in the resolution of conflicts through such alternative methods as mediation and there currently exist a number of programs that train individuals providing conflict resolution services, and others that provide information, education, and resources for parties; and

Whereas, New York State has a noteworthy relationship with the United Nations, which is headquartered in Manhattan, and since the U.N. Charter went into effect seventy years ago, in 1945, it has played a preeminent role in the peaceful resolution of global conflicts and tensions, providing a basis for union and cooperation among nations of the world; in recent years, the United Nation's peacemaking capacity has been increased by strengthening its ability to practice preventive diplomacy and to employ and support mediation so as to head off potential crises at an early stage; in 2006, the U.N. Department of Political Affairs' Mediation Support Unit (MSU) was established and works with the Department's regional divisions to plan, support, and strengthen mediation efforts, serving as a source of mediation knowledge, policy and guidance, lessons learned, and best practices; and

Whereas, on October 15, 2015, the New York State Unified Court System, in conjunction with a coalition of over 100 alternative dispute resolution organizations, will observe Mediation Settlement Day as a means by which to raise awareness of the many benefits of mediation, and to educate potential parties and attorneys about the process and wealth of resources available to them; and

Whereas, by encouraging parties to try mediation first and by reinforcing its value and effectiveness, this observance further promotes the practical, prudent, and constructive purposes that the mediation process serves and it is fitting that New York State joins to recognize the positive impact that mediation programs can have as a viable alternative method of dispute resolution;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim October 15, 2015 as

MEDIATION SETTLEMENT DAY

in the Empire State.



G i v e n

under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State

at the Capitol in the City of Albany this ninth day of

October in the year two thousand fifteen.

Governor

Washam J. Mahon
Secretary to the Governor