

# The Courthouse Steps

A NEWSLETTER FOR NEUTRALS WHO SERVE THE NEW HAMPSHIRE JUDICIAL BRANCH

January 4, 2023

Wednesday



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*To preserve the rule of law and to protect the rights and liberties guaranteed by the US and NH Constitutions, the Court will provide accessible, prompt, and efficient forums for the fair and independent administration of justice, with respect for the dignity of all we serve*

## **Happy New Year!**

Happy New Year mediators and neutrals! After a few years of transition due to the effects of COVID-19 and the resumption of in-person hearings at the court, we finally arrive at a time in which we can take a breath and reflect. My goal for the new year is to evaluate how the programs are working and solicit the expertise of you all to improve them. I hope that this will be a great year for us all.

## **Reminder: Mileage Logs – Divorce/Parenting Mediators**

As per Supreme Court Rule 48-B (7), a divorce/parenting mediator may have their mileage reimbursed for the first mediation session of a case. You must submit your mileage log *within 45 days* of the first mediation session. For the time being, please **MAIL** mileage reimbursement requests to the Office of Mediation and Arbitration.

## **Rule 32 Mediator Recertification Reminder**

Thank you to those who have submitted your recertification documentation already. Please note that documentation of the annual eight hour refresher training requirement to maintain eligibility for 2023 is due for Superior Court neutrals. Please submit the required documentation as soon as possible.

## **Follow up to the S. Ct. Rule 48-B Focus Group**

Thank you to those who attended the divorce/parenting mediator focus group regarding the potential revisions to Supreme Court Rule 48-B. Given the feedback that was received, the ADR Office will prioritize increasing mediation fees for the initial rule change request. It is clear that the rescheduling issue is multi-faceted, and so requires more time and attention to address and resolve. Additional focus groups will be needed to workshop the problem. Stay tuned!

## **Mediator Spotlight**

Shout-out to New Hampshire Mediators Mary Sargent and Susan Schweizer who have written and published a book titled "[Divorce and Parenting in New Hampshire: A Mediation Primer](#)." They hope that mediators and parties will find it useful!

## **Ray of Sunshine**

Thank you to those who contributed well-wishes and messages for Patty! We are looking for someone to take on her former role, but she has agreed to help out the ADR Office in the meantime. Patty is an avid scrapbooker, and so, your messages were used to create four scrapbook pages, pictures of which are on the next page. Please excuse the poor photo quality.

