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**Los Angeles County Bar Association to Wind Down its Civic Mediation Project**

**LOS ANGELES – NOVEMBER 4, 2016** – The Los Angeles County Bar Association (LACBA), one of the largest voluntary metropolitan bar associations in the country, has announced that it will wind down one of its legal services projects, the Civic Mediation Project. LACBA anticipates completing the process by June 30, 2017.

“LACBA’s Board of Trustees made the very difficult decision to wind down the Civic Mediation Project because the Project was unable to develop ongoing financial support to sustain its operations,” said LACBA President Margaret P. Stevens. “This was not an easy decision. It came only after many years of unsuccessful efforts to identify appropriate funding resources.”

The Civic Mediation Project was founded in 1978 as Dispute Resolution Services in response to recommendations of the National Conference on the Causes of Popular Dissatisfaction with the Administration of Justice (Roscoe Pound Conference). Stevens commented, “The Civic Mediation Project was one of only three organizations in the country that focused exclusively on conflict resolution, which was an entirely new concept at the time. Today, many organizations offer this type of alternative to litigation. We are proud of the Project’s contributions, especially its impact on student participants.”

Since it was founded 38 years ago, more than 100,000 people have utilized the Project’s services. These services include:

- *Community Mediation* to help resolve neighborhood and small claims disputes before they enter the legal system throughout Beverly Hills, Santa Monica, and Long Beach;
- *Youth Peer Mediation Programs*, which teaches students constructive problem-solving and social/emotional skills, as well as early intervention violence prevention, where students learn to mediate peer-to-peer conflicts by practicing concrete, positive skills as alternatives to verbal and physical violence. The program currently serves John Adams and Lincoln Middle Schools in the Santa Monica-Malibu School District and Maclay Middle School Academy of Social Justice in the Los Angeles Unified School District in Pacoima;

## **LACBA Winds Down Civic Mediation Project**

**Page 2 of 2**

- *Training and Consulting in Conflict Resolution* on mediation and topics related to conflict resolution theory, practice and skill development; and
- *Day of Hearing Mediation Services* for unlawful detainer matters in the Governor George Deukmejian Courthouse in Long Beach, CA.

LACBA has reached out to the Civic Mediation Project's community stakeholders to convey this news in order to provide them with an opportunity to search for other organizations that may be able to provide similar services.

### **About the Los Angeles County Bar Association**

The Los Angeles County Bar Association (LACBA) is one of the largest voluntary metropolitan bar associations in the nation, with more than 20,000 members. LACBA is engaged in advancing the administration of justice and meeting the professional needs of lawyers. For more information, please visit [www.lacba.org](http://www.lacba.org).

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