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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Free Mediation Training for Court Volunteers in Phoenix, Tucson, Casa Grande

(Phoenix, Ariz. – October 23, 2008) The Attorney General's Office Civil Rights Division, in partnership with the Arizona Supreme Court Administrative Office of the Court, is offering free, 40-hour mediation courses throughout the state to train volunteers to help resolve local court disputes.

Mediators are neutral parties who try to help disputing parties reach agreements in various types of cases. Mediation is a valuable alternative to litigation; it can save time and money and reduce stress.

These training courses are open to the public. In exchange for the free training, those who successfully complete the course must agree to mediate a certain number of disputes for the court on a volunteer basis. Each court has its own requirements and application procedures to become a volunteer mediator. Disputes to be mediated can include small claims, commercial, truancy and other types of cases, depending on the court program.

The Attorney General's Office has been training mediators for the courts since 1984 and has its own volunteer mediation program for resolving civil rights cases.

The 40-hour mediation training will be offered at the following times and places:

- Casa Grande, Pinal County: December 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 2008
- Tucson, Pima County: February 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 2009
- Phoenix, Maricopa County: March 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 2009

Training sessions will run each day from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and include a working lunch. Participants must complete all five days of a scheduled training to become eligible to mediate for the courts. Please note that most courts require volunteers to successfully complete an application process, which includes background checks, to be accepted as a volunteer. Space is limited and advance registration is required.

For more information or to register for one of these training sessions, please contact Garrett Hoover, Conflict Resolution Program Coordinator, Arizona Attorney General's Office Civil Rights Division. Garrett can be reached by phone at (602) 542-7767.

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