

ANNOUNCING REMOTE MEDIATION OPTIONS

Given recent and fast moving COVID-19 developments, including the potential for mandatory quarantine and/or shelter-in-place mandates, I want to confirm my commitment to conducting as many mediations as possible while doing everything within my power to eliminate the risk of Coronavirus infection. To that end, I have already adopted screening procedures for each and every mediation as set forth in the attached Notice RE Coronavirus and COVID-19 Disease.

Additionally, I am encouraging all attorneys and mediation participants to consider remote participation in mediations. This includes traditional remote communications via telephone and email.

I have initiated a protocol to allow video participation by any party who elects to do so through Zoom video conferencing (zoom.us/). This simple and elegant program is so widely used by universities and corporations that it is one of the few stocks to go up recently.

Zoom's advantage for mediation lies in the availability and management of breakout rooms. Like in-person mediations, it allows participants to group in caucus rooms and for the mediator to coordinate larger sessions or private conversations. For users, participation can range from dial-in to smart device and computer video conferencing. I have purchased a version of the Zoom platform that permits up to 100 individuals participating remotely, at no charge to any of the participants.

I have been training on Zoom and am confident that it will mimic many of the features of a traditional mediation while protecting participants from the expense and health concerns associated with travel and group meetings.

If you are interested in participating remotely during your mediation, just let me know. Thank you for your consideration during these difficult times.

MICHAEL G. MULLIN