



*“...to support and promote professional and qualified attorney-mediators who are committed to the proposition that the existing dispute resolution system can fulfill its intended purpose through the use of mediation.”*

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## ASSOCIATION OF ATTORNEY-MEDIATORS

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Dear Colleagues,

For those of you who know me well, you know that I am simple (some say simple minded), concise, and a man of few words. As such, your President’s letter will necessarily reflect its creator.

Simply speaking, thank you for the opportunity to serve you in this awesome organization. Since its inception in 1990, AAM has been a leader in the mediation movement. With members now in 13 states, AAM continues to provide leadership throughout our nation as it carries out its mission. What an honor it is to be part of and to serve a group of dedicated professionals who not only meet but also exceed the ethical and professional standards required of attorney-mediators and who are united by a common commitment:

“ . . . To achieve the prompt, fair and cost-effective resolution of disputes through voluntary and court-annexed mediation.”

It is the desire and hope of your Board of Directors that AAM will continue to maintain the highest ethical and professional standards while expanding our presence nationally and remaining relevant. We must do so at a time when change happens fast. I am reminded of the commercial that so vividly points out that “Life comes at you fast.” Are there challenges ahead for our profession? Sure. Can we meet them? Absolutely. But to do so we must be diligent and remain willing to move forward with open hearts and open minds.

**Change that is happening...**AAM, in an effort to be good stewards with your money and remain relevant, is moving toward an electronic newsletter. Most of you have now viewed your AAM Newsletter electronically for the first time. Let us know what you think about it.

The State Bar of Texas MCLE Department recently invited AAM to accept MCLE Accredited Sponsor status in the State of Texas. Accredited Sponsors receive presumptive approval of all CLE activities and authorization to submit CLE activity information via their online accreditation system. This is great news for AAM and clearly shows our growing status among bar associations.

**Let me remind you...** of our upcoming Fall Meeting in Houston November 10 and our Annual Meeting in Santa Fe March 23 and 24, 2007. Trey Bergman has great

PRESIDENT'S LETTER continued from page 1

things ahead for our advanced training. You won't want to miss what Trey has in store for us.

**Let me close with...**a great big THANK YOU to our outgoing board members John Dowdy and Sherrie Abney who served so diligently. I welcome our new board members John Hughes and Courtenay Bass who add so much to our board.

I look forward to seeing you in Houston!

Sincerely,

Skip Hulett, *President*

## LITTLE ROCK WAS A BIG HIT

Mind if we brag? If you were at AAM's Spring 2006 Advanced Mediator Training Seminar and Annual Meeting in Little Rock, you know that it was a great success. Sixty-two members and thirty-seven non-members took part in the excellent program. Eleven states were represented. Quite a few of the non-members have now joined AAM, and those attending continue to tell us that our training seminars are the most useful and relevant advanced mediator training being offered. Skip Hulett, our president, is to be congratulated for the excellent program content and fine presenters.

The sessions were held in the Statehouse Convention Center located next to the famous Peabody Hotel. The refreshments and the Saturday lunch were catered by the Peabody – that will be a tough act to follow. Little Rock had lots of sights to keep us busy when we were not at the seminar, including the William J. Clinton Presidential Center and Park. Last, but by far not least, this report will not be complete without a very sincere THANK YOU to our members in Little Rock who were so welcoming and gracious.

## BRUTSCHÉ AWARD RECIPIENT

The Brutsché Award is a very special and prestigious award "given to the person(s) personifying the principles of service and commitment to the profession that are the foundation of the ADR movement." Congratulations to **Jeffrey Abrams** of Houston, Texas, the 2006 Brutsché Award Recipient. Jeff is a past president of AAM and is an international mediator and speaker, promoting mediation on five continents. Special thanks for all you do for AAM and the mediation profession, Jeff!

## ADVANCED CERTIFIED MEDIATORS

AAM congratulates the following members who have achieved or renewed their Advanced Certified Mediator status for the 2006 year (subsequent to the prior newsletter printing):

**J. L. "Larry" Hinojosa**

In order to retain Advanced Certified Mediator status, holders of the certification must submit renewal applications annually and comply with the Rules Governing Certification.

## AAM WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to announce the following new AAM members:

**Stanley "Jack" Bell**; Little Rock, Arkansas  
**Julia Benkoski**; Austin, Texas  
**Diana Bloss**; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
**William Burkett**; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
**Randall Butler**; Houston, Texas  
**Blake Coffee**; San Antonio, Texas  
**Robin Donsky**; Dallas, Texas  
**Frank Evans**; Houston, Texas  
**Frank Hamlin**; Little Rock, Arkansas  
**Cyril Hollingsworth**; Little Rock, Arkansas  
**Robert Houston**; Victoria, Texas  
**John Jennings**; Bentonville, Arkansas  
**John Kelly**; Houston, Texas  
**Donald Koons**; Dallas, Texas  
**Michael Leech**; Chicago, Illinois  
**Sidney McCollum**; Little Rock, Arkansas  
**Sonja McGill**; Dallas, Texas  
**Mark McLean**; Friendswood, Texas  
**Timothy O'Sullivan**; St. Louis, Missouri  
**Kenneth Pajak**; Austin, Texas  
**Charles Roberts**; San Antonio, Texas

We welcome you to the Association of Attorney-Mediators and look forward to your active participation within this organization! Please let an officer of a local chapter or the national board of AAM know what AAM can do for you and how you would like to become involved in AAM's activities.

## STANDOFF AT THE BIG BEND

*John Dowdy, Arlington, Texas*

In the rocks, rills and templed hills of the Texas Big Bend, the hardier members of AAM gathered the weekend of June 9-11, 2006. The occasion was further CLE. The event was exponentially more than that, as the hard bodies of these intrepid few were challenged beyond the pale of the pedestrian pace of ordinary mortals.

Friday began innocently enough, with presentations by Mike Amis, John Dowdy and Larry Maxwell dealing with the topics of half-day mediations (Quickdraw Contest at the River), co-mediation (The Texas Two-Step), the collaborative process (Quicksand in the Canyon) and, on Friday evening, resolving impasses (Tales From the Saddlebags of the Envoy). The already rich mental soil of those in attendance was liberally fertilized with nutrients from these scholarly presentations.

However, the challenge was not limited to the expansion and enhancement of professional vistas. Indeed, even as the small assemblage was being infused with the aforementioned jurisprudential sustenance, the rugged wilderness beckoned, stirring the souls of those in attendance.

The scene was most remindful of those days of yore when school was dismissed and the wild abandonment of the weekend beckoned. The donning of backpacks by those of us more adventurous types enabled us to leave the mundane pursuit of dispute resolution behind as we ventured into the forbidding wilderness of the Chisos Mountains. Skip Hulett and yours truly, being considerably more nimble and energetic than some of our more sedentary colleagues, crested the apex of Lost Mine Mountain first, an altitude of between seven and eight thousand feet above sea level. The second wave of intrepid trekkers included Bill Short and Henry Simpson, among others. They were followed by Larry Maxwell, whose constant prodding by Ann Maxwell was not a pretty sight.

Not being able to ascertain whether Short's symptoms were the product of altitude sickness, the heart of a poet, or just plain heartburn, we were, nonetheless, astonished at his rhapsodizing over the "vastness of the vista", a phrase which invaded his lexicon to the extreme. We deemed it essential to get him down the mountain as quickly as possible.

The landscape was pregnant with flora and fauna and mountain lion alerts X and deer were in abundance. However, upon not finding the main object of our wilderness quest X the rare and extremely dangerous buck-toothed aardvaark X we descended the mountain to a more civilized venue, where we indulged our evening repast followed by a night of full and exhausted slumber.

## EXPERIENCE THE ESSENCE OF SANTA FE

SAVE THE DATE...

ASSOCIATION OF ATTORNEY-MEDIATORS  
ANNUAL MEETING AND  
ADVANCED ATTORNEY-MEDIATOR TRAINING

**March 23 and 24, 2007**

**Santa Fe, New Mexico**

**La Fonda on the Plaza Hotel**

(800) 523-5002, #1

(Room Rate \$125.00 per night, plus tax)

[www.lafondasantafe.com](http://www.lafondasantafe.com)

Approximate meeting times: Beginning Friday, March 23, 2007 at 12:00 noon and ending on Saturday, March 24, just after the luncheon.

Shuttle Service available several times daily from Albuquerque airport to Santa Fe ([www.santafestation.com](http://www.santafestation.com)) or ([www.sandishuttle.com](http://www.sandishuttle.com)). Contact directly for reservations, pricing and schedules.

1-800-280-1368/[www.attorney-mediators.org/](http://www.attorney-mediators.org/)

Email — [AAM@airmail.net](mailto:AAM@airmail.net)

## ASSOCIATION OF ATTORNEY-MEDIATORS

PRESENTS

**“Advanced Mediator Training:  
Tricks of the Trade”**

Friday, November 10, 2006  
Houston, Texas  
Houston Marriott West Loop  
By the Galleria  
(800) 613-3982

Training begins at 8:15 am and adjourns at 5:30 pm.

Visit the website for registration and agenda.  
[www.attorney-mediators.org](http://www.attorney-mediators.org)

## CHAPTER NEWS

### BEXAR/SAN ANTONIO CHAPTER NEWS

The Bexar/San Antonio chapter does not currently hold regular monthly meetings. We exist as an informal group for interacting from time to time and to advertise in the San Antonio Bar Association Directory and in the San Antonio Lawyer. We have added several new members recently. A project we are working on is a new member directory for the public and courts to use. For information, please contact William Lemons, Chapter President, at (210) 224-5079.

### CENTRAL TEXAS NEWS

The Central Texas Chapter holds a monthly meeting at La Madeleine Café, usually on the second Friday of the month, at which members exchange mediation experiences and participate in a CLE presentation. Last month Judge Joe Hart, and mediator Greg Bourgeois shared their experiences with the Travis County Summary Jury Trial experiment, where Greg and Patrick Keel mediated cases after a summary jury trial presided over by Judge Hart. The Chapter voted to financially support the lobbying efforts of the Association and made a financial contribution for that purpose. The chapter wishes to thank its immediate past president, Steve Nelson, for his service to the chapter this past year. The Central Texas Chapter's website address is [www.aamctx.org](http://www.aamctx.org). For information on chapter events, please contact David Moore, Chapter President, at (512) 477-9300.

### HOUSTON CHAPTER NEWS

Again this year, the Houston Chapter of AAM is joining with the HBA-ADR Section in providing breakfast meetings and CLE on the second Tuesday of every month providing hot topics in mediation. We are also hoping to have a full day seminar on mediation in the spring. The first meeting will be held October 10, 2006, 7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m. at South Texas College of Law. We invite you to join the Houston Chapter for AAM's Advanced Attorney-Mediator Training to be held in Houston on Friday, November 10, 2006 at the Marriott Houston West Loop. For more information, please contact Houston Chapter President, Alice O'Neill at (713) 523-5402.

### NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER NEWS

A busy year for the North Texas Chapter began with its quarterly 7:30 am breakfast meeting on February 23 in the Community Room of the Chase Bank Building in Preston Center. During our business meeting, we recognized new Chapter members, Jay Vogelsson, Kirte Kinser, and Robin Donsky, whose joinder brought our membership to 87. Mike Amis then addressed the "Art of the Half Day Mediation," which featured a lively audience interaction. Thanks to Mike for a great presentation.

On May 23 our quarterly 7:30 a.m. breakfast meeting was again held in the Community Room at Chase Bank. As part of our business meeting, we recognized Sonja McGill as a new member of the Chapter and were provided with a Treasurer's report by Paul Salzberger which confirmed the Chapter donations of \$1,000 to the Red Cross for Hurricane Relief and \$1,000 to the Dallas Bar Foundation for the 2005 gift of the Chapter to the Raising the Bar Campaign to expand and renovate the Belo Mansion. Our continuing legal education program was presented by Kay Elliott, as taken from her series of articles entitled "Reflections from the Edge," on the challenging subject of "Ethics: The Good, the Bad and the Unexpected," which gave us some very tough puzzlers to contemplate. Kay hung 'em high, made our day, and made us all feel lucky.

On July 18, the North Texas Chapter co-sponsored a Summer Social with the ADR Section and the Collaborative Law Section of the Dallas Bar Association, which was held at the On the Border Restaurant in Addison with an attendance of 75. The evening involved much camaraderie, many margaritas, and a lot of fun.

The Chapter co-sponsored with the Collaborative Law Section of the Dallas Bar Association a judicial forum for the Democratic candidates for the Dallas County civil courts on September 11 at the Belo, which featured a social followed by brief presentations from each candidate and concluded with questions from the audience. The reviews for the event were excellent. The forum for the Republican judicial candidates will be held at the Belo on October 9 at 5:30 pm and all are invited to attend.

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## WHAT IS LIFE WORTH?

KENNETH R. FEINBERG

### *Book Review by Mike Amis, Dallas*

*Publisher: Public Affairs, a member of Perseus Books Group, New York, 2005*

Nationally known attorney and mediator Kenneth R. Feinberg chose this pro vocative title to report on his role in, as the subtitle aptly states, “the unprecedented effort to compensate the victims of 9/11.

Did you know about this? I did not. I did not realize that Congress immediately post-9/11 established guidelines by which to compensate victims of the tragedy with no limitation as to individual awards, with some guidelines, with a “special master” to be the sole determiner as to each award. Mr. Feinberg got the call — quite a feat for a former Ted Kennedy staff attorney who was hired by Attorney General John Ashcroft and with whom he worked very successfully. By the time of his final report in December 2004, he had paid out \$7 billion in taxpayer funds to claimants of 2,880 deceased victims and to 2,680 survivors. Congress’ intent seems to have been three-fold: (1) to show resolve to the terrorists; (2) to materially reflect the nation’s compassion to the victims; (3) and to preserve, if not save, the airlines and other potential targets of tort actions. Opting in to the Fund meant giving up, or waiving, rights to seek redress by any civil action. Mr. Feinberg concludes it was a success. Go to Amazon to get the readers’ reviews. Here, I have tried to offer something you might not find there.

First, it is fascinating to get a substantive book by someone who does what we do — Mr. Feinberg’s roles by legislative fiat were: arbitrator, mediator, system designer, counselor, facilitator of town hall meetings. His candid account reveals he employed all the varieties of communication that we learn: evaluative, facilitative, and probably transformational as well. Like us, he learned what worked in given situations and what didn’t. He learned to listen. He was very experienced before this task: he had received widespread attention and praise for his work as the special master of the Agent Orange settlement fund. But, my impression was that this was a new experience in which he was called upon to engage in much more one on one involvement with families directly, some not represented by lawyers, and that each time he retreated into ruling with a gavel — metaphorically, there were unusual, unique risks. That’s where, I think, the book is instructive to us. Was he a mediator? Yes, one example being his involvement with the fiancé whose intended was killed shortly before the wedding date and who, legally, had no right to compensation but was immediately thrust into a complex and difficult new relationship with the parents.

Mr. Feinberg describes his need to listen empathically as he dealt with the anger, injustice, and suddenness which that day brought to America. Every emotion in the book was revealed in his hearings. Here are some he mentions: anger and frustration, love, faith, bravery, sacrifice, selfishness, greed, hope, despair. He learned, as we must, what not to say in our natural shop-talk inherent in our work. Feinberg mentions two *faux pas* (his words) during early town hall meetings: “ ‘This program is not business as usual.’ Eyes got wide in the audience . . . Then a stricken husband got to his feet and angrily retorted, ‘This is not a *business* you’re talking about, Mr. Feinberg. You’re talking about my *wife*. . . Another time, I was urging a group . . . to participate in the fund rather than mount lawsuits . . . To emphasize my conviction, I told the families, ‘This is the only real game in town.’ . . . With a sinking feeling, I realized what I’d said. The room practically erupted in anger . . .” (Makes one recall some of those joint sessions, eh?).

You will want to read the appendices which show the complexity involved — PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP and their subcontractors submitted costs of \$76.5 million for the services of 129 to 474 persons. Ken Feinberg’s title for Chapter One is not understated, “The Experience of a Lifetime.” Snippets along the way which I hope will encourage you to read the book include: “Anger was the primary response of many families . . . often fueled by their conviction that the tragedy could and should have been averted, and that retribution should be visited on the murderers . . . . ‘My children and I must put this behind us and go on with our lives’ . . . . As this story unfolded, the initial calm of the proceedings was interrupted by gasps and sobs. The entire atmosphere of the hearing was transformed, as if a tornado had suddenly touched down in the hearing room . . . I went home at night and hugged my wife and children with a new intensity, ready to conduct more hearings the next day. . . . A couple of well-meaning members of Congress raised the possibility of extending the application deadline . . . ‘Don’t you dare, ‘ I responded. I knew from my past experience as a mediator that deadline pressure is a good thing — indeed, an essential device to force action. . . . It is important, therefore, to ask, What lessons have we learned from the 9/11 fund experience? Are compensation funds a good idea? . . . .”

There were 249 deceased victims from foreign countries, some of them illegal aliens. You’ll learn of one UK family who could not comprehend that the United States was going to award substantial tax free compensation to the family of a foreign national.

Hats off to Mr. Feinberg and his book — oh, yes, his fee for services to the fund? Zero. Pro bono. For another interesting and inspiring account of service in this tragedy, please read the accompanying article by our own AAM member, Mel Wolovits, who represented one of the families.

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The final function of the North Texas Chapter will be our annual meeting on October 30, which will also be held at 7:30 am in the Chase Bank Community Room. As part of the business meeting, the 2007 officers will be elected from candidates nominated by this year's Nominating Committee and any other nominations from the floor. For our MCLE program, we will be privileged to have John Dowdy speaking on "Mediating the Probate Case."

2006 has been very active for the North Texas Chapter and all of your officers (Dale Crowder, Susan Jensen, Paul Salzberger, and Bill Short) have both enjoyed and appreciated the opportunity to serve. For more information on Chapter activities, please contact Bill Short at (214) 523.5129.

## OKLAHOMA CHAPTER NEWS

For information on the Oklahoma Chapter and upcoming events, please contact Joel Carson, Chapter President, at (405) 946-8022.

## ST. LOUIS CHAPTER REPORT

The St. Louis Chapter continues to hold monthly meetings to discuss current mediation developments and issues and to consider specific problems and questions the members have encountered. In addition, at each meeting, one of the members leads a discussion on a specific mediation topic (that qualifies for MCLE credit). Recent topics have included: Ethical issues in mediation; dealing with emotions in mediation; preparing attorneys for mediation; building a mediation practice; and barriers to settlement. For information about the St. Louis Chapter, please contact Richard Sher at (314) 721-1516.

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## NEWSLETTER THANKS

We owe special thanks to the law firm of Hunton & Williams LLP for compiling the newsletter, to Allen Butler for supervising his firm's newsletter work, and to John Feather of Houston, Newsletter Committee Chair, for putting it all together. Thank you all for a great job!

## THOUSANDS OF HEROES THE REST OF US COULD ONLY HELP<sup>1</sup>

*by one helper, Mel Wolovits, Dallas, Texas*

Throughout our lives certain events shock us to such an extent we can recall where we were, what we were doing and what we were thinking at the time of the event. It was not until the disaster of 911 that I personally had this strong pulling need to be a true personal helper to at least one of the thousands of real heroes and their families who personally suffered from the first foreign attack on our soil in modern time.

On September 11, 2001 I was a very proud trial lawyer, a member of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America (ATLA), and diligently preparing for the biggest wrongful death trial of my career. Since 1998 I represented the widow and two sons of a wonderful 52 year old loving husband and loving father. Little did I know on 911, I would eventually represent another widow and two children of a wonderful 52 year old loving husband and loving father who was killed in the collapse of the World Trade Center after he got off the elevator on the 88th floor, making room on the elevator for a woman. The woman got on the elevator, got to the ground floor, and got out of harm's way. My clients' husband and father did not.

On 911 and until November 8, 2001, I was buried in preparing for trial or in trial with a single focus, and without the personal opportunity to really feel and grieve the horror of 911. However, ATLA recognized the need to set the Country on a course of "national unity", and urged a "moratorium on civil lawsuits that might arise from these awful events".

September 21, 2001, the "September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (the "VCF") was created by an act of Congress and immediately signed by the President. The speed in which the VCF was established, was as a result of unparalleled cooperation of ATLA, the airlines, members of congress, and the White House staff. Thereafter mediator Kenneth R. Feinberg was hired by Attorney General Ashcroft as the Special Master.

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<sup>1</sup> Report to Congress, October 2004, available at [www.911lawhelp.org](http://www.911lawhelp.org).

Also on September 21, 2001 ATLA's President Leo Boyle wrote to both the House and the Senate pledging "free legal representation to every claimant before the VCF"; and that evening wrote to its members seeking volunteers. On October 3, 2001, Trial Lawyers Care, a non-profit entity was formed, and on October 15, 2001 the largest single purpose Pro Bono legal services organization had its grand opening (the "Program").

After our Dallas trial, I sought to personally get involved in helping the Heroes and victims of 911. I, along with about another 2000 lawyers from all over the USA, responded to the call for help from ATLA. I, a Trial Lawyer in Dallas TX, agreed to help a family from Brooklyn NY. I was honored, humbled and thankful for the opportunity to give back and help the family of this true hero.

I first spoke to my Brooklyneese speaking client who was sweet, tender and obviously depressed. I introduced myself and she introduced herself. She told me about her and her husband and that they had been married for 27 years raised their children who were now essentially out of their house. He was more than her husband and the father of their children; he was her soul mate, and she was lost without him. In fact I spoke to her last week before writing this article and she still lives in disbelief. After I was a very good listener, we then discussed the advantages and disadvantages of making a claim from the VCF vs. filing a lawsuit. The advantages of the VCF ... certainty of recovery, in a shorter time-frame; the disadvantages were a limited recovery vs. a potential for a larger recovery in litigation, no jury trial, no appeal of the Master's decision. During our next conversation a few weeks later, she gave me her unequivocal acknowledgment that she understood what she would give-up making a claim from the VCF and authorized me to make such a claim from the VCF.

Before filing a claim I participated in two telephonic training sessions, including one with Ken Feinberg. He emphasized that VCF would treat each claimant as an individual, but each person having a valid death claim would be awarded \$250K for non-economic damages. A "Presumed Award" would be first made based on written submission of only data, and if a claimant was dissatisfied, upon request, an in-person hearing would be held in front of a hearing examiner who would make an unappealable final award.

My client, my staff and I worked together collecting available documents supporting loss of income and collateral sources. My client's husband was an employee of the State of New

York, so his wage and employment records were mostly maintained on computer and not at the destroyed buildings, making it much easier for us to recreate his wage and employment history. We also provided VCF with collateral source payments from third-parties, tax returns, and Letters of Administration.

The VCF issued its Presumed Award, which was woefully inadequate and wrong. I sought the help of an economist, Allen Self, Ph.D., who is a brilliant, caring individual, who offered to be our economic loss expert without any charge for his services. After requesting a hearing, on April 18, 2004, I flew to NYC to meet with my clients and prepare for the hearing. My first meeting with my client and her son and daughter was as if we had known each other forever. We talked about her husband and their father we laughed together and we cried together. We talked about the son's tour of duty in Iraq, the daughter's college experiences and their mother's continuing struggle with depression. The son told me how he and his father were very close, talked a lot and played basketball together.

The next morning we met and proceeded thru the bowels and the maze of NYC offices of PriceWaterhouseCoopers, eventually reaching the hearing room where a very impersonal HUD Administrative Law Judge took evidence in my clients' claim. In 12 hours my client and each child testified about their personal loss; Dr. Self and my client's psychiatrist testified via telephone; and I introduced the necessary documents to show that the VCF Presumed Award was wrong. Although the hearing was clearly difficult for my clients, I believe it was a positive healing experience where each of them was able to tell their story and share their pain with the world and someone in a position of authority.

After the hearing we went for lunch. We talked about the hearing... how each of them did so very well because they just were simply wonderful people, and each expert was available when needed without a hitch. It came to say good-bye and I hugged my client and her daughter, and then her son came to me and we gave each other bear hugs...the hug he was no longer able to have with his father. At that moment I received more compensation than I was entitled to.

One month later the VCF Final Award was issued with a 60% increase of the Presumed Award. Both my clients and I felt the final award was fair. I knew these wonderful people were my heroes and I was so thankful they gave me the most humbling opportunity to share and continue to share in their lives.

**To Do List:**

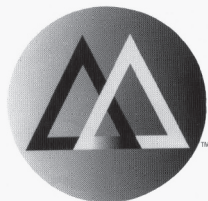
- ✓ Register early for the AAM Advanced Mediator Training scheduled for November 10, 2006 in Houston and make hotel reservations. Reservation deadline for the hotel's reduced rate is October 10, 2006.
- ✓ Mark your calendar for the 2007 Annual Meeting and Advanced Mediator Training to be held in Santa Fe on March 23 and 24, 2007.
- ✓ Texas AAM members — send in your lobby fund contribution.
- ✓ Update the national office with any changes to your address, phone, fax or email.
- ✓ Add AAM's website link to your law firm/mediation firm/personal website. It increases AAM's priority and exposure. [www.attorney-mediators.org](http://www.attorney-mediators.org).
- ✓ TELL ONE COLLEAGUE OR FRIEND ABOUT AAM. Brochures are available for your circulation upon request to the National Office. (800) 280-1368 or [aam@airmail.net](mailto:aam@airmail.net).

**AAM TEXAS LOBBY REPORT**

Our legislature is back in session. Thanks to your commitment and generosity, AAM members in Texas have a presence in the legislature. By law, the State Bar ADR Section and local bar sections cannot engage in lobbying activities. AAM is the only organization of ADR professionals with a presence in the legislature expressly intended to preserve and protect the integrity of the mediation process. We will work closely with our lobbyist during the session to identify any actions which may impact mediation. You are welcomed and encouraged to notify us of any matters of interest.

*AAM is a national organization with members in seventeen states. AAM membership dues cannot be used for local lobbying efforts. Lobbying efforts must be supported wholly by voluntary contributions. Your fellow Texas AAM members have made AAM's presence in the Texas Legislature possible. We owe them a debt of appreciation. **We extend a special thank you to the Central Texas Chapter of AAM for their generous donation to this fund.***

*Donations to the AAM Texas Lobby Fund may be made by check or credit card. Contact AAM Executive Director, Brenda Rachuig at (800) 280-1368 or by email at [aam@airmail.net](mailto:aam@airmail.net).*



**ASSOCIATION OF ATTORNEY-MEDIATORS**

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