Pilot Pro Bono Mediation Project Summary

A. The Pennsylvania Bar Association Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Committee and Legal Services to the Public Committee are launching a **Pilot Pro Bono Mediation Project** in partnership with the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network, Inc. (PLAN).

B. The Project’s **goals** are to
   1. Expand *access to justice* for Pennsylvanians with low income;
   2. Encourage and *empower parties* to resolve their disputes effectively and efficiently; and
   3. Promote the use of mediation.

C. We invite **Legal Services** and **Pro Bono Attorneys** (who participate through an organized official effort) to refer appropriate matters – here’s how:
   1. **Contact the opposing party** to ask them to agree to try mediation.
   2. With the agreement of the parties, any Legal Services or Pro Bono attorney can send an **email to request** mediation to the Project Subcommittee, in care of Sandy Ballard at sandy@dcba-pa.org. You may want to include (if you don’t include it, I will ask for it):
      a) The type of dispute,
      b) The city/geographic area,
      c) Deadlines (if any),
      d) Attorneys’ names, and
      e) Parties’ names (for a conflict check).
   3. The Subcommittee will review the Request to make sure it is **appropriate for mediation.** If the Subcommittee determines that the request is not appropriate, the subcommittee will inform the attorney of their decision not to refer it.
   4. If appropriate, the Request will be sent as an email to the Pro Bono Mediators List and all the Community Mediation Centers in the geographic area. Whoever responds first to the Request will be assigned to the pro bono mediation.
   5. The Pro Bono Mediator contacts the parties’ attorneys and schedules a roughly two-hour pro bono mediation.
   6. After each assignment, the Subcommittee will email a feedback form to (a) the mediator to ask if the mediation was held and whether an agreement was reached and (b) the parties and mediator to gather feedback on the process and suggestions to improve.

D. The Project will work with Community Mediation Centers (CMC) to ensure that our efforts will not conflict with or adversely impact the delivery of CMC’s mediation services.

E. This is a **PILOT** project – as such we anticipate making changes and improvements along the way. We appreciate your patience as we work out the “kinks” in the system.

**If you have any questions or need more information, please contact:**

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*pb/ Pilot Pro Bono Mediation Project Short Summary*