

Opening for Attorney-Mediator (Independent Contractor) at Family Law Mediation Firm

Compensation: \$100 per each paid client hour

Full role description available upon request

Location: Playa del Rey (just north of LAX)

To apply: Please e-mail your resume and cover letter to mediator@peacetalks.com. No telephone calls, please!

Peace Talks Mediation Services, Inc., creates peace in the world one family at a time providing constructive, forward-thinking and peaceful ending to family conflicts. Our unique multi-disciplinary approach teams lawyers, accountants and therapists as mediators to help families resolve conflicts and couples resolve divorce and custody issues in a sane, sensible and fair way at a reasonable cost. We use a unique co-mediation model, teaming therapist-mediators with attorney-mediators in each mediation session.

We're adding to our team of mediators and are looking for a true believer in the mediation process who's excited to work collaboratively with the other mediators in our office to create this country's premier mediation firm.

The ideal candidate is a California licensed attorney with at least 1 year of family law experience who has attended a basic 40-hour mediation training course. Prior mediation experience is helpful. This is an ideal position for a family law attorney who is in transition (*e.g.*, leaving a larger firm to start a solo practice, desiring part time work, transitioning back into the workforce after an absence, etc.).

Our independent contractor are engaged on an as-needed basis at our office in Playa del Rey. Mediations are scheduled in 3-hour time blocks (*e.g.*, \$100 x 3 hours) although clients pay, and you are paid for, only the time that they use. You are required to arrive 30 minutes prior to a scheduled session and stay 30 minutes afterwards, neither of which are compensated.

Initially we anticipate 1-4 mediations per week (3-12 hours of mediation time), mostly during the afternoons. Weekend availability is desirable.

Peace Talks will provide training in our mediation model. Because we're specifically seeking seasoned professionals who are looking to round out their practices, we anticipate that you will work as an IC as your schedule permits. There is no minimum time commitment. **You will sign a non-compete and non-disclosure of trade secrets agreement, however, so this is not a position for someone wishing to learn how to start his or her own mediation practice.**

Writing: Mediation summary letters are compensated at \$100 per hour, with most taking 1-3 hours to prepare after mediation sessions. Generally, attorney mediators write 50% of our mediation summary letters (your co-mediation partner writes the other 50%). Training, templates and samples provided by Peace Talks.

Basic computer skills are essential: e-mail, Microsoft Word, and ability to use and update your availability daily in our online calendar, www.airset.com (we will train). You must respond to requests to schedule mediations within 24 hours.

If you are a mediator who can generate your own client referrals, your compensation increases substantially, but there is no obligation to generate your own referrals. Peace Talks provides the clients, administrative support, and facility. You provide the expertise and talent.

Your time will primarily be spent mediating while at our office in Playa del Rey. Mediations do not occur all day every day but we are busier all the time. Our office hours are 9am-6pm Monday – Friday with occasional Saturday and Sunday appointments. Weekend and evening availability is helpful.

This position is not for you if:

- You have not taken a 30 or 40 hour basic mediation class.
- You if you want to start your own mediation practice or if you want to mediate with other attorneys or mediators locally. Peace Talks is working on a franchise and licensing offering, and as a result you will be required to sign a non-disclosure and non-compete agreement. Review copies are available upon request.
- Peace Talks will also perform a background check, so if that makes you uncomfortable, this position isn't for you.
- You are uncomfortable using e-mail and basic computer programs.
- You hate to write, even when templates and training are provided.
- You are a procrastinator and don't check e-mail very often, or if you can't write and return the mediation summary letters within 48 hours of the conclusion of the mediation session.

For those with an interest, projects could also include (voluntary, not mandatory):

- Public education programs for mediation in general and Peace Talks Mediation specifically, including giving talks to groups, RFP's for professional organizations, writing articles, press releases, setting up public speaking engagements;
- Networking and professional function attendance;
- Research and solicit speaking and training engagements at universities, law schools and mediation training institutes.

Firm Profile

Peace Talks provides mediation services for all family conflicts: divorce, custody, cohabitation and LGBT dissolutions, premarital agreements, estate planning, estate administration and family business disputes.

Peace Talks builds peace in the world one family at a time providing constructive, forward-thinking and peaceful ending to family conflicts.

Our unique multi-disciplinary approach teams lawyers, accountants and therapists as mediators to help families resolve conflicts and couples resolve divorce and custody issues in a sane, sensible and fair way at a reasonable cost.

Peace Talks was founded in 2000 by Diana Mercer. Peace Talks is one of the country's only full time, mediation-only law firms, and one of even fewer co-mediation practices.

Peace Talks is frequently featured in the press and is a 2006 recipient of the Make Mine a \$Million Dollar Business Award from Count Me In, OPEN by American Express and Cisco Systems. www.makemineamillion.com

Diana Mercer, Principal

Diana Mercer, Esq. is an Attorney-Mediator and the founder of Peace Talks Mediation Services in Los Angeles, California (www.peace-talks.com). A veteran litigator, she now devotes her practice solely to mediation. Outgoing and down-to-earth, she makes clients and attorneys feel at ease in solving family and divorce disputes. She is the co-author of *Your Divorce Advisor: A Lawyer and a Psychologist Guide You Through the Legal and Emotional Landscape of Divorce* (Fireside 2001). She's an Advanced Practitioner Member of the Association for Conflict Resolution (ACR) and is admitted to practice law in California, New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and before the Supreme Court of the United States.

For more information about us: www.peace-talks.com.

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