

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Probate and Family Court Department
Franklin Division
P.O. Box 590
Greenfield, Massachusetts 01302-0590
(413) 775-7470 FAX (413) 774-3829

Beth A. Crawford
First Justice

John F. Merrigan
Register

Alexa Flanders, Esq.
Assistant Judicial Case Manager

Jodie Nolan, Esq.
Judicial Case Manager
413-775-7472

January 2017

Sharon A. Tracy
Jesse Burch
Quabbin Mediation
13 South Main Street
Orange, MA 01364

Dear Sharon and Jesse:

We are writing with sincere wishes for a Happy New Year to you and to the volunteer mediators of Quabbin Mediation!

A new year provides us the opportunity to reflect on the work of this court over the past year, and in doing so, to express our appreciation to the mediation community.

We recognize how fortunate we are to have Quabbin Mediation as one of our court-approved services, and are particularly appreciative of the many hours you contributed to the on-site mediation pilot project when your budget permitted.

Your willingness and ability to work with cases while we conduct the session in Orange is invaluable. The ability of the Judge or Probation Officer to make a referral, and have the parties meet with Jesse at that time or shortly thereafter is a significant contribution.

As you know, we are all dedicated to pursuing alternatives to litigation, as we

have long known that the outcome of mediated agreements, or agreements reached through Dispute Intervention or conciliation is generally superior to those resulting from litigation, and always more cost-effective. Our Probation Department is thankful that cases begun in Dispute Intervention can be followed by a lengthier period of work in mediation, and our Probation Officers see it as a valuable extension to the work we do.

Our Registry staff is pleased to be able to offer those individuals appearing in court for the first time the suggestion that mediation be considered among other options.

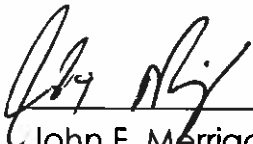
And all of the members of the judges Lobby – the JCM, assistant JCM and the Judge – find that a referral to a mediation session - be it at Case Management, or on the eve of trial – opens the door to an opportunity for resolution.

Quabbin Mediation is a enormously valuable asset to this court and to all of Franklin County that it serves, and we all want you know how much your services are appreciated.

We look forward to many more years of collaboration.



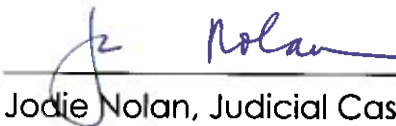
Hon. Beth A. Crawford, First Justice



John F. Merrigan, Register



Bette Babinski, Chief Probation Officer



Jodie Nolan, Judicial Case Manager



Deborah Luippold, ADR Coordinator