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For additional information contact: Sarah J. Chavez 732-504-0700, ext. 64490 For immediate release: April 7, 2022

## **Ocean Vicinage Seeking Volunteer Mediators**

The Ocean Vicinage is seeking volunteer mediators for the following programs:

**Municipal Court Mediation**- This program includes in-person and virtual events at the various municipal courts in Ocean County. The Municipal Court Mediation (MCM) program provides court users in nearly all municipalities with an alternative to having certain cases heard and decided by a judge. Municipal courts refer cases involving minor disputes to be handled through the mediation process.

**Superior Court-Civil Division, Special Civil Case Settlers-** This program is accepting applicants for virtual participation. Trained volunteers assist the parties attempting to resolve their dispute through their voluntary agreement. In special civil, one party can sue another to collect monetary claims of less than \$15,000.

**Superior Court-Civil Division, Small Claims Case Settlers**- This program is accepting applicants for virtual participation. Trained volunteers assist the parties attempting to resolve their dispute through their voluntary agreement. In small claims cases, one party can sue another to collect monetary claims less than \$3,000 or less than \$5,000 for the return of a security deposit.

All programs listed require an 18-hour mediation and conciliation training that will be held virtually on April 21, 22, and 27 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Participants must successfully complete the training to be eligible for the volunteer opportunities.

To apply or for more information, contact Sarah J. Chavez at 732-504-0700, ext. 64490 or OCNVolunteer.mbx@njcourts.gov.