

## **E.D.N.Y. MEDIATION SETTLEMENT DAY LUNCHEON**

**Central Islip, October 20, 2016.** On October 20, 2016, the Eastern District of New York (“E.D.N.Y.”) Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, in partnership with the United States District Court and United States Bankruptcy Courts for the E.D.N.Y., the Federal Bar Association – ADR Section, and Touro Law Center, will be hosting the First Annual E.D.N.Y. Mediation Settlement Day Luncheon and Continuing Legal Education program from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Touro Law Center in Central Islip. The event marks the fifteenth anniversary of Mediation Settlement Day in New York, a celebration designed to raise awareness about the many benefits of mediation and the wealth of available resources for people in conflict. The theme for this year’s program is “Moving the Needle: Diversity and Inclusion in ADR.”

We are delighted to announce that during the program, E.D.N.Y. Chief Judge Dora Irizarry will present the first Jack B. Weinstein Mediation/Settlement Award. The award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of mediation and settlement and have helped others in their commitment to the practice of alternative dispute resolution. U. S. District Judge Weinstein is a creative and innovative jurist who has presided over many complex and seminal cases. He is an educator and has written on the policy and real word implications of alternative dispute resolution in a variety of complex cases. Magistrate Judges Gary R. Brown, Cheryl L. Pollak, and Ramon E. Reyes, Jr. are this year’s Award recipients. Magistrate Judges Brown, Pollack, and Reyes were chosen unanimously by the committee in recognition of their critical work in handling over 1,400 Super Storm Sandy cases. Under their innovative leadership, the U.S. District Court for the E.D.N.Y. formed the Hurricane Sandy Mediation Program as a means to quickly, efficiently, and justly resolve the massive and complex litigation surrounding the claims brought by homeowners and businesses devastated by Super Storm Sandy.

During the event, leaders in the field of ADR will participate in a panel discussion on inclusion and diversity in ADR. The panelists include Magistrate Judge Gary R. Brown, Simeon Baum - Resolve Mediation Services, Joan D. Hogarth - Law Offices of Joan D. Hogarth, Robyn Weinstein - ADR Administrator at U.S. District Court of the E.D.N.Y., and Professor Hal Abramson - Touro Law Center. Professor Joan Foley, Touro Law Center, will moderate.