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NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**LEADING NEW JERSEY MEDIATION ASSOCIATION EXPANDS TRAINING
OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW MEDIATORS**

Hillsborough, NJ (October 15, 2004). Consumers are demanding less confrontational and less expensive options for handling disputes. As a result, mediation is seeing unprecedented growth including more court-mandated programs. With this growth, comes the need for training programs, especially at the introductory level. In response to this demand, the New Jersey Association is pleased to announce two introductory training seminars that will help qualify applications for inclusion on state rosters for mediation, as well as meet the basic requirement for establishing a private mediation practice:

The 11th Annual Conference of the New Jersey Association of Professional Mediators (NJAPM) will focus on proposed mediation legislation designed to protect New Jersey consumers as this growth continues. The conference will also look at the future of mediation in key sectors including family, divorce, business, civil, health care, labor relations and elder law. The Conference, open to all interested parties, is scheduled for Saturday, October 23, 2004 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. at the Doubletree Hotel, 200 Atrium Drive, Somerset, New Jersey.

In her opening remarks for the 11th anniversary conference, NJAPM President Gale Wachs, Esq., APM (Accredited Professional Mediator) will put forward her vision for mediation in New Jersey and for the organization. She will also set the tone for the conference by acknowledging the growth and diversification of the field of mediation.

Keynote speakers, Senator Robert J. Martin and Assemblywoman Linda R. Greenstein, will discuss the Uniform Mediation Act and its impact on the State of New Jersey. This act, which is now awaiting the Governor's signature, would establish uniform standards and procedures for New Jersey mediation and mediators, including limited privilege for mediation communications.

Sam Margulies, Ph.D., JD, one of the most experienced mediators in the United States and author of the best seller, *Getting Divorced Without Ruining Your Life* will speak during lunch. He has mediated hundreds of civil disputes and approximately 3,000 divorces. He will talk about his experiences being a "pioneer" in the field of mediation.

There will be a plenary session on how to develop a successful and ethical mediation practice with mediators E. Gregory Cannarozzi, Esq., APM, Maureen Binetti, Esq., Anju D. Jessani, MBA, APM, and Michael Wolf, Esq., APM.

There will also be six workshop sessions. These professional workshops are designed to educate and update those who practice mediation, those who are considering entering this growing field, and those working with professional mediators to solve disputes. Presenters include attorneys, accountants, mental health professionals, human resource managers, and others with special training and experience in the practice of mediation. The workshops will include:

- *Financial Issues in Divorce Mediation* with Jeffrey Urbach, CPA/ABV and Speaker, Charles Abut, Esq., APM
- *Medical Malpractice Mediation* with Moderator, Armand Bucci and Panelists, Carl “Tobey” Oxholm, Drexel University’s SVP & General Counsel, Edward Peloquin, MS, APM and Robert Jarmon, MD
- *Mediating Multi-Party, Complex Business/Commercial Disputes* with Moderator, Richard H. Steen, Esq., APM, and Panelists, Honorable James D. Clyne, Bonnie Blume Goldsamt, Esq., APM and Robert E. Margulies, Esq.
- *Parenting Coordinators—How They Work and How They Can Complement the Mediation Process* with Sharon Ryan Montgomery, Psy.D
- *Best Practices in Employment Mediation* with Moderator Brian Cige, Esq. and Speaker, Caroline M. Petrilla, Esq.
- *Probate and Elder Law Mediation* with Moderator, Joan Geiger, Esq., APM and Panelists, Jon Linden, MBA, APM, and Donald D. Vanarelli, Esq.

From 4 PM to 4:30 PM there will be an optional new member orientation for new members as well as attendees to the conference who are interested in joining NJAPM. This session will focus on member benefits and programs, and NJAPM’s accreditation process.

Advance registration is \$139 for members, \$159 for non-members and \$99 for non-member students and special circumstances. The registration fee includes breakfast, lunch and conference materials. At the door registration is \$159 for members, \$179 for non-members and \$119 for full-time students and government employees. For more information and to register, please contact Shawna Wilker at **1-800-981-4800**.

The New Jersey Association of Professional Mediators is a statewide, non-profit professional organization dedicated to fostering excellence in the field of mediation; promoting mediation as the preferred method of dispute resolution, encouraging and providing mediation education to the public, the government and the professions, training and accrediting professional mediators, and protecting the public through a Code of Ethics and Standards for Mediators. NJAPM distributes to the public, lists of Accredited Professional Mediators. The Association can be reached at 1-800-981-4800, and their website is located at www.njapm.org.

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