

Mediation continued from page 5

be discussed with the victim in advance, so that the safety plan can be mapped out.

VI. Continuous Monitoring of the Mediation Process

The victim must have the ability to speak privately with either the mediator or the screener in order to have ongoing monitoring of the mediation process. It is crucial that someone "check-in" with the less powerful participant, to make sure that they are still feeling safe, and are making decisions in mediation that they truly feel are in their best interests for the future, and are not feeling coerced by the presence of the other in mediation. Experienced mediators will become quickly aware of the kind of power imbalance which prevents the participation of two voices, which is so necessary for a good mediated agreement.

Finally, mediators should inform participants, from the outset, that beginning mediation does not mean they will resolve everything in mediation; and that any of the participants - the couple or the mediator - can terminate the mediation if it is no longer productive, or if it is found to be inappropriate. Mediators who are agreement-oriented must shift their focus so that they are ready to terminate, without an agreement, if they sense that this kind of power imbalance, or abuse of the mediation process, is present.

1. The following material was inspired by several law review articles, but most helpful was Ver Steegh, *Yes, No and Maybe: Informed Decision Making About Divorced Mediation In The Presence of Domestic Violence*, 9 William & Mary Journal of Women and the Law 145 (Winter 2003). If interested in further exploration of this topic, I encourage you to consult the full article. If you would like me to e-mail you a copy of it, please contact me at Rachel@mediate2resolution.com.
2. Rachel Fishman Green has had a solo practice as a family and divorce mediator and collaborative lawyer for 8 years, in Park Slope, Brooklyn. She is on the Board of Directors of the Family & Divorce Mediation Council of Greater New York, where she Chairs the Ethics Committee. She is an Advanced Practitioner member of the Association for Conflict Resolution, and a certified member of the New York State Council on Divorce Mediation.
3. Ellis & Stuckless, *Mediating and Negotiating Marital Conflicts* 34 (1996).
4. New York State Council on Divorce Mediation conference, May 2003.
5. Janet R. Johnston, *Building Multidisciplinary Professional Partnerships with the Court on Behalf of High-Conflict Divorcing Families and their Children: Who Needs What Kind of Help?*, 22 U. Ark. Little Rock L. Rev. 453, 469 (2000)
6. Girdner, ABA Center on Children and the Law, *Domestic Abuse and Custody Mediation Training for Judges and Administrators: Instructor's Guide*, 18-19 (1999)
7. Ver Steegh, *supra* fn 1, at 152-159.
8. Schepard, *An Introduction to the Model Standards of Practice for Family and Divorce Mediation*, 35 Fam. L. Q. 1, 3 (2001)



WBASNY Announces Statewide Mentoring Program

The Women's Bar Association of the State of New York created a mentoring program last year to operate in all WBASNY chapters throughout New York State. The WBASNY mentoring program is designed to provide a link to resources in the legal community for law students and new graduates transitioning into legal careers. The goals are to (1) orient mentored students and new lawyers to law firm or institutional culture; (2) introduce professional expectations; (3) assist less advantaged female professionals; and (4) help students and new lawyers pave the way to a more satisfying and productive career. WBASNY's mentoring program is not a replacement for a headhunter or career services organization, a fast-track or a replacement for on-the-job training. It is a terrific way to build relationships and help younger women to succeed. The program will allow considerable flexibility to the mentor and protégé to structure their relationship and activities. **Unlike last year, we have a flood of applications from students, many submitted via WBASNY's website, and we need mentors for them.** If you are interested in participating as a mentor, please contact our chapter's Mentoring Program Liaison: Lisa Bauer, at Proskauer Rose LLP, 1585 Broadway, New York, NY 10036. You can contact Lisa with questions at (212) 969-3221 or lbauer@proskauer.com. A mentor application form can also be filled out at www.wbasny.org.

NYWBA Foundation News

As part of the NYWBA Foundation's continuing law school internship program, the Board of Directors are pleased to announce that Marina Ivolgina has been selected to be this year's Fordham Fellow, in conjunction with The Domestic Violence Advocacy Center (DVAC) at Fordham University School of Law and Sanctuary for Families.

Marina is a third year law student at Fordham with enthusiasm for public interest law. She has interned with the New York City Law Department in the special Federal Litigation Unit and with the New York City Civil Service Commission. As an undergraduate at Pace University, Marina counseled and supervised students in an after-school program through L.A.C.A.S.A. Youth center, while also serving as Vice President for the college's debate team. In 2001, she earned a Master's Degree in Forensic Psychology from John Jay College of Criminal Justice. In addition to having graduated with honors from both Pace and John Jay, Marina also qualified for an internship with The Door-Social Services Agency for Youth, where she worked with New York City youths assisting in referrals for psychiatric services, homeless shelters, and legal services. She also conducted therapy sessions at The Door.

The Foundation's Fellowship with the DVAC and Sanctuary for Families gives Marina the opportunity to combine her psychiatric and developing legal knowledge by participating in all stages of litigation in domestic violence, custody, immigration, and divorce matters.