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**SAN DIEGO COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION LAUNCHES FAMILY LAW MEDIATION PANEL
AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO COURT PROCEEDINGS**

SAN DIEGO (December 1, 2020) — The San Diego County Bar Association (SDCBA) has launched a Family Law Mediation Panel through its Lawyer Referral and Information Service (LRIS), it was announced today. Since 1952, the LRIS has connected the San Diego community with qualified, pre-screened local lawyers and legal resources. The program recently expanded to Imperial County.

The Family Law Mediation Panel offers an alternative to traditional court proceedings for litigants in San Diego and Imperial counties, and is a way to resolve disagreements about marriage, separation, child support, property division, and other family matters. Attorneys on the panel are licensed California attorneys for at least ten years with 90 percent of their law practice focusing on family law cases, and must either have completed a minimum of 25 hours of mediation training or have handled at least 12 family law mediation cases to conclusion within the past five years. They are also required to complete mandatory ethics training and to submit letters of recommendation from colleagues practicing in family law and/or from state or federal court judges familiar with their qualifications and experience.

“The carefully vetted and skilled family law practitioners who comprise the Family Law Mediation Panel offer an invaluable service to litigants in marriage dissolution and child custody and support cases,” said SDCBA Executive Director Jill Epstein. “We are proud to provide litigants in San Diego County and Imperial County with this efficient, thorough alternative to court proceedings in these types of matters.”

Members of the public can receive a referral to the Family Law Mediation Panel, or to a qualified attorney by calling the SDCBA Lawyer Referral and Information Service at 1-800-464-1529.

Family law practitioners who meet the criteria outlined above and would like to join the LRIS referral network may call (619) 321-4150 or e-mail lrisc@sdcb.org.

The San Diego County Bar Association, founded in 1899, is the region’s largest law-related organization, dedicated to serving the needs of all attorneys and the legal community in San Diego County.

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