

For Immediate Release  
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Press Statement

**MEDIATION COUNCIL OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA RECOGNIZES  
THE HONORABLE NORA BARRY FISCHER WITH 2015 CONFLICT RESOLUTION DAY AWARD**

**PITTSBURGH, PA** – The Mediation Council of Western Pennsylvania (“MCWP”) is pleased to announce the recipient of its 2015 Conflict Resolution Day Award, the Honorable Nora Barry Fischer (“Judge Fischer”), District Court Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. Judge Fischer was formally recognized with the award on November 18, 2015 during the MCWP’s annual Conflict Resolution Day event. The Conflict Resolution Day event was attended by over 50 distinguished members of Western Pennsylvania’s alternative dispute resolution community.

The MCWP selected Judge Fischer for this award due to her dedication to training and mentoring lawyers throughout their legal careers and for serving as a helpful, positive role model to both male and female lawyers, her family and the Pittsburgh community. Even from the federal bench, she continues her leadership role in mentoring, actively sponsoring internships and hiring recent law school graduates. As a trained mediator and arbitrator, Judge Fischer is also a strong advocate for the mediation program in the federal court.

In his presentation of the 2015 Conflict Resolution Day Award, arbitrator and mediator Robert Creo remarked, “The MCWP has great respect for Judge Fischer and her ability to balance the pluralist identities of professional, spouse, parent, and responsible civic and community member.” He continued, “She exemplifies the idea of “character” and “walking the talk,” and all that have worked with her can attest to her work ethic being guided by principle, morality and authenticity.”

Judge Fischer was sworn into office in April 2007. She started her career as the first female associate of Meyer Darragh Buckler Bebenek & Eck PLLC (“Meyer Darragh”), in 1977, where she became the firm’s first female junior partner in 1980 and later the first female senior partner in 1982. Judge Fischer launched into a mentorship role early in her career, running the successful Associate program at Meyer Darragh, sometimes referred to as “Boot Camp for Lawyers.” In 1992, Judge Fischer joined the firm of Pietragallo, Bosick & Gordon (now Pietragallo, Gordon, Alfano, Bosick & Raspanti, LLP) (“PB&G”) as an equity partner. She served the firm as administrative partner and as a practice group leader. Judge Fischer’s private practice included complex litigation and alternative dispute resolution. Prior to assuming the bench, Judge Fischer served as a Dalkon Shield Referee, a Special Master in the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County and as an Adjunct Settlement Judge and Arbitrator for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. As a member of the West Virginia Bar, Judge Fischer also handled mediations on referral in addition to conducting mediations by private appointments in both Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

In addition to the presentation of the Conflict Resolution Day award, the Conflict Resolution Day event included an Advanced Mediation Training by nationally recognized trainers Linda Singer and Michael Lewis called “Strategies to Break Impasse.” Linda and Michael, based in Washington, D.C., are former trainers for the Harvard Negotiation Project. Linda and Michael also conducted an interactive lecture

during the Conflict Resolution Day evening reception. Also part of the evening was an update on the Bankruptcy Mediation Program by The Honorable Thomas P. Agresti.

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*Conflict Resolution Day was initiated in 2005 by the U.S. Association for Conflict Resolution to increase public awareness about conflict resolution and its many benefits. Celebrated on the third Thursday in October, Conflict Resolution Day has been recognized and celebrated in more than 22 states, and at least four different countries. A number of counties, cities and states across the United States, including Pittsburgh, have adopted proclamations designating day- or week-long conflict resolution celebrations.*

*The Mediation Council of Western Pennsylvania (MCWP) is a local organization that serves the public by providing education about mediation, information about mediator qualifications and assistance in finding qualified mediators. The MCWP also serves professional mediators by providing opportunities for advanced mediation training and continuing mediation education credit, standards of practice and a code of ethics. The MCWP is the only association of professional mediators in Western Pennsylvania. Its mission is to promote the use of mediation and other collaborative processes for resolving disputes and managing conflict, and support the professional development of mediation practitioners.*