

## **THOUGHTS FROM YOUR MEDIATOR CARLA COTROPIA FOR CLIENTS WHO HAVE NEVER ATTENDED MEDIATION**

- ❖ There is no reason to be nervous. I will make sure that the experience is a positive one for you. This is simply a process that allows me to see if there is a way to resolve your case.
- ❖ You should know that this is not a trial and it will not be combative. I will be working my hardest to see if there is a settlement of your case that will work for all sides.
- ❖ You will not be cross examined since it is NOT a trial. However it can be a tiring experience since you are actively listening and working with your attorney.
- ❖ You do not need to dress up and should wear something comfortable.
- ❖ I will talk with each side separately before we begin. Thereafter, everyone will be in one room for an Opening. An Opening is important. In a way it breaks the ice and begins the process of seeing if there is a way to end the conflict. You will not need to say or do anything in the Opening. Your lawyer will give a brief overview of your case.
- ❖ After the Opening, each side will retire to their separate rooms for the remainder of the day. I will go back and forth between the rooms with one goal in mind, and that goal is to see if there is a way to settle the case. What we say in each room will be confidential unless I am instructed that I can take that information to the other side.
- ❖ One important thing to know is that I believe food is important so we will have a nice lunch. I look forward to meeting you and working with you to find a positive solution to your lawsuit.