**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
**DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

**Application for Mediators**

*Please complete the entire application, using additional paper if necessary. You may also attach a resume.*

Name: Laura P.Valtorta

Firm or Office Name: Valtorta Law Office

Office Address: 903 Calhoun Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Office Phone: (803) 771-0828 Office Fax: (803) 765-9261

email address: laurapv@aol.com

**ADMISSIONS AND AFFILIATIONS**

Date admitted to the Bar of the District of South Carolina: 4/7/93 I.D. No.: 65147

Date admitted to the South Carolina Bar: 11/13/92 Bar No.: 5850

Other courts or jurisdictions to which admitted (with dates of admission and bar nos.):

Membership and positions held in bar, ADR and professional associations:

Are you a member in good standing in each jurisdiction where admitted to practice law? [X] yes [ ] no

Are you currently the subject of any pending disciplinary proceeding in any jurisdiction? [ ] yes [X] no

Have you, within the last 5 years, been denied admission to a bar for character or ethical reasons or disciplined for professional misconduct? [ ] yes [X] no

**EDUCATION**

Year law degree received 1992 Law School University of South Carolina

Other professional degrees received (including year and school)
Master's in English, Duke University, 1981

**LEGAL EXPERIENCE** (A minimum of 5 years of law practice required)

Summarize legal experience (including teaching) since admission to the bar, particularly in the past five years:

Since late1992, I have been handling civil rights cases, Social Security cases, and Family Court cases on behalf of Plaintiffs. I have some limited experience as a mediator for Richland County Court and would like to mediate more cases.

I feel that I am not using my experience and knowledge to its fullest.

Percentage of practice in last 5 years representing plaintiff 100 % or defense ____ %

Percentage of Federal or State court practice in last 5 years: Federal 25 % State 75 %

Number of years engaged in active litigation: 10

## EXPERTISE

Indicate all substantive areas in which you have expertise. Place a "1" by your strongest area(s) and a "2" by all other areas in which you have expertise. (Do not rank beyond "1" and "2.") After any category you have marked, please identify any sub-areas of expertise you have (e.g. "medical malpractice" after Personal Injury).

____ Admiralty
____ Antitrust
____ Contracts
____ Environment
____ Fraud or Civil RICO
____ Insurance
____ Miller Act
____ Personal Injury
____ Product Liability
____ Other (specify)____

____ Security or Shareholders suits
____ Labor
____ ERISA
2 Wrongful Termination
1 Civil Rights in Employment
____ Other Civil Rights
____ Copyrights
____ Patent
____ Trademark

Publications: Several newspaper articles, from when I worked as a journalist. One short novel, published in 1993. No legal publications

## MEDIATION EXPERIENCE

Mediation experience (particularly in the subject matter categories above):

I have training as a mediator and have acted as mediator in one case -- a traffic accident.

As a representative of the Plaintiff, I have participated in many mediations.

Other courts or organizations for whom you serve as a mediator (please note any certifications):

Richland County Civil Court

Number of mediations conducted: 1 Number of other ADR sessions conducted: ____

## MEDIATION AND OTHER ADR TRAINING

| Course Provider | Course Content | Date | Place | No. of Hours |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| South Carolina Bar | mediation training | 1996 | S.C. Bar bldg | 8.00 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

## OTHER INFORMATION

Are you familiar with the statutes, rules and practice governing alternative dispute resolution in the District of South Carolina? [X] yes [ ] no

Other relevant experience or skills or other information you would like considered in connection with this application:

In my family court cases, I have encouraged many divorce litigants to settle -- even in cases which seemed impossible to settle.

Cities in which you are available to conduct mediation:

[X] Columbia [X] Charleston [X] Greenville [X] Florence

Other _____

Fees charged:

Hourly Rate: $ 150 Minimum charge each mediation: $ 150 for preparation.

How do you bill for travel? (explain): .25 per mile

I agree to: (1) Be subject to the Rules of Professional Conduct, Rule 407, South Carolina Appellate Court Rules; the Rules for Lawyer Disciplinary Enforcement, Rule 413, South Carolina Appellate Court Rules; and the Local Rules of the District Court; (2) Provide mediation to indigents without pay if ordered by the Court; (3) Notify the Alternative Dispute Resolution Program Director of any change in the above facts or otherwise in my ability to perform duties as a mediator; (4) Disclosure of information contained in this application to litigants and other members of the public.

I certify that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signature: Laura P. Valtorta Date: Sept. 27, 2002
Applicant

Return completed application to:
**Danny H. Mullis, Director**
**Alternative Dispute Resolution Program**
**United States District Court**
**Post Office Box 835**
**Charleston, SC 29402-0835**

Reviewer: _____ Date: 11/1/02
ADR Program

Approved: _____ Date: 11/4/02
U.S. District Judge

3/2000

# Board of Arbitrator and Mediator Certification

South Carolina Supreme Court

Columbia, South Carolina

ROBERT W. HASSOLD, JR., CHAIR
ROBERT M. ERWIN, JR.
CAROL H. SANDERS
CAPERS G. BARR, III
JAMES W. PETERSON, JR.

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COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29250

(803) 734-1800
FAX (803) 734-1821

May 24, 1996

Laura Valtorta, Esquire
903 Calhoun Street
Columbia, SC 29205

RE: Circuit Court Mediator Application

Dear Ms. Valtorta:

Your application to be certified as a circuit court mediator has been approved by the Board.

Your name has been placed on the roster of approved circuit court mediators which will be maintained at the South Carolina Court Administration Office. The Board plans to periodically send updated rosters of approved Circuit Court Mediators to the clerk's offices for the pilot counties. If your name does not appear on the clerk's copy of the roster, you may request that the clerk add your name to the roster by providing them a copy of this letter. If your name does not appear on the next published roster, you should contact Yvonne Visser at Court Administration.

If any change occurs in your ability to perform duties as a circuit court mediator, please contact this office immediately.

Yours very truly,

Robert W. Hassold, Jr.

RWH/yav

# The South Carolina Council for Mediation and Alternative Dispute Resolution

*in cooperation with*

*The ADR Section and CLE Division of the South Carolina Bar*
*South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium*
*University of South Carolina School of Law*

*acknowledges that*

## Laura P. Valtorta, Esq.

*has completed an approved 40 hour*

## Circuit Court Civil Mediator Training Program

*April 29, 1996*
*Columbia, South Carolina*

**Harry G. Goodheart, III, Esq.**
**Trainer**

**C. C. Harness, III, Esq.**
**Trainer**

**M. Regan Cretzmeyer**
**Executive Director**