



American College of Trial Lawyers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF TRIAL LAWYERS SELECTS THE MEDIATION CENTER OF THE PACIFIC, INC. AS 2024 EMIL GUMPERT AWARD RECIPIENT

\$150,000 Grant to help increase housing stability by providing mediation assistance

HONOLULU, HAWAII. (May 24, 2024) - The American College of Trial Lawyers (ACTL) has selected The Mediation Center of the Pacific, Inc. (MCP) as the 2024 Emil Gumpert Award recipient. The award, the highest honor conferred by the American College of Trial Lawyers on a single organization annually, recognizes programs whose principal purpose is to maintain and improve the administration of justice. The Award includes a \$150,000 grant funded by the Foundation of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

“MCP is honored to be the 2024 recipient of the esteemed Emil Gumpert Award,” said Tracey Wiltgen, MCP Executive Director. “The award will enable us to grow the Early Eviction Mediation (EEM) program and help more landlords and tenants negotiate payment plans and avoid the eviction process. Evictions are harmful for everyone involved. Finding ways to resolve disputes between landlords and tenants through EEM will help to increase housing stability in Hawaii.”

To meet its mission of providing high quality mediation and dispute resolution services that are affordable and accessible for all, over the past 45 years, MCP has developed processes and programs that help participants work through disputes of all types and meet the unique needs of Hawaii’s culturally diverse populations. Parties in conflict are assisted in resolving their immediate dispute, as well as in improving communication and strengthening their relationships for the future. In 2021, MCP created and implemented the EEM program following the ending of the moratorium on evictions that was ordered by Governor Ige during the pandemic. In the one-year period the program was in effect, MCP mediated 1,342 early eviction cases with 1,172 or 85% resulting in written agreements. In 90% of the cases (involving over 1,055 tenants) that reached agreement, the tenants were able to remain in the rental unit.

The \$150,000 grant will be used to increase housing stability by keeping tenants in their residences or alternately, providing them with sufficient time to find an alternate location they can afford.

“The College is thrilled to present our Emil Gumpert Award to MCP in support of their Early Eviction Mediation Program,” said ACTL President Bill Murphy. “By helping prevent eviction through high-quality mediation and dispute resolution, MCP is providing housing stability and family security for some of Hawaii’s most vulnerable populations. With 90% of their cases reaching agreement, enabling tenants to remain housed, the success for the program speaks for itself. The College is proud to support such a worthy project.”

About the [Emil Gumpert Award](#)

The Emil Gumpert Award is the highest honor conferred by the College on any organization and was established to recognize programs whose principal purpose is to maintain and improve the administration of justice. The programs considered may be associated with courts, law schools, bar associations or any other organization that provides such a program. This award is made in honor of the late Honorable Emil Gumpert, Chancellor-Founder of the American College of Trial Lawyers. Judge Gumpert, throughout his more than half-century professional



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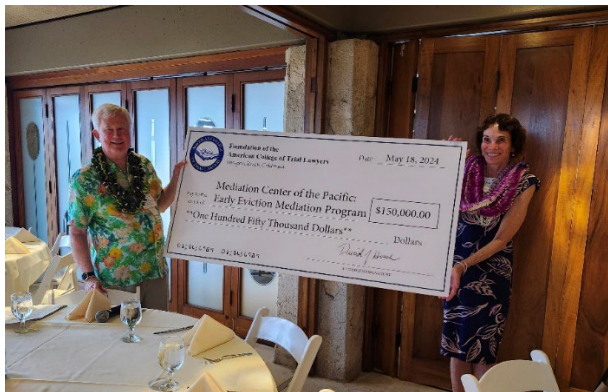
career as an eminent trial lawyer, State Bar president and trial judge, substantially and effectively devoted himself to the administration of justice and to the improvement of trial practice.

About [The American College of Trial Lawyers](#)

The American College of Trial Lawyers comprises the best of the trial bar from the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico and is widely considered to be the premier professional trial organization in North America. Founded in 1950, the College is an invitation only fellowship. The College thoroughly investigates each nominee for admission and selects only those who have demonstrated the very highest standards of trial advocacy, ethical conduct, integrity, professionalism and collegiality. The College maintains and seeks to improve the standards of trial practice, professionalism, ethics, and the administration of justice through education and public statements on important legal issues relating to its mission. The College strongly supports the independence of the judiciary, trial by jury, respect for the rule of law, access to justice, and fair and just representation of all parties to legal proceedings.

About [The Mediation Center of the Pacific](#)

The Mediation Center of the Pacific (MCP) was founded in 1979 to provide high quality mediation and dispute resolution services that are affordable and accessible. Over the years, MCP has steadily grown and developed processes and programs that help participants work through disputes of all types and meet the unique needs of Hawaii's culturally diverse populations. Today MCP serves over 13,000 people annually, most of whom are in the low-income and ALICE populations. Through MCP, tenants and landlords work out payment plans to keep tenants housed, divorcing and unmarried couples agree on time-sharing agreements that met the best interests of their children, families caring for an elder agree on support plans to meet the needs of the elder, and more.



CONTACTS:

Sarah Stokes
American College of Trial Lawyers, Senior Communications Manager
949-752-1801
sstokes@actl.com

Tracey Wiltgen
Executive Director, The Mediation Center of the Pacific
808-521-6767
tracey@mediatehawaii.org

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