

[A Sample of Your Pro Bono Success: The Eviction Diversion Mediation Clinic](#)

by Public Services Intern Alex Miller

During the brief introduction that kicked off the Eviction Diversion Mediation clinic, two key points stood out as essential to a mediation's success.

Both parties need to cooperate to find common ground. Only when tenants and landlords come together and realize that neither will win nor lose can this be accomplished.

No participant in the clinic would be fully aware of each party's backstory. With landlords, tenants, and mediators on the call, this information became crucial in establishing an environment that promoted constructive communication.

As breakout rooms were assigned and mediations began, the necessary assistance stood at the ready should any questions arise. A simple press of the "help" button being all that was needed. This employment of a well-balanced team as well as zoom procedure promoted swift mediation.

Attorney **Victoria Edwards** of Mette, Evans & Woodside volunteered as a clinic mediator and noted that the virtual aspect helped create an atmosphere for the mediation's success. Attorney Edwards pointed out that joining a meeting from the comfort of your home can alleviate unnecessary animosity that may stand in the way of negotiation. Therefore, a focus on the resolution can grow.

Albeit, underlying issues are inevitable and as mentioned previously, both parties must recognize that the mediation will not end with a winner or loser. Attorney Edwards recognized this along with the clinic's goal of bringing both parties to a place of fair and favorable ground. To hear more of Attorney Edwards' interview, click [HERE](#).

It is important for selfless individuals like Attorney Edwards, who constantly strive to put the best interest of others first, to volunteer. As for assisting in the Dauphin County Bar Association's Pro Bono work, those with values that are similar should look no further to find the perfect outlet for helping someone in need.

If you are interested in kicking off 2021 by making an impactful difference in someone's life please contact Sandy Ballard at Sandy@DCBA-PA.org and she will gladly get you started.