



## SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Hall of Justice  
400 County Center  
Redwood City, California 94063-1655

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Redwood City, CA

**DATE:** May 7, 2009

**CONTACT:** Hon. Stephen M. Hall, Presiding Judge (650)363-4812  
John Fitton, Court Executive Officer (650) 363-4516

### **Court Wins Award for Innovative Approach to Serving the Public**

The Judicial Council awarded the Multi-Option Appropriate Dispute Resolution Project (“MAP”), a program of the San Mateo Superior Court, a Ralph N. Kleps Award for its innovative approach to serving the public. To receive this award, programs must be innovative, transferable to other courts, and have demonstrated positive results.

MAP is a unique partnership of the Court, the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center, and the San Mateo County Bar Association. MAP offers a broad array of dispute resolution options and educational outreach sessions for family law, juvenile dependency and delinquency, small claims, probate, complex litigation, and civil cases.

The program has been tracking client perceptions with its various services for over a decade and consistently finds the satisfaction rate well over eighty percent. Additionally, MAP has served as a model for other courts looking to start an ADR program. MAP staff consult with counties across the state and worldwide about the breadth and flexibility of the program in an effort to offer constituents appropriate options for resolving pending matters.

Presiding Judge Stephen M. Hall stated: “It is nice to have the San Mateo County MAP program recognized by state officials. This tremendously successful and innovative program is the result of the hard work and dedication of the MAP staff, judges, attorneys, and community members who have been a part of its development. To each of them, we give thanks.”

Court Executive Officer John Fitton added: “Our MAP program improves access to justice, outcome satisfaction by participants and reduces related costs. I’m extremely proud of the exceptional work that ADR Program Administrator Sheila Purcell and all her outstanding staff perform every day – they deserve the recognition symbolized by this prestigious award.”

For more information, visit MAP online at [www.sanmateocourt.org/adr](http://www.sanmateocourt.org/adr)