1. **Successful 2017 Conflict Resolution Week**  
Conflict Resolution Week 2017 was a resounding success! The Commission joined the ABA, ACR and other national organizations in celebrating alternative dispute resolution during the third week of October. The Chief Justice and the Governor both issued a Proclamation, and the Dispute Resolution Section co-sponsored a “kick-off” event highlighted by words from the Chief Justice, Commission Chair, and Section Council chair. Certified mediator Representative Cynthia Ball read both Proclamations on the floor of the House. These activities were followed by three Webinars on important ADR topics. Thank you to all who contributed to make this first-time event successful and memorable.

2. **Harriet Hopkins Departs**  
This quarter, the Commission lost its Deputy Director Harriet Hopkins. Harriet left the Commission to take a position with the Labor Department. The Commission and its staff will miss Harriet and wish her every success in her new position.

3. **Grievance Committee Update**  
This was a quiet quarter on the Grievance front. An appeal of a determination of the Grievance Committee not to certify an applicant, which was scheduled to be heard in December, was withdrawn. One complaint is now pending.

4. **Commission Rules Amendments and Advisory Opinions**  
The Commission has no rule amendments currently posted for comment. The revisions currently under review include amendments to 1) revise procedures for Committee action set out in Rules VIII (Standards and Advisory Opinions Committee), IX (Grievance and Disciplinary Committee) and X (Mediator Certification and Training Committee) and to permit the Chair to convene five-person hearing panels in lieu of hearings before the Full Commission; 2) define private and public sanctions and to clarify when sanctions are to be published; 3) authorize the Commission to seek injunctive relief in Wake County Superior Court if, during a grievance investigation, the Grievance and Disciplinary Committee and the Chair of the Commission determine that a mediator’s conduct should be enjoined to protect the mediator, the public or the courts; and 5) update and correct numerous other provisions in the Rules. The Commission is also considering proposed advisory opinions 34 and 35. The time for public comment on those amendments and advisory opinions has closed, and the Commission will provide updates after final approval.

5. **Condolences**  
The Commission is saddened to learn of the recent passing of former Commissioner Barbara Davis. While a member of the Commission, Barbara chaired the Certification and Training Committee. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

6. **Spamming Concerns**  
During this renewal period, an individual or group of individuals set up dummy email accounts, “DRC.Mediators@nc-courts.org,” and proceeded to contact mediators under false pretenses, asking them to pay phony invoices, to verify credit card information and payments, to click on phony links to applications. Unfortunately, the scamming continues, and mediators are now being asked to click on a link to obtain a gift card from the Commission. AOC Technology Services has advised Commission staff that these individuals carried out their scam by copying publicly posted email addresses for mediators from the Commission’s website and setting up email accounts that mimic the Commission’s email address. The Commission contacts mediators using the following email account: “DRC.Mediators@nc-courts.org.” Unless you are communicating directly with Leslie Ratliff or Maureen Robinson on their office email, any messages you receive from the Commission should come from that address. Please delete any messages bearing a different address. AOC Staff has reassured the Commission that no credit or other sensitive information was compromised or hacked. As far as Commission staff is aware, no mediators were victimized, and no viruses were spread.

7. **Commission Meeting**  
The next Commission meeting is scheduled to take place in February at the NC Judicial Center in Raleigh. Meetings are open for the public to attend, but please let Commission know that you are coming so that they can arrange for seating.

8. **2018 Dispute Resolution Section Annual Meeting: Communication Skills**  
The 2018 Annual Meeting will be held live on Friday, March 16, 2018 at Pinehurst Resort in Pinehurst, North Carolina. Final approvals for CLE and CME have been confirmed! Please join us. For more information, visit [http://gateway.ncbar.org/store/seminar/seminar.php?seminar=75896](http://gateway.ncbar.org/store/seminar/seminar.php?seminar=75896)  
For questions, comments, or concerns about these or other matters, email the Commission at [DRC.Mediators@nc-courts.org](mailto:DRC.Mediators@nc-courts.org).