

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Event: July 23, 2010 (3:30-5 :50 pm PT)

Mediation Institute to Host 'Immigration Dialogue 2010' Discussion About Arizona's SB 1070

LOS ANGELES, JUNE 30, 2010 – The American Institute of Mediation (AIM) announced today its inaugural public mediated discussion, "Immigration Dialogue 2010," focusing on the immigration issue facing the United States and spotlighting Arizona's hotbed issues, including their Support Our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhoods Act, commonly referred to as SB 1070, which becomes law on July 28. The July 23 event, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Skirball Cultural Center's Magnin Theater in Los Angeles, will include Arizona state **Rep. John Kavanagh** (R) and **Rep. Kyrsten Sinema** (D), and will be facilitated by AIM founder and President **Lee Jay Berman**.

This event, a departure from the usual "advocate and defend" style discussion or debate on such controversial issues, will utilize the strategies commonly employed by mediators in order to explore the underlying interests beneath the two opposing positions on enforcing immigration law. The mediated discussion, conducted in a collegial environment where each representative has the opportunity to fully explain his or her thinking, will recognize and respect the widely disparate viewpoints about immigration in America and how enforcement challenges at the state and local level create such controversy, high emotion, and entrenched positions.

"This discourse is an exercise to inform the public about the varying interests and reasoning behind state laws such as Arizona's SB 1070, and its opposition," says Berman. "I believe we can diffuse the conflict and enter into a consensus-building, problem-solving dialogue by working with the common interests that both representatives and their constituents share. Through this process we can bring about mutual understanding and often agreement, at least on some of the fundamental issues."

If time permits following the dialogue, there will be an opportunity for questions by the media. Advance tickets are required, as this event is certain to sell out. Tickets are available for \$20 and may be purchased online at <http://aiminst.com/az>. Members of the media and government officials may contact Brenda McGann at (310) 649-1450 or brenda@mcgannpr.com in order to inquire about guest credentials. Media sponsorship provided by the Daily Journal.

"I am donating my time and resources to this project because in my 16-year career as a mediator, I have never encountered a conflict that could not benefit from a structured mediative approach when the parties so need to have their interests understood," says Berman. "I believe the immigration dilemma has been minimized to sound-bites and protests and is truly no exception to this rule. Our guests, as thought leaders on this topic, deserve to be better heard and understood by those who disagree with them, and we are able to provide that forum."

More information: <http://aiminst.com/az>

About the American Institute of Mediation: www.AmericanInstituteofMediation.com

About Lee Jay Berman: www.LeeJayBerman.com