

Press Release

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Summit County Court of Common Pleas, General Division invites attorneys to volunteer as mediators during Settlement Week 2026

The Judges of the Summit County Court of Common Pleas, General Division will be hosting Settlement Week from Monday, October 19 through Friday, October 23, 2026, at the Summit County Courthouse, located at 209 S. High Street in downtown Akron.

Settlement Week is a court-managed program that has proven to be an effective case management tool. The weeklong initiative enhances judicial efficiency by:

- Effectively resolving multiple cases within a brief timeframe;
- Assisting parties in reaching mutually agreeable outcomes through structured mediation; and
- Freeing up more court time to focus on criminal cases and complex civil litigation.

Settlement Week is a bench bar collaboration. Experienced civil trial attorneys interested in volunteering as mediators for this in-person event are encouraged to complete and submit the [Settlement Week Volunteer Mediator Form](#) by Friday, July 31, 2026. Volunteers who sign up after July 31, 2026, will be considered and assigned mediations on a case-by-case basis.

Free mediation training will be offered to volunteer mediators who are registered to participate in Settlement Week 2026. The training will be facilitated by the Supreme Court of Ohio on Friday, October 9, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., at the Summit County Courthouse. Legal professionals who complete the training will receive three continuing legal education (CLE) credits.

"The Summit County Court of Common Pleas, General Division, strongly encourages attorneys to take part in Settlement Week 2026," said Judge Mary Margaret Rowlands. "This initiative offers a unique opportunity to resolve cases efficiently and effectively, enhancing outcomes for clients while promoting a collaborative legal community. Join us in making a difference!" Judge Rowlands pointed to the historical success of Summit County's Settlement Week program, noting that, on average, half of the cases referred to the Settlement Week program are resolved by the week's end.

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Efforts will be made to match experienced trial lawyers to cases associated with their specializations, such as contract disputes, personal injury, property disputes, and workers' compensation cases.

"Settlement Week complements the work being performed by the Summit County Court of Common Pleas, General Division Mediation Program," added Judge Rowlands. "The more civil cases that can be settled through these combined dispute-resolution efforts, the more time judges will have to meet the demands of their criminal caseloads."

Attorneys who would like their own cases to be considered for mediation during Settlement Week 2026 are invited to complete and submit the [Settlement Week Case Request Form](#) by Friday, July 31, 2026. Requests received after July 31, 2026, will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Only cases pending in the Summit County Court of Common Pleas, General Division are eligible for mediation during Settlement Week 2026.

For more information about Settlement Week 2026, including links to the Settlement Week Volunteer Mediator Form and the Settlement Week Case Request Form, scan the QR code or click on <https://www.summitcpcourt.net/settlementweek/>.



To learn more about resolving disputes through case mediation, visit <https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/opinions-cases/clerk-of-court/case-mediation/>.

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