

Application for Rapid City Human Relations Committee

by Merton B Tice Jr.

Street address; 709 Belmont Dr., Rapid City, SD 57702

resident of Rapid City

Ward 5

home phone; 605-342-5538, business phone: 718-4445

email address: Mert@Rushmore,

I have served as a Magistrate Judge for approximately 2 years and a circuit judge for 36 years. In that capacity I have been engaged in literally thousands of conflicts between people each of whom felt they were right in their position. Oftentimes there were many issues of principle, values, and personal conflicts which I was required to, as best as possible, discern where in the truth lay and determine a just and legal resolution between them. I have held trials on numerous conflicts between employees and employers, had many occasions where issues of discrimination were raised, violations of personal rights, and alleged unreasonable conduct of each of the parties. I have received extensive legal training, and experience, in conflict resolution, mediation, business responsibilities of both employers and employees, contract conflicts, and personnel issues. I've been an active participant in Restorative Justice, which seeks to enhance the understanding between individuals against whom crime has been committed and the defendants. I have, for the past 4 years, been and currently am a partner in the business of "Tice Mediation". I have received extensive training in the exercising of mediation between disputing parties.

I have an LL.B., am a member of the South Dakota Bar Association and a certified as a mediator under South Dakota law.

I am currently actively serving as a board member on nearly a dozen state and nonprofit boards and committees both in this community as well as on South Dakota committees and boards.

I very much believe that solutions to problems between people can best be resolved through healthy dialogue and constructive perspectives which are shared and nurtured to help each disputant to understand the position of the other side and, when a trier of the fact, where necessary, to come to a just and equitable resolution of the conflict.

Respectfully submitted

Merton B Tice Jr.