

OHIO STATE JOURNAL ON DISPUTE RESOLUTION

VOLUME 20

2005

NUMBER 1

Introduction

The Ohio State Journal on Dispute Resolution is indebted to the efforts of Michael Bogdan and Leslie Youssef, the Symposium Editors for the 2003-2004 edition of the Journal. Their tireless efforts in creating a novel theme in the field of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) and in procuring well-respected speakers from around the world resulted in an intriguing symposium which we memorialize with this issue.

The theme, "Winning the Peace: Post-Conflict Dispute Resolution and Nation-Building," is not a traditional one in the ADR literature, as it touches little on such foundational processes as negotiation, mediation, and arbitration. Instead, it is an examination of the way disputes with international implications are resolved in the global arena. Law and its processes are examined in these articles, but they generally play a supporting role in the way nations and people are rebuilt following years of trauma. The more fluid concept of ultimate justice is introduced, encouraging affected peoples to look beyond their past conflicts to begin the healing process in the best manner possible.

While these articles lack many of the ADR formalities common in the literature, the collection relies heavily on the foundational principles of the field. Within, mechanisms for establishing justice and peace are encouraged to help push beyond the post-conflict haze. ADR ideals like procedural integrity, ensuring basic fairness, the protection of the powerless, and rebuilding broken relationships repeatedly arise as the authors strive to find solutions that will win peace in the affected areas.

Indeed, like other ADR articles, these pieces aim for justice and a better way to resolve the differences that tear people apart. Through them, the Ohio State Journal on Dispute Resolution offers an expansion of what it means to resolve disputes effectively in both the legal and global arenas.

