

FORWARD

DEAN JAMES E. MEEKS*

The first issue of the *Ohio State Journal on Dispute Resolution*, created and edited by law students, is the fruit of a remarkable student effort. We congratulate the students involved and commend their dedicated efforts. Three years of students have been involved in proposing, planning, and producing this first issue. The law school administration challenged the seriousness of the project by requiring that *Journal* members raise, from private sources, the money needed to publish the first issue. Over \$10,000 was secured in a very short time. The success of that effort suggests not only the students' commitment, but also the interest within the legal profession for coverage of the subject — alternative dispute resolution techniques. With this level of student effort and interest we predict a very rewarding career for this new journal.

The choice of the subject for this journal was inspired by the needs of the legal community. Of course, as a law school educator, I recognize that student work for a scholarly journal on any legally related topic is a valuable experience for those involved. It is self-learning at its best. Sensitizing law students at the beginning of their career to the fact that there are alternative ways of settling disputes — alternatives to the historical litigation model — is a very significant goal.

Attention to the subject of dispute resolution is quite timely. Much new activity and interest in these issues has surfaced in the past few years. There is little doubt that our society is currently surpassing frontiers in many fields of law, looking for new effective ways of handling the dispute resolution system. Court congestion and accompanying delay, the costs of traditional litigation approaches, and dissatisfaction with the results of litigation have led to experimentation with new methods. We must continue to address the way our society has been resolving its "legal" disputes, and this journal will provide a vehicle for such innovative suggestion and scholarship.

The *Journal's* role in critiquing and testing the new ideas presented will be of similar importance. Part of that will entail assessing the values of the old system that are to be compromised or sacrificed in adopting a new idea or system. One should

*Dean, The Ohio State University College of Law, 1978-1985.

assess whether the innovation in dispute resolution is worth the sacrifice. The *Journal* will provide a forum for such questions. We see examples of both innovative suggestions and careful critique in this first issue. The student editors for issues to come will have the challenge of continuing to provide quality scholarship that fulfills at least these two important functions. We wish them the very best.