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A Special Publication

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As he notes, Richard Reuben was not the first editor of this magazine. But he was surely the dominant one. He took over the position in the spring issue of 1997, and over the ensuing decade he has left an indelible mark of excellence and professionalism on the publication. It is small wonder that he did so, for if the ABA in 1996 had advertised for someone to succeed Thom Seymour, the editor for the initial three years, Richard would have perfectly met the job requirements: expert in all facets of ADR; experienced writer and editor; ability to deal effectively with others, both paid employees of the Section of Dispute Resolution and volunteer members of the Editorial Board. In the course of his 10 years at the magazine, Richard moved professionally from the Center of Conflict and Negotiation at Stanford, via the Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School, to the tenured professorship at the University of Missouri at Columbia that he now holds. This richness of academic environments has surely enhanced Richard's contributions to the magazine; indeed, aside from his heavy editorial duties, he contributed nearly two dozen pieces himself as well as countless ideas to the work of others. Not infrequently he threw out a gauntlet, as in his recent piece opposing mandatory mediation, thus goading others into writing a response.

Last year, Richard announced his intention to retire as editor so that he could devote more time to his academic obligations and his family as well as respond to the many other opportunities that have come his way. True to form, he not only helped us to identify his colleague at the University of Missouri School of Journalism, Chip Stewart, as a worthy successor, but also facilitated a seamless transition.

And so, at this changing of the guard, we give profound thanks to Richard for his devoted and inspired service to the ABA and the field of dispute resolution, and advance thanks and welcome to Chip for his willingness to take on this challenging task. Fortunately, Richard will continue to serve as a member of the Editorial Board, so we will continue to have the benefit of his ideas.

—Frank E.A. Sander, Chair, Editorial Board
editing her articles at Internet cafes. Many of them joined and stayed with the magazine for years because they believed in what we were trying to do—be a real magazine.

Bar journals, you see, are generally known more for their politics than their quality. But readers of this magazine know that there is something special about it that just jumps off the pages. That’s because the Section’s dedication to the magazine’s quality has always come first. Former Section Director Jack Hanna insisted on it, and his successor, Ellen Miller, continues this commitment without compromise.

Both worked hard to develop diverse, hardworking, and accomplished editorial boards to make that happen. Many bar editorial boards are ceremonial, but ours has always been a working board that over time has included some of the leading figures in the field, led with wisdom and good humor by Frank Sander, and for many years, Dean Nancy Rogers. Setting and maintaining the magazine’s standards takes hard work, and sometimes courage—such as the time the board refused to pull an article that was accurate but unflattering to an important player in the field. Such are the things that are the foundation of a publication’s integrity, character, and quality.

Together, over time, we have created an environment in which everyone—writers, editors, artists, advertisers, staff, and editorial board members—can do their best, and believe in what they are doing. The result is a publication that, like the Section itself, is worthy of leading the field. Our challenge now is to maintain and build upon this foundation. In Chip Stewart, we have an editor with the skill, experience, temperament, and vision to lead the magazine into the next generation. The rest, as always, depends on us.

Richard C. Reuben is the James Lewis Parks Professor of Law at the University of Missouri-Columbia and codirector of the Center for the Study of Conflict, Law & the Media at the University of Missouri. He served as the editor of Dispute Resolution Magazine from 1997-2007, and can be reached at ReubenR@missouri.edu.