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A Special Publication

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A Special Publication

By Richard C. Reuben



It seems like just yesterday when Jim Boskey, a professor at Seton Hall University School of Law, asked me if I wanted to take over as the editor of *Dispute Resolution Magazine*.

We shared a special bond. Boskey was one of the pioneers of our field, the editor of a widely circulated and well-regarded newsletter that was the source of information about what was going on in dispute resolution. I had just left the *ABA Journal* so that I could finish my doctoral degree, ending a career of more than 20 years as a full-time journalist with several national magazines and newspapers.

It was heady stuff, but like so many readers of this publication, I had been bitten by the ADR bug, and decided to shift my career to research and write about dispute resolution. The magazine had only just begun, and the first editor didn't want to continue. The editorial board then consisted of Frank Sander, Nancy Rogers, Craig McEwen, Melinda Ostermeyer, Bruce Meyerson, and Jim Boskey, who later died of brain cancer. Just getting started in the field, I would have been thrilled to be a fly on the wall of their discussions, and the only condition I insisted on in my negotiations was that I could participate in the monthly board conference calls.

That was in 1996, and the magazine has come a long way since then. In the earlier years we came out periodically, and I edited all of the copy while Section staffer Kyo Suh did all of the layout and production. After a few years we decided to commit to quarterly publication, and a few years later added a talented cadre of associate editors—Carol Eoannou, Jeff Fernandez, Barbara Kate Repa, Chip Stewart, Jennifer Smith, and Steve Valk. This was a dedicated crew with law, journalism, and dispute resolution experience far beyond what should have been the

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

magazine's capacity. Like me, all of them had other full-time positions, and often worked on the magazine at odd hours to help writers and get out the quarterly miracle that was the magazine. Their professionalism and commitment was humbling. One editor even took her style-book with her when she toured the Third World one year,

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.

ADR Calendar

Southern California Mediation Association's Annual Fall Conference

November 3, 2007
Malibu, California
Southern California Mediation Association
1430 South Grand Avenue, Suite 256
Glendora, CA 91740
Telephone: 877-963-3428
Email: sema@scmediation.org
Website: www.scmediation.org

Wisconsin Association of Mediators Emerging Issues in Mediation Conference

November 14-16
Concourse Hotel
Madison, Wisconsin
Contact: Wisconsin Association of Mediators
P.O. Box 44578
Madison, WI 53744-4578
Telephone: 608-848-1970
Email: wam@mailbag.com

International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution Annual Meeting

January 17-18, 2008
New York City, New York
Waldorf Astoria
301 Park Avenue

Mediators Without Borders Inaugural Congress

Feb. 15-18 2008
Estes Park, Colorado
St. Malo Retreat Center
Contact: Nan Burnett, Conference Chair
Email: nanbmwb@gmail.com

10th Annual Section of Dispute Resolution Spring Conference

April 2-6, 2008
Seattle, Washington
Contact: ABA Section of Dispute Resolution
740 15th St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: 202-662-1680
Email: dispute@abanet.org
Website: www.abanet.org/dispute



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