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## Description

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**THE CENTER FOR THE  
STUDY OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION  
SCHOOL OF LAW  
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI**

The Center for the Study of Dispute Resolution (CSDR) was established in 1984. The mission of the Center for the Study of Dispute Resolution is to advance the understanding of the nature and causes of, as well as the methods available for managing and resolving conflict. The CSDR fosters comprehensive approaches to lawyering and decision-making through the use of the full array of dispute resolution processes including negotiation, mediation, arbitration, and litigation.

**Legal and Interdisciplinary Scholarship**

The CSDR's faculty—the largest, most diverse collection of full-time law school faculty who focus on dispute resolution—has published many leading articles, texts, and videotapes on dispute resolution. Areas of scholarship include:

- Mediation
- Arbitration
- Negotiation
- Group Facilitation
- Public Policy and Group Decision-making
- Democracy and Dispute Resolution
- International Dispute Resolution
- Mindfulness in Law and Dispute Resolution
- Government Dispute Resolution
- Behavioral Psychology and Dispute Resolution
- Cross-cultural Negotiations

**Law School Teaching and Curriculum Initiatives**

Since its inception, CSDR has provided national leadership in developing law school curricula in dispute resolution. The keystone of this focus was a groundbreaking project in which dispute resolution instruction is integrated into all first-year courses. See Symposium: *Dispute Resolution in the Law School Curriculum: Opportunities and Challenges, Part I*, 50 FLA. L. REV. 583 (1998). That project has evolved into a required, small section first-year course, Lawyering: Problem-Solving and Dispute Resolution.

The CSDR also provides many learning opportunities for upper level students. In recent years, course offerings include courses in Mediation, Negotiation, Arbitration and International Dispute Resolution, Client Counseling, Conflict Theory, Cross-Cultural Negotiation, Public Policy Dispute Resolution, and Damages: A Case Study, an innovative seminar based on an in-depth case study and taught by seven faculty members. Second and third year students also are eligible to enroll in a mediation clinic or serve on the editorial board of the *Journal of Dispute Resolution*.

The MU School of Law also offers a Master of Laws (LL.M.) program in Dispute Resolution. This program—the first of its kind in the nation—provides practitioners and scholars from around the world an opportunity for advanced study of dispute resolution that includes specialized courses, such as Understanding Conflict, Methods for Program Evaluation and Design, and courses offered by the School of Public Affairs, such as Group Dynamics and Conflict Resolution, Organizational Analysis and Change, and Organizational Dynamics and Leadership.

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