

## *Everyone Who Believes in the Value of Dispute Resolution Please Stand By!*

*By Edward M. Krauss*

There is a mutually beneficial partnership that is special and worthy of recognition. The Columbus Bar Association has for years valued and promoted Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in general and mediation in particular.

This partnership has included hosting the Ohio Mediation Association's annual meeting and conference. The event, this year on April 24, offers extraordinary training by nationally recognized experts discussing advanced mediation skills - how people listen and learn, perceptions of what is said and how it is heard, and working effectively with passive-aggressive or highly positional people. Sharpening these skills is an obvious value to attorneys and non-attorneys alike.

Monthly meetings of the CBA ADR committee is another opportunity for those interested in the area of practice to meet, exchange ideas, and hear presentations by a variety of professionals.

The CBA has reserved an ADR space in each edition of The Lawyer's Quarterly. Several articles have already been published which brings me to my sales pitch -- we always need good copy, opinions, attitudes, so this is an appeal to attorneys, mediators, counselors, therapists. Anyone with an interest in mediation, arbitration, any form of alternative dispute resolution, is invited to submit about 800 words. My inbox is open.

I would also like to comment on marketing the concept of using mediation to resolve a wide variety of situations that are not likely to end up in litigation. For those cases -- a

small claim, a case more about personalities than the facts of the matter -- ADR offers a fine and appropriate alternative.

Whatever our professional backgrounds, we all know about and believe in the good of mediation, the (if I may) magic of what can happen at the table. And we all share something else: If ADR is to grow, the American public must begin to understand it more than they do now. How can we contribute to that growth? Same way Kellogg's sells corn flake- marketing.

I challenge all of us to think of ourselves as ambassadors of and spokespersons for the profession of mediation. Whether you are a mediation only practitioner, an attorney, or a counselor, therapist or social worker, if mediation is part of your professional life, I ask that you promote ADR.

When the subject of conflict resolution outside a courtroom comes up, discuss ADR, talk about the advantages. Speak at a high school, at a civic organization, to a college government class. Be prepared to talk about mediation -- what it is, how it can help, the differences in litigation, arbitration, mediation. (And consider writing for the CBLQ!)



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