



Events and opportunities from the ABA Section of Dispute Resolution

As summer wanes and fall approaches, the Section of Dispute Resolution continues to plan and deliver opportunities to connect. And because we have all been interacting with and relying more and more on technology, it is appropriate that we have just seen another widely anticipated and successful ABA Section of Dispute Resolution Tech Expo in July that showcased advancing trends and ever-evolving tools for the world of dispute resolution.

After the ABA Annual Meeting from August 4 to August 9, look forward to some excellent events in October.

The fourth annual **Ombuds Day** will take place on Thursday, October 14. In 2018, the American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution declared the second Thursday of October Ombuds Day. This year's theme is **"Ombuds: Exploring Options to Resolve Conflict Together."** This annual day highlights the important work of Ombuds around the world. Ombuds, also known as ombudspersons, ombudsman, or ombudsmen, are conflict management professionals in a variety of settings, including universities, private industry, government, and health care. This year's virtual program will feature a fireside chat with corporate, government, and healthcare organizations and their Ombuds. You can learn more at ABA DR Ombuds Day and follow along on Twitter @OmbudsDay.

Mediation Week is October 18 through October 22, and this year's theme is **"Mapping the Future So Conflict Doesn't Disrupt It."** Mediation Week is an opportunity to shine the spotlight on the diverse work of mediators and organizations that use it to serve the needs of communities everywhere. Ever wonder how you can implement mediation in new ways? You can learn more at the Mediation Week webpage.

"Mediation Beyond Boundaries: Competencies and Ethics in a Digital World" is the theme of this year's **Mediation & Advocacy Skills Institute**, November 4 through November 6. Programming will benefit mediators and advocates alike and will include an exploration of new mediation frontiers in a post-pandemic world of technologies and innovations. Two plenary sessions will be presented daily. There will be opportunities for small group break-out discussions allowing participants to interact with each other and with the faculty, who will be some of the leading authorities in the field.

Summer reading lists are a part of many plans, so why not also include the Section's podcast **"Resolutions": A Podcast About Dispute Resolution and Prevention**? Hosted by a rotating cast of Section of Dispute Resolution members, the podcast consists of a series of conversations with professionals in the dispute resolution community about various topics of interest that represent the broad scope of our field. To learn more and check out past episodes, please visit the Resolutions webpage.

To learn more about these and other events, please visit the ABA Section of Dispute Resolution website. Enjoy the remaining days of summer and be ready for the kinder temperatures and vibrant colors of fall. And as always, we look forward to continuing to be a part of your dispute resolution journey and encourage you to engage with other Section members by following and contributing to Section of Dispute Resolution conversations on LinkedIn, Twitter, and Facebook.

Richard B. Lord, a mediator with Upchurch, Watson, White & Max, has served in various Section leadership roles and is a member of the Marketing Committee. He can be reached at rlord@Uww-adr.com.