



# ACR ODR

## Online Dispute Resolution Section

ODR Section  
Newsletter

Volume 1, No. 1

October 12, 2007

### Where We Need To Go

This is the first ODR Section Newsletter, but it is my fervent hope that it is not the last, and that it is but the first of many steps that we can take together over the next year to revitalize the ODR Section.

Over the past month, Section members were asked to respond to a number of online survey questions. ACR records indicate that the Section has approximately 150 members—31 responded to the survey, which by most survey standards is a very good response. The full survey report is available separately, but here are some of the highlights.

- 74% indicated a desire for a Section newsletter.
- 55% indicated a desire for a Section contact list.
- 58% wanted training opportunities for Section members.
- 32% were interested in a mid-year meeting or event of some kind.
- On the question of Section leadership, the group was almost evenly divided between "Carry the Current Chair over for another year" (41%), and "Discuss election options at the Conference" (38%).

This newsletter is a response to the first item, and ongoing Section leadership is on the agenda for the ODR Section meeting (2:00 p.m., Oct. 25, in a location announced in the Conference program). It is my hope that we can work together to address all the issues raised in the survey, and all the needs of Section members. It is not too much to think that, over the next year, we can begin to make the ODR Section an active part of our professional lives.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Phoenix conference, and to interacting with you all in person and online in the future.

Daniel Rainey  
2007 ODR Section Chair

### ODR Highlights

#### Cyberweek 2007

The National Center for Technology and Dispute Resolution (at UMass-Amherst) and InternetBar.org will co-host Cyberweek from October 15-19. Cyberweek is a free, online event bringing together academics, practitioners, and interested parties around the world, all of whom have an interest in the use of technology in dispute resolution. For information on how to register and join the discussions and online events, go to the Center web site: <http://www.odr.info>

#### International ODR Events

For the past few years there have been a series of international events, bringing together the ODR community from around the world. Past conferences have taken place in Geneva, Melbourne, Cairo, and Liverpool, and each has featured face-to-face meetings coupled with online events for those unable to attend physically. The next two events are scheduled, and details, as they become available, can be obtained at the Center web site noted above.

The next event is the 6th International ODR Forum in Hong Kong, scheduled for December 3-5, 2007. Closely following the Hong Kong meeting will be the 7th International ODR Forum, scheduled to meet in Vancouver, June 18-19, 2008.

#### NSF Grant

The National Science Foundation has awarded a second grant to the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, working in cooperation with the National Mediation Board, to study the impact of technology on dispute resolution. The grant research will look at the management of complex "process families," and will directly investigate the impact of anonymity in online dispute resolution.