



ACR
ODR

Online Dispute Resolution Section

ODR Section
Newsletter

Volume 1, No. 2

February 5, 2008

Section News

Following up on the items highlighted in the ODR Section Survey conducted just before the 2007 annual conference, there are some positive things to report.

Co-Chair Election: The election closed on January 31, 2008, with participation from approximately 20% of the section membership. As a result of the election, we have a new Co-Chair, Katrina Everhart, who begins immediately a term that will end after the 2009 ACR conference. Daniel Rainey's term will end after the 2008 ACR conference. We will hold a Co-Chair election in advance of the 2008 conference to choose his replacement.

Section Newsletter: We have one, and I hope to find volunteers to at least suggest content so that we can get the publication on a regular cycle. If you would like to volunteer services as an editor, or if you have information to include in the newsletter, contact either of the Section Co-Chairs.

Section Contact List: The Section contact list should be posted on the web site (www.medicare.com/acrodrr/) very soon.

Training Opportunities: Section membership will soon be contacted about a series of online discussions and demonstrations focusing on software to help facilitate online brainstorming and discussion, rating and ranking of options, editing and document sharing, and web video and audio.

ODR Highlights

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, Liverpool, and Hong Kong. Each conference or forum has featured face-to-face meetings coupled with online events for those unable to attend physically. The next event is scheduled, and details, as they become available, can be obtained at the National Center for Technology and Dispute Resolution web site (www.odr.info).

The next event is the 7th International ODR Forum, scheduled to meet in Vancouver, June 18-19, 2008.

Access to Justice

A new online court project is underway in Australia, featuring online arguments and real time decisions by judges. See http://uk.news.yahoo.com/afp/20080202/ttc-australia-internet-justice-0de2eff_1.html for more information.

Online Ombudsman

The eBay Foundation has agreed to help finance a pilot project with the Army Medical Command to test the concept of an online ombudsman portal. The online ombudsman portal, if approved by the Army, would be an adjunct to the Ombudsman Office currently in place, and would offer the possibility of anonymous input to the Ombudsman from patients, staff, doctors, and families of wounded soldiers.