



FSRI UPDATE- FALL 2018

Hungary- In October, Mediation Ambassador Jennifer Brandt represented FSRI at a 2 day international business conference at the Eotvos Lorand University in Budapest, where she participated in a panel on “Managing Risk for Cross Border Business: Mediation.” Jennifer also met with corporate and chamber of commerce officials to promote the utilization of mediation and court annexed mediation programs to resolve disputes in cross border commerce, and thereby strengthen sustainable international business relationships. As a result of this participation, further such conferences, directed to small and large companies throughout the European marketplace, are being considered for 2019.

Bulgaria, Croatia and the Republic of Georgia- Following up on our delegations to Southeastern Europe last Fall, FSRI has continued to coordinate with the mediation programs and stakeholders in these countries, specifically judges, bar association leaders, members of the law ministry and mediators, with the continued goal of providing advice, materials and strategy for the strengthening of their existing and developing mediation centers. It is anticipated that these efforts will provide the foundation for our next planned delegations to these host countries in the first half of 2019. Here in the U.S., in July, FSRI and Hastings Law School co-sponsored presentations to visiting judges from

the Georgia Republic. Vic spoke on “Key Components to Establish Sustainable Mediation Programs”, and thereafter met with the judges to discuss mediation protocols and systems.

Brazil- While delegations were planned for this Fall to Rio and Sao Paulo, it was decided to reschedule these trips until after the presidential elections were concluded to allow a more optimal time for our work. During the interim, there has been regular contact with various mediation leaders and judges to provide advice as requested and plan the anticipated visits for 2019.

India- Court-annexed Indian mediation centers are handling large numbers of cases throughout the country, and private mediation centers are growing into prominence as well. The challenge has been to maintain quality programs as they develop and expand. Over the past year, in close coordination with FSRI Advisory Board Member Laila Ollapally in Bangalore, FSRI has consulted and advised many such initiatives both in court-annexed and private centers, and has assisted in the drafting of mediation legislation to strengthen the legal framework for ADR.

Outreach and Presentations-

- FSRI was invited to participate in the 2018 Weinstein JAMS International Fellows Retreat in September, where another excellent class of global leaders in ADR were trained about dispute resolution processes and practices and how to design projects to advance the resolution of disputes in their home countries. This collaborative participation with the Fellows has greatly enhanced the global reach of ADR and identified host country resources and stakeholders for both of our organizations, for which we are very grateful. The JAMS

International Fellowship has truly become one of the leading programs of its kind around the globe.

- On October 12 Vic made a FSRI presentation at Harvard Law School in Cambridge on “The Enhancement of Human Rights Thru ADR/Mediation”. Following this presentation and through related conversations, several country representatives explored possible FSRI visits and collaboration on mediation initiatives in their countries.
- Similarly, in October, at The University of Connecticut School of Law, its College of Liberal Arts (Political Science) and its Human Rights Institute, Vic made several FSRI presentations on human rights and ADR/Mediation. This has led to an invitation to present at the annual HRI Human Rights Conference, co-sponsored with Open Society, at UCONN in April, 2019.
- In February, Vic met with students at Cal State University and a representative of the Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution (Africa Peace Fellows Program) and made a presentation on “Restorative Justice & Conflict Resolution.”