



The Foundation for Sustainable Rule of Law Initiatives

Promoting fair and sustainable dispute resolution worldwide

SPRING 2015 FSRI UPDATE

Recent Activities:

ABA Global Summit – For the first time in its history, the American Bar Association Section on Dispute Resolution held its annual, global conference in New Delhi, India. FSRI co-sponsored and participated in the planning of this event and moderated a panel on “Strategies for Creating Sustainable Mediation Programs.” Representatives on the panel came from Hong Kong, Singapore, Nepal, China, India and the United States. This unique event drew many mediation experts and mediation administrators, primarily from Southeast Asia. Dignitaries from the ABA, Supreme Court Justices of India and other High Court officials participated, and we were honored to be an integral part of this unique program. In addition to Vic, Board members Rebecca Westerfield, Laila Ollapally and Howard Herman participated on various panels addressing the development of sustainable mediation programs, court-annexed mediation initiatives and related topics at the cutting edge of ADR systems development. Claudia Bernard of the Ninth Circuit mediation program, Sheila Purcell of the Hastings Law School Negotiations Certificate Program, and FSRI Ambassador Jennifer Brandt also volunteered their time to participate in this inaugural event.

Bangalore Mediation Center/CAMP – Following the New Delhi Global Summit, an FSRI delegation traveled to Bangalore, India to support the launch of CAMP (The Centre for Advanced Mediation Practice), a private mediation center founded by Advisory Board Member Laila Ollapally. The delegation was composed of Rebecca Westerfield, Howard Herman, Claudia Bernard, Bruce and Susan Edwards, and Jennifer Brandt. Together with JAMS, FSRI co-sponsored a series of unique training presentations for experienced and aspiring mediators, ADR program administrators and lawyers on leadership skills, administration of court-annexed programs, advanced mediation techniques, and mediation advocacy. This collaborative effort was capped by a “first ever” Mediation Conclave, attended by over 100 leading law firms, corporations and mediators from the Indian community. It was a highly successful inaugural event, as reflected in Laila’s email of appreciation attached hereto, and did much to promote mediation, both private and court-annexed, within India. All of these services were provided on a volunteer basis through the sponsorship of FSRI and JAMS.

Upcoming Activities:

- *The Republic of Georgia* – Georgia invited FSRI, through its High Judicial Council, to visit for an assessment and advice regarding the strengthening of its mediation/ADR programs. This visit is tentatively planned for May, 2015, during which time a delegation from FSRI will be evaluating the existing systems, speaking with representatives of the High Courts, Bar Associations, business organizations and other stakeholders. Following the assessment, a report will be prepared providing recommendations for areas to build and strengthen the existing programs.

- *Bulgaria and Croatia* – FSRI has been invited to return to the Balkans following its work there in July, 2014. It is anticipated that the delegation will work with the stakeholders from the judiciary, bar associations and commercial entities to further promote and expand programs delivering mediation services within these respective countries. A review will also take place of the recommendations arising from the July assessment to ascertain the best areas for future efforts. Support will be provided to guide the stakeholders to implement further programs in these areas. Every effort will be made to continue to strengthen the efforts of these countries, faced with many economic and social challenges, to implement more effective rule of law, case management and dispute resolution systems.
- *ABA's Spring ADR Conference (Seattle)* – FSRI has been invited to speak at the annual ABA Dispute Resolution Conference in Seattle, Washington to address the key themes and issues which emerged from the Global Summit in New Delhi, and future initiatives in the international community. The presentation will be made at the International Workshop of the conference on Saturday, April 18, with panelists from the ABA Dispute Resolution Section, including its Chairperson, Geetha Ravindra, as well as Beth Trent, Charles Crumpton and Vic (on behalf of FSRI).
- *ABA / Rule of Law Initiatives* – FSRI has been invited to explore ways to collaborate with the comprehensive rule of law initiatives being implemented by the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ROLI) Program. A meeting has been scheduled for March 26th in Washington, D.C. to discuss the approaches for a possible collaboration among the ABA, FSRI and other potential partners to implement support services, on

request from various countries, to help them establish and sustain viable mediation programs. While still in the planning stages, this holds much promise to further enhance and strengthen emerging mediation programs around the globe, as well as support those which have more recently been established.

FSRI Board Meetings:

An FSRI Board meeting was held on March 9, 2015, at which time the Foundation began its strategic planning and governance self-evaluation. These discussions will continue at the next scheduled board meeting on June 11, 2015, and thereafter. The focus of these discussions is the manner within which FSRI can scale up its operations - structurally, financially and organizationally - to meet the growing demand for its work.