



## INSIDE MWB:

### MWB Announces at ABA/DR Conference

On April 26, 2007 Mediators without Borders (MWB) formally debuted to one of the largest gatherings of Alternative Dispute Resolution professionals at the ABA Dispute Resolution Section Conference held in Washington, D.C. MWB Secretary-Treasurer Robert A. Creo, Esq., spoke of the organization's mission to partner with global communities to build their capacities to prevent, resolve, or heal the effects of conflict. MWB partnerships involve the design and implementation of sustainable peace building initiatives that are responsive to both the needs and cultures of the communities involved, as well as to the historical underpinnings of each conflict. Mr. Creo introduced Erica Ariel Fox, one of the original incorporators of MWB, as well as Directors of the MWB Board present at the Conference: Nan Waller Burnet, Lynn Cole, Richard DeWitt, Sandi DiMola, Helene de Kovachich, CJ Larkin, and Rachel Wohl.

MWB is headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and maintains a satellite office in New York. Additional information can be obtained on the website at:

## MWB WORLD MEDIATION NEWS

### **North America**

#### **United States:** *University Turned to Mediation to Heal Racial Divisions*

The University of Virginia relied on a month of intensive weekly mediation sessions following a racially-motivated assault on a female candidate for Student Council president that provoked widespread unrest at the school. The assault, which occurred four years ago, remains under investigation by the FBI. The mediation sessions were designed to address and heal racial divisions and were attended by both students and administrators. A psychiatrist and a professor of psychiatry led the process as co-mediators and worked to improve the Student Council electoral system and address other underlying issues of concern to the students, such as housing preferences which impact desegregation and inclusion on campus. While significant tensions were brought to the table, students who participated found the mediations memorable and helpful in resolving divisions.

[Cavalier Daily University Wire](#) (February 27, 2007) (Subscription Required)

### **Eastern Europe**

**Ukraine:** *Judges Beginning to Embrace Restorative Justice and Refer Young Offenders to Court-Connected Mediation Programs*, [Menonite Central Committee](#) (April 18, 2007)

**Ukraine:** *Prime Minister Seeks International Assistance to Mediate Governmental Crisis; President Yushchenko Says Crisis Should Be Resolved Internally*, [RIA Novosti](#) (April 6, 2007); [People's Daily Online](#) (April 5, 2007)

#### **Romania:** *First Mediation Congress Held*

Romania's first Mediation Congress is taking place March 16-17 in Craiova to enhance practical mediation skills and further the Union of Mediation Centers in Romania. Mediation centers are now established throughout the country, having begun in 2005 with assistance from the U.S. Embassy, the Ministry of Justice and bar associations in Romania; training was provided by experienced U.S.

## Refugee Resettlement Project

MWB-Pittsburgh Committee has commenced its first "without borders" undertaking: a refugee resettlement project whose goals are to open communications and build better alliances between the resettled and established communities within Pittsburgh. The project's initiatives are in the areas of health care, education, and community mediation. In the health care segment, MWB mediators initiated facilitation between refugee advocates and representatives of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and its member hospitals to discuss improvements in the delivery of culturally sensitive health care services. The education component involves discussions between refugee advocates and teachers and administrators in the City of Pittsburgh School District to ensure access to ESL services and to promote staff cultural competency training. Community mediation involves implementation of a "train the trainer" model to promote communication between leaders in the refugee community and service providers among established community groups. Assistance on this project is being provided by interns from Chatham University and Carnegie-Mellon University's John Heinz School of Public Policy.

## MWB Student Chapter at University of Pittsburgh School of Law

The first MWB Student

mediators. Expected participants at the Mediation Congress include mediators, attorneys, judges, and guests from around Romania and abroad.

[Press Release](#) (March 8, 2007)

## Central Asia

***Kyrgyzstan: President and Opposition Party Should Resolve Political Crisis Without External Mediators,***

[NBCentral Asia](#) (April 2, 2007)

## South Asia

***Bangladesh: More Trained Mediators Needed***

Discussing both the successes and challenges of mediation in Bangladesh at a roundtable organized by the Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, Justice Mustafa Kamal stated the need for more trained mediators to allow judges to disengage from mediation. Justice Kamal noted that results have varied, with family mediation program success rates varying from 35% to 83%. Mediation has resulted in a ten-fold increase in debts recovered and has been extended to appellate cases. Justice Kamal suggests creating a training institute that would certify mediators.

[The Daily Star](#) (April 29, 2007)

***Pakistan: Karachi Mediation Center Serves as Model***

The Karachi Centre for Dispute Resolution (KCDR) is successfully resolving commercial disputes, which are increasing along with trade and business activity, according to Pakistan's former Chief Justice who is on the KCDR board. Established two years ago with help from the World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC), KCDR is now a non-governmental organization guided by both active and retired judges and business leaders. By reducing litigation expenses and delays and freeing assets tied up in court, the Chief Justice notes that KCDR encourages market-based activity as intended by the IFC and serves as an example for the rest of Pakistan.

[Business Recorder](#) (April 14, 2007) (Subscription Required)

## Middle East

***Israel: Prime Minister Spurns U.S. Shuttle Diplomacy in Favor of U.N.-Backed Regional Peace Summit,***

[World Peace Herald](#) (March 27, 2007)

## Africa

***Africa: Mediation Successes in Africa Lead to Search for Insights***

Mediation has led to resolution of many intractable armed conflicts in Africa during the past two decades, despite the regular news of ongoing violence. Most civil wars in Africa have ended with negotiated settlements achieved through mediation. Efforts to learn what has worked and improve future mediations are under way at a conference of over thirty senior individuals experienced in mediation in Africa. The "Mediators' Retreat" is being held the week of April 23

Chapter was launched at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Law (Pitt). Robert A. Creo, Adjunct Professor of Law at Pitt, will serve as the group's faculty advisor. The Chapter boasts fifty student members, many of whom have had experience living and working abroad.

[Inside MWB Items](#)  
Contributed by Alexandra DiMola, Esq.

## BOOK NOTES:

**Live from Jordan: Letters Home from My Journey Through the Middle East, by Benjamin Orbach (AMACOM/American Management Association 2007)**

"On the eve of the U.S. invasion of Iraq, Pittsburgh native and graduate student Ben Orbach traveled to the Middle East to experience the region first-hand.... Live from Jordan is the story, told via his letters home, of Orbach's one year trip through Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Palestine, and Turkey." [Full Book Description on Amazon.com.](#)

## WORTH NOTING:

**New U.N. Website Offers Tools for Resolving World Conflicts**

The United Nations seeks to encourage peacemaking with a new website offering advice and tools to diplomats, mediators and others attempting to resolve global conflicts. The content-rich site includes a "peacemaker's toolbox," a database of peace agreements, and many other resources. The site is part of an initiative by the U.N.'s

in Zanzibar by the Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation and Geneva-based Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, with support from the government of Norway. Seeking to strengthen Africa's mediation capacity, the conference plans to examine and provide insight into current mediations, ongoing conflicts and post-conflict situations in Africa. [AllAfrica.com](#) (April 26, 2007) (Subscription Required); [Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation](#); [Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue](#))

**North Africa: Egyptian President Mubarak to Mediate Between Morocco and Algeria in Decades-Old Regional Disputes,** [Dar Al-Hayat](#) (April 1, 2007)

**Liberia: Mediation Conference Co-sponsored by Liberia Networking Organization and American Bar Association,** [AllAfrica.com](#) (April 25, 2007) (Subscription Required)

**Liberia: Religious Leaders Use Mediation to Address Crisis in Legislature,** [AllAfrica Global Media](#) (February 7, 2007) (Subscription Required)

**Nigeria: Institute Trains Mediators**

The Mediation Training Institute of Nigeria completed a mediation training program in Johannesburg, South Africa, and plans to conduct additional programs this year in Nigeria, Ghana and South Africa. Other MTI trainings are conducted around the world. MTI noted the serious need for mediation and press attention in Nigeria due to ongoing crises.

[AllAfrica.com](#) (February 14, 2007) (Subscription Required)

**Sudan: Eritrean Mediation Committee to Facilitate Peace Process in Darfur,** [Sudanese Media Center](#) (April 8, 2007)

**Uganda: South Africa, Kenya and Mozambique Join Mediation Team in Seeking Peace in Northern Uganda,** [AllAfrica.com](#) (April 3, 2007)

**Somalia: Mogadishu Elders Refuse to Participate in Mediation Led by U.S. Diplomat,** [Garowe Online News](#) (April 7, 2007)

**Zimbabe: South African President Mbeki's Efforts Show Some Movement in Mediation,** [New Zimbabwe](#) (April 18, 2007)

**Zimbabwe: Southern African Development Community Declares Zimbabwean Political Crisis Urgent and Appoints South African President Mbeki to Mediate Between Ruling Party and Opposition,** [BBC International Reports \(Africa\)](#)(April 13, 2007) (Subscription Required); [Relief Web](#) (April 5, 2007)

## Oceania

**Papua New Guinea: Minister of Justice Says Village Court and Land Mediation Systems Need Elevated Status; Summit of Administrators Planned,** [PNG Post Courier](#) (April 25, 2007) (Subscription Required)

Department of Political Affairs (DPA) to synthesize existing knowledge about how peace agreements are reached, so that those involved in peacemaking worldwide may learn from past efforts and avoid recurring mistakes. The DPA is also creating a mediation support unit to provide advice and assistance to envoys in the field and to deploy mediation experts quickly for peace negotiations.

[US News Centre](#) (October 4, 2006) [UN Peacemaker Website](#) (Registration Required)

### **New Conflict Resolution Education Website**

A content rich website offering best practices in conflict resolution education is now available at [www.creducation.org](http://www.creducation.org) for educators, policymakers, practitioners and students. The website includes worldwide developments in dispute resolution education and training, curriculum modules, administrative policy examples, and access to current and pending legislation.

[Conflict Resolution Education Website](#)

**Northern Australia:** *Government Teams with Aboriginal Elders in Mediation Project to Address Clan Wars*, [Northern Territory News](#) (March 22, 2007) (Subscription Required)

**Western Australia:** *Islamic Community Appoints Local Leaders to Mediate Disputes According to Sharia Law*, [West Australian](#) (March 20, 2007) (Subscription Required)

## **Organizations**

**United Nations:** *Committee on Administration of Justice Proposes Reinforced Role for Mediation in Organization's Informal Justice System*, [M2 Presswire](#) (March 26, 2007) (Subscription Required)

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