ROGER WOLF STEPS DOWN

After 42 years in the legal profession and 28 years at the University of Maryland School of Law, Professor Roger C. Wolf, founder and director of C-DRUM, retires this June. A pillar of the alternative dispute resolution (ADR) community in Maryland and the visionary behind the development of the School of Law’s highly respected ADR program, Professor Wolf’s presence will be deeply missed. Roger applied to the law school after receiving a classified advertisement describing an evening clinical job. In 1983, he became director of the Attorney General’s clinic and, over the next nine years, taught courses including an alternative dispute resolution survey course, civil procedure, lawyering process, and a criminal defense clinic. In 1992, he started the Mediation Clinic. Never complacent with the status quo, Roger continued to expand the ADR opportunities at the law school, hosting high level conferences on the issue of medical malpractice, training Maryland leaders in the effective use of collaborative processes, and founding the Center for Dispute Resolution.

Those familiar with the third floor of the law school will know that even after so many years, the light in Room 336 is almost always lit, evenings, summer, and spring breaks. Despite his many accolades, Professor Wolf is never one to boast about himself. So, over the next few pages, those who know Roger take the opportunity to attest to his wealth of character, intelligence, and humor.

“For over two decades, Roger has served as a pioneer and champion for the appropriate use of alternative dispute resolution. His leadership, innovation, and devotion to ADR have lead to the increased use of ADR within the law school and throughout the state and the region. He has motivated countless law students, attorneys, judges, and peers to explore collaborative and peaceful resolution to conflicts. I would personally like to thank Roger for his contributions to the law school over the years and wish him a wonderful retirement.”

Karen Rothenberg
Dean, Univ. of MD School of Law

“Roger Wolf, lawyer, scholar, researcher, mediator, law school clinic supervisor, has made enormous contributions to the advancement of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in Maryland and especially in its courts, schools and governmental agencies. On behalf of the Maryland Judiciary, I salute Roger for the outstanding service he has generously provided to the courts, to MACRO and to the public and, on their, and my own, behalf offer our collective thanks.”

The Honorable Robert M. Bell
Chief Judge, Maryland Court of Appeals

On behalf of the staff of C-DRUM, colleagues of UM Law, peers in the ADR community, and most importantly the students and mediation participants who have benefited from Professor Wolf’s expertise, we wish him enjoyment as he embarks on his next adventure.
A TRIBUTE...

"Roger has been an enthusiastic supporter of the judiciary’s business and technology program. He served as a consultant to the circuit courts in establishing the rules governing mediation in business and technology cases and he organized and conducted annual training for ADR professionals who wished to qualify for certification in the program. It has been my special pleasure to work with Roger on this project. He brought much valued experience to it and his usual share of common sense and practical wisdom. I hope he will continue to be a resource for the program even in retirement. I wish Roger the very best!"

The Hon. Albert Matricciani
MD Court of Appeals

"Roger is like a multifaceted jewel, excelling as an educator, a trainer, an ADR practitioner, an advocate, a conflict resolution center creator and director, and more. He is a wonderful human being and a pillar of the conflict resolution community in Maryland and beyond. When facing complex challenges, I can always rely on Roger for thoughtful analysis and wise counsel. His calm cool demeanor, perfect for a mediator, cannot obscure his passion for working to make a better world. It is always a delight to collaborate with him and the world needs many more like him."

Rachel Wohl
Executive Director, MACRO

"Professor Wolf embodies the best of the legal profession—intelligent, creative, compassionate, dedicated. He truly cares about the law, justice, the community and his students. Not surprisingly, he brings out the best in students, and I am just one of many who consider being taught and mentored by him to be a highlight of law school."

Brian T. Tucker, Esq.
Gallagher, Evelius & Jones LLP

"Youthful and idealistic face and demeanor’ is how Roger is remembered by a successful lawyer who was a student at the law school clinical office of Catholic University. A decade later Roger built one of the first clinical courses for evening students at Maryland. Then he built the Center for Dispute Resolution, the leading institution for dispute resolution in Maryland. On the way he built a family, a sheep farm, a vineyard, a winery, a Christmas tree farm, and other things I never knew or cannot remember. The lawyers, judges, the Law School, the University, the State are in Roger’s debt. Do well young man!"

Clinton Bamberger
Professor Emeritus
Univ. of MD School of Law

"What makes Roger so remarkable is that he is always there—a positive influence in every major venue, for every major decision that mattered—through the Courts, the General Assembly, MCDR, and advancing scholarship and training. He has been an indispensible force, shaping the future of ADR in Maryland for the past 20 years. We love you Roger."

Doug Brookman
Public Solutions

"Twenty-some-odd years ago, I was appointed to MSBA’s Special Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution, which Roger co-chaired. During this time, we helped develop Maryland’s first community mediation program and spent countless evenings and weekends co-mediating community disputes. It is remarkable to me how much I’ve grown, personally and professionally, as a result of my experiences with Roger. He is smart, right-thinking, dedicated and determined. His commitment to this field, his colleagues and his friends is unsurpassed and I will surely miss him."

Melanie Vaughn (ret.)
MD Administrative Law Judge

"Roger is someone who truly cares about empowering others to find their own personal strengths for creating a more peaceful world. In this respect, he is truly a candle that kindles a forest of light. He inspires me, among others, to use my own skills and personal strengths to empower others to create a world of peace."

Barbara Grochal
Deputy Director, School Conflict Resolution Education Programs
C-DRUM

"Roger has been a pillar of the Maryland Council for Dispute Resolution, and of the Maryland mediator community. He is a wonderful combination of lawyer, mediator, teacher and friend. He can facilitate a group, mediate a case, respond to questions, or give a critique, all with an unpretentious air and a lack of defensiveness that true competence brings."

Ramona Buck
Government and Public Policy Director, MACRO

“It’s been an honor and a privilege to work with Roger. He has advanced the art and science of ADR in the health law area and introduced scores of health and legal practitioners as well as medical, nursing and law students to the value that ADR can bring to resolving all kinds of health care disputes. He is a true pioneer in much of what he has done in this area."

Diane Hoffmann
Associate Dean for Academic Programs, Director of the Law and Health Care Program, and Professor of Law, Univ. of MD School of Law
"Roger Wolf is an amazing person, and truly an icon in both the legal profession and the conflict resolution field. The University of Maryland School of Law, and Maryland’s legal and alternative dispute resolution (ADR) communities, will sorely miss his acute knowledge, wisdom, compassion, and sense of ethics. I am honored to know Roger, to have participated in his MICPEL Mediation course, both as a student and as an evaluator, and to have worked with Roger on the Maryland Mediation Excellence Council and other ADR endeavors."

Rich Melnick
President, MD State Bar
Association ADR Section

"Roger and I attended the same high school, a magnet school known for requiring three years of Latin for every student. We didn’t, however, attend in the same decade. It may be that generational distance which explains his ability to invoke the school motto Sursum ad summum or sing the alma mater (as if I know even the first line!), but for all his charm and irreverence, Roger is a caring and competent fellow. I’m glad to have worked alongside him, and I’m sure the law school will miss his dedication and quick wit. Now if only he’d retire his regular ridicule of my inability to remember that song..."

Tim Hedeen
Associate Professor of Conflict Mgmt.
Kennesaw State University

FROM THE DIRECTOR...

Assessing program impact is often difficult. That’s one reason it was so gratifying to hear a member of the 2008 Maryland Public Policy Conflict Resolution Fellows say that as a result of her participation in the Fellows Program, she appreciated for the first time the need for her agency to hire an outside mediator to facilitate a discussion of critical legislation that had failed to pass the previous year due to stakeholder opposition. Prior to the Fellows Program, she had always believed that the agency could be perceived as a fair broker. It took a number of meetings with the mediator and stakeholders, but the result was that agreement was reached on an acceptable bill, and the legislation became law this year.

From the outset, the goal of C-DRUM has been to have a positive impact on the way decisions are made at all levels. Medispute—our first conference eight years ago in collaboration with the School’s Law and Health Care Program—focused on bringing together the opposing groups involved in the brewing medical malpractice battle. The conference provided neutral ground, experts on the issues, and a forum where attendees could explore meaningful solutions. Our statewide school grant program (in collaboration with MACRO and the Maryland State Department of Education), provides training and resources to help schools develop peer mediation programs and curricular reforms that teach collaborative problem solving skills and provide options for dealing with school conflict. B-SMART, C-DRUM’S pilot truancy mediation program, is exploring whether mediation after as few as five absences can provide a positive alternative to more punitive solutions to truancy. And C-DRUM’S work with court rules and the statewide mediator excellence program seeks to ensure that rules and standards provide fair access and quality practice.

As described elsewhere in this Newsletter, we are engaged in several research projects for the Maryland Administrative Office of the Courts. With our partners, we are assessing the current status of these projects and identifying best practices nationwide so the Court can make knowledgeable decisions about the future direction for these areas.

The demand by students at the School of Law for more conflict resolution courses and increased opportunities for internships and externships in the field of conflict resolution continues to grow. 2009 will be the third year that students will graduate with a concentration in conflict resolution, a focus that honors the role of the lawyer as problem solver, and the recognition that advocates need to be equipped with knowledge of the options available to their clients to prevent and/or resolve disputes at all stages of representation.

As C-DRUM looks to the future, assessing the impact its programs have upon individual and institutional decision making is a measure for evaluating its success. On a personal note, I want to thank Dean Karen Rothenberg, Associate Dean Diane Hoffmann, and my colleagues at the School of Law for all their support over the years. I want to especially thank my colleagues at C-DRUM for all the energy, creativity, and dedication they have committed to the Center, to the ADR program, and to me. They have made it possible for us to take on more projects than I could have imagined, and accomplish all of them with grace and quality. Toby, Barbara, Stacy, and Teresa you are terrific; and Connie, thanks for helping to get it all started.
In the fall of 2008, the School of Law joined the Administrative Office of the Courts’ (AOC) Maryland Judiciary Research Consortium. By supporting interdisciplinary research and evaluation, the Consortium aims to critically examine the role of the judiciary and the issue of access to justice in a variety of key areas. The School of Law is collaborating with partners on projects in the areas of juvenile justice, problem solving courts, and alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in family administration. Specifically, C-DRUM and its partners are currently working to assess the use of various methods of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in Maryland’s family courts, and comprehensively review Maryland’s juvenile justice system.

ADR in Maryland’s Family Administration

The goal of the Maryland Family Administration ADR Practice Review Project is to provide judicial leaders with a descriptive overview of ADR practices in Maryland, as well as promising national ADR policies and practices in family law. The project outcomes will assist the AOC in developing a plan for promoting ADR promising practices in Maryland family law. C-DRUM is partnering with the University of Maryland School of Social Work (SSW) to assess the specific ADR processes of mediation, settlement conference facilitation, collaborative law, community conferencing, team decision making, and parent coordination meetings. These processes are applied to proceedings involving divorce, child custody and visitation, child support, spousal maintenance, termination of parental rights, guardianship, and children in need of assistance. C-DRUM Deputy Director, Toby Treem Guerin commented, “ADR has become a critical component to the resolution of family disputes. We look forward to putting Maryland practices in a national context and hearing directly from stakeholders.”

C-DRUM and SSW have already begun the first part of the project, conducting a literature review of six types of ADR processes in family law cases. This information will help identify promising practices and serve as a tool from which to compare Maryland practices. After C-DRUM and SSW complete the literature review, the partners will identify and gather information concerning the existing ADR programs in Maryland’s family courts. Finally, C-DRUM and SSW will conduct an empirical study of ADR in Maryland’s family courts. Through a web-based survey, one-on-one interviews and select focus groups, the team will obtain information from ADR process stakeholders and test the information gathered during the literature review by applying it to the identified family court ADR programs in Maryland. C-DRUM and SSW will make a preliminary presentation to AOC concerning their progress on the project in July 2009, and present to the AOC their final report consisting of the qualitative and empirical research in December 2009.

Assessment of Maryland’s Juvenile Justice System

The AOC is funding a comprehensive review of the most appropriate and effective role of the courts and judges in juvenile justice in Maryland. A multidisciplinary group, including C-DRUM, the Ruth Young Center at the School of Social Work, the Institute for Governmental Service and Research at the University of Maryland, and Morgan State University School of Community Health and Policy, designed a three phase research plan. The first phase examined the origins and context of the juvenile justice system, reviewed the written policies, procedures, statutes, regulations, and case law governing the juvenile justice system in Maryland and other jurisdictions, and surveyed the relevant scholarly literature regarding juvenile justice on the national and international levels.

For the first phase, C-DRUM conducted a survey of the juvenile justice systems in all fifty states and the District of Columbia to identify common and best practices, and composed an annotated bibliography of secondary sources that discuss various issues within the juvenile justice system. C-DRUM combined its research with that of its partners, and submitted the combined report to the AOC in March. In the second phase of the juvenile justice project, the other partners will review court process documents, observe court functions, and conduct surveys and interviews with court personnel and individuals who interact with the juvenile justice system. During this phase, the partners will collect both quantitative and qualitative data revealing the system’s timeliness, equity, access, and client satisfaction.

Finally, in the third phase of the juvenile justice project, the partners will analyze the information gathered in the first two phases to determine Maryland’s juvenile justice system’s compliance with existing law and national best practices, evaluate stakeholder satisfaction with the court, and identify areas where the judiciary might improve its role in the system.

Although C-DRUM will have a more limited role in the final two phases of the project, it will advise the partners on legal questions that arise throughout the duration of the project.

Conclusion

These two projects dovetail with the exciting work that C-DRUM has conducted with Maryland’s Judiciary in promoting and encouraging the use of ADR. Indeed, Professor Roger Wolf, Director of C-DRUM, recently remarked “I am pleased that C-DRUM and its partners are working to critically examine the important issues of juvenile justice and ADR in family administration in Maryland. We are confident that the findings will not only contribute to a more efficient and effective judiciary, but also to a more peaceful and satisfactory resolution to conflicts.”
This academic year, the School of Law welcomed its newest student group, Mediators Beyond Borders (MBB). One of 12 student chapters throughout the country, Maryland Law’s MBB already has 20 student members. The university chapters are part of the international organization that “partners with communities worldwide to build their conflict resolution capacity for preventing, resolving and healing from conflict that sends mediators all over the world to assist indigenous populations in learning to resolve conflicts and differences in a peaceful manner.”

Established in 2007, MBB has current projects in Liberia, Nepal, New Orleans, Pittsburgh, and Zimbabwe. Additional projects are being developed in countries such as Israel, Colombia, Canada, Kosovo, Nepal, and Thailand. In the United States, MBB has been a very active force in assisting the local populations of New Orleans and Mississippi, by training local mediators so that they can go into the communities and assist with the healing of hurricane-devastated communities.

The University Chapters of MBB make valuable contributions by assisting the national organization in many ways, such as completing valuable research, traveling overseas to assist in peace processes, and holding events that raise the public awareness of peace building activities. A university chapter can choose to be paired with an overseas university chapter, and the School of Law will most likely be paired with a university in Slovenia or Manitoba, Canada.

In its first year, the School of Law MBB Chapter has been very active. In the fall it held a public awareness movie screening and raised funds through a bake sale. On January 15, 2009 MBB welcomed guest speaker, Rachel Wohl, MBB Board member, to describe several of MBB’s projects and discuss her upcoming trip to Israel on behalf of MBB. In February, MBB Secretary Holly Garman represented the law school at the national convention in New Orleans, LA. “Being able to interact with these individuals who have such limitless energy and compassion was one of the best experiences and most motivating forces I have ever experienced,” Garman said of her experience.

Currently the students are gathering legal and conflict resolution books as part of a book drive to benefit the University of Liberia. Students, professors, and local law firms have all provided donations which will stock the University’s library.

On February 28 - March 1, 2009, twelve teams representing seven schools came to the School of Law to participate in the American Bar Association Dispute Resolution Section’s regional Representation in Mediation Competition (RIMC). The annual competition engages law students in the exploration of the role of the attorney during a mediation, as well as the attorney-client dynamic. The two-person teams representing an attorney and client, participate in a mediation session with a volunteer mediator. The teams are judged on the teamwork between attorney and client, problem-solving relationship building, information gathering and communication with the other side, generating and selecting creative options, using opportunities in the mediation process, advocating the client’s interests, and self-analysis.

The School of Law sent two teams to compete in the regional competition, comprised of Tim Costello ’10, and Jeff Kahntroff ’10, Hal Blatt ’09 and Joshua Berman ’09, and coached by Toby Treem Guerin (C-DRUM). The teams prepared for the two rounds of mediations on the topics of negligence and student code of conduct through role-playing, legal analysis, and solution brainstorming. The UM Law teams admirably represented the school, and one team almost qualified for the final round.

As the host school, the School of Law was responsible for coordinating the volunteer mediators and competition judges. In all, 40 members of the alternative dispute resolution and legal community participated, donating their time during the weekend and contributing to the success of the event. Judge Joseph H.H. Kaplan, regional final judge, commented, “I was impressed by the preparation and caliber of the law students. They fully utilized the mediation by both advocating for their clients’ interests and simultaneously listening and exploring options for mutual gain. It was a wonderful opportunity for the competitors and me.”
Several Fellows have already implemented various public policy projects and attended trainings on topics of conflict resolution:

Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (DLLR) Secretary Tom Perez ('07) received a grant from MACRO to integrate conflict resolution processes throughout the agency. DLLR is working with C-DRUM to develop a mediation program where homeowners and contractors can mediate complaints filed with the Maryland Home Improvement Commission. Through a pilot program with the Mediation Clinic at the School of Law and Community Mediation Maryland, consumers and home improvement contractors can engage in mediation and have the opportunity to resolve the dispute as early as possible.

Gustavo Torres ('07), Executive Director of CASA de Maryland received funding from MACRO to implement a conflict management and diversity awareness training program for staff, volunteers, community members, and key stakeholders. The training, along with facilitated discussion is designed to address the topics of Crossing Borders (racism, the economy, and immigration) and bridge the divide between African Americans and Latinos in Maryland.

Maryland Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Secretary Eloise Foster ('07) is serving as the host for the newly developed Maryland Shared Neutrals Program. The Program serves as a clearinghouse for neutrals within the various state agencies, who are available to assist in the resolution of disputes within the state agencies. By maintaining a roster of neutrals throughout the state and a centralized office at DBM, the program ensures both confidentiality and neutrality of the program.

Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Secretary John Griffin ('07) received a grant from MACRO to hire a Program Coordinator for DNR's Workplace Mediation Program. DNR is also partnering with the Consensus Building Institute and MACRO to host an interactive summit about community-level responses to conflict. C-DRUM and MACRO staff, among others, will help facilitate the summit discussions.

Allan Kittleman ('08), Maryland State Senator for District 9, recently completed a basic mediation training through the Maryland Institute for Continued Professional Education of Lawyers.

Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) Secretary Shari Wilson ('08) consulted with MACRO to identify an appropriate facilitator for an ongoing conflict involving greenhouse gas emissions. The facilitator worked with the stakeholders to reach an agreement on proposed legislation which was passed during the 2009 session.
General News

Peer Mediation Training for Baltimore Freedom Academy, Baltimore, Maryland (October 17-18, 2008)

Effective Communication Training Modules, University of Maryland University College, Adelphi, Maryland (December 2008)

Host, Conflict Resolution Education Winter Grant Training, Annapolis, Maryland (February 12, 2009)

Host, Representation in Mediation Competition, Baltimore, Maryland (February 28-March 1, 2009)

Presentation, Maryland Peer Helper’s Conference, Ocean City, Maryland (April 1-3, 2009)

Peer Mediation Train-the-Trainers Workshop, Annapolis, Maryland (April 30-May 1, 2009)

Facilitator, Building Coast-Smart Communities, Annapolis, Maryland (April 27, 2009)

Roger C. Wolf

“Negotiations Workshop,” for the Maryland State Bar Association Leadership Academy Class of 2009, Baltimore, Maryland (January 15, 2009)

“Ethics Workshop,” training for the Maryland Commission on Human Relations, Baltimore, Maryland (March 11, 2009)

Panelist, “If We Don’t Do It, Who Will? Assessing Mediator Competence,” 11th Annual Spring Conference of the Section of Dispute Resolution of the American Bar Association (April 17, 2009)

Toby Treem Guerin

Coach, University of Maryland School of Law Representation in Mediation Competition, Baltimore, Maryland (February 28-March 1, 2009)

“Making the Most of Co-mediation” training for the Maryland Commission on Human Relations, Baltimore, Maryland (May 2009)

Barbara Sugarman Grochal

Co-trainer, Maryland Program for Mediator Excellence: Mentorship Learning Partner Training, Towson, Maryland (November 18, 2008)

Presenter, “Understanding Conflict,” Baltimore Freedom Academy Leadership Week, Baltimore, Maryland (March 11, 2009)

Presenter, “What is Conflict, Anyway?”, Girl Scouts of Central Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland (March 28, 2009)

Stacy Smith

Member, “Student Attendance Work Group,” an initiative of the Steering Committee for Safe and Supportive Learning Environments, Baltimore, Maryland (2009)

2008 FELLOWS

Hon. Elizabeth Bobo
Maryland State Delegate
Environmental Matters Committee

Hon. Benjamin Clyburn
Chief Judge
The District Court of Maryland

Hon. Allan H. Kittleman
Maryland State Senator
Senate Minority Whip

Tyrone Powers
Director, Institute for Criminal Justice, Legal Studies and Public Service
Anne Arundel Community College

Hon. Joseline Peña-Melnyk
Maryland State Delegate
Member, Health and Government Operations Committee

Dru Schmidt-Perkins
Executive Director
1000 Friends of Maryland

Hon. Brian E. Frosh
Maryland State Senator
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

J. William Satterfield
Executive Director
Delmarva Poultry Industry

Richard Hall
Secretary
Maryland Department of Planning

Hon. Joseline Peña-Melnyk
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Executive Director
Delmarva Poultry Industry

Dru Schmidt-Perkins
Executive Director
1000 Friends of Maryland

Charles Strong Jr.
State’s Attorney for Washington County

Shari T. Wilson
Secretary
Maryland Department of Planning

Pastor John J. Jenkins, Sr.
First Baptist Church of Glenarden
Council of Anne Arundel County Pastors

Hon. Allan H. Kittleman
Maryland State Senator
Senate Minority Whip

Diane Bell McKoy
President and CEO
Associated Black Charities

Roger L. Richardson
Secretary
Maryland Department of Agriculture

J. William Satterfield
Executive Director
Delmarva Poultry Industry
Possessing more than 30 years of combined experience, C-DRUM provides mediation services, facilitation, and conflict resolution training in a variety of settings.

UM Law Students Compete in Negotiation Competition

Alison Silber and Nicholas Scull are currently second year students at the University of Maryland School of Law. They competed together in the Negotiation Competition and are both active in the Alternative Dispute Resolution Group.

This past October, the Negotiation Team, consisting of Claire MacLamore, Chris Hatcher, Nicholas Scull, Alison Silber, Ryan Saunders, Fay Gordon, Ashley Pyle, and Benjamin Alpert, competed in the ABA Law Student Division’s annual Negotiation Competition. Team members were selected to represent the University of Maryland School of Law based on exceptional performances in the school’s intra-school competition which was held in April of 2008.

After weeks of training with professors and practitioners, the competitors were highly prepared. The team employed the skills learned, such as beginning the negotiation with an agreed-upon agenda, using discreet signs to communicate during the round, employing active listening techniques to gather information from opponents, and utilizing visual aids.

This year’s competition, hosted by Widener University, featured twenty-four teams from throughout the region. Although neither Maryland team advanced to the final round, judges agreed they were well-prepared and well-versed in their negotiation strategies. Overall, the competition was a great learning experience and the team looks forward to improving on its success next year.

JOIN OUR CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN EDUCATION LIST SERV!

A list serv has been established for those interested in conflict resolution programs in schools (K-12), to share and exchange best practices, worst headaches, solution brainstorming, great lesson plans, and more. To join send an email to cdrum@law.umaryland.edu and include “education list serv” in the subject line.

This list serv is not intended for book sales, trainings, or other self-promotional activities.