On Innovation, Improvisation, and Inspiration

By Joan Stearns Johnsen, Section Chair

Welcome to our first ever Spring Conference Edition of Just Resolutions. There is much to do in New Orleans, and this edition shares with you many ideas and suggestions from members of our Host Committee as well as from ABA President, Judy Perry Martinez. Within this edition, you will also find an article and a link to Loyola of New Orleans Professor Imre Szalai’s wonderful video of the history of dispute resolution in New Orleans. Since this year’s Conference will be held during Jazz Fest, we hope you will also take some time to enjoy some of the special festivities. We also hope that you will make your hotel reservations early. Jazz Fest is a very popular and busy time in New Orleans. We have a block of rooms at our special conference rate.

As usual, the main draw is the content of our programming. We believe we have selected an appropriate theme - Innovation, Improvisation, and Inspiration. As an international leader in all things dispute resolution, we always strive to remain the leaders in our vast and complex field. Our Spring Conference is our opportunity to bring those engaged in the most innovative work together to share cutting-edge content. As usual, we will provide the newest in the areas of arbitration, mediation, and negotiation. We will also have the very latest on online dispute resolution as well as introduce you to a new practice area- that of conflict and dispute prevention. We will have programming on working with Blockchain and “smart legal contracts” as well as the use of technology in arbitration, including the latest in artificial intelligence, e-discovery and managing electronically stored information in mediations and arbitrations. Leaders in the field on behavioral analysis will explore the newest techniques in persuasion. In addition, we will help you to grow your business and to manage that business through the latest practice management software as your practice expands.

Our field thrives on creativity and innovation. New Orleans is also well known for creativity and improvisation and, as Professor Szalai tells us, dispute resolution. Please come and share in the discussion of the most advanced techniques for best practices in our field.

We hope you will decide to join us for this very special Spring Conference. We look forward to seeing you in April as we celebrate Innovation, Improvisation, and Inspiration in New Orleans!

Joan Stearns Johnsen
Arbitrator and Mediator
Chair, ABA Section of Dispute Resolution