

## Thomas Friedman

The 2018 D'Alemberte/Raven Award was presented at the Spring Conference in Washington, D.C. to Thomas L. Friedman. The D'Alemberte/Raven Award is the Section's highest honor. It was created to honor two of the Section's founders. Both Robert D. Raven and Talbot D'Alemberte were ABA Presidents as well as Section Chairs. The Award recognizes accomplishments in practice and writing in the field of Dispute Resolution.

This year's honoree is Thomas L. Friedman. Mr. Friedman is a best-selling author and the Foreign Affairs Columnist for the New York Times, a position he has held since 1995. Mr. Friedman began his career as a war correspondent during the Lebanese Civil War and in Jerusalem during the first year of the Intifada. Mr. Friedman is the recipient of three Pulitzer Prizes, the national Book Award, the Overseas Press club Award for Lifetime Achievement, the Honorary Title Order of the British Empire (OBE bestowed by Queen Elizabeth II) and the national Press Club's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Among Mr. Friedman's books are *From Beirut to Jerusalem*, *The Lexus and the Olive Tree*, *The World is Flat*, *Hot Flat and Crowded*, and his most recent book *Thank You For Being Late: An Optimists Guide to Thriving in the Age of Acceleration*.

Mr. Friedman in accepting his award offered some perspectives on our current political situation and our future. Mr. Friedman was both intellectually challenging and completely accessible. He was sober and highly entertaining. The presentation of the D'Alemberte/Raven Award to Mr. Friedman and his remarks in accepting were an unqualified highlight of a highly successful Spring Conference.



## Awards Ceremony

The Section of Dispute Resolution's Awards ceremony honored many members of the dispute resolution community. Section Chair Ben Davis presented the Lawyer as Problem Solver award to the Divided Communities Project. Chair Davis also presented Section Chair awards to Harold Coleman, John Lande, and Alyson Carrel. David Brandon from the JAMS Foundation presented the Warren Knight award to Joan Blades from Living Room Conversations. Judge Skrelos from NAM closed the awards ceremony and welcomed attendees to the Thursday evening Awards Ceremony.



## Relational Practice

The Relational Practices Task Force had a table in the exhibit hall of the ABA DR conference in DC in April. Co-chair J. Kim Wright staffed the table with the able assistance of co-chair Louise Phipps Senft. Louise's company, Baltimore Mediation, was also a Bronze sponsor for the conference.

Recognizing that well-being and relational practices are intertwined, Kim sponsored an interactive exercise: The Five Minute First Aid Kit. The Kit is based on neuroscientific principles about stress and well-being. Kits began with a box and participants decorated their own using art supplies which were on hand, including collage materials, paint, beads, sequins, and glitter. After the artistic endeavor, participants filled their boxes with proven stress reducers: lavender oil, small toys, photos of beautiful places, and chocolate were popular choices. First Aid Kits are meant for stress emergencies, those times when you're about to absolutely lose it. Five minutes with your kit should help to shift the brain from fight or flight to calm.

Some well-known members of the community stopped by to create their boxes and fill them with stress-reducers.

On Friday afternoon, the ABA DR section sponsored a welcome reception for those interested in learning more about the Relational Practices Task Force, upcoming Telesummit, and other activities.

Louise announced their plan to host monthly calls on topics related to Relational Practices. The first call is scheduled for Thursday, May 3 at 4 p.m. Eastern time. The community is encouraged to suggest topics and speakers for the calls. Kim is hosting the first call and discussing a relational approach to contracts that are based on values and include their own internal justice system for addressing change and engaging disagreement.



## The Court ADR Symposium

It was a packed house for the Symposium on ADR in the Courts programs on Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. The day started with a networking breakfast and a plenary on ADR and Access to Justice, presented by retired Judge Eric Washington. Throughout the day court ADR administrators, judges, neutrals, and researchers had multiple opportunities to learn from each other in formal and informal settings. The day ended with a tour of DC Superior Court Multi-Door Dispute Resolution Division and an educational program and reception at DC Court of Appeals.



## Friday Plenary Programs

ABA president Hilarie Bass welcomed the conference attendees to the Friday morning plenary that started with a program on negotiating the Don't Ask Don't Tell policy that informed attendees about negotiating change amongst multiple parties and multiple agencies. Senator Tim Kaine shared multiple anecdotes from his career in public service, including an inside look at two recent senate negotiations – one that failed and one that succeeded.



## Howard Law School Event

Howard University School of Law hosted the participants of Legal Educators' Colloquium (LEC) at a reception at the historical institution on Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. Howard Law has been at the forefront in the struggle for civil and human rights for centuries. Luminaries, such as Charles Hamilton Houston and Thurgood Marshall, are just two of the notable example of the Schools' deans and alumni. Guests at the reception went on tours of the historical Law School guided by Law Student Ambassadors who gave visitors a sample of the rich history of the Law school and its graduates.

Guests were welcomed to the Law School in a brief program which included Professor Homer C. La Rue, Director of the ADR Program and a Bronze Sponsor for the Conference, Associate Dean and Professor Lisa Crooms-Robinson and the Section's Chair, Ben Davis. After a brief introduction by Professor La Rue, Associate Dean Crooms-Robinson, on behalf of Dean Danielle Holley-Walker, thanked everyone for coming. She expressed her deep pleasure that the Law School was able to make a contribution to the Section's Annual Conference here in the nation's capital. Chair Ben Davis regaled the attendees with stories of his personal connections with Howard Law School, as well as, with Washington, D.C. A number of the attendees at the reception also had similar personal connections with Howard Law, their parents, grandparents or great grandparents having attended Howard Law.

The reception was very well attended by approximate 80% of those scheduled to be at the LEC program on Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. The Law School, as workshop presenter, also showcased its own international ADR programs during on Saturday. The photos are illustrative of the fellowship enjoyed by all who attended.

## ABA Representation in Mediation Competition

The ABA Representation in Mediation national competition was held on Wednesday and Thursday during the conference. Eight teams from seven law schools competed in the national competition. The winners of the competition were Sarah Rice and Erik Carlson of the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, and we offer them our congratulations.

More than forty volunteers helped with the national competition, including numerous conference attendees who gave up a morning or an afternoon (and sometimes both) to serve as mediators and judges in the competition.

Stay tuned for information about the 2018-2019 Competition. Registration for the competition will open up in the fall of 2018 and the 2019 Nationals will be held in Minneapolis in April 2019.