

2008 CLAY

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VICTOR SCHACHTER - ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION



Victor Schachter
CLAY Award Recipient
FENWICK & WEST
MOUNTAIN VIEW

ADR

Working with the Institute for the Study and Development of Legal Systems (ISDLS), whose mission is to help streamline legal processes and reduce backlogs in foreign judicial systems, Schachter has focused his volunteer work during the past two years within India, establishing court-annexed mediation and case-management programs. The mediation program Schachter spearheaded in Delhi quickly became the gold standard for expansion elsewhere in India.

Logging 700 volunteer hours in 2007 alone, Schachter returned to Bangalore for several months, leading an ISDLS delegation and implementing a court-annexed mediation program there. He helped train nearly 30 advocates and educated hundreds of lower-session judges and high court justices on ADR techniques—and, importantly, garnered support from the local bar association. To date in Bangalore, mediators have successfully resolved more than 1,000 matters in matrimonial, property, landlord/tenant, and business disputes—with a settlement rate of 54 percent.

Schachter estimates there are 30 million backlogged cases awaiting trial in India, 60,000 of them in Bangalore alone. “My fondest dream is that in 10 to 20 years we will see mediation centers throughout India, run by Indians—resulting in a great reduction in the number of cases being tried and easier access to justice by those who need it most,” he says.

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