The first issue of the new year attempts to balance the various subject areas of WAMR.

The centerpiece of the issue is a Perspective article entitled Global Trends in Mediation, which was submitted by Professor Nadja Alexander, WAMR’s prolific editor on International Mediation. Professor Alexander provides an account of mediation that covers the great divide between the common-law and civil-law systems. The various pieces cover the introduction and operation of mediation in England, Scotland, and Wales, on the one hand, and Austria and Denmark, on the other hand. The use of mediation appears to be well-entrenched in England, where a mediation act may even be in the offing. The other jurisdictions that are surveyed demonstrate a lesser push toward mediation and a narrower utilization of the process. (The Perspectives section begins on page 14.)

This issue also introduces a new collaboration with The National Arbitration Forum. The Resources section contains a report on the Recent Opinions in Domain Name Disputes done through the National Arbitration Forum. (The Resources section begins on page 25.)

The News Abroad section assesses the activities of the Mexican Institute of Mediation. In particular, the Institute had adopted minimum standards of education and training for all mediators who manage disputes under the auspices of the Institute. It has also adopted a Code of Ethics for mediators. Its efforts have increased the visibility and legitimacy of ADR in Mexico. (The story begins on page 6.)

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has determined that the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling in Circuit City v. Adams “implicitly overruled” the appellate court’s holding in Duffield v. Robertson Stephens & Co., which barred the arbitration of Title VII claims. According to the Ninth Circuit, the “language and reasoning [of Circuit City v. Adams] decimated Duffield’s conclusion that Congress intended to preclude compulsory arbitration of Title VII claims.” (The case comment begins on page 7.)

Finally, Domestic Mediation Editor, James Coben of the Hamline DRI, contributes several pieces on recent developments in mediation law and practice. (See the “Around the States” section.)

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