ACCESS ADR—a project supported by the JAMS Foundation and the ABA Section of Dispute Resolution and designed to enhance the participation of professionals from various racial and ethnic groups in ADR—received a grant from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. (Story on p. 251.)

A new feature of WAMR is the Case Squibs provided by the staff of the National Arbitration Forum (NAF). (The Squibs begin on p. 252.)

The IBA has published its Guidelines on Conflicts of Interest in International Arbitration. The Guidelines—the result of over two years of consultation and review with leading arbitration and industry authorities around the globe—represent the most comprehensive work to date to define the framework by which the impartiality of arbitration in the international arena can be most effectively assured. (Story on p. 255.)

A new Spanish law of arbitration came into force on March 26, 2004. (Story on p. 257.)

The Ninth Circuit has agreed with the Second Circuit by endorsing the view that “when a petition to vacate ‘complains principally and in good faith that the award was rendered in manifest disregard of federal law, a substantial federal question is presented and the federal circuit courts have jurisdiction to entertain the petition.’ ” (The case summary begins on p. 260.)

In Borowiec v. Gateway 2000 Inc., the Illinois state Supreme Court found that a Magnuson-Moss Warranty Act (MMWA) provision making informal dispute settlement procedures prior to court proceedings non-binding does not preclude courts from enforcing a binding arbitration agreement found in a written warranty claim. Accordingly, the court refused to give deference to the Federal Trade Commission’s (FTC) regulations prohibiting the arbitration of such claims. (The case summary begins on p. 264.)

In Hottle v. BDO Seidman, L.L.P., the Connecticut state Supreme Court affirmed a prior ruling and held that, according to New York law, an arbitration clause in a partnership agreement designating five partners as arbitrators was not illusory and contrary to public policy. (The case summary begins on p. 266.)

Harry L. Arkin, noted international lawyer and arbitrator, discusses the issue of arbitrator neutrality and the new IBA’s Guidelines for neutrality. (The Commentary section begins on page 270.)

Finally, in a Perspectives article, Susan Summers Raines compares and contrasts online mediation with more traditional mediation. She applies the “fit the forum to the fuss” adage and attempts to isolate a subset of cases that is suitable for online mediation. Professor Raines also discusses conflict management techniques in the online environment. (The Perspectives section begins on p. 271.)
IN THIS ISSUE

NEWS AT HOME
Diversity Project “ACCESS ADR” Receives $60,000 Grant
From The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation........................................251
New Jersey State Court Vacates Award Because
it was not Rendered on Time........................................................................255
CPR Institute for Dispute Resolution Trains First Mediators
for U.S.-China Business Mediation Center in Beijing......................................251
Florida State Senate Seeks to Tighten Mediation Confidentiality..........................252
Pennsylvania Governor Proposes Statewide Medical Mediation System..................252
Case Squibs From the National Arbitration Forum (NAF)..................................252
Abner Mikva, JAMS Mediator and Arbitrator, Chosen as
Special Master in EEOC/Morgan Stanley Settlement......................................254
New Co-Chairs of National Franchise Mediation Program Announced..................255

INTERNATIONAL NEWS
International Bar Association Publishes Guidelines on
Conflicts of Interest in International Arbitration............................................255
Court Enforces New York Arbitration Convention Award That
was Annulled by a Foreign Court of Secondary Jurisdiction .........................256

NEWS ABROAD
The Spanish Arbitration Act Comes Into Force............................................257

JUDICIAL DECISIONS
Arbitration Agreements are Enforceable Despite Parties’ Illiteracy.........................258
Second Circuit Upholds Arbitration of Title VII Claims.....................................259
Seventh Circuit Reject Argument That Arbitrators Exceeded Their
Authority by Taking too Long to Render an Award......................................259
Ninth Circuit Holds That Arbitrator did not
Manifestly Disregard the Law.......................................................................260
Court can Dissolve Preliminary Injunction
Against Strike After Arbitration.....................................................................260
Sixth Circuit Refuses to Enforce Arbitral Award..............................................261
Judicial Merits Review Through Handwritten
Additions to the Arbitration Agreement.......................................................261
Third Circuit Remands Unconscionable Arbitration
Agreement to Determine Severability............................................................262
U.S. District Court Grants 12(b)(6) Motion to
Dismiss Petition to Compel Arbitration..........................................................263
The Requirement for Granting a Stay in Favor of
Arbitration Under FAA § 3........................................................................264

STATE JUDICIAL DECISIONS
Illinois State Supreme Court Holds Magnuson-Moss
Warranty Claims Arbitrable...........................................................................264
Nebraska State Supreme Court Grants Stay Pending Appeal.........................265
Connecticut State Supreme Court Holds Arbitration
Clause in Partnership Agreement Valid.........................................................266
California Appellate Court Refuses to Sever Unconscionable Provisions............266
California Appellate Court Finds no Contractual
Relationship Between the Parties...................................................................267
Minnesota Appellate Court Rules That Statute of
Limitations Does not Apply to Arbitration Demand....................................268
California Appellate Court Affirms Insured’s Award........................................269

COMMENTARY
Neutrality of Dispute Resolvers in International Commercial Dispute Resolution
By Harry L. Arkin...........................................................................................270

PERSPECTIVES
The Practice of Mediation Online: Techniques to Use or Avoid When
Mediating in Cyberspace, By Susan Summers Raines, Ph.D..................................271

CALENDAR...................................................................................................276