# Fostering the Growth of ADR: A Ripple Effect Felt Around the Globe

You can't help but notice the collaboration and admiration when you walk into a room filled with Weinstein JAMS Fellows. The 10th class of Fellows landed in the U.S. last fall and kicked off their journeys in San Francisco at the JAMS Resolution Center, which has been a hub for every class of Fellows that has come before them. The excitement and promise of what's to come is in the air and you can feel it. The tone of the conversations is serious, yet eager, friendly and open. This is how it begins each year when a group of legal professionals from around the world convene with a common goal and common mission—to advance alternative dispute resolution (ADR).



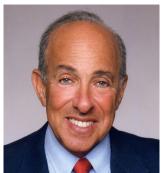
2018 Class of Weinstein JAMS Fellows, JAMS Foundation Members, alumni mentors, and invited guests.

The Weinstein JAMS International Fellowship program, which began in 2008 and is named to honor the contributions of JAMS neutral Hon. Daniel Weinstein (Ret.), provides opportunities for qualified individuals from outside the United States to study dispute resolution processes and practices in the U.S. to assist them in their efforts to advance

the resolution of disputes in their home countries. This pioneering program was created as part of the nonprofit JAMS Foundation, which proudly proclaims its mission to encourage the use of ADR, support education at all levels about collaborative processes for resolving differences, promote innovation in conflict resolution, and advance the settlement of conflict, not just locally, but around the globe.

Over the last 10 years, the Weinstein JAMS International Fellowship program has successfully supported more than 100 Fellows in more than 70 countries. The <u>nine members of the recent class of Fellows</u> are diverse on the surface—crossing borders and coming from places such as Uzbekistan, Lebanon, Kosovo, Bangladesh and Rwanda, among other places—but they all can relate to the passion that Judge Weinstein, Foundation benefactors and other neutrals, including former Foundation director Jay Folberg, had when they founded the Fellowship program.

## **Evolving Opportunity**



Hon. Daniel Weinstein (Ret.), Founder, Weinstein International Foundation

In late 2018, Judge Weinstein announced that he was launching the Weinstein International Foundation, an nonprofit organization dedicated to making mediation available globally. This newly founded organization provides alumni Weinstein JAMS Fellows-who "graduate" to become Senior Fellows-with resources to promote mediation and dispute resolution globally.



"This is an amazing and evolving opportunity for the Weinstein JAMS Fellowship program in that it advances the programs that the Fellows are putting into place," said Ellen Bass, director of the Weinstein JAMS International Fellowship Program. "It harnesses the energy of the JAMS Foundation and takes it a vital step further with additional funds, resources and regular meetings around the globe that help the Fellows collaborate and stay connected." The most recent Fellows Regional Conference took place in February 2019 in Lima, Peru.



Ellen Bass, Director of the Weinstein JAMS Fellowship Program

Many of the Fellows are actively engaged in drafting legislation favoring mediation in their home countries; recommending ADR policies; working in the field of community mediation to increase access to justice for those unable to access the courts; designing, implementing and establishing court-connected ADR programs; and developing their own ADR training and education service

providers. With the support coming from the Weinstein International Foundation, the Fellows can extend the reach of their cross-border ADR efforts.

# What the Future May Hold

The Weinstein JAMS Fellows represent many roles: judges, lawyers, government officers, NGO leaders, scholars, mediators and peacemakers. One of the new Fellows, Nudrat Ejaz Piracha, a lawyer and Fulbright Scholar from Pakistan, is the only woman in her country with extensive experience in international investment and commercial arbitrations.

"In practice, those who are concerned, are still not amenable to the idea of ADR in my country, and it is especially challenging to practice in this area as a woman," said Ms. Piracha. "My goal is to promote amicable and alternative conflict resolution in my country, and I am grateful that the opportunity can become a reality for me now."

The stories and aspirations of the Fellows are many, and each one brings a different perspective to this international community. Despite their differences and the challenges that each Fellow faces, they "share a common set of core values," as stated by JAMS Foundation Managing Director, David Brandon. The Fellows may speak different languages and enjoy different personal pursuits, but where they connect the most is their passion for ADR. They all strive to show that ADR can be effec-

tive in their home countries. They encourage and inspire one another to keep moving forward toward their goals.

"It is truly satisfying to see the dreams of the JAMS Foundation founders becoming a reality through the aspirations of these talented Fellows," continued Brandon. "Each single victory is like a ripple in an ocean, and eventually those ripples turn into bigger waves that make a real impact."

The JAMS Foundation will proudly continue to help foster this growing community of Weinstein JAMS Fellows and to support their collaboration and commitment to developing constructive approaches to managing and resolving conflicts around the world.

### Fellow Spotlight on Nudrat Ejaz Piracha

#### Class of 2018 Weinstein JAMS Fellow



Home Country: Pakistan
Career and Education:
Nudrat is an alumna of the
London School of Economics.
She is a lawyer and Fulbright
Scholar pursuing a doctoral
degree in investment arbitration
from The George Washington
Law School.

Her Commitment to ADR: Nudrat is a solicitor advocate in the U.K. and advocate of the High Court of Pakistan, a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and member of ArbitralWomen. She has served as an advocate in international commercial arbitrations and international construction and investment disputes before the International Chamber of Commerce, International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes, Arbitration Institute of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce and ad hoc tribunals.

How She Plans to Bring ADR to Her Home Country: Upon her return to Pakistan, Nudrat aims to promote nonviolent conflict resolution through education, training, mediation and advocacy. During her Fellowship, she plans to undertake an advanced study of negotiation, mediation and ADR in the U.S. while strengthening her skills in cross-cultural and cross-border dispute resolution.