



2018

An **ALM** Publication

THE NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL

JUNE, 2018

JERRY P. ROSCOE, ESQ.

JAMS



CHAMPIONSHIP PEDIGREE Jerry Roscoe began his career as a litigator. "I noticed from clients' perspectives that even when they won, litigation could be a destructive process. As the advocate, I realized that all the energy consumed by the trial experience was rarely recovered." Roscoe's final case as an advocate was in 1988, and his dispute resolution practice began to take off in the early 1990s.

EXPERIENCE & EXPERTISE Roscoe's dispute resolution work has included serving in Bosnia from 1995 to 2000. "I was probably the only private mediator hired by the U.S. government during the war there. I was in the war zone, mediating between the Croats and Muslims at all levels of the political spectrum. There was always the threat of getting shot or kidnapped, and one colleague was poisoned. It pushed the envelope for a professional mediator." He also provided dispute resolution in Gaza and the West Bank. "We were able to establish a community conflict resolution program in the early 2000s that remains to this day. Our primary purpose was to train judges and lawyers. While the political endeavor wasn't necessarily successful, the community efforts, resolving local and family disputes, were." Roscoe has also had the opportunity to work alongside Harvard Law Prof. Frank Sander. "He was one of the godfathers of ADR at Harvard. I taught with him twice."

FUTURE VISION A mediator's job involves training parties and advocates to better manage and resolve conflict. "It's not just resolving the dispute in front of us, but leaving the parties better able to react to conflict. I see ADR attaining equal status with litigation in the lawyers' toolbox and lawyers better able to help clients to settle disputes. The profession will also get more much-needed diversity in terms of race and gender."

