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JAMS



CHAMPIONSHIP PEDIGREE Eric Van Loon was a federal court litigator before going to work for Massachusetts governor Michael Dukakis. "After the 1988 presidential campaign, I was approached by Prof. Eric Green to join his mediation firm, EnDispute. I decided to give it a try." Among his early cases, he was asked by the governor of Ohio and a business group to mediate a major public policy standoff in Cleveland involving the attempt to build a new Indians baseball stadium. "We reached a settlement in about two months that allowed the Gateway Sports and Entertainment complex to be built."

EXPERIENCE & EXPERTISE Asked to identify several significant matters since then, Van Loon says: "I chaired the U.S. Copyright Office arbitration panel that set the first royalty rates for internet music streaming. There were about 30 parties, 60 witnesses, 1,000 exhibits and congressionally mandated deadlines. We issued a comprehensive 130-page ruling." Another case involved 28 different companies co-owned by three founders wanting to divide up their billion-dollar empire. "They tried for more than a year. We worked it all out in less than two months." Van Loon has also developed a niche working with Native American tribes. "I was appointed a federal court special master in a complex Indian land claim case. Indian law is a somewhat exotic side specialty."

FUTURE VISION Mediation in particular is very well established in the United States and becoming more so every year. "The clear trend is toward bigger matters, and starting mediation earlier in (or even before) the litigation process. It helps businesses evaluate disputes more clearly and figure out a resolution before committing enormous resources to litigation." Internationally, ADR is far less established and primarily exists as arbitration. "I see mediation's spread to other countries as the biggest change over the next decade or two. But it's a slow process."

