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It Takes Two to Tango, and to Mediate: Legal Cultural and Other Factors Influencing United States and Latin American Lawyers' Resistance to Mediating Commercial Disputes

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**IT TAKES TWO TO TANGO, AND TO MEDIATE:
LEGAL CULTURAL AND OTHER FACTORS
INFLUENCING UNITED STATES AND LATIN
AMERICAN LAWYERS' RESISTANCE TO
MEDIATING COMMERCIAL DISPUTES**

*Don Peters**

ABSTRACT

This article examines legal cultural and other factors influencing the resistance to mediating commercial disputes displayed by U.S. and Latin American lawyers. After surveying current contexts in which commercial mediation occurs in the United States and in Latin American countries and summarizing data regarding commercial actors' knowledge of the benefits of mediating, it analyzes the relatively infrequent use of mediation despite its potential advantages over adjudicating. Focusing on lawyers, the article next explores factors that influence U.S. and Latin American lawyers when they converse with commercial clients about selecting dispute resolution methods. Analyzing similarities arising from universal decision-making biases and shared legal cultural traditions, and differences flowing from common law and civil system influences, this article argues that all of these factors strongly influence U.S. and Latin American lawyers toward adjudicating and explains why mediation is not used more often to resolve commercial disputes. This article concludes by presenting reasons why carefully assessing mediation as a pre-adjudication option helps lawyers counter perceptual, decision-making, and legal cultural biases while allowing commercial clients to avoid the risks and substantial transaction costs inherent in adjudicating disputes.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Commercial relationships create substantial economic activity through licensing, distributor, supplier, joint venture, and other transactional arrangements. Changes in economic, market, and other circumstances occur after these relationships begin, however, and often produce differing performance-related perceptions and contractual interpretations. These differences may generate disagreements regarding responsibilities, obligations, performances, and entitlements that may escalate into commercial disputes.¹ Because such commercial disputes are increasing,² choosing how to confront and resolve them supplies important tasks for lawyers and their commercial clients in the United States and Latin America.

Lawyers and their commercial clients have a limited menu of dispute resolution options when they make important decisions about how to proceed in resolving commercial disagreements. Non-violent dispute resolution options include avoiding conflict, seeking consensual agreement with other participants through negotiation or mediation, and adjudicating by using arbitration or litigation to let outsiders

¹ See Mark A. Drumbl, *Amalgam in the Americas: A Law School Curriculum for Free Markets and Open Borders*, 35 SAN DIEGO L. REV. 1053, 1054 (1998) (stating that “flourishing economic cohesion assuredly creates tension”); Walter G. Gans, *Saving Time and Money in Cross-Border Commercial Disputes*, 52 DISP. RESOL. J. 50, 52 (stating that negotiations and documents creating commercial relationships are not likely to foresee the multiple possibilities for potential future disagreement and dispute). More than half of joint ventures end within five years, and most end within ten. Harold I. Abramson, *Time to Try Mediation of International Commercial Disputes*, 4 ILSA J. INT’L & COMP. L. 323, 324 (1998).

² Recent political and economic changes have created a rapid increase in the volume of commercial disputes in Latin American countries. Horacio Falcao & Francisco J. Sanchez, *Mediation—An Emerging ADR Mechanism in Latin America*, in INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION IN LATIN AMERICA 415, 425 (Nigel Blackaby et al. eds., 2002). In a survey of 180 in-house lawyers at the largest multinational companies in France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and England, thirty-eight percent said the volume of disputes had increased in the last three years. *Survey Reveals Trends in Europe on International Disputes*, 63 DISP. RESOL. J. 6, 6 (2008).

decide.³ Although found in most of the world's cultures and practiced for centuries, mediation is the least used option in this menu.

While avoidance may be a commonly used dispute resolution option around the world,⁴ lawyers and their business clients seldom select it for handling significant commercial disputes. Negotiation is used far more frequently, and it is typically conducted by company representatives before involving lawyers or by in-house counsel before hiring outside attorneys. Now widely viewed as identical to conciliation,⁵ mediation offers an enhanced negotiation approach to resolving commercial disputes.

Mediation enhances negotiation by allowing lawyers and business persons to converse with the assistance of non-dispute involved mediators who encourage constructive communication and interaction.⁶ Mediators help negotiators frame conversations in ways that counter selective and partisan perceptions, exploit shared and inde-

³ These three options exist in virtually all cultures. P.H. GULLIVER, *DISPUTES AND NEGOTIATIONS: A CROSS-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE* 2 (1970); KARL A. SLAIKEU, *WHEN PUSH COMES TO SHOVE: A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO MANAGING DISPUTES* 16 (1996).

⁴ See CHRISTOPHER W. MOORE, *THE MEDIATION PROCESS: PRACTICAL STRATEGIES FOR RESOLVING CONFLICT* 6 (2d ed. 1996). Managers around the world do not like disputes and often flee them by avoiding them and doing nothing. EILEEN CARROLL & KARL J. MACKIE, *INTERNATIONAL MEDIATION: THE ART OF BUSINESS DIPLOMACY* 4-5 (2d ed. 2006).

⁵ The core concept of mediation in most Latin American countries, derived from the United States, views mediation as third-party assisted negotiation. Falcao & Sanchez, *supra* note 2, at 416. Some Latin American countries use different words to describe this process and define it differently, often labeling it conciliation. *Id.* at 416, 420-21. The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) for International Commercial Conciliation defines conciliation as "a process, whether referred to by the expression conciliation, mediation, or an expression of similar import, whereby parties request a third person or persons . . . to assist them in their attempt to reach an amicable settlement of their dispute" Jernej Sekolec & Michael B. Getty, *The UMA and the UNCITRAL Model Rule: An Emerging Consensus on Mediation and Conciliation*, 2003 J. DISP. RESOL. 175, 185.

⁶ Mediation is best understood as assisted and enhanced negotiation. See, e.g., DWIGHT GOLANN & JAY FOLBERG, *MEDIATION: THE ROLES OF ADVOCATE AND NEUTRAL* 95 (2006); CARRIE J. MENKEL-MEADOW ET AL., *DISPUTE RESOLUTION: BEYOND THE ADVERSARIAL MODEL* 266 (2005); E. WENDY TRACHTE-HUBER & STEPHEN K. HUBER, *MEDIATION AND NEGOTIATION: REACHING AGREEMENT IN LAW AND BUSINESS* 281 (2d ed. 2007). Mediators help solve a primary problem in human communication, which is the illusion that it occurs when persons talk. This clarification and translation is important because people "see the world from their own personal vantage point, and they frequently confuse their perceptions with reality. Routinely, they fail to interpret what you say in the way you intend and do not mean what you understand them to say." ROGER FISHER ET AL., *GETTING TO YES: NEGOTIATING AGREEMENTS WITHOUT GIVING IN* 19 (2d ed. 1991).

pendent interests, and investigate resolutions that promote mutual gain.⁷ Unlike judges and arbitrators, mediators do not decide issues or enter judgments. Instead, mediators use confidential sessions to generate more and better information that often helps participants create agreements that accomplish more than is allowed by the narrow, win-lose remedies available in adjudication.⁸ Combating biased perceptions and distorted judgments, mediators help participants craft resolutions that allow all disputants to satisfy some of their interests.⁹ Mediation also allows businesses to control outcomes themselves and avoid the risks, delays, and additional costs that adjudication brings.¹⁰ Despite these and other advantages, adjudication, through either litigation or arbitration, remains the dispute resolution option selected most often in the United States and Latin America after non-mediated negotiation fails to resolve commercial disputes.

Lawyers in both the United States and Latin American countries play important roles in making decisions regarding how their commercial clients approach resolving disputes. Lawyers help clients understand and analyze dispute resolution options, which is usually an important initial step.¹¹ Because mediation is relatively new to the legal dispute arena, lawyers often serve as the primary source of information for their commercial clients about the existence and benefits of this option.¹² Attorneys' explanations and recommendations significantly influence the dispute resolution method used.¹³ U.S. lawyers often rely on their adjudication-influenced habits of perceiving and acting while recommending and taking primary responsibility for the

⁷ See KIMBERLEE K. KOVACH, *MEDIATION: PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE* 27 (3d ed. 2004); MENKEL-MEADOW ET AL., *supra* note 6, at 266-67.

⁸ MENKEL-MEADOW ET AL., *supra* note 6, at 270-71. Common agreements resulting from mediated commercial disputes include future contracts that take account of past wrongs, offer mutual profits, specify or prohibit specific future conduct, and include provisions for valued items such as reference letters and apologies. *Id.*

⁹ *Id.* at 270. They can encourage parties to agree to future contract provisions that rectify past problems and offer profit for all as opposed to the conventional money damage remedies adjudication provides. *Id.*

¹⁰ A sample of 606 U.S. Fortune 1000 companies showed that 82.9% thought that mediation allowed disputants to control their own destinies by resolving disputes themselves. DAVID B. LIPSKY & RONALD L. SEEBER, *THE APPROPRIATE RESOLUTION OF CORPORATE DISPUTES: A REPORT ON THE GROWING USE OF ADR BY U.S. CORPORATIONS* 17 (2008).

¹¹ CARROLL & MACKIE, *supra* note 4, at 18.

¹² John Lande, *Getting the Faith: Why Business Lawyers and Executives Believe in Mediation*, 5 HARV. NEGOT. L. REV. 137, 169-71 (2000).

¹³ Roselle L. Wissler, *When Does Familiarity Breed Contempt? A Study of the Role of Different Forms of ADR Education and Experience in Attorneys' ADR Recommendations*, 2 PEPP. DISP. RESOL. L.J. 199, 199 (2002).

means used to pursue their clients' commercial dispute resolution objectives.¹⁴

Most U.S. lawyers learn about mediation through experience or their legal education.¹⁵ Research demonstrates that lawyers who participate in mediation value mediating more than those who have not experienced it.¹⁶ Experience with mediation is the primary reason U.S. lawyers recommend that their commercial clients use it.¹⁷ In Latin America, personal experiences with mediation or reports by trusted colleagues provide the most convincing reason to use this dispute resolution option.¹⁸

This article surveys current contexts in which commercial mediation occurs in the United States and Latin American countries. After summarizing data assessing awareness by commercial actors of important differences between commercial mediation and adjudication, it analyzes the relatively infrequent use of mediation despite significant knowledge of its potential advantages. Exploring this discrepancy and focusing on lawyers, it next examines factors that influence U.S. and Latin American lawyers when they converse with commercial clients regarding selecting a dispute resolution. Analyzing both similarities arising from universal decision-making biases and shared legal cultural traditions and differences flowing from common law and civil legal system influences, this article argues that all of these factors strongly influence U.S. and Latin American lawyers toward adjudicating. These factors also explain why mediation is not used more to resolve commercial disputes.

II. USES AND ADVANTAGES OF COMMERCIAL MEDIATION

Mediating commercial disputes before adjudication may occur voluntarily after disagreements arise or pursuant to contract provisions that specify use of mediation.¹⁹ Contracts specifying mediation first allow a stepped approach where companies agree to explore business-oriented solutions not constrained by legal frameworks initially

¹⁴ Leonard L. Riskin & Nancy A. Welsh, *Is That All There Is?: "The Problem" in Court-Oriented Mediation*, 15 GEO. MASON L. REV. 863, 896 (2008).

¹⁵ Lande, *supra* note 12, at 169-71 (stating that personal experience with mediation supplied the major source of information for about two-thirds of the attorneys and one-third of the executives surveyed).

¹⁶ Richard Reuben, *The Lawyer Turns Peacemaker*, 82 A.B.A. J. 54, 57 (1996).

¹⁷ Wissler, *supra* note 13, at 223.

¹⁸ Falcao & Sanchez, *supra* note 2, at 429.

¹⁹ See Don Peters, *Can We Talk? Overcoming Barriers to Mediating Private Transborder Disputes in the Americas*, 41 VAND. J. TRANSNAT'L L. 1251, 1298-1301 (2008).

and to postpone adjudication until after this effort occurs.²⁰ Research suggests that agreeing to mediate disputes after they arise seldom happens.²¹ Even when one lawyer and commercial client understand the potential gains disputants can achieve by mediating, their counterparts frequently do not share this assessment.²² Although mediating pursuant to contract agreements occurs more often, it still happens less frequently than its advantages warrant.²³

Commercial disputes that generate litigation also are often referred or ordered to mediation under court-connected programs that are common in the United States and many other countries.²⁴ Mediating legal disputes already in litigation grew rapidly in the United

²⁰ KATHLEEN M. SCANLON, DRAFTER'S DESKBOOK: DISPUTE RESOLUTION CLAUSES 1.5 (2002); Peters, *supra* note 19, at 1298. In many ways this stepped approach parallels the Dispute Settlement Understanding of the World Trade Organization and NAFTA and CAFTA provisions. See Maraja Alejandra Rodriguez Lemmo, *Study of Selected International Dispute Resolution Regimes, with an Analysis of the Decisions of the Court of Justice of the Andean Community*, 19 ARIZ. J. INT'L & COMP. L. 863, 864-65 (2002). These provisions recommend beginning with consultations following strict guidelines and if negotiations fail, adjudication (via arbitration) occurs. *Id.* Parties can agree to use other processes, like mediation, at any time. *Id.* U.S. courts generally enforce predispute agreements to mediate by reasoning that these provisions obligate only discussing, not reaching, agreement. Kathleen M. Scanlon & Adam Spiewak, *Enforcement of Contract Clauses Providing for Mediation*, 19 ALTERNATIVES TO HIGH COST LITIG. 1, 1 (2001).

²¹ See Peters, *supra* note 19, at 1300.

²² David B. Lipsky & Ronald L. Seeber, *In Search of Control: The Corporate Embrace of ADR*, 1 U. PA. J. LAB. & EMP. L. 133, 145 (1998).

²³ PricewaterhouseCoopers, Comparative Study of Resolution Procedures in Germany: Summary, <http://cpradr.org/Portals/0/summaryCommercialDisputeResolution.pdf> (2005) (last visited Sept. 23, 2010) (hereinafter German Dispute Resolution Procedures) (summarizing a survey of 158 companies in Germany that found litigation to be the procedure most frequently used and perceived to be the least beneficial in many respects and recommended wide-spread use of dispute resolution clauses in contracts); see Nancy H. Rogers & Craig A. McEwen, *Employing the Law to Increase the Use of Mediation and to Encourage Direct and Early Negotiations*, 13 OHIO ST. J. ON DISP. RESOL. 831, 841 (1998) (finding that three companies who had signed a pledge to mediate before adjudicating did not increase their use of mediation).

²⁴ Penny Brooker & Anthony Lavers, *Mediation Outcomes: Lawyer's Experience with Commercial and Construction Mediation in the United Kingdom*, 5 PEPP. DISP. RESOL. L. J. 161, 172 (2005); Deborah Hensler, *Our Courts, Ourselves: How the Alternative Dispute Resolution Movement Is Re-Shaping Our Legal System*, 108 PENN. ST. L. REV. 165, 185-87 (2003). Professor Hensler estimated that over half of U.S. state court systems and nearly all of its ninety-four federal district courts have developed court-mandated or -referred mediation programs. Hensler, *supra* at 185. The state of Florida, for example, authorizes its courts to order "all or any portion" of a contested lawsuit to mediation before a trial date is set. FLA.

States, Australia, Canada, England, and other common law countries in the 1980s and 1990s. Civil law countries started adapting and adopting these approaches later.²⁵ For example, the European Parliament approved a directive in 2008 that strongly encourages mediating cross-border commercial disputes.²⁶ Although several Latin American countries started viewing mediation as a viable option for lawsuits in the 1990s,²⁷ none, with the exception of Argentina, have adopted broad court-connected or judge-mandated use of this process.²⁸

The United States is the most litigious country in the world.²⁹ Because U.S. companies file four times as many lawsuits as individuals do,³⁰ they are repeat players in the U.S. litigation system. Consequently, executives and managers at most large U.S. companies know the advantages and disadvantages of resolving commercial disputes by litigating.

Surveys of U.S. business men and women show significant awareness of the drawbacks of litigation³¹ and the potential advantages that mediating has compared to adjudicating commercial disputes.³² Many U.S. executives and managers see mediation as a better way to find outcomes that connect directly to business interests

STAT. § 44.102 (2009). This encompasses all commercial lawsuits filed in Florida courts.

²⁵ See GLOBAL TRENDS IN MEDIATION 7-8 (Nadja Alexander ed., 2d ed. 2006) [hereinafter GLOBAL MEDIATION TRENDS].

²⁶ *The Directive Is In: European Union Strongly Backs Cross-Border Mediation*, 26 ALTERNATIVES TO HIGH COST LITIG. 119, 119 (2008) [hereinafter *EU Backs Cross-Border Mediation*].

²⁷ Falcao & Sanchez, *supra* note 2, at 415.

²⁸ In 1995 Argentina enacted a law mandating mediation before any lawsuit, excepting family matters, could reach trial. James M. Cooper, *Latin America in the Twenty-First Century: Access to Justice*, 30 CAL. W. INT'L L.J. 429, 433 (2000). From April 1996 through April 1997 in the Commercial Court of Appeals, 69.43% of 29,986 commercial disputes in litigation that were mediated reached agreement. *Id.* Chile requires a form of mandatory mediation (called conciliation) in consumer protection matters. Sekolec & Getty, *supra* note 5, at 178. Columbia, Ecuador, and Peru also have mediation or conciliation laws. Cooper, *supra* at 437; Falcao & Sanchez, *supra* note 2, at 417.

²⁹ Julia Ann Gold, *ADR Through a Cultural Lens: How Cultural Values Shape Our Disputing Processes*, 2005 J. DISP. RESOL. 289, 302 n.88.

³⁰ Craig A. McEwen, *Managing Corporate Disputing: Overcoming Barriers to the Effective Use of Mediation for Reducing the Cost and Time of Litigation*, 14 Ohio St. J. on Disp. Resol. 1, 26 (1998); Carmel Sileo & David Ratcliff, *Straight Talk About Torts*, TRIAL, July 2006, at 44.

³¹ Maurits Barendrecht & Berend R. de Vries, *Fitting the Forum to the Fuss with Sticky Defaults: Failure in the Market for Dispute Resolution Services?*, 7 CARDOZO J. CONFLICT RESOL. 83, 91-92 (2005).

³² Wissler, *supra* note 13, at 204.

because, unlike adjudicating, mediating proceeds without applying law-based frames regarding legal rights, defenses, and remedies.³³ Interests reflect the underlying needs and motivations of the disputants, and they often differ significantly from the frameworks of legal claims and remedies.³⁴ Most commercial disputes, for example, have multiple variables, and companies commonly have complex interest sets that interact with these factors in ways that are often individual to each entity.³⁵

Commercial disputes encompass business, relational, and procedural factors as well as economic concerns.³⁶ Commonly shared company interests in commercial disputes include saving time and money, preserving relationships, and creating satisfactory, durable, and confidential outcomes.³⁷ Mediation better honors these business interests by encouraging looking forward to assess future commercial opportunities rather than emphasizing looking backward to determine legal consequences arising from past events.³⁸ Companies usually care more about solving problems quickly to enhance continued business opportunities than they value winning debates about law applications and establishing new legal doctrines or statutory interpretations.

Developing, creating, and maintaining commercial connections between businesses that are important to long term economic growth takes time and money.³⁹ U.S. business persons believe that mediation helps resolve disputes while preserving these important relationships

³³ See Gans, *supra* note 1, at 53; F. Peter Phillips, *How Conflict Resolution Emerged within the Commercial Sector*, 25 ALTERNATIVES TO HIGH COSTS LITIG. 3, 6 (2007).

³⁴ FISHER ET AL., *supra* note 6, at 40-50; David A. Lax & James K. Sebenius, *Interests: The Measure of Negotiation*, in NEGOTIATION: READINGS, EXERCISES, AND CASES 130-37 (Roy J. Lewicki et al. eds., 2d ed. 1993).

³⁵ Michael L. Moffitt, *Disputes as Opportunities to Create Value*, in THE HANDBOOK OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION 173, 176 (Michael L. Moffitt & Robert C. Bordone eds., 2005).

³⁶ See AMERICAN ARBITRATION ASSOCIATION, DISPUTE-WISE BUSINESS MANAGEMENT: IMPROVING ECONOMIC AND NON-ECONOMIC OUTCOMES IN MANAGING BUSINESS CONFLICTS 19 (2006) [hereinafter DISPUTE-WISE BUSINESS MANAGEMENT] (listing these interests as reasons companies use mediation); LIPSKY & SEEBER, *supra* note 10, at 19 (1998) (listing these factors as reasons companies use mediation).

³⁷ See DISPUTE-WISE BUSINESS MANAGEMENT, *supra* note 36, at 19 (examining the factors that companies list as reasons for using mediation).

³⁸ See Phillips, *supra* note 33, at 6.

³⁹ See Falcao & Sanchez, *supra* note 2, at 424; Thomas W. Walde, *Pro-Active Mediation of International Business and Investment Disputes Involving Long-Term Contracts: From Zero-Sum Litigation to Efficient Dispute Management*, TRANSNAT'L DISP. MGMT., May 2004, available at <http://www.transnational-dispute-management.com/samples/welcome.html> (follow hyperlink containing article title).

better than adjudication does.⁴⁰ Mediation helps participants turn disputes into deals by renegotiating contracts to resolve specific problems, which permits resuming strengthened commercial relationships⁴¹ and creating velvet divorces that liquidate associations amicably.⁴² In contrast, adjudication more often ends rather than repairs commercial relationships. Adjudication typically assigns blame, produces win-lose outcomes, terminates relationships contentiously, and creates disincentives for companies to do future business together.⁴³

U.S. business men and women believe that mediation produces outcomes in less time than adjudication.⁴⁴ Eight out of ten executives and managers surveyed concluded that mediation saves time over litigation.⁴⁵ U.S. business personnel know that mediating avoids the delays caused by litigation's pleading and evidence assembling processes and the collateral and costly skirmishes these procedures often generate. Arbitration similarly diverts company time, money, and energy to ancillary legal battles and procedural quarrels.⁴⁶ Assuming appropriate company decision-makers who are willing to negotiate attend, mediations can resolve complex disputes in days rather than months or years.⁴⁷ In Latin America, mediation's use of relevant business infor-

⁴⁰ 80% of the business executives acknowledged that mediation helps preserve important commercial relationships. Lande, *supra* note 12, at 186. 59% of business persons in another study said that mediation preserves business relationships better than adjudication. LIPSKY & SEEBER, *supra* note 10, at 18. 56% said the same thing in another study. DISPUTE-WISE BUSINESS MANAGEMENT, *supra* note 36, at 19.

⁴¹ CARROLL & MACKIE, *supra* note 4, at 12-18. For example, many intellectual property disputes begin as rights claims but are resolved as negotiated licensing arrangements. *Id.*

⁴² *Id.*

⁴³ Julie Barker, *International Mediation—A Better Alternative for the Resolution of Commercial Disputes: Guidelines for a U.S. Negotiator Involved in an International Commercial Mediation with Mexicans*, 19 LOY. L.A. INT'L COMP. L.J. 1, 7 (1996); see CARROLL & MACKIE, *supra* note 4, at 34.

⁴⁴ Peters, *supra* note 19, at 1285-86.

⁴⁵ See DISPUTE-WISE BUSINESS MANAGEMENT, *supra* note 36, at 19 (comparing 84% of business people who believe mediation saves time as opposed to litigation); LIPSKY & SEEBER, *supra* note 10, at 17 (stating that 80.1% believe mediation saves time as compared to litigation).

⁴⁶ George W. Coombe, Jr., *The Resolution of Transnational Commercial Disputes: A Perspective from North America*, 5 ANN. SURV. INT'L & COMP. L. 13, 25 (1999); Peters, *supra* note 19, at 1259.

⁴⁷ The London based Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution reports the average length of its cross border commercial mediations is two days. CARROLL & MACKIE, *supra* note 4, at 29. A Scandinavian supplier and an Asian producer chose a three-day meditation rather than an arbitration that the disputes privately estimated would take one to two years to conclude. *Id.* at 6.

mation allows it to be “fast,” not “slow” as occurs in commercial litigation.⁴⁸

Because time is usually a substantial component of expense, U.S. business persons believe that mediation is less expensive than adjudication. 91% conclude that mediation saves money compared to litigation.⁴⁹ Surveying sixty-nine U.S. companies, 71% reported cost savings when comparing mediation to litigation costs.⁵⁰ Another study at one large American corporation showed that the costs of using mediation were one-third less than litigation expenses.⁵¹

U.S. business men and women typically rate mediation above arbitration on all of these business interest measures. For example, arbitration’s use of formal, legalistic frames obscures recognition and exploration of business interest-based outcomes by focusing on backward looking facts, evidence, and arguments needed to assert and defend legal rights.⁵² U.S. executives believe that mediation preserves commercial relationships better than arbitration does.⁵³ Although arbitration usually has time and cost advantages over litigation, U.S. business men and women view mediation as being superior to arbitration in saving time and resolving commercial disputes more quickly.⁵⁴ Similarly, U.S. business men and women believe that mediation is less

⁴⁸ Falcao & Sanchez, *supra* note 2, at 419. Many Latin American countries suffer from slow, bureaucratic, and inefficient judicial systems. *Id.* at 425.

⁴⁹ DISPUTE-WISE BUSINESS MANAGEMENT, *supra* note 36, at 19; see LIPSKY & SEE-
BER, *supra* note 10, at 17 (stating that 89.2% believe mediation saves money compared to litigation).

⁵⁰ Catherine Cronin-Harris & Peter H. Kaskell, *How ADR Finds a Home in Corporate Law Departments*, 15 ALTERNATIVES TO HIGH COST LITIG. 158, 170 (1997).

⁵¹ *Analyzing Company ADR System Practices*, 22 ALTERNATIVES TO HIGH COST LITIG. 47, 53 (2004).

⁵² Eric D. Green, *International Commercial Dispute Resolution: Courts, Arbitration, and Mediation*, 15 B.U. INT’L L.J. 175, 177-78 (1997); Peters, *supra* note 19, at 1259.

⁵³ LIPSKY & SEE-
BER, *supra* note 10, at 17 (reporting that 58.7% choose mediation to preserve relationships as compared to 41.3% choosing arbitration for that reason); DISPUTE-WISE BUSINESS MANAGEMENT, *supra* note 36, at 19 (noting that 56% of businesses choose mediation to preserve relationships while 38% choose arbitration for this reason).

⁵⁴ LIPSKY & SEE-
BER, *supra* note 10, at 17 (stating that compared to litigation, 80.1% of respondents use mediation to save time while 68.5% use arbitration to save time); DISPUTE-WISE BUSINESS MANAGEMENT, *supra* note 36, at 19 (stating that compared to litigation, 84% of respondents use mediation to save time, while 73% use arbitration to save time).

expensive than arbitration.⁵⁵ They also express more confidence in mediators than arbitrators.⁵⁶

U.S. business men and women who have experienced mediation of commercial disputes report satisfaction with the process and the results of their interactions.⁵⁷ The majority of U.S. executives also agreed that mediation was appropriate in half or more of their commercial disputes that they were presently litigating.⁵⁸ Only 16% of these executives indicated that mediation was appropriate in less than half of the commercial disputes they were litigating.⁵⁹

Evidence suggests that civil legal system-based companies concur. Eighty-four percent of French companies surveyed expressed satisfaction with mediation.⁶⁰ All twenty-five Italian companies who responded to another survey thought that their companies could benefit from mediating commercial disputes.⁶¹

Despite these favorable attitudes toward and experiences with commercial mediation, businesses do not mediate disputes very often. Although some companies successfully use a systemic approach to conflict that requires mediating before adjudicating,⁶² a survey of 600

⁵⁵ A survey of sixty-nine companies showed that 71% reported cost savings when comparing mediation to litigation costs, compared to 44% reporting cost savings comparing arbitration to litigation. Cronin-Harris & Kaskell, *supra* note 50, at 170-71. See LIPSKY & SEEBER, *supra* note 10, at 17 (stating that compared to litigation, 89.2% think mediation saves money while 68.6% think that arbitration does); DISPUTE-WISE BUSINESS MANAGEMENT, *supra* note 36, at 19 (noting that compared to litigation, 91% of respondents think mediation saves money while 71% think arbitration does).

⁵⁶ Lipsky & Seeber, *supra* note 22, at 151. 48% of 606 company lawyers surveyed expressed a lack of confidence in arbitrators as compared to 29% expressing this regarding mediators. *Id.* Overall, these commercial lawyers were more satisfied with mediation than with arbitration. *Id.* at 153-54.

⁵⁷ See Lande, *supra* note 12, at 176. Reviewing sixty-two studies evaluating more than 100 court-connected mediation programs showed that more than 70% of litigants were satisfied with mediation, and more than 80% thought the process was fair. Jennifer Shack, *Efficiency: Mediation in Courts Can Bring Gains, But Under What Conditions?*, 9 DISP. RESOL. MAG. 11 (2003). Analyzing nine studies comparing satisfaction and fairness perceptions between citizens who participated in mediation and those who did not found that six showed higher rates for those who mediated while three discerned no difference. *Id.* at 12.

⁵⁸ Lande, *supra* note 12, at 172-73.

⁵⁹ *Id.* at 173.

⁶⁰ *A New Study Shows How ADR Is Perceived by French Business Executives*, 64 J. DISP. RESOL. 13, 13 (2009) [hereinafter *French Executives' ADR Perceptions*].

⁶¹ Giuseppe De Palo & Penelope Harley, *Mediation in Italy: Exploring the Contradictions*, 21 NEGOT. J. 469, 473 (2005).

⁶² The components of a systematic dispute resolution approach include viewing disputes as expected, rather than unusual, occurrences, developing system-wide

U.S. companies showed only 19% mediated frequently.⁶³ Another survey of 250 companies showed that 16% do not use mediation at all, 25% rarely use it, and 35% use it only occasionally.⁶⁴

Similar data exists in civil law countries. One hundred fifty-eight German companies surveyed showed that mediation was generally perceived as beneficial, yet rarely used to resolve commercial disputes.⁶⁵ A survey of seventy French companies showed only 39% mediate commercial disputes.⁶⁶ All twenty-five of the Italian companies surveyed believed mediation is beneficial, yet 40% have never used it to resolve commercial disputes.⁶⁷ Consistent with these results, adjudication is the most frequently used commercial dispute resolution process in the United States,⁶⁸ Europe,⁶⁹ and Latin America.⁷⁰ Litigation is the preferred process for domestic disputes,⁷¹ and arbitration is the preferred process for cross border conflicts.⁷²

The primary constraint on broader mediation use is self-inflicted because this discrepancy largely results from lawyers' resistance to using mediation.⁷³ The unwillingness of dispute counterparts to consider mediating is a principal reason companies do not use mediation and was identified as a barrier by three-quarters of 600 U.S. corporations surveyed.⁷⁴ Although some of this resistance

policies that use mediation before adjudicating to pursue interest-based resolutions, and directing lawyers to follow this approach. See McEwen, *supra* note 30, at 25; Peters, *supra* note 19, at 1290-91; DISPUTE-WISE BUSINESS MANAGEMENT, *supra* note 36, at 22, 26. Companies that have established this approach are more likely to resolve commercial disputes quicker and at less cost. *Id.* at 21.

⁶³ LIPSKY & SEEBER, *supra* note 10, at 10.

⁶⁴ DISPUTE-WISE BUSINESS MANAGEMENT, *supra* note 36, at 17.

⁶⁵ German Dispute Resolution Procedures, *supra* note 23.

⁶⁶ *French Executives' ADR Perceptions*, *supra* note 60, at 13.

⁶⁷ De Palo & Harley, *supra* note 61, at 473.

⁶⁸ Gold, *supra* note 29, at 302 (discussing litigation as the "default American dispute resolution process"); see LIPSKY & SEEBER, *supra* note 10, at 10 (explaining that a small percentage of U.S. companies use mediation frequently); DISPUTE-WISE BUSINESS MANAGEMENT, *supra* note 36, at 17 (noting that 76% of U.S. companies use mediation occasionally, rarely, or not at all).

⁶⁹ De Palo & Harley, *supra* note 61, at 473; German Dispute Resolution Procedures, *supra* note 23 (explaining that litigation is the procedure most frequently used to resolve commercial disputes and is perceived to be least beneficial in most respects).

⁷⁰ Falcao & Sanchez, *supra* note 2, at 428-29.

⁷¹ Gold, *supra* note 29, at 302.

⁷² Peters, *supra* note 19, at 1261.

⁷³ CARROLL & MACKIE, *supra* note 4, at 114 (stating that the greatest constraint on mediation usage is self-imposed, resulting from the fact that managers and lawyers often resist entering the process).

⁷⁴ LIPSKY & SEEBER, *supra* note 10, at 26.

undoubtedly results from dictates to adjudicate made by executives and managers, research disclosed no data regarding how often choices to adjudicate a commercial dispute are made after a full comparison with mediation's advantages and disadvantages.

Considerable evidence suggests that this comparison does not happen frequently in the United States. Adjudicating is often the only dispute resolution alternative identified and analyzed by U.S. lawyers.⁷⁵ One survey showed that counsel had not mentioned mediation as an option in seventy commercial lawsuits proceeding that year.⁷⁶ A survey of 2300 Ohio lawyers showed that only 14% regularly recommended mediation to their clients.⁷⁷ Several studies showed that large percentages of U.S. lawyers rarely use mediation.⁷⁸ These surveys also show that 17% or less reported using mediation often, usually, or always.⁷⁹

Minimal use of commercial mediation also occurs in civil law countries. Local bar associations in Latin American countries express skepticism toward mediation.⁸⁰ Although a close fit between Latin American culture and mediation exists, mediating has not been an easy sell in these countries despite its advantages over adjudication.⁸¹ Three years after Poland introduced mediation to its Civil Procedure Code, Polish lawyers continue to demonstrate reluctance to mediate commercial disputes.⁸² Legislative activity in Italy has not generated a substantial commitment to use mediation in the Italian legal community.⁸³ Sixty-eight percent of Italian companies surveyed reported that lawyers did not encourage them to consider mediation as an alternative to adjudication.⁸⁴

Commercial disputants report frequent use of adjudication even when the benefits of using mediation are apparent.⁸⁵ A detailed

⁷⁵ Peters, *supra* note 19, at 1294.

⁷⁶ CPR Institute for Dispute Resolution Spring Meeting—June 1996, 14 ALTERNATIVES TO HIGH COST LITIG. 98 (1996).

⁷⁷ Wissler, *supra* note 13, at 221 (noting that 59% of counsel said they sometimes recommended mediation and 27% said they never recommended mediation).

⁷⁸ *Id.* at 211 (observing that most attorneys who had used mediation reported using it in 25% or less of their cases).

⁷⁹ *Id.*

⁸⁰ Falcao & Sanchez, *supra* note 2, at 427.

⁸¹ *Id.* at 428.

⁸² Don Peters & Ewa Gmurzynska, *Yes We Can: Overcoming Barriers to Mediating Private Commercial Disputes*, 7 WARSAW UNIVERSITY L. REV. 122, 126-27 (2008).

⁸³ De Palo & Harley, *supra* note 61, at 473.

⁸⁴ *How Business Conflict Resolution Is Being Practiced in China and Europe*, 23 ALTERNATIVES TO HIGH COST LITIG. 148, 149 (2007).

⁸⁵ Lipsky & Seeber, *supra* note 22, at 145.

analysis of six large U.S. corporations revealed a failure to increase use of mediation even though business principals supported expanded use.⁸⁶ A general counsel for one of these companies said that he could not think of an initiative he had more difficulty selling than mediating commercial disputes because lawyers “generally were resistant.”⁸⁷

This article analyzes this resistance found in both common law U.S. lawyers and civil law system Latin American lawyers. This analysis argues that biases flowing from the way human brains perceive and make decisions substantially influence this resistance. It also contends that shared legal cultural factors resulting from similarities in how law is used to resolve disputes in adjudication and how lawyers are educated significantly explain this resistance. This article then examines factors which combine to reduce the influence that differences in how common law and civil system lawyers practice might otherwise have when helping clients decide how to approach resolving commercial disputes. It concludes by presenting reasons why carefully assessing mediation as a pre-adjudication option helps lawyers counter perceptual, decision-making, and legal cultural biases while allowing commercial clients to avoid the risks and substantial transaction costs inherent in adjudicating disputes.

III. PERCEPTUAL AND DECISION-MAKING BIASES INFLUENCING BOTH COMMON LAW AND CIVIL SYSTEM LAWYERS

All decision-making and behavioral activity involved in identifying, explaining, recommending, and implementing commercial dispute resolution options, like all human choice and action, starts with perception.⁸⁸ Humans perceive through their sensory receptors of sight, sound, touch, smell, and taste.⁸⁹ Meanings derived from these perceptions influence decisions, predictions, and actions. Recent scientific research demonstrates that humans form these meanings largely as the result of emotional reactions, and they may or may not then subject these responses to conscious, cognitive reflection, review, and adjustment.⁹⁰

Contemporary science has demonstrated that human decisions result from interactions between different brain networks, many of

⁸⁶ Rogers & McEwen, *supra* note 23, at 841.

⁸⁷ *Id.* at 841-42.

⁸⁸ Don Peters, *Forever Jung: Psychological Type Theory, The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator and Learning Negotiation*, 42 DRAKE L. REV. 1, 13 (1993).

⁸⁹ Gold, *supra* note 29, at 293; LARRY A. SAMOVAR & RICHARD E. PORTER, *INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION* 10 (9th ed. 2000).

⁹⁰ Wendell Jones & Scott H. Hughes, *Complexity, Conflict Resolution, and How the Mind Works*, 20 CONFLICT RESOL. Q. 485, 488-90 (2003).

which produce emotion.⁹¹ Wide agreement now exists that human brains essentially use two different decision-making methods: a conscious, logical, slow process of thinking through perceptions and alternatives and a quicker, emotion-based system that operates largely below the surface of consciousness.⁹² Although the conscious cognitive brain gets virtually all of the attention in decision-making theory and literature, most of what humans think and do is really driven by their emotions.⁹³ Many, if not most, human decisions and actions are either made or strongly influenced by these quick, effortless, emotional brain reactions.⁹⁴

Although lawyers believe that their analyses, predictions, and decisions are rational, substantial evidence suggests that these beliefs are not accurate.⁹⁵ Many identifiable emotional and cultural factors frequently distort rational decision-making.⁹⁶ Many occur as the result of how rapid, subconscious emotional brain systems perceive, interpret, and respond to information. Many others occur as the result of neural shortcuts used when working with complex decisions such as those involved in identifying, explaining, and evaluating commercial dispute resolution methods.⁹⁷ Humans are more likely to use emotional brain-based perception and neural short cuts when making decisions confronting uncertain situations,⁹⁸ and commercial disputes, at least initially, generally generate substantial uncertainty.

Occurring rapidly and largely below conscious awareness, emotion-based decision-making influences are difficult to detect and counter.⁹⁹ Although these systems frequently work well, they occasionally misfire for specific, consistent reasons.¹⁰⁰ These misfires often create biased, ineffective, non-optimal decisions and actions. Many of these common decision-making biases occur frequently when resolving

⁹¹ JONAH LEHRER, *HOW WE DECIDE* xv (2009).

⁹² MALCOLM GLADWELL, *BLINK: THE POWER OF THINKING WITHOUT THINKING* 10 (2005).

⁹³ LEHRER, *supra* note 91, at 23; Jones & Hughes, *supra* note 90, at 490.

⁹⁴ LEHRER, *supra* note 91, at 26-27.

⁹⁵ Richard Birke & Craig R. Fox, *Psychological Principles in Negotiating Civil Settlements*, 4 HARV. NEGOT. L. REV. 1, 1-2 (1999).

⁹⁶ ROBERT H. MNOOKIN ET AL., *BEYOND WINNING: NEGOTIATING TO CREATE VALUE IN DEALS AND DISPUTES* 156 (2000).

⁹⁷ Robert S. Adler, *Flawed Thinking: Addressing Decision Biases in Negotiation*, 20 OHIO ST. J. ON DISP. RESOL. 683, 690-91 (2005); Russell Korobkin & Chris Guthrie, *Heuristics and Biases at the Bargaining Table*, in *THE NEGOTIATOR'S FIELDBOOK* 351 (Andrea Kupfer Schneider & Christopher Honeyman eds., 2006).

⁹⁸ LEHRER, *supra* note 91, at 76.

⁹⁹ Birke & Fox, *supra* note 95, at 3-4.

¹⁰⁰ GLADWELL, *supra* note 92, at 15.

disputes, and several influence choosing resolution options.¹⁰¹ They often interact and combine to influence decisions to adjudicate rather than mediate commercial disputes.¹⁰²

Human decision-making begins with initial perception. To manage the overwhelming external stimuli that human brains confront, people perceive selectively in potentially biased ways by noticing and emphasizing some aspects of events and situations while ignoring others.¹⁰³ Human perceptual experiences differ. Everyone selects, evaluates, and organizes external stimuli in unique ways so persons often interpret the same event, situation, or context differently.¹⁰⁴ Perception is influenced by what humans have learned and experienced in their environments and their past.¹⁰⁵ People construct reality on foundations of what they pay attention to and how they use their expectations, interests, and experiences to construe meanings.¹⁰⁶

Selective perception reflects human tendencies to perceive in self-serving ways.¹⁰⁷ Human brains work hard to tell simple stories consistent with what they know to protect themselves from ill-fitting data.¹⁰⁸ People typically assume they are objective and reasonable

¹⁰¹ See generally Peters, *supra* note 19, at 1263-75.

¹⁰² *Id.* at 1273.

¹⁰³ Sheila Heen & Douglas Stone, *Perceptions and Stories*, in THE NEGOTIATOR'S FIELDBOOK, *supra* note 97, at 343, 343-47. An ensemble of alerting, orienting, and executive brain networks collaborate during perception. WINIFRED GALLAGHER, RAPT ATTENTION AND THE FOCUSED LIFE 8 (2009). They attune people to what is going on in their outer and inner worlds, using a basic mechanism that selects some aspects of perception and suppressing the rest. *Id.* at 8-9. Human brains select a thin slice of what is going on, represent or depict it, store it, and then make this part of perceivers' reality. *Id.*

¹⁰⁴ Gold, *supra* note 29, at 293. Business persons from different parts of the same organization often see dispute contexts and situations differently. Heen & Stone, *supra* note 103, at 344 (describing how, in any organization, where you sit influences what you see).

¹⁰⁵ DANIEL L. SCHACTER, SEARCHING FOR MEMORY: THE BRAIN, THE MIND, AND THE PAST 3 (1996); Gold, *supra* note 29, at 293; Heen & Stone, *supra* note 103, at 344. Brain nerve cells translate incoming sensory information into explicit representations that support and are influenced by a person's previous knowledge of the world from learning and experience. GALLAGHER, *supra* note 103, at 20.

¹⁰⁶ Jean R. Sternlight & Jennifer Robbenolt, *Good Lawyers Should Be Good Psychologists: Insights for Interviewing and Counseling Clients*, 23 OHIO ST. J. ON DISP. RESOL. 437, 451-53, 463 (2009). People ordinarily perceive things "in synchrony with [their] accumulated knowledge, which enriches and defines" their experiences and ensures their "uniqueness." GALLAGHER, *supra* note 103, at 25.

¹⁰⁷ Max H. Bazerman & Katie Shonk, *The Decision Perspective to Negotiation*, in THE HANDBOOK OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION, *supra* note 35, at 52, 55; Birke & Fox, *supra* note 95, at 14; Korobkin & Guthrie, *supra* note 97, at 354.

¹⁰⁸ Heen & Stone, *supra* note 103, at 346-47.

when confronting problems.¹⁰⁹ Applying false consensus bias, humans also assume that others looking at the same data would draw the same conclusions,¹¹⁰ and they often erroneously attribute unreasonable or harmful motives to others who reach different interpretations.¹¹¹

When differences arise, humans inaccurately believe that they have perceived all important data,¹¹² and they attend to information that justifies their perspectives while ignoring other stimuli. This selective perceptual process mirrors adjudication. Adjudication encourages limited information assessment by requiring asserting and substantiating claims that rely on some, but not all, potentially useful data present in complex situations. Adjudication also assumes that this legally relevant data is all that matters for resolving commercial disputes.

Selective perception contributes to self-serving, biased attribution. Attribution theory analyzes how humans attribute causal meaning to behavior.¹¹³ In order to achieve a sense of control in their lives, people routinely look for causes that explain their behaviors and the actions of those with whom they interact.¹¹⁴ Determining the causes of events lets people predict future occurrences.¹¹⁵ People categorize behavioral causes as internal, resulting from a person's individual characteristics, or external or situational, stemming from things outside the actor's control.¹¹⁶

Biased attribution stems from human tendencies to attribute another's actions to internal characteristics while perceiving that their

¹⁰⁹ Keith G. Allred, *Relationship Dynamics in Disputes: Replacing Contention with Cooperation*, in THE HANDBOOK OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION, *supra* note 35, at 83-84.

¹¹⁰ Melissa Janis, *Perceptual Errors in Mediation*, 56 DISP. RESOL. J. 49, 51 (2001). Humans overestimate the degree to which others share their perspectives. Sternlight & Robbennolt, *supra* note 106, at 464. False consensus bias describes human tendencies to assume that their perceptions, attitudes, behaviors, and lifestyle preferences are the measures of normality and correctness. Janis, *supra* at 51.

¹¹¹ Allred, *supra* note 109, at 84. This is a form of attribution bias discussed later. See *infra* notes 117-121 and accompanying text.

¹¹² Heen and Stone, *supra* note 103, at 344. Called user illusion, humans typically believe they perceive everything important in situations but in fact brains take in only small slices of available information, and possibly as little as 1% of a stimulus field. *Id.*

¹¹³ Russell Korobkin, *Psychological Biases that Become Mediation Impediments Can Be Overcome with Interventions that Minimize Blockages*, 24 ALTERNATIVES TO HIGH COST LITIG. 67, 69 (2006).

¹¹⁴ Janis, *supra* note 110, at 51.

¹¹⁵ *Id.*

¹¹⁶ *Id.*

own behaviors result from external factors.¹¹⁷ Humans tend to prefer simple causal explanations and are more likely to assign responsibility to others when they judge behavioral causes to be internal and controllable.¹¹⁸ When disputes escalate, biased attribution assumes others' difficult, problematic, or harmful behavior came from their negative characteristics.¹¹⁹ Humans easily perceive harmful intent by others from negative impacts and consequences their actions cause, while simultaneously explaining their own similar behaviors as resulting from contextual factors beyond their control.¹²⁰ Biased attributions frequently increase disputants' anger levels beyond what is objectively justified, encourage them to retaliate, and influence them to adjudicate to punish counterparts.¹²¹

Biased human perception, attribution, and decision-making risks multiply when disputing dynamics transform perception from selective to partisan.¹²² Partisan, contentious business cultures exist, and they create disagreements, escalate them into disputes, and erect barriers to considering mediating before adjudicating.¹²³ Many, if not most, commercial disputes engender intense emotional and partisan feelings in the people involved.¹²⁴ Disputes generate strong emotions reflecting anger, distrust, and interests in self-preservation that influence dispute resolution process selection.¹²⁵ Powerful feelings of suspicion, betrayal, and disrespect often influence desires for achieving vindication, using professional advocates, and punishing dispute coun-

¹¹⁷ Korobkin, *supra* note 113, at 70.

¹¹⁸ Sternlight & Robbennolt, *supra* note 106, at 461.

¹¹⁹ DOUGLAS STONE ET AL., *DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS: HOW TO DISCUSS WHAT MATTERS MOST* 48.

¹²⁰ *Id.* at 46-48. The negative causal attributions often generate judgments of responsibility and blame. Sternlight & Robbennolt, *supra* note 106, at 461-62.

¹²¹ Korobkin, *supra* note 113, at 70.

¹²² ROGER FISHER ET AL., *BEYOND MACHIAVELLI: TOOLS FOR COPING WITH CONFLICT* 21-31 (1994).

¹²³ McEwen, *supra* note 30, at 9-10. "Tough guy" cultures and "macho management" influence adversarial position-taking that generate as well as exacerbate disputes. CARROLL & MACKIE, *supra* note 4, at 115; McEwen, *supra* at 10.

¹²⁴ Commercial litigation is often driven by emotional, not economic, factors. Symposium, *ADR 2000, CPR's Online Seminar Inside the Law Firm: Dealing with Financial Disincentives to ADR*, 17 *ALTERNATIVES TO HIGH COST LITIG.* 43, 45 (1999) [hereinafter *Financial Disincentives to ADR*].

¹²⁵ See Peters, *supra* note 19, at 1275-76. Demonstrating the reality that commercial disputes are usually personal conflicts in disguise, commercial lawyers frequently confront managers and executives who think they have been wronged and consequently dig in their heels. McEwen, *supra* note 30, at 10. In addition, employees who have made decisions generating disputes want management support and feel undermined if mediation threatens outcomes that do not fully vindicate their actions. LIPSKY & SEEBER, *supra* note 10, at 24.

terparts. All of these emotions influence choosing to adjudicate commercial disputes to achieve vindication by winning and inflicting harm.

Partisan emotions slow perceptions, mask subtleties, discount specifics, and produce crude, less complex decisions.¹²⁶ They often generate feelings of threat, risk, and danger that stimulate powerful yet primitive emotional brain-based fight or flight responses.¹²⁷ This powerful Paleolithic instinct generates preferences for legalized fighting by adjudicating.¹²⁸

Partisan perception hardens commitments to beliefs and further narrows information gathering. It reinforces tendencies to seek only information supporting existing views, to ignore or discount disconfirming data, and to resist changing perspectives when confronted by discrepancies.¹²⁹ In extreme forms, partisan perception reactively devalues what disputing counterparts say and do.¹³⁰ These narrowing effects of partisan emotions actively discourage seeking to learn or remember the perspectives and interests of others,¹³¹ encourage either-or adjudicatory thinking, and hinder both-and approaches that mediation encourages.¹³²

Sharing a professional tradition of intense commitment to their client's cause, U.S. common law and Latin American civil system lawyers risk reinforcing partisan emotions when discussing commercial dispute resolution options with angry, distrustful, and threatened cli-

¹²⁶ See Heen & Stone, *supra* note 103, at 345.

¹²⁷ See Douglas H. Yarn & Gregory Todd Jones, *In Our Bones (Or Brains): Behavioral Biology*, in THE NEGOTIATOR'S FIELDBOOK, *supra* note 97, at 283, 284-85 (stating that competitive behavior is understandable from a biological perspective because it enhances chances of survivability in a prehistoric world of scarce resources). Human behavior at its most fundamental level is about the brain's receiving stimuli, making computations based thereon, and directing actions. *Id.*

¹²⁸ CARROLL & MACKIE, *supra* note 4, at 4-5 (noting that managers around the world do not like conflicts and often experience fight-or-flight reactions, and choose to worsen situations by legalized fighting, or adjudication, or to flee problems by ignoring them and doing nothing).

¹²⁹ Barendrect & de Vries, *supra* note 31, at 98; FISHER ET AL., *supra* note 6, at 22.

¹³⁰ DEEPAK MALHOTRA & MAX H. BAZERMAN, NEGOTIATION GENIUS: HOW TO OVERCOME OBSTACLES AND ACHIEVE BRILLIANT RESULTS AT THE BARGAINING TABLE AND BEYOND 110-11 (2007).

¹³¹ Barendrect & de Vries, *supra* note 31, at 98; see FISHER ET AL., *supra* note 6 at 22-28; Daniel Kahneman & Amos Tversky, *Conflict Resolution: A Cognitive Perspective*, in BARRIERS TO CONFLICT RESOLUTION 44, 47 (Kenneth Arrow et al. eds., 1995).

¹³² See STONE ET AL., *supra* note 119, at 39-40 (recommending the acceptance of different perceptions, working to understand them, and once mutual understanding is achieved, finding effective ways to manage disagreements and solve problems).

ents.¹³³ Sometimes U.S. lawyers intentionally stoke their clients' emotional fires to encourage adjudicatory choice.¹³⁴ More often, lawyers remain neutral initially but personally experience partisan perception after adjudication is selected and produces quarrels and skirmishes. These preliminary adjudicatory battles often influence U.S. lawyers to transfer partisan adjudicatory thinking and acting to mediating in ways that substantially interfere with exploring business interests and non-legal solutions.¹³⁵

Incomplete and distorted selective and partisan perception breeds additional biases resulting from egocentrism-based optimistic overconfidence.¹³⁶ Overconfidence leads humans "to discount small probabilities, assume luck runs in [their] favor, and distort unattractive consequences."¹³⁷ These egocentric tendencies also encourage humans to bias predictions in self-serving ways that reflect preexisting beliefs.¹³⁸

Professionals in many occupations tend to make unrealistically overconfident or optimistic forecasts regarding future outcomes.¹³⁹ This frequently happens when professionals estimate outcome probabilities that depend upon a series of events.¹⁴⁰ Adjudication frequently requires prevailing on multiple legal issues and factual ques-

¹³³ Cf. DANIEL GOLEMAN, *SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE: THE NEW SCIENCE OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS* 14-16 (2006) (suggesting that the field of social neuroscience reveals that all human interactions have emotional subtexts that are contagious and often transfer automatically from one to the other); Daniel L. Shapiro, *Untapped Power: Emotions in Negotiation*, in *THE NEGOTIATOR'S FIELDBOOK*, *supra* note 97, at 263, 265 (arguing that humans are in a state of perpetual emotion and constantly experience affective states).

¹³⁴ See MNOOKIN ET AL., *supra* note 96, at 167.

¹³⁵ Peters, *supra* note 19, at 1270; *Business Mediation, From All Points of View: A Neutral, an Advocate, and an In-House Client on Preparing for ADR*, 24 *ALTERNATIVES TO HIGH COST LITIG.* 101, 101 (2006).

¹³⁶ Barendrecht & de Vries, *supra* note 31, at 98. Humans typically underestimate time needed to complete tasks, overestimate how much they will enjoy jobs and vacations, and predict that their marriages will not end in divorce. Sternlight & Robbennolt, *supra* note 106, at 468-71.

¹³⁷ Donald R. Philbin, Jr., *The One Minute Manager Prepares for Mediation: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Negotiation Preparation*, 13 *HARV. NEGOT. L. REV.*, 249, 282 (2008).

¹³⁸ Bazerman & Shonk, *supra* note 107, at 55; Birke & Fox, *supra* note 95, at 14; Korobkin & Guthrie, *supra* note 97, at 354.

¹³⁹ Bazerman & Shonk, *supra* note 107, at 57; Birke & Fox, *supra* note 95, at 18. "[F]or example, [expert] financial analysts tend to overestimate earnings." Sternlight & Robbennolt, *supra* note 106, at 469-70.

¹⁴⁰ Jean R. Sternlight, *Lawyers' Representation of Clients in Mediation: Using Economics and Psychology to Structure Advocacy in a Nonadversarial Setting*, 14 *OHIO ST. J. ON DISP. RESOL.* 269, 307 n.133 (1999).

tions.¹⁴¹ Consequently, many biased predictions by lawyers involve overconfidently forecasting adjudication outcomes.

Predicting future adjudication outcomes substantially influences commercial dispute method choice and biased overconfident, unrealistic forecasts commonly occur. U.S. lawyers routinely demonstrate optimistic overconfidence.¹⁴² U.S. lawyers in one study rated themselves in the 80th percentage or higher of all lawyers on their abilities to predict litigation outcomes.¹⁴³ Biased, inaccurate future outcome predictions often influence lawyers to recommend adjudication, and their clients frequently follow this advice based primarily on these forecasts.¹⁴⁴ Commitments to adjudicate often harden when commercial clients independently reach equally optimistically overconfident predictions that amplify and reinforce their lawyers' biased forecasts.¹⁴⁵

The narrowed perception influenced by selective perception, which can then be combined with and intensified by partisan emotions, creates assumptions that what disputants value in disputes is limited and diametrically opposed.¹⁴⁶ Called fixed pie and zero sum biases, these assumptions reflect human tendencies to assume that persons always want only the same things, and that they value these dispute elements identically. Applying these beliefs means that one disputant's gain is inevitably another participant's loss.¹⁴⁷ Law's tendency in both common and civil law traditions to measure rights and

¹⁴¹ If a litigant must prevail on four contested points to win a case, such as two legal issues and two factual questions, and the likelihood of winning on each is 50%, this party's overall chance of winning is only 12.5%. *Id.*; cf. AMOS TVERSKY & DANIEL KAHNEMAN, JUDGMENT UNDER UNCERTAINTY: HEURISTICS AND BIASES 3, 11, 14 (Daniel Kahneman et al. eds., 1982) (explaining the judgmental heuristics of "availability" and "adjustment and anchoring").

¹⁴² Richard Birke, *Settlement Psychology: When Decision-Making Processes Fail*, 18 ALTERNATIVES TO HIGH COST LITIG. 212, 214 (2000).

¹⁴³ *Id.* One experiment showed that dividing subjects into plaintiff and defendant groups and presenting them with identical evidence produced a median plaintiff estimate of success at 75% while a median defense estimate was 55%. HOWARD RAIFFA, THE ART AND SCIENCE OF NEGOTIATION 75 (1982).

¹⁴⁴ Barendrecht & de Vries, *supra* note 31, at 99; Birke & Fox, *supra* note 95, at 15-18; Bazerman & Shonk, *supra* note 107, at 57.

¹⁴⁵ Sternlight, *supra* note 140, at 327. Psychologists have noticed a "groupthink" dynamic that occurs and heightens commitment to biased decisions. *Id.*; see also Gary Mendelsohn, *Lawyers as Negotiators*, 1 HARV. NEGOT. L. REV. 139, 146-48 (1996).

¹⁴⁶ MALHOTRA & BAZERMAN, *supra* note 130, at 108-12; Bazerman & Shonk, *supra* note 107, at 54; Birke & Fox, *supra* note 95, at 30

¹⁴⁷ Leigh Thompson & Janice Nadler, *Judgmental Biases in Conflict Resolution and How to Overcome Them*, in THE HANDBOOK OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION 213, 216-17 (Morton Deutsch & Peter T. Coleman eds., 2000).

remedies in monetary terms reinforces these assumptions. These biased assumptions influence U.S. common law and Latin civil law attorneys to recommend adjudication because it conflates all commercial interests into either-or claims where winners get everything while losers receive nothing.

Distorted selective and partisan perception, fixed pie and zero sum biases, and optimistic overconfidence often combine to activate a powerful, emotion-based mental habit: loss aversion.¹⁴⁸ Loss aversion motivates humans to escape anything that feels like loss. People are more motivated to avoid losses than to achieve gains.¹⁴⁹ This powerful mental habit often shapes human decisions¹⁵⁰ by influencing choices and actions that attribute more weight to avoiding loss than achieving gain.¹⁵¹ Loss aversion is an innate emotional flaw in human brains, and everyone who experiences emotion is vulnerable to its affects.¹⁵²

Humans assess losses or gains in relation to anchoring reference points that they assume are neutral.¹⁵³ Adjudication outcome predictions provide the anchoring references usually used in choosing dispute resolution options for commercial disputes. Anchoring and framing choices this way requires comparing optimistically overconfident adjudication forecasts of winning against uncertain mediation outcomes which frequently require reframing or retreating from these biased litigation or arbitration predictions. This comparison explains why lawyers fear that mediating lessens chances to maximize gain.¹⁵⁴ It explains why attorneys often associate mediation with making concessions.¹⁵⁵ It also explains why many lawyers believe mediating is a “euphemism for taking less money.”¹⁵⁶

¹⁴⁸ LEHRER, *supra* note 91, at 77.

¹⁴⁹ MALHOTRA & BAZERMAN, *supra* note 130, at 160. People will work harder to avoid losing money than they will to gain the same amount. GALLAGHER, *supra* note 103, at 32.

¹⁵⁰ *Id.*

¹⁵¹ *Id.*; MNOOKIN ET AL., *supra* note 96, at 161.

¹⁵² LEHRER, *supra* note 91, at 81.

¹⁵³ MNOOKIN ET AL., *supra* note 96, at 161; *see* Amos Tversky & Daniel Kahneman, *The Framing of Decisions and the Psychology of Choice*, 211 SCIENCE 453, 456 (1981).

¹⁵⁴ MOORE, *supra* note 4, at 82; Don Peters, *To Sue Is Human: To Settle Divine: Intercultural Collaborations to Expand the Use of Mediation in Costa Rica*, 17 FLA. J. INT'L L. 9, 11 (2005).

¹⁵⁵ LIPSKY & SEEGER, *supra* note 10, at 26; *cf.* Barendrecht & de Vries, *supra* note 31, at 83 (stating that ADR seeks to find the best way to resolve a dispute).

¹⁵⁶ SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT: *Proceedings [from the] CPR Institute for Dispute Resolution Winter Meeting January 1997*, 15 ALTERNATIVES TO HIGH COST LITIG. 59, 62 (1997).

All of these predictable emotional brain-based responses and inaccurate mental shortcuts are commonly experienced by U.S. and Latin American lawyers when discussing dispute resolution methods with their commercial clients. They frequently interact and combine to produce a powerful and pervasive win-lose mindset.¹⁵⁷ Based on these assumptions, this mindset produces actions that frame all dispute resolution activities as exclusively or primarily requiring gain-maximizing actions.

Investigations of how professionals develop competence suggest that the most frequent actions displayed by lawyers, business men and women, public administrators, and industrial managers flow from this mindset and demonstrate striving to win and seeking not to lose.¹⁵⁸ Economic theories and business models that advance winning and avoiding losing as primary, often exclusive, objectives reinforce this mindset.¹⁵⁹ So do general cultural practices such as organizational promotion systems and athletic activities.¹⁶⁰

This win-lose mindset produces substantial resistance to using mediation.¹⁶¹ U.S. lawyers usually approach dispute resolution with this win-lose mindset,¹⁶² use it during resulting interactions,¹⁶³ and resist disconfirming information.¹⁶⁴ Surveys show pervasive use of

¹⁵⁷ MNOOKIN, ET AL., *supra* note 96, at 168. "A mindset is a way of making sense of the world" based on "relevant knowledge and belief structures[,] . . . congruent ways of thinking," and "specific situational cues." Barbara O'Brien & Daphna Oyserman, *It's Not Just What You Think, But Also How You Think About It: The Effect of Situationally Primed Mindsets on Legal Judgments and Decision Making*, 92 MARQUETTE L. REV. 149, 151 (2008); see notes 175-81 *infra* and accompanying text.

¹⁵⁸ CHRIS ARGYRIS & DONALD A. SCHON, THEORY IN PRACTICE: INCREASING PROFESSIONAL EFFECTIVENESS 63-84 (1974); DONALD A. SCHON, EDUCATING THE REFLECTIVE PRACTITIONER: TOWARD A NEW DESIGN FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING IN THE PROFESSIONS 256-59 (1987); Lee Bolman, *Learning and Lawyering: An Approach to Education for Legal Practice*, in ADVANCES IN EXPERIENTIAL SOCIAL PROCESSES 111, 119-20 (Cary L. Cooper & Clayton P. Alderfer eds., 1978).

¹⁵⁹ ALFIE KOHN, NO CONTEST: THE CASE AGAINST COMPETITION 70 (1986).

¹⁶⁰ Bazerman & Shonk, *supra* note 107, at 54.

¹⁶¹ Catherine Cronin-Harris, *Mainstreaming Corporate Use of ADR*, 59 ALBANY L. REV. 847, 861 (1996); Marguerite Millhauser, *ADR as a Process of Change*, 6 ALTERNATIVES TO HIGH COST LITIG. 190, 190 (1988).

¹⁶² Carrie Menkel-Meadow, *Toward Another View of Legal Negotiation: The Structure of Problem-Solving*, 31 UCLA L. REV. 754, 755-756 (1984); Don Peters, *Mapping, Modeling, and Critiquing: Facilitating Learning Negotiation, Mediation, Interviewing, and Counseling*, 48 FLA. L. REV. 875, 914 (1996).

¹⁶³ Birke & Fox, *supra* note 95, at 30-31; Leigh Thompson & Terri DeHarpport, *Social Judgment, Feedback, and Interpersonal Learning in Negotiation*, 58 ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAV. & HUM. DECISION PROCESSES 327 (1994).

¹⁶⁴ Birke & Fox, *supra* note 95, at 31.

win-lose mindset assumptions and actions by U.S. lawyers negotiating and settling disputes.¹⁶⁵

Any one of these biased emotion brain-based perceptual processes and decision-making short cuts is sufficient to influence U.S. and Latin American lawyers to recommend adjudication to resolve commercial disputes that cannot be resolved by non-mediated negotiation. These processes and short cuts interact and combine, however, to produce a powerful cumulative influence toward adjudication and away from mediation. Consequently, most U.S. lawyers and probably many Latin American attorneys perceive adjudication as the fallback option to use if non-mediated negotiations fail without awareness that this view sacrifices the possible advantages of mediating.¹⁶⁶

IV. LEGAL CULTURAL INFLUENCES

In addition to universal, hard-wired emotional-brain and neural shortcut-based biases, culture — defined as shared beliefs, values, expectations, and behavioral norms within groups and professions¹⁶⁷ — also influences perception. Humans store perceptions in the form of beliefs and values, which work in combination to form “cultural patterns.”¹⁶⁸ Such learned beliefs guide cognitive brain activity and influ-

¹⁶⁵ DONALD G. GIFFORD, *LEGAL NEGOTIATION: THEORY AND APPLICATIONS* 29 n.6 (1989) (stating that 24% of lawyers surveyed used a competitive approach during negotiations). 67% of 2000 Arizona and Colorado lawyers surveyed indicated that they primarily sought to maximize gain when negotiating. GERALD W. WILLIAMS, *LEGAL NEGOTIATION AND SETTLEMENT* 15-40 (1983). A study of 515 New Jersey lawyers and fifty-five judges showed that 71% of the cases in which they participated were resolved in win-lose based negotiating. Milton Heumann & Jonathan M. Hyman, *Negotiation Methods and Litigation Settlement Methods in New Jersey: “You Can’t Always Get What You Want,”* 12 OHIO ST. J. ON DISP. RESOL., 253, 255 (1997).

¹⁶⁶ Barendrecht & de Vries, *supra* note 31, at 111.

¹⁶⁷ Peters, *supra* note 19, at 1275; Gold, *supra* note 29, at 292-93. Significant civil legal system differences exist which make common law understandings of the term “legal profession” problematic. Richard L. Abel, *Lawyers in the Civil World*, in *LAWYERS IN SOCIETY: THE CIVIL LAW WORLD* 1, 4-5 (Richard L. Abel & Philip S.C. Lewis eds., 1988). Although lawyers in private practice comprise the core of a common law county’s legal profession, other categories of law graduates in civil law countries, such as the magistracy and civil servants, typically predominate numerically and historically. *Id.* at 4. Civil law systems also typically include as legal occupations groups not counted in common law legal professions, including notaries everywhere, police chiefs in Brazil and Norway, and process servers in France. *Id.* at 4-5. For comparative purposes, this essay analyzes only those members of civil law legal systems who engage in private practice, using an inaccurate assumption that they constitute the legal profession in these countries.

¹⁶⁸ Gold, *supra* note 29, at 293.

ence decision-making.¹⁶⁹ Beliefs also provide a foundation for values, which in turn supply learned but largely unconscious rules for determining which actions are appropriate.¹⁷⁰

Professions possess an abstract knowledge base, in addition to shared norms and educational experiences that derive from and reinforce their core knowledge.¹⁷¹ Even though their traditions regarding law's source and development differ,¹⁷² U.S. and Latin American legal professions share norms and educational experiences linked to law, legal doctrines, and procedural rules. While no U.S. or Latin American lawyer behaves in precisely the same ways,¹⁷³ most share tendencies that are revealed in their actions¹⁷⁴ and that encourage adjudication of commercial disputes more often than mediation.

A. Influences from Legal Cultural Similarities

U.S. common law and Latin civil system lawyers share a professional legal culture that strongly emphasizes a rights and remedies framework for resolving disputes peacefully through adjudication. This framework generates tendencies in U.S. lawyers to assume that disputes should be resolved by applying legal rules to fact situations embedded in disputes.¹⁷⁵

¹⁶⁹ *Id.* at 293-94.

¹⁷⁰ *Id.* at 294.

¹⁷¹ Nancy A. Welsh, *Looking Down the Road Less Traveled: Challenges to Persuading the Legal Profession to Define Problems More Humanistically*, 2008 J. DISP. RESOL. 45, 51.

¹⁷² See Philip M. Genty, *Overcoming Cultural Blindness in International Clinical Collaboration: The Divide Between Civil and Common Law Cultures and Its Implications for Clinical Legal Education*, 15 CLINICAL L. REV. 131, 136 (2008). The civil law tradition arises from the articulation of rules by an absolute monarch, while the common law tradition stems from constraint of a monarch's powers. See *id.* at 137. This may encourage lawyers trained in the civil law tradition to seek authorization before acting while common law attorneys may tend to take initiatives unless legal rules prohibit them.

¹⁷³ For example, some U.S. lawyers have been instrumental in starting and developing mediation-friendly approaches to law practice. These approaches include therapeutic jurisprudence, which encourages laws and practices that have beneficial effects, and collaborative law, which encourages lawyers to agree to represent clients only in negotiations and mediations in an effort to avoid the harmful effects of litigation. Leonard L. Riskin, *The Contemplative Lawyer: On the Potential Contributions of Mindfulness Meditation to Law Students, Lawyers, and Their Clients*, 7 HARV. NEGOT. L. REV. 1, 19-20 (2002).

¹⁷⁴ Gold, *supra* note 29, at 295; Chris Guthrie, *The Lawyer's Philosophical Map and the Disputant's Perceptual Map: Impediments to Facilitative Mediation and Lawyering*, 6 HARV. NEGOT. L. REV. 145, 164 (2001).

¹⁷⁵ Guthrie, *supra* note 174, at 155; Leonard L. Riskin, *Mediation and Lawyers*, 43 OHIO ST. L.J. 29, 43-44 (1982). Trials have defined what it means to be a lawyer in

Latin American lawyers share this assumption. A commercial representative discussing mediation in Latin America noted that his company's main problem is lawyers,¹⁷⁶ explaining that "attorneys don't think the way [other] people think."¹⁷⁷ A survey of Venezuelan lawyers revealed a preference for adjudication to resolve commercial disputes.¹⁷⁸ An examination of Chilean lawyers' job descriptions cited advocating or defending legal positions before courts or administrative bodies as their most important role.¹⁷⁹

Civil lawyers view themselves primarily as advocates in adjudication.¹⁸⁰ Their propensity toward defining their adjudicatory role within an advocacy context has hindered their role as counselors and allowed competitive legal occupations to perform much of this activity.¹⁸¹

This shared legal cultural tradition influences selective perception by U.S. and Latin American lawyers. Lawyers practicing in both systems tend to perceive through law-based, rights-oriented lenses.¹⁸² U.S. lawyers are more likely than the general population to gather information using general standards and rules.¹⁸³ Knowledge of applicable law and facts potentially relevant to it powerfully influences lawyers when gathering and giving information during client conversations.¹⁸⁴ Lawyers anchor their analyses in the perception of potential adjudicatory application of legal doctrines, standards, and

legal culture and popular imagination for centuries. Robert Rubinson, *Client Counseling, Mediation, and Alternative Narratives of Dispute Resolution*, 10 CLINICAL L. REV. 833, 834 (2004).

¹⁷⁶ F. Peter Phillips, *Exploratory Meeting on Commercial Mediation in Latin America*, May 11, 2010, <http://www.cpradr.org/PracticeAreas/CPRinLatinAmerica/tabid/244/Default.aspx>.

¹⁷⁷ *Id.*

¹⁷⁸ Manuel Gomez, *Dispute Resolution Mechanisms in Venezuela*, NEWS FROM GOULD (Martin Daniel Gould Center for Conflict Resolution Programs, Stanford Law School), Spring 2004, at 5.

¹⁷⁹ Richard J. Wilson, *Three Law School Clinics in Chile, 1970-2000: Innovation, Resistance and Conformity in the Global South*, 8 CLINICAL L. REV. 515, 575 (2002).

¹⁸⁰ Abel, *supra* note 167, at 23.

¹⁸¹ *Id.* at 27.

¹⁸² Guthrie, *supra* note 174, at 160. These learned basic knowledge structures, or schemas, define expectations about how to practice law, interview clients, and resolve commercial disputes. See Sternlight & Robbennolt, *supra* note 106, at 451-52. They also focus information-gathering and facilitate lawyers' abilities to form legal inferences and assess cases quickly. *Id.*

¹⁸³ Welsh, *supra* note 171, at 50.

¹⁸⁴ See DAVID A. BINDER ET AL., LAWYERS AS COUNSELORS: A CLIENT-CENTERED APPROACH 145, 145-46, 148 (1991) (describing how lawyers should use potentially applicable law to guide information-gathering during interviews).

rules.¹⁸⁵ Latin American lawyers routinely display similar selective perceptual tendencies. A Chilean scholar stated that the most important law practice habits, skills, and abilities for Chilean lawyers include identifying relevant facts in situations and linking them to appropriate legal sources.¹⁸⁶

Basing perception on law and legal rules helps U.S. and Latin American lawyers translate complex, multi-factor situations into manageable frames for adjudicatory resolution.¹⁸⁷ While valuable, this perceptual process is selective because it naturally decreases complexity.¹⁸⁸ Using this selective perception to assess commercial disputes and options for resolving them, lawyers identify legally-authorized causes of action, legal and factual elements which substantiate or refute these causes of action, key proof issues, important witnesses, essential documents, and monetary damage items.¹⁸⁹ Selective perception usually excludes business interest factors, relational issues, and non-monetary considerations.¹⁹⁰ It also typically ignores reorienting parties to each other, satisfying emotional interests, and promoting respect, affinity, and autonomy.¹⁹¹

Other legal cultural traditions favor adjudication over mediation. For example, U.S. and Latin American lawyers share legal cultural influences that emphasize traditional, conservative options and do not easily embrace change.¹⁹² These tendencies may clash with mediation, which is relatively new in commercial dispute and litigation contexts.¹⁹³ A human tendency to rely on familiar, traditional approaches is a "status quo" bias,¹⁹⁴ heightened by legal culture in both common law and civil legal systems.

¹⁸⁵ Welsh, *supra* note 171, at 51.

¹⁸⁶ Wilson, *supra* note 179, at 575-76.

¹⁸⁷ Guthrie, *supra* note 174, at 158.

¹⁸⁸ *Id.*

¹⁸⁹ *Id.* at 174-75.

¹⁹⁰ See Riskin, *supra* note 173, at 16.

¹⁹¹ See Guthrie, *supra* note 174, at 164, 175.

¹⁹² See *id.* at 178 (arguing that lawyers are viewed by themselves and by others as "conservative [and] risk averse," as well as wedded to a legalistic range of dispute-resolving strategies).

¹⁹³ Florida lawyers did not embrace mediation easily, but now advise their clients to use it readily as a result of courts frequently ordering it on their non-criminal dockets in 1987. Peters, *supra* note 154, at 12. Lawyers also are not as likely as other professions to engage in "divergent" thinking "during which a variety of potential solutions are generated before any are critically evaluated." Guthrie, *supra* note 174, at 178.

¹⁹⁴ Peters, *supra* note 19, at 1271; see Russell Korobkin, *Inertia and Preference in Contract Negotiation: The Psychological Power of Default Rules and Form Terms*, 51 VAND. L. REV. 1583, 1585 (1998).

Despite the advantages of mediation over adjudication in many commercial dispute situations, Latin American lawyers often resist new approaches or upheaval of traditional methods.¹⁹⁵ Fearing surprises, many prefer familiar approaches to new ones.¹⁹⁶ To this end, reliance on the importance of external authority figures, such as judges or arbitrators, constitutes a significant aspect of civilian legal culture.¹⁹⁷

Both common and civil law systems have established formal adjudication approaches and created rules to structure dispute resolution within them in order to promote orderly societies.¹⁹⁸ These orderly structures and formal rules attract U.S. and Latin American lawyers to adjudicating commercial disputes.¹⁹⁹ Although lawyers play different roles in common law and civil adjudicatory systems, the methods for obtaining third-party decisions are generally clear and linear in both. Legislation and judicial rules provide clear, linear, and structured frameworks lawyers desire.²⁰⁰

Mediation, however, offers a variable, non-linear process aimed at facilitating layered negotiation between lawyers and commercial clients. Mediation typically follows no legislatively- or judicially-prescribed procedures,²⁰¹ instead, it uses informal norms to avoid rigid structural rules, anticipate ambiguities, tolerate differences, and encourage non-linear outcomes.²⁰² As a result, mediation is structurally flexible and differs significantly from the order- and rule-seeking formalities usually present in U.S. and Latin American judicial systems.²⁰³ This approach often clashes with the order- and rule-seeking legal cultural influences U.S. and Latin American lawyers encounter.²⁰⁴

¹⁹⁵ Falcao & Sanchez, *supra* note 2, at 428-29.

¹⁹⁶ *Id.* at 429.

¹⁹⁷ See Genty, *supra* note 172, at 149.

¹⁹⁸ Scott Dodson, *The Challenge of Comparative Civil Procedure Civil Litigation in Comparative Context*, 60 ALA. L. REV. 133, 150 (2008) (stating that all nations create procedural systems seeking “fair, orderly, expedient, cost-effective” administration of litigation).

¹⁹⁹ Lipsky & Seeber, *supra* note 22, at 145-46. The lack of clear legal rules was listed by 28% of 606 respondents as a barrier to the use of commercial mediation. *Id.* at 136, 149. A general counsel for a U.S. public utility described this influence, stating that “[c]ost isn’t the issue—it’s the lack of rules. Litigation may be expensive, but it does have rules.” *Id.* at 146.

²⁰⁰ See Falcao & Sanchez, *supra* note 2, at 419.

²⁰¹ *Id.*

²⁰² Gold, *supra* note 29, at 314; Millhauser, *supra* note 159, at 190.

²⁰³ Falcao & Sanchez, *supra* note 2, at 419.

²⁰⁴ See Millhauser, *supra* note 159, at 190 (arguing that mediation’s flexibility and minimal structure can be a “nightmare” for those who are more rule-bound).

U.S. and Latin American lawyers also share legal education experiences that emphasize adjudication over the development of interest-based methods, such as negotiation and problem-solving. Despite different approaches to developing and learning law and legal rules,²⁰⁵ both systems primarily, and sometimes exclusively, require that doctrines, principles, and rules be learned. In the United States, most of this learning occurs in adjudicatory contexts involving interactive classroom discussions deconstructing written opinions of appellate courts.²⁰⁶ Latin American civil law educational systems often confront large class enrollments and, consequently, usually employ lecture-based instruction focused on code provisions and authorized academic commentaries.²⁰⁷ Both systems generally require completion of courses on how judicial adjudication functions. This collective emphasis communicates explicit and implicit messages that adjudication, due to its application of code or common law legal principles, is best suited to resolve commercial disputes.

Although no comparable data was found regarding Latin American attorneys, U.S. attorneys have personality tendencies which encourage an abstract, impersonal, analytical approach to persons and problems that is extensively reinforced by their legal education.²⁰⁸ Ninety percent of U.S. lawyers are left brain dominant, indicating an analytical inclination.²⁰⁹ In fact, researchers often use lawyers when they seek to measure an occupational group that is ana-

²⁰⁵ Genty, *supra* note 172, at 136; *see* Wilson, *supra* note 179, at 570.

²⁰⁶ *See* ROY STUCKEY ET AL., BEST PRACTICES FOR LEGAL EDUCATION: A VISION AND A ROAD MAP 132, 141 (2007) (arguing that American legal education should reduce its often near-exclusive reliance on the case and Socratic method); WILLIAM M. SULLIVAN ET AL., EDUCATING LAWYERS: PREPARATION FOR THE PROFESSION OF LAW 76 (2007) (reviewing data suggesting that case-dialogue teaching is “not seen by recent law graduates as particularly helpful in enabling them to move from school to professional practice”).

²⁰⁷ Genty, *supra* note 172, at 139-40, 141 (noting that interactive methods are often used in newer, private universities which have smaller class sizes); Monica Pinto, *Developments in Latin American Legal Education*, 21 PENN. ST. INT’L L. REV. 61, 61-62 (2002) (stating that Latin American law schools usually follow the European model of large lecture-based classes).

²⁰⁸ Guthrie, *supra* note 174, at 156.

²⁰⁹ *Id.* One U.S. lawyer-mediator described legal education “as a process in which the left brain circles around the right brain and then eats it.” David A. Hoffman, *Paradoxes of Mediation*, DISP. RESOL. MAG., Fall 2002, at 23. Up to a point, there is some truth to the popular generalization that a human brain features an analytical, verbal left hemisphere and an intuitive, creative right hemisphere. GALLAGHER, *supra* note 103, at 71. Recent neuroscience research, however, suggests that difficult tasks require involvement of both hemispheres and distinctions must be drawn within hemispheres as to where activities relating to particular functions occur. *Id.*

lytical in its preferred modes of perceiving, deciding, and acting.²¹⁰ Research using the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, an assessment instrument that measures preferences for exercising aspects of perception and judgment, and other studies show that U.S. lawyers are far more likely than the general population to make decisions analytically, objectively, and impersonally.²¹¹ These tendencies further reinforce the win-lose biases and inclinations to recommend adjudication as the logical way to win disputes.²¹²

The U.S. and Latin American legal education systems offer few opportunities to learn skills and values beyond the analytical tasks involved in applying code and other legal principles. U.S. law schools devote nine percent of total instructional time to instruction and practice opportunities in interest-based negotiating, mediation practice and advocacy, interviewing, counseling, and clinics where students serve actual clients with real problems.²¹³ Ninety-one percent is devoted to learning law, adjudicatory procedures, and rule-based advocacy skills. U.S. law schools offer many elective courses teaching adjudication, primarily litigation skills and values,²¹⁴ and a majority of U.S. law students take such courses.²¹⁵ This instruction, along with the extensive interactive coverage of appellate opinions in most of the remaining curriculum, ensures that U.S. law students receive ample education in how to argue, persuade, and apply legal rules in adjudicatory situations.²¹⁶

Although virtually all U.S. law schools now offer at least one course teaching interest-based negotiation or mediation or both,²¹⁷ these elective courses limit enrollment to permit valuable performance-based learning approaches. Resistant to fundamental change,²¹⁸ U.S. law schools generally do not provide adequate opportunities for

²¹⁰ *Id.*

²¹¹ Guthrie, *supra* note 174, at 157; see Larry Richard, *The Lawyer Types*, 79 A.B.A. J. 74, 74, 76 (1993).

²¹² See Peters, *supra* note 88, at 52.

²¹³ *Report of the Task Force on Law Schools and the Profession: Narrowing the Gap*, SECTION OF LEGAL EDUC. & ADMISSIONS TO THE BAR, ABA, LEGAL EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT—AN EDUCATIONAL CONTINUUM 239-41 (1992) [hereinafter *MacCrate Report*].

²¹⁴ *Id.* at 257-58.

²¹⁵ *Id.* at 240 (supporting that an estimated 58% of U.S. law students enroll in litigation skills courses).

²¹⁶ See generally Carrie Menkel-Meadow, *Ethics in Alternative Dispute Resolution: New Issues, No Answers from the Adversary Conception of Lawyers' Responsibilities*, 38 S. TEX. L. REV. 407, 427 (1997).

²¹⁷ Welsh, *supra* note 171, at 49.

²¹⁸ Guthrie, *supra* note 174, at 184.

their students to learn and practice non-adjudicative skills.²¹⁹ Despite recent, prominent examinations of U.S. legal education that recommended more curricular attention to these tasks,²²⁰ on average, seventy-three percent of U.S. law students receive no learning opportunities in courses emphasizing the skills and values needed to negotiate or represent clients in mediation effectively.²²¹

Even though repeated studies show that professional success in law practice correlates more with relationship skills than it does with substantive legal knowledge,²²² U.S. law students receive little or no instruction in identifying and responding to human emotions effectively, essential tasks in negotiating,²²³ mediating,²²⁴ interviewing, and helping clients make difficult decisions. Studies show that U.S. lawyers and law students have relatively underdeveloped emotional

²¹⁹ Finding an imbalance in U.S. legal education concerning instruction in skills needed to practice in law offices as well as before and in litigation, the MacCrate Report recommended that law schools develop or expand learning opportunities in these areas. MacCrate Report, *supra* note 213, at 332. A more recent review of U.S. legal education recommends that U.S. law schools should strive to develop competent abilities to resolve legal problems effectively and responsibly, and that this includes attending and responding to emotions skillfully. STUCKEY ET AL., *supra* note 206, at 60-61.

²²⁰ The MacCrate Report specifically highlighted needs for more educational attention to problem-solving, communication, counseling, and negotiation. MacCrate Report, *supra* note 213, at 330, 332. The Carnegie Report criticizes U.S. legal education for assigning practical legal skills involved in dealing clients to “a subordinate place” and specifically encourages more broadly teaching negotiation skills. SULLIVAN ET AL., *supra* note 206, at 7.

²²¹ Joseph B. Stulberg et al., *Creating and Certifying the Professional Mediator—Education and Credentialing*, 28 AM. J. TRIAL ADVOC. 75, 78 (2004). This percentage may be declining as the number of negotiation and mediation courses continues to grow. As of February, 2010, 223 negotiation, mediation, interviewing, and counseling courses were listed in the latest survey of more than 200 ABA accredited law schools. See ABA Directory, University of Oregon website, *available at* <http://adr.uoregon.edu/aba/search.php> (last visited Sept. 23, 2010). In addition, fifty ADR survey courses and forty mediation clinics were listed. *Id.* Surprisingly, early research suggests that having taken a negotiation or mediation course in law school is not a statistically significant factor predicting a lawyer’s inclination to advise their clients to use mediation to resolve disputes. See Wissler, *supra* note 13, at 224.

²²² Welsh, *supra* note 171, at 56.

²²³ See generally ROGER FISHER & DANIEL SHAPIRO, *BEYOND REASON: USING EMOTIONS AS YOU NEGOTIATE* (2005) (arguing that human emotions are always present during negotiations and describing how positive feelings enhance interest-based negotiating and negative emotions impede it).

²²⁴ Welsh, *supra* note 171, at 53 (arguing that lawyers are unlikely to deal with clients and counterparts whose emotions need to be heard, understood, acknowledged, and explored).

and interpersonal capacities and “demonstrate a low interest in emotions and others’ feelings.”²²⁵ U.S. lawyers and law students need training and practice in how to listen, empathize, and navigate through strong emotional moments effectively because they are unlikely to bring these skills to their educational and practicing experiences.²²⁶

Most Latin American law schools devote an even smaller percentage of their educational resources in this direction. Extensive reliance on top-down, non-interactive lecture approaches creates beliefs that experiential learning through role playing, simulations, and supervised actual practice are not important or serious components of legal education.²²⁷ In part because Latin American countries usually offer law as a first degree, ensure their curriculums provide general liberal arts backgrounds initially, and do not emphasize preparing students to practice law because large percentages do not intend to do so, professional skills courses and clinics are generally not offered.²²⁸ Clinics exist in some Latin American countries²²⁹ and exist in the majority of law schools in Chile.²³⁰ Although instruction in interest-based negotiation, interviewing, and counseling occurs in classroom components of these clinics,²³¹ few separate courses provide non-adjudicatory learning opportunities.²³²

This shared educational deficiency contributes to U.S. and Latin American lawyers’ resistance to mediating commercial disputes. While mediating involves using knowledge of applicable laws and adjudicatory procedures to analyze cases and predict outcomes, mediation also requires skilled performance of many other, different tasks, including emotional awareness and responsiveness. Many, if not most, U.S. and Latin American lawyers find that representing clients

²²⁵ Guthrie, *supra* note 174, at 164; Welsh, *supra* note 171, at 50.

²²⁶ Guthrie, *supra* note 174, at 164.

²²⁷ See Alain Lempereur, *Negotiation and Mediation in France: The Challenge of Skill-Based Learning and Interdisciplinary Research in Legal Education*, 3 HARV. NEGOT. L. REV. 151, 164 (1998).

²²⁸ Drumbl, *supra* note 1, at 1079-80. *But see* Pinto, *supra* note 207, at 65 (explaining that the University of Buenos Aires School of Law offers a first cycle of law study designed to provide learning and teaching activities that promote “reasoning, legal reading, critical analysis from a legal standpoint as well as an understanding of other perspectives such as finding a solution or [achieving] an alternative dispute resolution method”).

²²⁹ Drumbl, *supra* note 1, at 1080.

²³⁰ Wilson, *supra* note 179, at 536.

²³¹ *Id.* at 541, 566-67.

²³² See Drumbl, *supra* note 1, at 1103 (recommending that U.S. and Latin American legal curricula include discussion of the approaches and attitudes of civil and common law negotiation and mediation).

before and during mediation effectively challenges them to perform entirely different tasks than they use when adjudicating.²³³ Many have had little experience, education, or practice in performing these tasks skillfully.²³⁴ Many find it difficult to adapt their analytic tendencies and win-lose biases to advocate for agreements rather than victories.²³⁵ This often produces counterproductive mediation actions that ignore or respond ineffectively to emotions, jealously guard information against even confidential disclosure in private sessions, seek to maximize gain exclusively, resist broadening issues and perspectives, and criticize excessively.²³⁶

B. Influences from Legal Cultural Differences

Moving from legal cultural similarities to differences, identifying factors that influence lawyers' resistance to mediate commercial disputes gets harder for several reasons. Latin American civil systems differ in many respects from European²³⁷ and Asian counterparts,²³⁸ and variations exist within individual Latin American countries.²³⁹

²³³ *How Business Conflict Resolution Is Being Practiced in China and Europe*, 23 ALTERNATIVES TO HIGH COST LITIG. 148, 149 (2005) (quoting a British barrister who noted that for years he had been paid to disagree and suddenly he's expected to help clients and counterparts agree).

²³⁴ *Legal, Commercial, and Cultural Obstacles to Mediation Within Europe*, 23 ALTERNATIVES TO HIGH COST LITIG. 98, 99 (2005) (noting that Italian lawyers do not consider negotiation as something to be learned and are trained in litigation, not negotiation, practices).

²³⁵ See Sternlight, *supra* note 140, at n.181 (quoting James C. Freund, *Bridging Troubled Waters: Negotiating Disputes*, LITIG., Winter 1986, at 43-44 (arguing that searching for agreements is "a hard road to travel without running the risk of being seen as a softy who is reluctant to fight and ready to give away the store")); *Id.* at 324 (suggesting that lawyers' "cognitive characteristics do not necessarily suit them well to engage in problem-solving" negotiation).

²³⁶ Menkel-Meadow, *supra* note 216, at 427; Sternlight, *supra* note 140, at 323-24.

²³⁷ Genty, *supra* note 172, at 134.

²³⁸ See generally Hal Movius et al., *Tailoring the Mutual Gains Approach for Negotiations with Partners in Japan, China, and Korea*, 22 NEGOTIATION J. 389 (2006).

²³⁹ Leonard L. Cavise, *The Transition from the Inquisitorial to the Accusatorial System of Trial Procedure: Why Some Latin American Lawyers Hesitate*, 53 WAYNE L. REV. 785, 795 (2007) ("The inquisitorial model as adapted to the various Latin systems retained the fundamental European characteristics, but with a number of culturally or politically-dictated modifications in each Latin American national system."); Drumbl, *supra* note 1, at 1063 (noting that, unlike many other Latin American countries, Mexico has "several important codifications in the private sphere"); Genty, *supra* note 172, at 144 & n.49 (stating that public interest litigation or cause lawyering does not exist in Mexico yet is found in Argentina, Brazil, and Columbia).

Moreover, how common and civil system attorneys practice differently outside adjudication contexts has received little research attention,²⁴⁰ and their attitudes and actions regarding mediating commercial disputes has received virtually none. This is partially explained by mediation's recent arrival in civil law countries generally and in Latin America particularly.²⁴¹

The absence of comparative research also stems from the fact that many common and civil law differences flow from variations in how law is created, understood, and applied. These differences have little influence on mediating, which pursues outcomes independent of law and legal doctrines. For example, common law lawyers allegedly approach law application challenges pragmatically, seek ways to work around legal rules, and develop innovative, alternative arguments for accomplishing client objectives in the face of apparent legal obstacles.²⁴² Civil lawyers, on the other hand, allegedly approach law application challenges theoretically, focus on finding code-based answers, and struggle to find creative, alternative arguments that circumvent apparent legal roadblocks.²⁴³ Legal arguments in civil system courts allegedly tend toward broad assertions that do not focus on key evidential and other details while common law court arguments tend to exploit specific facts and testimonial excerpts.²⁴⁴ Mediating, however, does not involve applying law and making legal arguments. Even if these broad stereotypes have any validity, they exert virtually no influence on the widespread resistance to mediating commercial disputes displayed by both common law and civil system lawyers.

Although many identifiable differences exist between how common and civil law system lawyers act in adjudication, the influence of these differences on resistance to mediating diminishes because mediation usually requires few tasks that attorneys perform while adjudicating. Lawyers typically perform fewer activities in inquisitorial civil law systems where judges control adjudication from beginning to end.²⁴⁵ In these systems, judges decide what evidence is necessary, what documents should be presented, what lay and expert witnesses need to be examined, whether oral testimony is needed or written submissions suffice, and they conduct oral examinations subject to supple-

²⁴⁰ See Nadja Alexander, *What's Law Got To Do With It? Mapping Modern Mediation Movements in Civil and Common Law Jurisdictions*, 13 BOND L. REV. 335, 339-40 (2001); Drumbl, *supra* note 1, at 1056-57.

²⁴¹ Alexander, *supra* note 240, at 339.

²⁴² See *id.* at 356.

²⁴³ See *id.*

²⁴⁴ Cavise, *supra* note 239, at 810.

²⁴⁵ Judd Epstein, *The Use of Comparative Law in Commercial International Arbitration and Commercial Mediation*, 75 TUL. L. REV. 913, 917 (2001).

mentation by attorneys.²⁴⁶ U.S. lawyers, in contrast, decide what witnesses to call and evidence to introduce, base proof extensively on oral testimony that they either adduce before or at trial, determine whether to retain and use expert witnesses, participate in jury selection, and engage in extensive pre-trial and trial motion advocacy.²⁴⁷

Efforts underway in many Latin American countries to move their criminal law trial procedure from civil system inquisitorial to common law accusatory have generated substantial resistance and reluctance among many lawyers.²⁴⁸ These changes, however, may not quickly affect non-criminal adjudicatory systems used in commercial dispute resolution. Moreover, pre-trial discovery of testimony, documents, and other physical evidence seldom exists in civil law countries while it comprises a major component of U.S. common law adjudication.

Mediation removes formal persuasive arguments directed toward decision-makers from the resolution process and avoids extensive use of documents, evidentiary presentations, and examinations of lay and expert witnesses. Although systemic limits on actions lawyers perform in civil system adjudication might lessen resistance to mediation for civil lawyers, they do not appear to have this impact. No evidence suggests that mediation attracts civil system lawyers as a way to escape their more limited adjudicative roles as compared to those performed by common law attorneys. Nor does evidence suggest that U.S. common law attorneys' fact-oriented, client- and witness-based litigation experiences influence them to prefer mediating over adjudicating commercial disputes.

Economic considerations significantly influence lawyer resistance to mediating. Some U.S. lawyers fear that mediating brings economic harm.²⁴⁹ Helping clients resolve commercial disputes provides profitable activity for U.S. and Latin American lawyers who are not full-time employees of the companies involved.²⁵⁰ Absent disputes

²⁴⁶ Genty, *supra* note 172, at 142.

²⁴⁷ *Id.* at 142.

²⁴⁸ Cavise, *supra* note 239, at 787.

²⁴⁹ 25% of lawyers agreed that increasing mediation would decrease their personal compensation while 51% disagreed. Lande, *supra* note 12, at 179-80. Economists recognize that lawyers who are paid by the hour have short term interests in prolonging disputes even if longer term interests in retaining future business or gaining referrals from clients point the other way. Sternlight, *supra* note 140, at 320.

²⁵⁰ YVES DEZALAY & BRYANT G. GARTH, DEALING IN VIRTUE: INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TRANSNATIONAL LEGAL ORDER 50-51 (1996); Peters, *supra* note 19, at 1295-96.

which facilitate charging outcome percentages as contingent fees,²⁵¹ most U.S. lawyers bill their commercial clients by the hour for dispute resolution work.

Adjudicating requires tasks emphasized by lawyers' experience and education.²⁵² In the U.S. common law system these tasks often include time consuming and lucrative pre-trial discovery, pre-trial motion advocacy and defense, lay and expert witness preparation and examination, and evidence gathering, preparation, and presentation.²⁵³ U.S. executives complain that hourly fee billing approaches create disincentives for lawyers' to mediate.²⁵⁴ Many also suggest that this is a significant reason why more commercial disputes are not mediated.²⁵⁵

A recent U.S. study suggests that mediating frequently reduces the amount of time lawsuits take to resolve. Evaluating 15,000 non-criminal, non-commercial lawsuits handled by Assistant U.S. Attorneys showed that using mediation saved an average of eighty-eight lawyer hours per case.²⁵⁶ Although mediation often appears to reduce hourly fee billing by saving time, law firm revenues do not necessarily have to diminish as a result of using mediation.²⁵⁷ Using Alternative Dispute Resolution ("ADR") by mediating, usually ADR's most effective form, does not need to connote an alarming drop in revenue for attorneys.²⁵⁸ Lawyers can and should bill for time spent performing the important tasks involved in helping clients prepare for and participate in mediation.²⁵⁹ In addition, lawyers may use value-based and similar bonus approaches that reward them for achieving timely, effec-

²⁵¹ These fees are most often one third of amounts settled before beginning litigation and 40% afterwards. *See, e.g.*, Fla. Rule Professional Conduct 4-1.5(f) (setting these amounts as the upper limits of what meets the required standards that fees must be reasonable).

²⁵² Peters, *supra* note 19, at 1296.

²⁵³ *See* Stewart Levine, *Breaking Down Costs: What are You Losing by Not Using ADR*, 19 ALTERNATIVES TO HIGH COST LITIG. 235, 235 (2001). In 2000 an estimated \$400 billion in litigation costs were incurred in the more than 22 million cases that were filed in the United States. *Id.*

²⁵⁴ McEwen, *supra* note 30, at 11 (quoting general counsel who believes hourly billing blocks early, inexpensive settlements and encourages lawyers to do things slowly).

²⁵⁵ *Business Mediation, From All Points of View*, 24 ALTERNATIVES TO HIGH COST LITIG. 101, 104 (2006).

²⁵⁶ Lisa Blomgren Bingham et al., *Dispute Resolution and the Vanishing Trial: Comparing Federal Government Litigation and ADR Outcomes*, 24 OHIO ST. J. ON DISP. RESOL. 225, 252 (2009).

²⁵⁷ Peters, *supra* note 19, at 1298.

²⁵⁸ *Id.*

²⁵⁹ *Id.*

tive, high quality outcomes in fixed price, retainer, and hourly billing contexts.²⁶⁰

Similar economic concerns influence civil system lawyers, even though they may not depend on hourly billing.²⁶¹ Latin American attorneys express concerns that mediation brings economic disincentives and that adjudicating pays but mediating does not.²⁶² An EU mediator noted that the primary challenge to implementing the EU cross-border mediation directive is to make mediating financially attractive for lawyers, not clients.²⁶³ Fear of lost income from more mediation and less litigation has generated lawyer resistance in Denmark²⁶⁴ and Scotland, a mixed civil and common law country.²⁶⁵ An instinct to preserve their dominant roles in dispute resolution and to avoid losing income could explain lawyer resistance to greater use of mediation in Italy.²⁶⁶ When designing mediation systems, legislators and judges must avoid creating direct economic disincentives to mediating commercial disputes.²⁶⁷

²⁶⁰ See NANCY NELSON & THOMAS J. STIPANOWICH, *COMMERCIAL MEDIATION IN EUROPE: BETTER SOLUTIONS FOR BUSINESS* 9 (2004) (arguing that to retain increasingly cost-conscious clients, and win new ones, lawyers need to prove themselves as skilled early dispute resolvers and solution providers as well as good adjudication advocates); Mark Wolf, *Update: How Value Billing Helps Both the Client and the Law Firm*, 28 *ALTERNATIVES TO HIGH COST LITIG.* 1, 7 (2010) (describing value-based approach that enhances budgeting and delivers cost effective, high quality legal services).

²⁶¹ See Richard L. Abel, *Comparative Sociology of Legal Professions*, in *LAWYERS IN SOCIETY: COMPARATIVE THEORIES* 80, 110 (Richard L. Abel & Philip S. Lewis eds., 1989) (noting that mandatory fees are fixed by the state in all matters in Germany, advisory fee schedules are set by the state in Italy, and advisory fee schedules are established by the legal profession in Norway, Brazil, France, Spain, and Japan).

²⁶² Phillips, *supra* note 176. (noting that the increased lawyer activity needed to gather information preparing for mediation that requires consent to succeed fully both stretches civil system lawyers to perform tasks they are not accustomed to and creates risks that their clients might not understand why they need to pay for this work).

²⁶³ *EU Backs Cross-Border Mediation*, *supra* note 26, at 122-23.

²⁶⁴ Vibeke Vindelov, *Mediation in Danish Law: In Retrospect and Perspective*, in *GLOBAL MEDIATION TRENDS*, *supra* note 25, at 123, 131.

²⁶⁵ Margaret L. Ross, *Mediation in Scotland: An Elusive Opportunity*, in *GLOBAL MEDIATION TRENDS*, *supra* note 25, at 305, 329.

²⁶⁶ De Palo & Harley, *supra* note 61, at 476. The Italian fee structure, which is based primarily on the number of briefs and hearings, is a further incentive to not use mediation. Giuseppe De Palo & Luigi Cominelli, *Mediation in Italy: Waiting for the Big Bang?*, in *GLOBAL MEDIATION TRENDS*, *supra* note 25, at 259, 262.

²⁶⁷ For example, Germany used a system where legal costs insurance paid for adjudication but not mediation fees leaving this expense entirely on clients and discouraging them and their lawyers from mediating. Alexander, *supra* note 240, at

Additional evidence that legal system differences do not affect resistance to mediating flows from how economic factors similarly influence lawyers in both common law and civil systems, even though adjudicatory risks frequently differ in each. Risks of negative outcomes in civil system adjudication are usually not as strong as they are in U.S. courts. The absence of juries removes much of the frightening, risky unpredictability that exists in U.S. common law litigation.²⁶⁸ Predicting outcomes from a single, legally trained decision-maker is usually easier than predicting what a group of non-legally sophisticated people will do. Damages in civil law system adjudication are generally lower than similar awards in U.S. common law adjudication.²⁶⁹ Transactional costs are usually smaller in civil countries because of less pre-trial civil discovery costs and other attorney fee expenditures. A civil system tradition requiring losing parties to pay prevailing litigant's legal fees also often deters excessive transactional costs.

As this analysis demonstrates, legal cultural differences between U.S. common law and Latin American civil lawyers exert slight influence on attorneys' resistance to mediate commercial cases found in both systems.²⁷⁰ These legal cultural differences apply primarily to adjudication, particularly litigation. Substantial differences in litigation procedures between common law adversarial and civil system inquisitorial traditions generate complications stemming from different attorney, expert, and judicial roles, varying methods of presenting evidence, and contrasting values accorded to oral testimony and previous

357. Lawyer-mediators in a German mandatory mediation project complained about low reimbursement they received under statutory rates, noting that they could not afford to spend more than sixty minutes mediating even though agreements would have been much more likely with a longer time period. Nadja Alexander et al., *Mediation in Germany: The Long and Winding Road*, in GLOBAL MEDIATION TRENDS, *supra* note 25, at 223, 247. Similarly, Poland's court-connected mediation scheme limits mediator compensation to an amount that discourages mediation of significant commercial disputes that necessarily require more than a few hours. See Sylwester Pieckowski, *Using Mediation in Poland to Resolve Civil Disputes: A Short Assessment of Mediation Usage from 2005-2008*, 64 DISP. RESOL. MAG. 84, 84 (2009).

²⁶⁸ Dodson, *supra* note 198, at 141 (stating that civil law countries have not had juries in non-criminal matters for centuries).

²⁶⁹ *See id.* at 146 (stating that few countries permit the same individualized focus and wide variation that U.S. damage verdicts allow, and most civil law countries prohibit punitive damages while U.S. law continues to permit them).

²⁷⁰ Christine Cervenak et al., *Leaping the Bar: Overcoming Legal Opposition to ADR in the Developing World*, 4 DISP. RESOL. MAG. 6, 6 (1998) (stating that legal cultural factors, whether arising out of civil law or common law systems, as well as fears of negative pocketbook effects, often predispose lawyers to oppose mediation).

judicial decisions.²⁷¹ These differences help explain why many cross border controversies involving disputants from common and civil law systems select arbitration rather than litigation.²⁷² Mediation's different assumptions, goals, and processes, however, transcend different legal systems and the legal cultural variations they generate.²⁷³ Its potential advantages warrant more consideration than lawyers in both systems often give, and this article concludes by analyzing how attorneys can ensure that this assessment occurs in all commercial disputes.

V. CONCLUSION: IDENTIFY, EXPLAIN, AND ASSESS MEDIATING IN EARLY STAGES OF COMMERCIAL DISPUTES

This large menu of emotional-brain and neural short-cut biases, combined with powerful legal cultural influences largely unaffected by common and civil law system differences, explains why U.S. and Latin American lawyers resist mediating commercial disputes. This article concludes with reasons why more identifying, explaining, and assessing the option of mediating makes sense. This helps commercial lawyers and clients to counter all of the biases and cultural influences previously described. It ensures that lawyers and their clients use their brain's prefrontal cortex to subject this important decision to slow, conscious deliberation.²⁷⁴ It also helps manage escalating dispute resolution budgets, and often produces faster, more business interest-centered outcomes.

Overcoming mediation resistance begins with identifying mediation as an option for resolving commercial disputes. Because of long-standing traditions of viewing adjudication as simply what is done when participants cannot negotiate commercial disputes successfully, this initial step of consciously making a decision about mediating often disappears.²⁷⁵ Lawyers, executives, and managers assume that they have no other choice than to adjudicate.²⁷⁶ Failing to appreciate fully the ways mediating differs from and is superior to unaided face-to-face negotiation,²⁷⁷ they assume that disputes cannot resolve consensually

²⁷¹ Peters, *supra* note 19, at 1256.

²⁷² *Id.* at 1255-58.

²⁷³ GLOBAL MEDIATION TRENDS, *supra* note 25, at 2; *see* Cervenak et al., *supra* note 270, at 6.

²⁷⁴ Lehrer, *supra* note 91, at 243-50 (proposing five general guidelines to improve decision-making).

²⁷⁵ NELSON & STIPANOWICH, *supra* note 260, at 11.

²⁷⁶ *Id.*

²⁷⁷ *Id.* These advantages include using confidential caucuses to gather more and better information combating selective perception; defusing strong emotions

because they have already tried to negotiate them without success. They also often fail to grasp how mediating “create[s] opportunities for the parties to achieve many different kinds of goals and that it provides procedural tools” not offered by adjudication.²⁷⁸

The next step requires lawyers to question these assumptions and restrain their automatic, habitual desires to adjudicate commercial disputes. As this article demonstrates, this is neither easy nor common. Lawyers in both systems enjoy monopoly status as persons generally permitted to represent human and entity clients in lawsuits and arbitrations.²⁷⁹ People like to sell to their strengths, and adjudicating allows lawyers to market their primary product lines of knowledge of legal rules, rights, remedies and defenses and ability to apply this expertise in persuading external decision-makers. Adjudication emphasizes issue-oriented dispute resolution which focuses on legal rule connections and applications.²⁸⁰

U.S. lawyers enjoy feeling in control and central to the action.²⁸¹ Adjudicating lets lawyers exercise control, play dominant roles, and remain central to the endeavor until external decision-makers act.²⁸² Lawyers usually prefer leading to following, and adjudicating requires them to lead as they plead claims and defenses, assemble evidence, and present arguments.²⁸³ Clients usually defer to their lawyer’s knowledge and expertise in these realms, and focusing interactions on lawyers’ expertise lessens attorneys’ needs to share agendas with their clients.²⁸⁴

breaking through partisan perceptions; countering optimistic overconfidence by enhancing realistic forecasts of adjudicatory outcomes enabling better comparisons of them and negotiation proposals; expanding discussion agendas to include business interests muting fixed pie and zero sum assumptions; and helping disputants assess shared interests in controlling resolutions, avoiding loss risks, and saving further transactional costs as ways to confront win-lose biases.

²⁷⁸ Wayne D. Brazil, *Hosting Mediations as a Representative of the System of Civil Justice*, 22 OHIO ST. J. ON DISP. RESOL. 227, 258.

²⁷⁹ See Abel, *supra* note 261, at 106.

²⁸⁰ Eric Ryan, *Building the Emotionally Learned Negotiator*, 22 NEGOTIATION J. 209, 222 (2006).

²⁸¹ Guthrie, *supra* note 174, at 160 n.84; Welsh, *supra* note 171, at 51.

²⁸² Sternlight, *supra* note 140, at 339-45.

²⁸³ Peters, *supra* note 19, at 1296.

²⁸⁴ See MODEL RULES OF PROF’L CONDUCT R. 1.2(a) (2002). For example, U.S. legal ethical standards divide decision-making authority for the means client objectives are pursued. Clients are expected normally to “defer to the special knowledge and skill” of their lawyers, “particularly with respect to technical, legal, and technical matters.” MODEL RULES OF PROF’L CONDUCT R. 1.2(a) cmt. (2002) Many attorneys interpret this to encompass the decisions needed to manage adjudication.

“Lawyers like most people feel more comfortable with what they know best”²⁸⁵ and resist performing actions that present more challenge and produce less comfort.²⁸⁶ Change is never easy, and it often generates fears of making mistakes and receiving negative judgments.²⁸⁷ Lawyers must ensure that they do not reject mediation because it changes resolution process dynamics and gives them less control, centrality, leadership, and opportunity to display legal knowledge-based advocacy. Lawyers must also resist inclinations to avoid mediation because it puts them outside their comfort zone by requiring actions that acknowledge and respond to the complicated, interactive emotional dynamics that arise during dispute resolution.²⁸⁸

Mediation reduces lawyer control by substituting a less formal consensual process that clients attend and may participate substantially, for a more rule-bound adjudication approach where clients often are not present, do not participate unless testifying, and transfer decision-making to judges, arbitrators, or juries.²⁸⁹ Mediating anticipates larger roles for clients than they play in adjudicating. Mediating typically requires clients to be present, and provides several opportunities for them to talk and to listen in joint sessions when all disputants meet together, and in confidential meetings conducted outside the presence of all or some other participants. Mediating gives commercial clients the opportunity to hear counterparts’ perspectives directly without distortion from their lawyers, interact directly with counterparts, and make informed comparisons between mediation options and likely adjudication outcomes.²⁹⁰

While lawyers typically play central roles in the managed discourse of effective mediating,²⁹¹ their actions occur in the presence of and in collaboration with representatives of their commercial clients and their counterparts. For example, their analysis of case strengths, weaknesses, and outcome forecasts are typically discussed confiden-

²⁸⁵ Guthrie, *supra* note 174, at 165.

²⁸⁶ Robert C. Bordone et al., *The Next Thirty Years: Directions and Challenges in Dispute Resolution*, in *THE HANDBOOK OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION*, *supra* note 35, at 507, 511.

²⁸⁷ Millhauser, *supra* note 161, at 190.

²⁸⁸ See Ryan, *supra* note 280, at 213; see *infra* notes 313-21 and accompanying text.

²⁸⁹ See Genty, *supra* note 172, at 142 (quoting Dutch lawyers who say that in typical civil suits in the Netherlands it is thought to be too expensive to have clients testify, so absent significant disagreements, attorneys prepare and submit written summaries of client and witness statements).

²⁹⁰ Sternlight, *supra* note 140, at 339.

²⁹¹ Riskin & Welsh, *supra* note 14, at 875 (noting that lawyers tend to dominate discussions during court-connected mediations of ordinary non-criminal, non-family disputes in the United States).

tially yet in their client's presence. Because this presents risks of surfacing evidence gathering and evaluation errors, it often encourages more preparation by lawyers than face-to-face negotiations.²⁹² In addition, mediation lessens lawyers' law-based expertise by integrating consideration of non-monetary and other interests outside legal frames, de-emphasizing determinations about applicable law, and seeking outcomes about costs, benefits, and risks that parties can live with.²⁹³ Mediating generates information for making cost-benefit assessments that commercial clients typically make in other facets of their business operations.²⁹⁴ Finally, mediating challenges lawyers to navigate emotional dynamics skillfully, managing themselves in the midst of emotional stress while conducting effective professional interactions with others who are often strongly influenced by emotions.²⁹⁵

Discussing mediation as a pre-adjudication option counters brain-based and cultural biases and helps lawyers approach the challenging tasks of mediating. Mediating combats selective perception by demonstrating that dispute contexts contain more solution-relevant information than legal analysis identifies. For example, determining whether to mediate requires identifying and assessing whether significant actual or potential commercial relationships or other business interests exist.²⁹⁶ This encourages evaluating the importance clients place on publicity, confidentiality, and obtaining relief that adjudication cannot provide, such as apologies, modified relations, expedited compliances, licensing agreements, equipment sharing arrangements, barter arrangements, bid invitations, and future references.²⁹⁷ This also emulates efforts by mediators to shift focus from the parties and their inclinations to maximize gain against each other to solving together commercial problems.²⁹⁸

Mediating combats fixed pie and zero sum biases by expanding resolution agendas to include these and other types of business and non-monetary interests. Commercial actors probably value and prioritize business and non-monetary interests differently.²⁹⁹ These differ-

²⁹² See Sternlight, *supra* note 140, at 340.

²⁹³ See Alexander, *supra* note 240, at 356-57.

²⁹⁴ James C. Freund, *Three's A Crowd: How to Resolve a Knotty Multi-Party Dispute Through Mediation*, 64 BUS. LAW. 359, 362-63 (2009).

²⁹⁵ Ryan, *supra* note 280, at 210.

²⁹⁶ *Screening Device Determines ADR Suitability*, 15 ALTERNATIVES TO HIGH COST LITIG. 7 (1997) [hereinafter *Suitability Screening Device*].

²⁹⁷ *Id.* at 8.

²⁹⁸ Falcao & Sanchez, *supra* note 2, at 418.

²⁹⁹ Expanding resolution agendas to include these specific types of commercial interests encourage trading, the most common approach to creating value in mediation. Don Peters, *When Lawyers Move Their Lips: Attorney Truthfulness in Mediation and a Modest Proposal*, 2007 J. DISP. RESOL. 119, 134-35, 137.

ently valued and prioritized possibilities generate value-creating agreement opportunities by trading relatively lesser for relatively more valued options.³⁰⁰ Mediating also provides opportunities to broaden understandings of how counterparts view disputes, business interests, potential trades, and the impacts that these perspectives have on monetary remedies that are or might be asserted in adjudication.³⁰¹

Many commercial disputes present situations where considerations external to the monetary claims primarily drive decisions.³⁰² Even when assessing just win-lose outcomes on legal claims involving money damages, however, mediating helps lawyers and their commercial clients realize that they lack perfect information upon which to base their case analyses and outcome forecasts.³⁰³ Effective lawyers understand that they do not know or understand everything relevant to analyzing and forecasting adjudication outcomes.³⁰⁴ They also know that selective and partisan perception lessens their analytic objectivity and increases risks of biased predictions.³⁰⁵ Mediating creates balanced opportunities for commercial disputants and their lawyers to speak about factors on which case analyses and outcome forecasts are based with assurance that what they say and do will not appear in court testimony or the media.³⁰⁶

Confidential caucusing allows private meetings with mediators and frequently generates information that would never appear in adjudication but which often proves crucial to resolutions.³⁰⁷ Confidential

³⁰⁰ *Id.*

³⁰¹ An analysis of many years of surveys regarding court-connected mediation in the United States Federal Court for the Northern District of California showed that 62% of lawyers believed mediation had helped parties identify their underlying interests, needs, and priorities beyond their legal positions. Brazil, *supra* note 278, at 253.

³⁰² *Id.* at 233. Mediating allows disputants to learn that they are better off if they focus virtually all solution-seeking activities on underlying interests, non-monetary values, and longer-range visions. *Id.*

³⁰³ Sternlight, *supra* note 140, at 299. This may challenge some Latin American lawyers who may not have much experience in their litigation systems with developing information regarding their counterparts' case. See Cavise, *supra* note 239, at 806.

³⁰⁴ Brazil, *supra* note 278, at 232.

³⁰⁵ *Id.*

³⁰⁶ NELSON & STIPANOWICH, *supra* note 260, at 14. This privacy protection is typically outlined in agreements to mediate and reinforced by legal rules supporting the confidentiality of mediation generally. *Id.*

³⁰⁷ *Id.* In a survey of federal mediation in the Northern District of California, 31% of litigators reported that mediation explored resolutions beyond which courts could order, and 38% said that mediation had clarified, narrowed, or eliminated issues. Brazil, *supra* note 278, at 253.

caucuses overcome major barriers to resolution that flow from strategic approaches to communication generated by adjudicating.³⁰⁸ Arising from win-lose and loss aversion biases, commercial disputants are reluctant to disclose private information in order to maximize their gain, increase their leverage, and avoid creating potential leverage against them.³⁰⁹ With permission, and after disputants have had opportunities to share their perspectives, concerns, and analyses, mediators frequently use this hoarded but often useful information in indirect, disguised ways by offering hypothetical possibilities or making suggestions.³¹⁰

These enhanced communication channels that are possible in mediation but not in adjudication help commercial decision-makers move their understanding beyond selective perception by becoming more familiar with and realistic regarding dispute facts, case analyses, and outcome forecasts.³¹¹ They help commercial disputants avoid negotiation errors stemming from missing or misunderstanding important facts, legal rules, possible agreement terms, and adjudicatory outcome components.³¹²

Mediating often defuses hostility between disputants and combats the distortions caused by partisan perception and biased attribution. Remembering this may help lawyers manage their discomfort with dealing with the fluid emotional dynamics of mediated negotiations.³¹³ Negative, hostile emotions influence behavior, divert atten-

³⁰⁸ Sternlight, *supra* note 140, at 335-36. In the California federal district court study, 21% of litigants and 22% of their lawyers reported that they had bridged a communication gap during the mediation. Brazil, *supra* note 278, at 252.

³⁰⁹ J. ANDERSON LITTLE, MAKING MONEY TALK: HOW TO MEDIATE INSURED CLAIMS AND OTHER MONETARY DISPUTES 19-22 (2007).

³¹⁰ Hoffman, *supra* note 209, at 25-26. An American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution Task Force conducted ten focus group discussions in nine U.S. cities and reviewed more than 100 questionnaire responses to compile a Final Report on Improving Mediation Quality. This Report found that 95% of respondents felt it was essential, very important, or important that mediators make suggestions, and 100% welcomed suggestions regarding possible ways to resolve issues. ABA SECTION OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION, TASK FORCE ON IMPROVING MEDIATION QUALITY: FINAL REPORT 14 (2008) [hereinafter REPORT ON IMPROVING MEDIATION QUALITY].

³¹¹ *Suitability Screening Device*, *supra* note 296, at 7.

³¹² Brazil, *supra* note 278, at 239. Mediation discourse promotes two simple suggestions offered to help decision-makers: (1) always entertain competing hypotheses, and (2) continually remind yourself of what you don't know. LEHRER, *supra* note 91, at 247.

³¹³ *Suitability Screening Device*, *supra* note 296, at 7 (stating that the likelihood a mediator could help defuse hostility between disputants, their lawyers, or both is a factor suggesting suitability for mediation).

tion from resolution, and damage relationships.³¹⁴ Positive emotions promote satisfying substantive interests, enhance relationships, and reduce exploitation fears.³¹⁵

Effective mediators seek to establish and maintain positive emotional climates conducive to constructive communication.³¹⁶ They frequently respond to core emotional concerns by expressing appreciation, building affiliation, respecting autonomy, and acknowledging status.³¹⁷ They strive to introduce “light where before there was only heat”³¹⁸ by acknowledging strong emotions that disputants often express.³¹⁹ This permits participants to express negative emotions, usually in caucus out of the presence of counterparts.³²⁰ Discussing topics triggering strong emotions in private sessions allows full expression without alienating counterparts. These conversations counter biased attribution by disentangling impact from intent.³²¹ They also often generate useful information that clarifies interests and aids careful analysis of the costs and benefits of mediation alternatives.

Mediating commercial cases combats overconfidence because it typically encompasses frank and mutual analysis of alternatives to agreeing consensually. Comparing what emerges as the best terms achievable during mediating with these alternatives is a core compo-

³¹⁴ FISHER & SHAPIRO, *supra* note 223, at 5, 11-12.

³¹⁵ *Id.* at 7-8.

³¹⁶ *See id.* at 214-15 (stating that good feelings widen perception and helps people think more flexibility, take in situation’s larger implications, think more in terms of relationship, and connect more dots); GALLAGHER, *supra* note 103, at 37; Ryan, *supra* note 280, at 221 (stating that positive emotions facilitate creative problem solving in negotiation and enhance creativity and rapport).

³¹⁷ FISHER & SHAPIRO, *supra* note 223, at 15-21.

³¹⁸ NELSON & STIPANOWICH, *supra* note 260, at 15.

³¹⁹ Acknowledging feelings is usually a pre-requisite to problem-solving. STONE ET AL., *supra* note 119, at 106. Neutral, non-judgmental statements that communicate that listeners hear and understand emotions are the most effective way to acknowledge feelings. BINDER ET AL., *supra* note 184, at 52-61. Doing this signals that speakers’ and their emotions matter. STONE ET AL., *supra* note 119, at 106.

³²⁰ GOLANN & FOLBERG, *supra* note 6, at 195 (stating that sometimes simply allowing disputants to vent their feelings privately is enough to clear the air); Amy L. Lieberman, *The “A” List of Emotions in Mediation: From Anxiety to Agreement*, 61 DISP. RESOL. J. 46, 48 (2006) (stating that acknowledging strong feelings tends to “take some of the juice out of them”).

³²¹ Russell Korobkin, *Psychological Impediments to Mediation Success: Theory and Practice*, 21 OHIO ST. J. ON DISP. RESOL. 281, 304-08 (2006) (describing interventions mediations make to help disputants combat attribution errors); *see* STONE ET AL., *supra* note 119, at 44, 53-55 (arguing that intentions strongly influence judgments humans make of others and that humans judge others more harshly if they intended to harm than if they did so for other reasons).

ment of commercial dispute mediation.³²² Effective mediators promote the development of greater information regarding mediation alternatives by discussing, usually in caucuses, strengths, weaknesses, gaps, inconsistencies, and vulnerabilities concerning specific dimensions of anticipated mediation goals.³²³

Because commercial dispute resolution usually occurs in the shadow of adjudicatory alternatives, much of this conversation concerns specific information regarding case analyses and outcome forecasts. Typically occurring after disputants have presented their views, concerns, and opinions fully, these conversations often begin with discussions of analytic strengths and bases of favorable predictions.³²⁴ Listening carefully, mediators can convert this information into questions to ask counterparts regarding potential vulnerabilities and weaknesses in their legal positions and outcome forecasts.

Mediators then tactfully phrase and respectfully ask these questions.³²⁵ Responding to these inquiries permits counterparts to learn and assess these contrasting perspectives. Using questions rather than statements allows mediators to encourage lawyers to articulate responses to inquiries about potential gaps, inconsistencies, and problems.³²⁶ This dialogue allows commercial clients to hear pros and cons of adjudicatory analyses and predictions discussed in non-adversarial, information-oriented rather than persuasion-focused, settings.³²⁷ These discussions often help clients understand why and how they need to adjust their views of adjudicatory outcomes in order to form more realistic expectations of settlement possibilities and proposals.³²⁸

³²² Brazil, *supra* note 278, at 239.

³²³ Korobkin, *supra* note 113, at 69.

³²⁴ 95% of respondents indicated that mediators' reviewing case strengths and weaknesses is helpful in half or more of the cases they mediated. REPORT ON IMPROVING MEDIATION QUALITY, *supra* note 310, at 14.

³²⁵ 95% of respondents reported that mediators' asking pointed questions that raised issues is helpful in half or more of the cases which they mediated. *Id.*

³²⁶ Korobkin, *supra* note 113, at 69. Participating in this discourse might challenge Latin American lawyers who are not accustomed to having real control over the presentation and development of investigation and trial of matters. See Cavise, *supra* note 239, at 790.

³²⁷ CARROLL & MACKIE, *supra* note 4, at 23-24. Commercial clients sometimes complain that their lawyers never discuss case weaknesses and instead focus only on strengths. Stephen P. Younger, *Effective Representation of Corporate Clients in Mediation*, 59 ALBANY L. REV. 951, 957 (1996).

³²⁸ Brazil, *supra* note 278, at 232. Gaining clearer understandings of the strengths of each other's claims often narrows gaps between disputants' outcome forecasts and encourages settlement. Russell Korobkin & Chris Guthrie, *Psychological Barriers to Litigation Settlement: An Experimental Approach*, 93 MICH. L. REV. 107, 128 n.86 (1994).

Finally, mediating counters the perceptual and legal cultural win-lose biases that influence the strategic ways lawyers typically negotiate money-based issues. Most commercial disputes involve at least some negotiating over money and mediators add considerable value by helping participants deal with optimistically overconfident case analyses and the negative emotions that positional bargaining between differing perspectives frequently generates.³²⁹ Mediating dampens the use and effects of ineffective but common negotiating tactics like unwarranted threats, dangerous bluffs, and premature “final offers.”³³⁰

Money-based negotiating typically involves multiple rounds of offers and responses as participants move through their negotiation ranges.³³¹ Attempts to maximize gain and avoid loss influence tendencies to start negotiating with extreme demands reflected in high or lowball offers, often considerably above or below adjudication forecasts,³³² and to stop bargaining before reaching their best numbers.³³³ Using skilled listening, questioning, and confidential caucusing, mediators help all parties deal with negative emotions generated by biased attributions that perceive evaluation differences as criticism and strategic negotiating actions as disrespect.³³⁴ They also help participants deal with the escalating impatience and frustration that accompanies grudging efforts to move to midpoints between opening proposals. Analyzing and evaluating claims is not easy, and mediating helps lawyers avoid false negotiation failures during this process resulting from guessing incorrectly about what they can achieve, posturing too long, hiding real top or bottom limits too tenaciously, and concluding further movement cannot be made without unacceptable face loss.³³⁵

Although disputants' best numbers usually do not overlap, mediating helps many commercial disputants find ways to bridge the smaller gaps that usually appear once extensive negotiating identifies viable ranges.³³⁶ Carefully examining estimates regarding all transactional costs of pursuing adjudicatory alternatives, including attor-

³²⁹ See LITTLE, *supra* note 309, at 85-109; Brazil, *supra* note 278, at 232.

³³⁰ Freund, *supra* note 294, at 363 n.5.

³³¹ LITTLE, *supra* note 309, at 25-28. See generally J. Michael Keating, *Mediating in the Dance for Dollars*, 14 ALTERNATIVES TO HIGH COST LITIG. 93 (1996).

³³² LITTLE, *supra* note 309, at 47, 128-9.

³³³ *Id.* at 30-31.

³³⁴ *Id.* at 86-89.

³³⁵ Brazil, *supra* note 278, at 239-40.

³³⁶ LITTLE, *supra* note 309, at 190-92. 98% of respondents viewed persistence as an essential, very important or important quality in mediators and 93% identified patience in the same way. REPORT ON IMPROVING MEDIATION QUALITY, *supra* note 310, at 17. They expressed “dissatisfaction with mediators who threw in the towel when negotiations became difficult.” *Id.*

neys fees, court costs, business disruption expenses, lost commercial opportunities, time estimates, collection probabilities, and appellate risks, often helps bridge these gaps.³³⁷ Analyzing shared interests in ending disputes, avoiding loss risks, and maximizing independent business interests further bridge these gaps. Mediating helps commercial clients assess carefully whether adjudicating is really necessary and cost-beneficial to achieve vindication, secure company reputations, reduce the incidence of future similar or related claims, or obtain decisive legal precedent.³³⁸ Even if agreement does not result, mediating often increases mutual understanding, resolves many issues, and narrows the focus for going forward with either adjudication or later mediation.³³⁹

Globalization, regional economic integration, and increased business activity within the United States and Latin America amplify the need to resolve commercial disputes with greater efficiency. Lawyers in these countries need to develop heightened awareness of adjudication alternatives and the promise they hold to create mutually satisfactory, business interest-based resolutions. Pre- or early-adjudication mediation, while not a panacea, supplies a valuable tool that enhances efficient commercial dispute resolution when used more often by lawyers and their business clients.

Mediating builds onto existing lawyer skills needed to analyze fact situations, discern applicable law, and estimate adjudicatory outcomes.³⁴⁰ Mediating gives lawyers important roles in helping their commercial clients develop, compare, and then choose between accepting the best settlement option or initiating or continuing adjudication.³⁴¹ Mediating also lets lawyers satisfy human impulses for resolution, healing individuals and organizations, and enabling commerce to function more harmoniously and productively.³⁴²

Humans are profoundly social beings constantly influencing and being influenced by each other. Small-scale activities by a few individuals can generate contagious behaviors that cross a tipping point

³³⁷ Peters, *supra* note 19, at 1284-86.

³³⁸ *Suitability Screening Device*, *supra* note 296, at 8. Obtaining a precedent may not be as important in Latin American countries where the value of case precedent may be either non-existent or limited. See Cavise, *supra* note 239, at 794.

³³⁹ NELSON & STIPANOWICH, *supra* note 260, at 22.

³⁴⁰ See Guthrie, *supra* note 174, at 180; Welsh, *supra* note 171, at 52.

³⁴¹ Lawrence M. Watson, *Initiating the Settlement Process: Ethical Considerations*, in DISPUTE RESOLUTION ETHICS: A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE, 7, 15 (Phyllis Bernard & Bryant Garth eds., 2002).

³⁴² See Steven Keeva, *Transforming Practices: Finding Joy and Satisfaction in the Legal Life XX* (1999).

and produce dramatic, immediate changes in social practices.³⁴³ The tipping point for commercial dispute mediation probably occurs when mediating happens so commonly that it becomes the regular option, the default preference unless particular circumstances suggest otherwise.³⁴⁴ As this analysis demonstrates, lawyers' resistance to mediating commercial disputes has not approached such a tipping point. But if more lawyers identified and surmounted the barriers generating their resistance to mediate, use of this beneficial adjudicatory alternative might approach or even cross this tipping point. Shall we mediate, or tango, or both?

³⁴³ See MALCOLM GLADWELL, *THE TIPPING POINT: HOW LITTLE THINGS CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE* 9 (2002).

³⁴⁴ Matthias Prause, *The Oxymoron of Measuring the Immeasurable: Potential and Challenges of Determining Mediation Developments in the U.S.*, 13 HARV. NEGOT. L. REV. 131, 133-34 (2008). Some signs suggest that movement in this direction is underway. Increasing numbers of U.S. lawyers handling commercial disputes have recently affirmed their willingness to mediate in ways that explore both adjudication analysis and underlying business interests. Riskin & Welsh, *supra* note 14, at 924.