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Foreword

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Foreword

*Leonard L. Riskin**

In 1994, I proposed the idea of charting a mediator's role on a facilitative-evaluative continuum. Since that time, the notion surely has generated at least as much heat as light. In this Symposium, we are fortunate to have a lead article and final reflections by Professor Jeffrey Stempel, one of the most thoughtful and prolific commentators on this issue. Professor Stempel's argument that eclecticism in mediation is inevitable is well-honed, and yet our distinguished commentators — Gary Gill-Austern, Richard Birke, Kim Kovach, Lela Love, Jon Lande, and Zena Zumeta — found much to say about it.

Their comments represent a wide array of perspectives and contribute enormously to the discussion about how best to understand and regulate mediation. They are not only sophisticated theoretically, but also are grounded in practical experience and explicit, strong values. Accordingly, these works — along with Professor Stempel's and the important contribution of Professor Dwight Golann in the last issue of the *Journal of Dispute Resolution* — are likely to provoke thoughtful readers to reflect anew on the issues they raise. They certainly have had that effect on me.

And so, with thanks to our writers, to the *Journal* editors, and to Professor Jean Sternlight, who arranged this Symposium, I invite you to enjoy these most stimulating and diverse perspectives on a subject that, notwithstanding the fervent wishes of many in the field, does not seem likely to disappear quickly.

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