

# Law Day 2010: Law in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

## Emerging Challenges and Enduring Traditions

The definition of dispute is an argument or quarrel. Therefore, dispute resolution is the solution to a conflict between two people or groups. Every one of us has experienced a dispute. It could be as simple as a fight between two siblings about a game they were playing or as complex as a war between two or more nations.

### ◆ Dispute Resolution ◆

*“To give a satisfactory decision as to the truth it is necessary to be rather an arbitrator than a party to the dispute.”*

**Aristotle,**  
Ancient Greek philosopher

Ultimately every conflict or dispute needs to be resolved. Sometimes this happens when one side gets hurt, or killed, or just gives up. But more often dispute resolution is the result of compromise between the involved parties. With a compromise neither party “wins”. Both sides give up part of what they truly wanted to ensure their fighting will stop.

Some compromises can be reached when both parties listen to each other, speak respectfully about the issue and find a solution that both sides can live with. Finding a reasonable solution can be challenging because disputes usually involve strong emotions - fear, anger and pride, just to name a few. So to get two opposing parties to reach a compromise, it frequently requires the assistance of a neutral party, a mediator, to listen to both sides and help come up with a peaceful solution.

Whether the dispute is between two classmates, two large companies in the corporate world or two warring nations, the general process for dispute resolution is strikingly similar.

### **Newspaper Activity:**

◆ Look through the newspaper for examples of people involved in a conflict or dispute. Can you find the who, what, when, where and why of the dispute? As a class discuss both sides of the issue and see if you can brainstorm potential solutions that might resolve the issue. Do any of your solutions require a change in a law or rule to be sure it will be enforced?

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## Newspaper Activity 1:

Look through the newspaper for examples of people involved in a conflict or dispute. Can you find the who, what, when, where and why of the dispute? Use the chart below to organize the key facts you’ve identified.

<b>Who?</b>	
<b>What happened?</b>	
<b>When?</b>	
<b>Where?</b>	
<b>Why?</b>	
<b>How?</b>	
<b>Interesting facts:</b>	

# ◆ Dispute Resolution ◆

## Newspaper Activity 2:

As a class discuss both sides of the issue and see if you can brainstorm potential solutions that might resolve the issue. Do any of your solutions require a change in a law or rule to be sure it will be enforced? In the chart below, write down your possible solutions, whether you think a new law or rule is necessary and your ideas on what the new regulation should be.

<b>Possible solution</b>	<b>Law/rule change? Yes/No</b>	<b>New law or rule</b>