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Colloborative Law Introduction

Stu Webb

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Collaborative Law Introduction

Stu Webb

I take a great deal of pleasure in responding to the request to participate in this collection of collaborative thought.

One of the challenges faced by collaborative law is for the practitioner to not only be acknowledged as part of the conflict resolution community, but also to recognize themselves as being part of a larger collective whole of practitioners bent on offering "kinder and gentler" ways of helping parties resolve their differences.

From a practice standpoint, it might mean collaborative practitioners discussing with prospective clients the meditation option and finding ways to meld mediation and collaborative into one settlement mode. This might be accomplished by collaborative lawyers adding a mediator to their mix in a particular situation---or mediators recommending collaborative lawyers for settlement wrap-up, knowing they will likely respect the mediation memorandum and process.

There are many ways to resolve disputes and even litigation can be the method of choice in a particular situation. Those of us in the alternative camp should not fall into the trap of feeling we must compete with each other. Instead we need to find ways to complement each other. This invitation for the authors and me to participate in this issue of this prestigious journal is a step in this direction.

Thank you. Stu Webb Pepperdine Dispute Resolution Law Journal, Vol. 4, Iss. 3 [2004], Art. 1