

American Bar Association Dispute Resolution Section Meeting Reading the Tea Leaves: The Next Legal Revolution Has Begun

Chicago, IL

Session Date 4/4/2013

Session Start Time 4:00 PM

Session End Time 5:15 PM

Description Our once-lauded legal system no longer serves lawyers or clients well. Overpriced, punitive, and zero-sum by nature, it leaves lawyers unemployed, clients unrepresented and disputes unresolved. Now, lawyers are invoking diverse problem solving strategies to create new systems that return conflicts to the parties and the community, humanize dispute resolution, and facilitate deeper, more durable outcomes. The three presenters will each explore one question: (1) WHY revolution, why now? Connecting the dots between brain science, positive psychology, conflict resolution, and healthy communities. (2) WHAT this revolution looks like: systemic changes already taking shape across the U.S and the World. (3) HOW this revolution is growing: self-organizing local systems replacing centralized punishment with restorative, community-building resolution.

Presentation Outline Each of the three panelists will present for twenty minutes, allowing fifteen minutes for panel discussion and q/a. Pauline: WHY do we need a revolution? Brain science, impact of punitive system on lawyers and their clients and the society at large. Kim: WHAT has begun to emerge: When systemic change began, and how it is taking form. Sylvia: HOW systemic change can occur: The shift from the traditional court system and centralized punishment/vengeance to self-organizing local systems that restore and unify.

Diversity The panelists are experienced women lawyers who have each moved from traditional legal practice to a distinct position as a leader in the emerging revolution in law. Tesler, a pioneer in building Collaborative Law, now directs the new nonprofit Integrative Law Institute at Commonweal. Wright is among the leading legal innovators in this emerging revolution. Clute, a long-time trial attorney, created and now directs a unique school and community program that provides a working model of a "parallel" non-punitive justice system. Each presenter has written s ground-breaking books about the transformative changes taking place in the U.S. legal system.