

# Tulsa Law Review

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Volume 36  
Number 4 *Symposium: Alternative Dispute  
Resolution in the Twenty-First Century*

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Summer 2001

## From The Editors

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### Recommended Citation

*From The Editors*, 36 Tulsa L. J. xi (2013).

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## **From the Editor . . .**

The *Tulsa Law Journal* proudly presents a Symposium in tribute to the legacy of Martin A. Frey, Professor Emeritus, University of Tulsa College of Law. We are greatly indebted to all the authors, including Professor Frey, for their contributions to this issue of the *Tulsa Law Journal*.

My first remembrance of Professor Frey is from orientation my first year of law school. Professor Frey was given the important task of instructing the first year students on how to read and brief cases. As I sat and listened to his lecture, took copious notes, and attempted to understand how I would ever be able to discern the difference between the rule of the case and the holding, I thought to myself, I wonder if I have this professor for any of my classes. Although at the time I may not have considered this a fortunate turn of events, my class schedule revealed that indeed Professor Frey was to be my contracts professor.

As I read my first assignment for contracts, three or four times, I agonized over writing the case briefs, particularly because I knew if called upon in class to demonstrate my prowess, Professor Frey would require me to read the brief aloud to my peers. I thought of the great shame I would feel in front of my classmates but worried the most about what kind of idiot Professor Frey would think I was. As I sat in class avoiding eye contact with Professor Frey so that I might not be the unfortunate soul to be called upon to share my briefs, I heard him speak my name. I felt my face flush and heard my voice tremble as I read my brief. It turned out my brief was not half-bad. More importantly, I realized that Professor Frey was not going to ridicule me, but was going to teach me. Even when our briefs were totally wrong and we failed to grasp the meaning of the case, Professor Frey, with chalk flying and covering his hands and suit jacket, would skillfully show us the way.

Professor Frey has the ability to see beyond his lecture. Often he would look out into the class and be perceptive enough to notice when all of our faces had the puzzlement of the infamous “deer in the headlights.” He would ask us if we would find a review of the material beneficial. Then, he would review the material until we understood. Even if a student did not grasp the material in class, Professor Frey made himself readily available outside of class – even from home. Indeed, he would be concerned when his phone was “not ringing

enough” and would encourage students to call. Not being shy, I called him numerous times. I would often apologize for the many phone calls and he would always encourage me to “keep on calling.”

I went from being nervous having Professor Frey for contracts to thanking the scheduling gods for the opportunity to have learned from him. After my first year, I selected Professor Frey twice more for Secured Transactions and Introduction to Alternative Dispute Resolution.

Aside from his great teaching ability, Professor Frey has achieved much recognition for his other contributions to the legal profession. Professor Frey earned a B.S.M.E. from Northwestern University, a J.D. from Washington University (St. Louis) School of Law, and an LL.M. from George Washington University. He is a member of the Oklahoma and Missouri Bar Associations. In his academic career he received numerous honors and awards including The University of Tulsa College of Law Outstanding Professor – six different times and the Lifetime Service Award from the University of Tulsa Law Alumni Association. He has written published and non-published works, including books, professional articles, software and law review pieces. To list all of his works would cover pages. Martin A. Frey has contributed in many disciplines of the law, including contracts, bankruptcy and secured transactions. However, his contribution to the growing study and use of alternative dispute resolution processes is particularly relevant to this symposium issue.

Martin A. Frey, originally appointed in 1988 by the federal judges of the Northern District of Oklahoma as one of six members of the Tulsa County Bar to participate in an experimental Adjunct Settlement Judge Program, continues to serve as a Senior Adjunct settlement judge. He is also a member of the Adjunct Settlement Judge program for the Northern District of Oklahoma Bankruptcy Court. Martin A. Frey was the Co-Director for the Center on Dispute Resolution from 1994 to 2000. He taught numerous classes on various forms of alternative dispute resolution including Introduction to ADR, Mediation, Arbitration, and Interviewing and Counseling. After many years of the 1L Negotiation Competition sponsored by the Board of Advocates, the students of the University of Tulsa College of Law renamed the competition the Martin A. Frey 1L Negotiation Competition. Professor Frey coached and guided many traveling negotiation competition teams.

Martin A. Frey is the most special kind of professor – a teacher. I hope that all the students whose lives Professor Frey touched will serve their clients and the legal profession with the dedication and

passion which Professor Frey brought to his teaching. If they do, the legal profession will be all the better for having been touched by Martin A. Frey. Professor Frey, thank you for the lessons and for the inspiration.

*Melinda L. Kirk*

