



The Worshipful Company of Arbitrators
Installation Court
Tuesday 29th October 2013
Address by the Master (Karl Davies)

Wardens, members of the Livery, ladies and gentlemen.

It is a great sadness for me that I cannot be with you this evening and I am very grateful to Past Master Hew Dundas who is deputising for me.

It is a convention that at this point the outgoing Master gives a report of the year. It is also a convention that it is a **short** report and I hope to respect both although to satisfy the latter does mean limiting the former.

However no report of the year can be complete without mentioning with gratitude the service to the Company of Past Masters Bill Armstrong, Michael Hinton and John Rushton, whose deaths were reported during the year.

I am pleased that we have made progress in our twin objects of fostering arbitration, mediation and other forms of private dispute resolution *and* in providing support to the Lord Mayor. Earlier this year we combined both objects when we brought together members of nineteen organisations from the wider Dispute Resolution

Community. They were joined by the Lord Mayor–Elect as we may now properly describe Alderman Fiona Woolf (one of our Liverymen), representatives from *TheCityUK* and from the Corporation’s Economic Development Unit. The meeting began a dialogue about promoting UK dispute resolution services in the face of international competition, and how best to support and benefit from, the Lord Mayor’s role as trade ambassador.

A direct outcome of the event is that for the first time arbitration & mediation is included as a separate topic in the two day briefings for UK Trade Representatives based in our embassies and missions overseas, run by the City Corporation. The Company’s presentations at these briefings have helped to ensure that the active promotion of UK arbitration and related services is firmly on the agenda of those trade representatives and of the Lord Mayor.

Another of our key roles is education in its widest form. During the year our Pupillage Scheme has been reviewed and refreshed and I am very grateful to the Education Committee, led by Assistant Michael Cover, for this work. I should also record our thanks to Assistant Philip Fidler who has run the Pupillage Scheme for many years and whose experience formed the basis of the review. The Committee has also been working to establish better links with universities that have arbitration or ADR in their syllabus. It was good that we supported Southampton University when they hosted the International Maritime Law Arbitration Moot in the summer.

I am delighted that recently the Court and the Trustees of the Company’s Charity have agreed to the development and funding of an educational project ‘the Young Peacemaker programme’ to offer training in mediation and conciliation techniques for youngsters in deprived inner city areas to try and show them alternatives to the gang culture and the brutal stabbings and shootings that we hear of all too frequently.

I cannot thank *all* those who have contributed to the Company and given me support in the last year but I do want to mention two people.

First is my Consort Joy who has been a great support and encouragement. Sadly we learnt just a month ago that she has breast cancer. As many here may know from the experience of family or friends the outlook is very positive although the treatment, which begins this week, fairly demanding. It is for this reason that neither of us can be here this evening and offer our apologies.

The second person I want to thank is Derek Ross for his constant support as Senior Warden. I am very grateful to him for his diligent counsel and I have no doubt that with his enthusiasm the Company will be in good hands in the year ahead. I know the whole Company joins me in wishing him and his Wardens an enjoyable and successful year.

Ladies & gentlemen, thank you.