



**Modern Law Practice Series: Online Dispute Resolution's
Influence on the Practice of Law**
November 17, 2016 – Nashville, TN

Program Description: Online dispute resolution (ODR) allows users with civil disputes to forgo court proceedings and attorneys by using web-based technologies and the Internet to resolve their conflicts. Although early websites offering ODR services for more complex issues seemed to stall, ODR found its niche in e-commerce disputes. One of the most successful examples of this is eBay, whose Resolution Center now resolves over 60 million disputes each year, 90 percent of which are completed without the help of attorneys, using only the ODR software. Abroad, ODR platforms are beginning to take on more intricate disputes like marital separations in the Netherlands and personal injury disputes in British Columbia. Back home in Tennessee, ODR has been implemented by the Davidson County Property Assessor's Office, where it allows taxpayers to file property tax assessment appeals online.

Is ODR the next game-changing trend in legal technology? How will ODR affect the practice of law in the United States and in Tennessee? This session will discuss these questions, take a closer look at ODR practices at home and abroad, consider the pros and cons of this innovation and look at the ways in which Tennessee lawyers could benefit from online dispute resolution.

Producers: Daniel Berexa, *Cornelius & Collins, LLP*
Hon. Catherine Bussart, *Marshall County General Sessions Court*

Agenda

12:30 – 1:00 p.m.

Registration

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

An Introduction to ODR

This session will offer a brief overview of Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) and online courts, both domestically and internationally. There has been lot of movement in this space and some combination of ODR, online court, and online assistance for pro se litigants offers a chance to revolutionize access to justice in the United states. The session will cover some of the need for ODR, some of the various forms of ODR, and what the future might hold. The session will also cover the lawyer's ethical duties to seek improvement of the law, access to the legal system, and the administration of justice, and argue that supporting and forwarding ODR is critical to that mission.

Professor Ben Barton, *University of Tennessee College of Law*

2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Hybrid Concepts in Online Dispute Resolution

There are many online tools that can assist and promote a more efficient and cost effective dispute resolution service. This session will explore numerous online tools dispute resolution professionals (litigators, arbitrators, mediators and facilitators) might consider to provide better, faster and cheaper dispute resolution services.

Larry Bridgesmith, Vanderbilt Law School

3:00 - 3:15 p.m.

Break

3:15 - 4:15 p.m.

Online Dispute Resolution: The State of the Art

The internet needs a justice system - but one that works for high volume, low value disputes that cross jurisdictions and legal regimes. Fortunately, we already have the blueprint for such a system, called Online Dispute Resolution, or ODR. ODR applies information and communications technology to the challenge of preventing and resolving disputes online. ODR works the way the internet works, providing convenient resolution options right at the point where the problem arises. In this session, we will explore the current state of global ODR and look at some current platforms, with a focus on expanding access to justice and delivering fast and fair resolutions.

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