

A N I N V I T A T I O N

INTERNATIONAL DINNER DISCUSSION

Building Consensus in Brazil: An Experience of Participatory Decision Making

*Presented by: Professor Mariana Hernández Crespo,
School of Law*

Monday, September 28, 2009

5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Rogge Room, Murray Herrick Student Center

The evening will include: Hors d'oeuvres and presentation, followed by a dinner and discussion

We invite you to join Mariana Hernández Crespo for an engaging discussion about her experience working with Brazilian mediators and representatives of different sectors of Brazilian society in a consensus-building project, aimed at improving participatory democratic decision making processes.

The University of St. Thomas School of Law is host to the UST International Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Research Network, which is designed to utilize social capital through consensus-building techniques in order to create a model of participatory problem-solving with wide-reaching applications.

"Investing Social Capital: Exploring the Multi-Door Courthouse as a Catalyst to Maximize Latin American Dispute Resolution Systems" is a pro-bono project in which participants have examined the different options to maximize the process of dispute resolution, including possible implementations of the multi-door courthouse. The multi-door courthouse is an institution that routes incoming court cases to the most appropriate methods of dispute resolution such as arbitration, mediation, and mini-trial.

Brazilian participants met for one year in a virtual forum using the methodology designed for consensus building by Professor Lawrence Susskind of MIT and Harvard Law School. This research was implemented under the direction of Professor Mariana Hernández Crespo of the University of St. Thomas School of Law, together with a team of experts, collaborators, and participants.

Participation is limited to 20 people. If you would like to attend, please send via email your name, department, and a few sentences about your interest in the topic (to give the presenter an idea of some specific topics to focus on) to mehernandez@stthomas.edu by Thursday, September 24th. Include any special dietary requests as well.

**This International Dinner Discussion Series is sponsored by:
The University of St. Thomas International Education Center**