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**Justice or “Just Us”**

Meetings of the International Academy of Mediators (IAM) that I attended recently in Paris reminded me that my mediator counterparts around the world encounter many of the same challenges that I do here; one being disputants and their legal representatives sometimes failing to recognize that partnerships with opponents are necessary to reap the full benefit of resolution.  Put another way, we are all in this together and it serves all of us to get beyond the competitive narrative.  A point validated not only by preeminent mediators from around the world but also key players in international banks, companies and insurors who manage risk and who also met with us in Paris.

The need to win and/or make somebody lose are major impediments to problem solving.  The virtues of the problem solving should transcend the zero-sum battle of the courtroom.  In this regard, a truer sense of justice for each side always outmatches the limited and often self-centered “just us” narrative of the litigation battle.  Clearly, most of my international colleagues agree.