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### **Eighth Annual Symposium on Dispute Resolution, April 4**

*Featuring keynote presentation*

#### **“Disclosure, apology, and mediation after medical errors”**

*by Lee Taft, health care attorney and mediator, and Doug Wojcieszak, founder and  
spokesperson of the Sorry Works! Coalition*

**WHAT:** Dispute Resolution Symposium

**WHEN:** Friday, April 4; 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.; Keynote address 9:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

**WHERE:** Eidman Courtroom and Jury Room, UT School of Law

**WHO:** The public is invited to attend all presentations

AUSTIN, Texas — A keynote presentation on disclosure, apology and mediation after medical errors will highlight the Eighth Annual Spring Symposium on Dispute Resolution, Friday, April 4. The symposium, hosted by The Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution at The University of Texas School of Law, will also feature seven UT graduate and law students presenting research on various dispute resolution topics. The keynote presentation will feature Lee Taft, health care attorney and mediator, and Doug Wojcieszak, founder and spokesperson of the Sorry Works! Coalition, with UT Law Professor and Vice-Provost Bill Sage moderating. The symposium begins at 8:30 a.m. in the Eidman Courtroom and Jury Room at the UT School of Law located at 727 E. Dean Keeton Street. The public is invited to attend all symposium presentations.

The symposium culminates the eighth year of the interdisciplinary Graduate Portfolio Program in Dispute Resolution. Through this Portfolio Program, law and graduate students from ten different academic units at The University of Texas at Austin pursue a focused curriculum of theory, skills, and research on dispute resolution.

The keynote presentation, “*Disclosure, apology, and mediation after medical errors,*” will address issues around dispute resolution and medical errors from a number of angles. Lee Taft will first introduce information about apology in both the broad legal context and in mediation before focusing more narrowly on apology within the disclosure movement. Doug Wojcieszak will then discuss the promotion of medical error disclosure, including the Sorry Works! Coalition’s organizational history and programs, as well as practical information about how to do medical error disclosure right. Finally, Bill Sage of the UT Law School will moderate a conversation between the panelists, incorporating questions from the audience. This presentation will be held at 9:30 a.m. in the Eidman Courtroom.

Lee Taft has over 20 years experience as a plaintiff’s litigator and, more recently, received his master of divinity degree from Harvard Divinity School. Taft collaborates with healthcare clients designing and implementing early intervention and disclosure programs and then integrating these programs with patient safety programs and litigation

strategies. Taft's recent publications include articles in the DePaul University Law Journal, the Michigan Law Review, Loyola University's Annals of Health Law, and the Yale Law Journal.

Doug Wojcieszak is a public relations consultant with personal and professional experience with tort reform and medical malpractice issues, having lost his oldest brother to medical errors in 1998. In February 2005, Wojcieszak created the Sorry Works! Coalition dedicated to promoting apologies for medical errors and full-disclosure methods as a middle ground solution to the malpractice crisis. The group has been publicized in popular and trade publications, including *Time Magazine*, *National Review*, *National Law Journal*, and *American Medical Association News*.

Bill Sage is the UT Vice-Provost for Health Affairs and holds the James R. Dougherty Chair for Faculty Excellence at the UT Law School. He is co-editor of *Medical Malpractice and the U.S. Health Care System* (Cambridge University Press, 2006) and *Uncertain Times: Kenneth Arrow and the Changing Economics of Health Care* (Duke University Press, 2003).

From 8:55-9:25 a.m. and 1:45-3:30 p.m., graduate students from the College of Education, LBJ School of Public Affairs, School of Law, and Cockrell School of Engineering will present their research on topics including stakeholder support of environmental policy, international arbitration between states without formal relations, understanding administrators who mandate mediation, and the use of alternative dispute resolution in claims for damage caused by outer space objects. Student presentations will be in the Eidman Courtroom and Jury Room and the public is invited to attend.

The Spring Symposium on Dispute Resolution is sponsored by the Construction Law and Alternative Dispute Resolution Sections of the State Bar of Texas.

**Related Links:**

Visit the website of the Graduate Portfolio Program in Dispute Resolution for a schedule of the symposium's events and to find more information on dispute resolution:

<http://www.utexas.edu/law/academics/centers/cppdr/portfolio/>

For information on the keynote speakers, see the following websites:

<http://www.taftsolutions.com>

<http://www.sorryworks.net/>