

Media Release

UNIVERSITY OF STELLENBOSCH BUSINESS SCHOOL TEAMS UP WITH TOP UK COMPANY TO BRING PRACTICAL COMMERCIAL MEDIATION TRAINING TO JOHANNESBURG

17 September 2009: Internationally, hard-nosed commercial mediation is fast becoming the mechanism of choice for the resolution of internal and external business disputes. As a result, the Africa Centre for Dispute Settlement (ACDS) at the University of Stellenbosch Business School (USB), together with the ADR Group, Britain's oldest commercial mediation service provider, will be running its internationally accredited mediation training courses in Johannesburg for the first time, in October. This follows six highly successful training courses on mediation delivered by USB and ADR Group in the Cape and Durban over the last two years.

Professor Barney Jordaan, head of the ACDS at USB, says that commercial mediation operates independently of the local court or labour tribunal structures and is quick and relatively inexpensive. "Most importantly it deals with the immediate commercial reality of the situation rather than arcane legal points which during a protracted court battle can take on a life of their own."

The five day programme, to be presented from 22 to 26 October, is intensive, hands-on and practical, and focuses on the hard skills needed to get difficult commercial parties to see their way through to reaching a viable settlement. The training leads to full internationally recognised accredited mediator status.

ADR Group's Training Director, Dr John Fletcher, says, "People often describe mediation as a 'win-win' process: the commercial reality is often closer to 'lose-lose' - neither party gets what they want, but they both get what they can live with. Do not expect people to come out of a hard fought mediation wreathed in smiles - they will have been through a pretty tough experience, but the practical commercial advantage of the settlement is what is important."

ACDS is spearheading the development of commercial mediation throughout the SADC region and ADR Group is currently involved in the establishment of an international commercial mediation hub in Mauritius, extensive work in India, South America, Eastern Europe and its core functions in the EU and Britain.

The course is co-presented by Dr Fletcher and Professor Barney Jordaan and details are available from Alex de Beer +2721 918 4381 or alex.debeer@usb.ac.za. RSVP by 6 October.

WC: 351

About University of Stellenbosch Business School (TBC by client)

Since its inception in 1964, the University of Stellenbosch Business School (USB) has become a renowned player in the international business school community. The student body, which grows each year, presently comprises over 650 MBA students, some 150 students of two further Master's degrees, 26 PhD students and several thousand other students taking part in the wide range of shorter executive courses. The USB MBA offers a solid theoretical grounding for the practical, real-world application of management and leadership competencies in any business sector in South Africa, on the African continent as well as in the global business community. The USB is the only business school of a South African university with two international accreditations: EQUIS from the European Foundation for Management Development and AMBA from the Association of MBAs. Visit www.usb.sun.ac.za for more information.