

mercantile litigants found themselves firmly locked in the embrace of the courts of common law. Perhaps the truth is that it is not so much a case of alternative dispute resolution processes of a sudden gaining in popularity but rather that the superior courts have, over the years, lost the ear, and the special favour, of both legislature and executive and can no longer effectively defend their turf as they once did.

At all events, the remedy that has now been provided by the present legislation governing arbitration, affirming yet again its legitimacy as an alternative to curial litigation while providing safeguards against arbitral injustice and effective means of enforcement, perhaps points one path to the future. It certainly does reflect, in a curious sense, the spirit of the times: in offering parties a free choice of arbitrator, of venue and of timing it may be said to be, in relation to the justice system, a variety of the now fashionable process of privatisation.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

I have recently received notice of a *Call for Papers* for a conference to be held in the United Kingdom in 1992 which may be of interest to readers of *The Arbitrator*.

The conference is titled "Construction Conflict Management & Resolution". It is the first University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST) international construction management conference and will be held at the Manchester Conference Centre on 25-27 September 1992.

Papers are called for in the following areas: Conflict management, Claims procedures, Litigation/Arbitration, Education, International construction, Alternative dispute resolution, and the Future. Accepted papers will be published in book form.

Deadlines for submission of papers are as follows: Abstracts by 31 October 1991, and Papers by 30 April 1992.

I have some additional information and addresses of conference organisers which I can make available to anyone who is interested.

Yours sincerely,

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