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RESOLVE Mediators Contribute to Award-Winning Book on Environmental Conflict Resolution

Washington, D.C., April 2005 – *The Promise and Performance of Environmental Conflict Resolution* received top honors in an awards ceremony at the recent annual meeting of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA).

Bestowed by the ASPA's Section on Environmental and Natural Resources Administration, the annual award for Best Book on Environmental and Natural Resources Administration recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to public administration literature and to the entire public administration community. *The Promise and Performance of Environmental Conflict Resolution* received first-place recognition for providing a framework that helps organizations use mediation and other consensus-building processes to their best advantage, evaluate their effectiveness, and consider them when setting environmental policy.

In the Foreword, Gail Bingham, President of RESOLVE, describes the historical use of consensus-building strategies in environmental settings noting the many successful cases that have been mediated in the last 30 years, and she sounds a call for why measuring outcomes is important given the many, sometimes competing claims that have been made for the value of these approaches. Similarly, Dr. Juliana Birkhoff, also of RESOLVE, puts forth in her chapter the premise that a well-rounded research and evaluation agenda for the field needs to recognize the multiple audiences for such research and to take their diverse needs more into account. Stated Dr. Birkhoff, "It is important to evaluate the outcomes sought by the convening agencies or funders and more research is needed to help mediators learn from their practice and to be accountable to the participants they serve."

"Despite the large body of knowledge about alternative dispute resolution, the information is somewhat fragmented and it's not easily understood how and when to use mediation, facilitation, and other dispute resolution processes and methodologies," says Birkhoff. "This book provides the necessary considerations for these approaches, and it's an honor to have been a part of it."

The Promise and Performance of Environmental Conflict Resolution was edited by Rosemary O'Leary, and Lisa Bingham, and was published by Resources for the Future Press.

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About RESOLVE

Founded in 1977, RESOLVE, Inc. (www.resolv.org) is a non-profit provider of consensus-building strategies and services. With particular expertise in handling cases with complex scientific and technical information, RESOLVE helps organizations achieve the best outcomes in controversial health, transportation, and environmental issues.