

Internationally Recognized Neutral and Scheinman Institute Advisory Board Member, John Bickerman, BSILR '78, MSILR '79 Meets with Scheinman Conflict Resolution Club



On Sunday, October 6, 2019, the Scheinman Conflict Resolution Club (SCRC) met with internationally recognized neutral and Scheinman Institute Advisory Board member John Bickerman, BSILR '78 and MSILR '79 in their first event of the semester. Bickerman specializes in multi-party and general commercial, environmental, insurance coverage and natural resource disputes. He has also facilitated the resolution of major natural resource and environmental disputes between the Federal government, Indian tribes, and states, including five major water allocation and water diversion conflicts throughout the nation. Bickerman is also a Visiting Lecturer, teaching a seven-week environmental mediation course each Fall at the ILR School.

Twenty-two members of the Scheinman Conflict Resolution Club discussed the challenges of multi-party mediations and the vast array of environmental conflicts that resulted in mediation. SCRC Director of Publications, Isabella Sofroniou '20, moderated the discussion, focusing on Bickerman's path to becoming a mediator. He spoke about his experience after graduating from ILR, working as an economist before becoming a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center. Bickerman also highlighted his experience clerking for Hon. William B. Bryant on the United States District Court, for the District of Columbia, as key step in becoming a mediator.

Members of the SCRC discussed the routes young professionals could take in order to begin a career in conflict resolution, including volunteering as a mediator within local courts. Director of Education, Mac Barreca '20, stated, "It was amazing getting to hear from Professor Bickerman about his experience in environmental mediation, considering how these issues will only grow in importance. I was especially interested to learn more about his current work in managing conflicts surrounding air and water pollution". Isabella Sofroniou, Director of Publications '20, stated, "I was excited that new club members engaged in discussions about managing different types of conflicts surrounding natural resources". The SCRC is grateful to John Bickerman for leading the discussion and to the Scheinman Institute, whose support sponsored the event.