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To Submit Abstracts for the March 1999 RAPA Meeting Please send by December 15, 1998

- Three copies of an abstract: 150-200 words, single-spaced; see Sample below.
- Three copies of author contact information. Please use the form below.
- Two self-addressed legal-size envelopes (with at least first class postage) to:

Professor Vern R. Walker Hofstra University School of Law 121 Hofstra University Hempstead, NY 11549-1210

Please follow these forms. Abstracts will be reproduced as submitted. Plan for no more than twenty minutes to present.

Sample Abstract

Process Alternatives in Technological Controversies Thomas G. Field, Jr., Franklin Pierce Law Center

2 White Street, Concord, NH 03301; email tfield@fplc.edu

Many alternatives, such as the so-called Science Court, to common mechanisms for resolving policy disputes have been advanced over the past quarter century. Yet, where Machiavellian motives are involved, more than the mere threat of protracted litigation is often needed to encourage their use. Even when such motives might not have a controlling effect, unfamiliarity strongly interferes with parties' seriously considering, much less adopting, novel processes. Also, inclinations to try new things have been shown strongly, and negatively, to correlate with the stakes involved.

Issues at the frontiers of science and technology must be carefully framed to minimize, if not avoid, giving decision makers the capacity to resolve issues outside their technical or political competences. Also, to foster trust, proceedings must be

public, and decisions must be subject to court review.

Those who advance novel institutions or processes must start with small stakes. Only after the bugs are worked out and shibboleths put to rest will they be seriously considered as a way to resolve major policy disputes.

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Author	Contact	Intori	mation
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