

## ABSTRACT

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### *Panel I: Case Studies in Election Disputes and Resolution*

57 Admin. L. Rev. 839 (2005)

Abstract by Andrew Guhr

International human rights law acknowledges the right of individuals to participate in elections. While the substance of that right is well established, mechanisms for resolving election disputes arising from right violations are less developed. In order to further that discussion, the *Administrative Law Review's* 2005 Symposium examines recent trends in election dispute-resolution around the world. Participants in the Symposium's first panel focus on the problems and lessons from the 2004 elections in Afghanistan, the Ukraine, and Iraq.

The first speaker, Oren Ipp, provides an overview of the problems that arose during Afghanistan's elections. He details a slate of election-related difficulties—inability to identify registered voters, delays in reviewing party registrations, lack of resources to review complaints, etc. However, Ipp concludes that the election's success resulted from the United Nation's appointment of an international panel of experts, formed after elections took place, to review election irregularities.

The second speaker, Michael Maya, finds different controversies in the Ukrainian election. Rampant voter fraud coupled with the misuse of governmental resources led to controversy and mass demonstrations during the first run-off between the two top presidential candidates. The speaker suggests that the transparent and independent manner in which the Ukraine's Supreme Court threw out the election results, as well as coordinated observation by NGOs of the subsequent election, led to the second run-off election's success.

Finally, Eric Pelofsky offers a brief overview of the dispute-resolution mechanisms that made for a smooth election in Iraq. The speaker details extensive changes to Iraqi election law made on the advice of UN electoral experts, including robust review and appeals processes for complaints.