JUDICIAL ORDER

ORDER OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE

NORTH CAROLINA JUDICIAL BRANCH

Conflict Resolution Week

DISPUTE RESOLUTION IS IMPORTANT TO THE CITIZENS OF NORTH CAROLINA AND AIDS IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE. IN RECOGNITION OF THESE FACTS, THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 17-23, 2021 IS HEREBY DECLARED "CONFLICT RESOLUTION WEEK" FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA JUDICIAL BRANCH.

WHEREAS, MEDITATION, ARBITRATION, NEUTRAL EVALUATION, COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE, RESTORATIVE JUSTICE, AND MANY OTHER ALTERNATIVES TO LITIGATION FALL UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF "CONFLICT RESOLUTION;"

WHEREAS, THOUSANDS OF DISPUTES BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS, FAMILY MEMBERS, CORPORATIONS, SMALL BUSINESSES, GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES, AND OTHERS ARE BROUGHT BEFORE NORTH CAROLINA'S CIVIL AND CRIMINAL COURTS EACH YEAR;

WHEREAS, CONFLICT RESOLUTION PROCESSES AID IN THE PRIVATE SETTLEMENT OF A WIDE RANGE OF DISPUTES; INCLUDING IN CASES BROUGHT BEFORE NORTH CAROLINA'S CIVIL AND CRIMINAL COURTS;

WHEREAS, THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS CODIFIED CONFLICT RESOLUTION PROGRAMS FOR USE IN THE DISTRICT AND SUPERIOR COURTS; INCLUDING MATTERS BEFORE THE CLERKS OF COURT, IN PRE-LITIGATION DISPUTES REGARDING PUBLIC RECORDS AND FARM NUISANCES, AND IN CASES BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION, THE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS, AND OTHER STATE AGENCIES;

WHEREAS, NORTH CAROLINA'S THREE FEDERAL DISTRICT COURTS HAVE ADOPTED DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURES IN CASES THAT COME BEFORE THOSE COURTS AND PROMULGATED RULES TO IMPLEMENT THOSE PROGRAMS;

WHEREAS, NORTH CAROLINA HAS A RICH, DECADES-LONG HISTORY OF SUCCESSFUL CONFLICT RESOLUTION EFFORTS BY HUNDREDS OF VOLUNTEER MEDIATORS AT MORE THAN TWENTY COMMUNITY MEDIATION CENTERS ACROSS NORTH CAROLINA;

WHEREAS, MEDIATORS AND OTHER DISPUTE RESOLUTION PRACTITIONERS, THROUGH THEIR SIGNIFICANT EXPERTISE IN HELPING STAKEHOLDERS FIND DURABLE SOLUTIONS TO IMPORTANT ISSUES, HAVE, FOR MORE THAN TWENTY-FIVE YEARS, DEMONSTRATED THE VALUE OF ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION; AND

WHEREAS, CONFLICT RESOLUTION PROCESSES FOSTER COMMUNICATION, SALVAGE RELATIONSHIPS, AND EMPOWER LITIGANTS TO DEVISE MUTUALLY AGREEABLE AND DURABLE SOLUTIONS TO THEIR DISPUTES, SAVE PARTIES THE TIME AND STRESS OF LITIGATION, AND INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF OUR COURTS, THEREBY CONSERVING STATE RESOURCES.

NOW, THEREFORE, ON THIS THE 14TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2021, I HEREBY ORDER THAT THE THIRD WEEK OF OCTOBER 2021 BE DECLARED "CONFLICT RESOLUTION WEEK" FOR THE JUDICIAL BRANCH OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

Paul Newby

PAUL NEWBY, CHIEF JUSTICE
SUPREME COURT *of* NORTH CAROLINA