



# PROCLAMATION

## A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

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NORTH CAROLINA JUDICIAL BRANCH

### CONFLICT RESOLUTION WEEK

TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION TO THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA AND ITS CITIZENS AND TO DECLARE THE THIRD WEEK OF OCTOBER 2018 AS "CONFLICT RESOLUTION WEEK" IN THE JUDICIAL BRANCH OF NORTH CAROLINA.

**WHEREAS**, MEDIATION, ARBITRATION, NEUTRAL EVALUATION, COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE, AND MANY OTHER PROCESSES 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 CAN AID IN BOTH THE PRIVATE SETTLEMENT OF A WIDE RANGE OF DISPUTES AND THE SETTLEMENT OF CASES BROUGHT BEFORE NORTH CAROLINA'S CIVIL AND CRIMINAL COURTS;

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

**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 THE GREAT STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA;

**WHEREAS**, MEDIATORS AND OTHER DISPUTE RESOLUTION PRACTITIONERS, THROUGH THEIR SIGNIFICANT EXPERTISE IN HELPING STAKEHOLDERS FIND DURABLE SOLUTIONS TO IMPORTANT ISSUES, HAVE DEMONSTRATED THE VALUE OF ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION; AND

**WHEREAS**, CONFLICT RESOLUTION PROCESSES CAN 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 TAXPAYER DOLLARS;

**NOW, THEREFORE, ON THIS THE 18TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2018**, THE JUDICIAL BRANCH OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DOES HEREBY PROCLAIM THE THIRD WEEK OF OCTOBER 2018 AS "CONFLICT RESOLUTION WEEK."

MARK MARTIN, CHIEF JUSTICE  
SUPREME COURT of NORTH CAROLINA