



PROCLAMATION A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

NORTH CAROLINA JUDICIAL BRANCH

CONFLICT RESOLUTION WEEK

TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION TO THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA AND ITS CITIZENS AND TO DECLARE THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 15-21, 2017, AS "CONFLICT RESOLUTION WEEK" IN THE JUDICIAL BRANCH OF NORTH CAROLINA.

WHEREAS, MEDIATION, ARBITRATION, NEUTRAL EVALUATION, COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE, RESTORATIVE JUSTICE, AND MANY OTHER PROCESSES FALL UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF "CONFLICT RESOLUTION;" AND

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; AND

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

WHEREAS, THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS CODIFIED 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; AND

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; AND

WHEREAS, NORTH CAROLINA HAS A RICH DECADES-LONG HISTORY OF THE SUCCESSES OF THE CONFLICT RESOLUTION EFFORTS OF DOZENS OF VOLUNTEER MEDIATORS AT MORE THAN TWENTY COMMUNITY MEDIATION CENTERS ACROSS THE GREAT STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA; AND

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 CAN FOSTER COMMUNICATION, HELP SALVAGE RELATIONSHIPS, AND EMPOWER LITIGANTS TO DEVISE MUTUALLY AGREEABLE AND DURABLE SOLUTIONS TO THEIR DISPUTES, MAY SAVE PARTIES' THE TIME AND STRESS OF LITIGATION, AND INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF OUR COURTS, THEREBY CONSERVING TAXPAYER DOLLARS.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE JUDICIAL BRANCH OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DOES HEREBY PROCLAIM THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 15-21, 2017, AS "CONFLICT RESOLUTION WEEK."

MARK MARTIN, CHIEF JUSTICE
SUPREME COURT of NORTH CAROLINA