



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 THAT IMPORT THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 13-19, 2019 IS HEREBY DECLARED "CONFLICT RESOLUTION WEEK" FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA JUDICIAL BRANCH.

WHEREAS, MEDITATION, ARBITRATION, NEUTRAL EVALUATION, COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE, RESTORATIVE JUSTICE, 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 ALSO 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 OF NORTH CAROLINA; IN MATTERS BEFORE THE CLERKS OF COURT 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, FOR MORE THAN TWENTY-FIVE YEARS, DEMONSTRATED THE VALUE OF ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION.

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, I HEREBY ORDER THAT THE THIRD WEEK OF OCTOBER 2019 BE DECLARED "CONFLICT RESOLUTION WEEK" FOR THE JUDICIAL BRANCH OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

THIS THE 17TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2019.

CHERI BEASLEY, CHIEF JUSTICE
SUPREME COURT of NORTH CAROLINA