

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLE ON PARTICIPATORY JUSTICE

Participatory justice is a complementary approach to the traditional justice system that aims to prevent and to resolve conflicts. It relies on the active and responsible participation of citizens who will choose both the extent to which they will be involved in the process, and the appropriate means to resolve their conflict completely or partially.

WHEREAS citizens wish to be actively involved in the quest for accessible justice that corresponds to their needs and expectations;

WHEREAS it is important to establish a climate of mutual respect, cooperation and balance in citizens' relations;

WHEREAS there are advantages for private and corporate citizens to participate in the prevention and resolution of conflicts in a practical and efficient manner;

WHEREAS our legal culture is moving towards participatory justice, based on active listening, sharing and cooperation;

WHEREAS participatory justice encompasses many methods of conflict resolution that promote access to justice, ranging from prevention to litigation;

WHEREAS our justice system now incorporates an obligation to consider prevention and resolution methods before resorting to the courts;

WHEREAS everyone involved in the justice system must contribute to the promotion and implementation of participatory justice, in accordance with their own obligations and responsibilities;

THE SIGNATORIES TO THE PRESENT DECLARATION UNDERTAKE TO:

1. Promote participatory justice by encouraging:
 - the dissemination of complete information regarding the choices available to citizens;
 - recourse to participatory justice and citizens' participation in the implementation of conflict resolution means;
 - the incorporation of participatory justice concepts in civil and commercial relations and activities;
 - education and research on participatory justice;
 - the development of any other measures likely to establish a sense of justice for all citizens.
2. Support the creation of an annual event that celebrates and promotes participatory justice and encourages its adoption within our society.

SIGNED IN

DATE

TITLE

SURNAME

NAME

ORGANIZATION (if appropriate)

POSITION