

LAWYERS

Definitions

73. In this chapter:

(a) "Lawyer" means a person qualified and authorized to plead and act on behalf of his clients, to engage in the practice of law and appear before the courts and to advise and represent his clients in legal matters, and shall, for the purposes of this chapter, include agents, assistants, procuradores, paraprofessionals and other persons authorized and permitted to perform one or more of the functions of lawyers, unless a reference to the context makes such inclusion inappropriate or inapplicable;

(b) "Bar Association" means a professional association, guild, faculty, college, bureau, council or any other recognized professional body under any nomenclature within a given jurisdiction, and shall, for the purposes of this chapter, include any association under any nomenclature of agents, assistants, procuradores, paraprofessionals and other persons who are authorized and permitted to perform one or more of the functions of lawyers, unless a reference to the context makes such inclusion inappropriate or inapplicable.

General Principles

74. The independence of the legal profession constitutes an essential guarantee for the promotion and protection of human rights.

75. There shall be a fair and equitable system of administration of justice which guarantees the independence of lawyers in the discharge of their professional duties without any restrictions, influences, inducements, pressures, threats or interference, direct or indirect, from any quarter or for any reason.

76. All persons shall have effective access to legal services provided by an independent lawyer of their choice, to protect and establish their economic, social and cultural as well as civil and political rights.

Legal Education and Entry into the Legal Profession

77. Legal education and entry into the legal profession shall be open to all persons with requisite qualifications and no one shall be denied such opportunity by reason of race, colour, sex, religion, political or other opinion, national, linguistic or social origin, property, income, birth or status.

78. Legal education shall be designed to promote in the public interest, in addition to technical competence, awareness of the ideals and ethical duties of the lawyer and of human rights and fundamental freedoms recognized by national and international law.