

**REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS**

**CYPRUS’ INPUT REGARDING THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON** **THE INDEPENDENCE OF JUDGES AND LAWYERS PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION 53/12//SUBMISSION TO REPORT FOR UNGA79**

Cyprus supports the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers and in view of her upcoming thematic report to be presented during the 79th General Assembly has the honor to share the input by the Republic of Cyprus:

Cyprus enjoys the reality of actual judicial independence that is a crucial component of the rule of law through its constitutional framework and the respect of the independence by all powers of the state and the private sector.

The Supreme Court has issued the Guide to judicial conduct (attached) with principles which will assist a judge in deciding whether a certain behavior or conduct is appropriate or not.

A judge shall, in his or her personal relations with individual members of the legal profession who practise regularly in the judge's court, avoid situations which might reasonably give rise to the suspicion or appearance of favouritism or partiality.

 A judge and members of the judge's family, shall neither ask for, nor accept, any gift, bequest, loan or favour in relation to anything done or to be done or omitted to be done by the judge, in connection with the performance of judicial duties.

Members of the judiciary should disqualify themselves from a case in which their lawyer, accountant, doctor, dentist or other professional adviser is a party to the case. A business association would not normally include that of insurer and insured, banker and customer or council taxpayer and council.

Judges may not hold commercial directorships, other than ones concerned with the management of family assets and may only hold non-commercial directorships where they relate to organisations whose primary purpose is not profit-related, and whose activities are of an uncontroversial character.