GIVING TO GHANA FOUNDATION

CONFLICT RESOLUTION PROGRAM
AUGUST 2011 IN GHANA, WEST AFRICA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I. The August 2011 Program

The Giving to Ghana Foundation ("GTG") has enjoyed a proud history of sharing Conflict Resolution skills between professionals in the United States of America and in Ghana. This history begins in July 2008 when GTG worked cooperatively with the Catholic University College of Ghana to have over 20 student and Professors participate in Conflict Resolution training at Fordham University, St. John's University, the New York Judicial Institute for Justice and Western Connecticut State University. That successful program started a positive relationship in Conflict Resolution between professionals in the metropolitan New York area and Ghana, West Africa.

Although other efforts and initiatives took place involving GTG and Conflict Resolution skill-building, the culmination of these efforts was this August 2011. Five Professors from Fordham Law School joined two Professors from St. John's Law School together with law students and others to travel to Sunyani, Ghana in West Africa for a Conflict Resolution Program emphasizing skills in Alternative Dispute Resolution.

The Law School Professors and other experienced professionals in Conflict Resolution participated in an extraordinary skill-building program in which Alternative Dispute Resolution ("ADR") techniques were shared with over 75 interested professionals in Ghana who requested information and a cultural exchange regarding Conflict Resolution generally and ADR specifically. The specific focus of this Program in August 2011 was developing outstanding Mediation skills so these 75 professionals from Ghana could return to their communities in a "grass roots" effort to utilize these mediation skills in helping Conflict Resolution efforts throughout Ghana.

The 75 professionals included those from all regions of Ghana and many walks of professional life in Ghana including, but not limited to Judges, members of Legal Aid, educators, members of various religious communities, Tribal Chiefs as well as other leading community members interested in helping resolve disputes in local communities and elsewhere throughout Ghana. The Program involved five days of intensive work that had both the academic aspects of ADR skill-building concerning Mediation in classroom settings together with "break-out sessions" in which individual units of experienced ADR professionals and candidates from Ghana practically applied those classroom lessons. The result was a unanimous consensus of all 75 Ghanaian Candidates who graduated that the GTG Program provided them with extraordinary skills.

II. Results from the August 2011 Program

A. Seventy-five (75) Ghanaians Receive Conflict Resolution Training Certificates

To provide some understanding of the substantial interest in Ghana with our Conflict Resolution Program in August 2011, it bears note that this Program was opened by the Chief Justice of all Courts in Ghana. Her Ladyship The Chief Justice Georgina T. Wood traveled to the Sunyani Diocese in Ghana which is located in a central area, but a considerable distance from the two main cities in Ghana to provide opening remarks. A copy of the opening remarks is attached for your information. You will note, however, that the Chief Justice provided extraordinary recognition to GTG as well as the efforts by one of the most highly recognized Conflict Resolution individuals in the United States of America, former Dean and current Professor at Fordham Law School John D. Feerick. Her Ladyship also specifically noted the establishment by GTG of the Marian Conflict Resolution Center ("MCRC") in Ghana. Her Ladyship The Chief Justice Georgina T. Wood and Dean Feerick both cut the ribbon for the opening of the MCRC at the Catholic University College of Ghana.

The MCRC will serve a dual function in Ghana regarding Conflict Resolution. First and foremost, the MCRC will provide as a non-profit Center a clearinghouse for those individuals seeking qualified individuals with Conflict Resolution skills. The MCRC will match such qualified individuals in Conflict Resolution with communities or causes for which those skills are needed.

The second function of the MCRC is to provide a source of educational training continuously for those interested in developing ADR skills and improving ADR skills. Through linkage on the MCRC website to various professional and other publications regarding Conflict Resolution, a virtual ADR library in Ghana will be readily accessible. More importantly, those utilizing the source material can also make contact with a representative of the MCRC to have certain issues explained or be provided with further resources to follow up on any Conflict Resolution questions. Most exciting, however, is that through remote learning and other Internet exchanges with "live" conferencing, mini-training sessions can be conducted at the MCRC both with regard to those seeking to develop ADR skills in Ghana with other professionals in Ghana as well as active participation by ADR professionals in the United States.

B. MCRC and The Chief Justice of Ghana

As noted in the remarks of the Chief Justice at the Opening Day of the GTG Program in August 2011, the Chief Justice is committed to the success of the MCRC. In fact, our MCRC Executive Director Diana Dapaah in Ghana has been appointed in that capacity for the MCRC. Executive Director Dapaah is both a graduate of the University of Ghana College of Law as well as receiving her LL.M. from Fordham Law School. MCRC Executive Director Dapaah is extremely qualified to serve in this ADR capacity. Most importantly of all, however, MCRC Executive Director Dapaah has been selected by the Chief Justice of Ghana to work in a cooperative fashion with the Judiciary and MCRC in providing ADR training. This critical link

is both a clear endorsement of the need and success of MCRC as well as providing the proverbial open door to increase ADR awareness and skill-building throughout the Court system in Ghana.

The MCRC has received the honor of being provided with the Donald J. Feerick Fellow from Fordham University Law School. This individual, Joseph Costello, Esq., has prior experience in Ghana and is also committed for a six-week program in which the MCRC will work closely with the Judiciary in Ghana to establish a model program in ADR in the Sunyani Court system. The Sunyani area is where the Catholic University College of Ghana is located. The Donald J. Feerick Fellow will be working on selected commercial disputes in the Sunyani area that will benefit from ADR. This work is being also done in cooperation with mentors from the American Arbitration Association who will be assisting selected graduates from our August 2011 Program to actually bring ADR initiatives to help relieve the congestion in the commercial Courts with this model program in the Sunyani Commercial Court Division.

II. Future Plans

GTG has future plans on primarily two areas.

First, the MCRC will continue to be actively involved in developing a model program for the Judiciary in ADR training. As funding permits, an interactive seminar will be conducted in mid-January 2012 where ADR professionals from New York interact via the Internet on a one-day program with those in Ghana wishing additional ADR training. That program will be in cooperation with ADR professionals in Ghana and will permit individuals from Sunyani, Kumasi and Accra to participate in this event by videoconferencing.

Second, plans for an August 2012 Program involving selected ADR topics that will be made available for up to 100 candidates from Ghana seeking additional ADR training will be developed. GTG is working cooperatively with St. John's Law School as well as our friends from Fordham Law School and elsewhere to provide the best programming possible. The August 2012 program will involve Conflict Resolution skills in electoral matters since such skills would be critical to assist with the November 2012 Presidential Elections in Ghana. In addition to Conflict Resolution skills regarding electoral matters, a program involving labor relations and potentially another subject is being considered for development. Again, as funding permits the extent and scope of the program will expand to include all possible topics and to provide continued ADR educational opportunities as well as a cultural exchange in ADR techniques between Ghana and the United States.