

STUDY COMMISSION 2

PROPOSED QUESTIONS FOR 2013 MEETING

TOPIC:

Aspects of civil procedure:

- (a) access to justice for self represented litigants;
- (b) civil process reforms.

Access to justice for self represented litigants

1. What initiatives and reforms have been implemented in your Court to improve support services for self-represented litigants ("SRLs") and/or to make the Court more accessible and user friendly?
2. What kind of training or guidance are the judges in your Court given on:
 - challenges and issues for judges in ensuring a fair trial for SRLs?
 - best practices in handling cases involving SRLs?
3. Do judges in your Court have powers to deter and prevent vexatious litigation? If so, how effective are those powers?
4. Do you have any special instance or procedure, in which litigants are not allowed to be represented? Under what circumstances?

Civil process reforms

1. What civil reforms have been introduced:

- to promote and improve access to justice
 - to promote and improve efficiencies in litigation
 - to reduce delays in hearing and determining cases
 - to reduce the costs of litigation
 - to adjust procedure to the modern world of electronic media and the Internet?
2. To what extent are alternative dispute resolution (“ADR”) processes used within your court system to assist parties to resolve their disputes? Eg mediation, early neutral evaluation, settlement conferencing?
3. Do the judges receive any training in the skills of effective ADR processes?