



Legal Aid Day July 12th, 2018

### LEGAL AID MANIFESTO BY THE SPANISH BAR COUNCIL

1. Free Legal Aid is the most effective instrument to guarantee the right of defense of citizens lacking economic resources. It constitutes the main guarantee for effective judicial protection.
2. Having verified the need and efficiency of this service, important deficiencies continue to be observed that affect not only citizens, but also professionals and their professional organizations vested with public delegated competences.
3. It is urgent to undertake reforms in the system of Free Legal Aid in order to provide stability, transparency and sufficiency of means.
4. The State Pact for Justice, which has been insistently demanded by the *Consejo General de la Abogacía Española* (Spanish Bar Council), should be the channel to consolidate this service in order to obtain the political commitment of the parties and public Administrations to guarantee the rights of the most disadvantaged.
5. The *Consejo General de la Abogacía Española* maintains its firm commitment to the continuous and effective improvement of the legal aid through the permanent training of the professionals who provide it and the extension of its services to sectors of the population in a situation of marginality or risk of exclusion.
6. It also maintains the commitment to gender equality measures, defended and applied by the Spanish Bar.
7. Lastly, it is necessary to continue denouncing the severe situation in which thousands of human beings are engaged in migratory procedures without being given a solution, not only worthy, but humanitarian even. The Spanish Bar is proud of the professionals who collaborate every day through the services of legal aid guidance to mitigate this humanitarian crisis.