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#### **COVER LETTER**

Department of State Division of Corporations P.O. Box 6327 Tallahassee, FL 32314

**SUBJECT**: Florida Domestication for **The Aquinas Project for Access to Justice**, **Inc**.

Enclosed is an original and one (1) copy of the Certificate of Domestication and a check totaling \$ 137.50 for:

Certificate of Domestication	\$ 50.00
Articles of Incorporation and Certified Copy	78.75

Certificate of Status 8.75

The Aquinas Project for Access to Justice, Inc.

C/O A. Antonio Pedrero, Esq.

7945 SW 22<sup>nd</sup> Street

Miami, FL 33155

571-419-0518

apedrero@pedrerolaw.com

## THE AQUINAS PROJECT OF FOR ACCESS TO JUSTICE

### NOT FOR PROFIT CERTIFICATE OF DOMESTICATION

The undersigned, A. Antonio Pedrero, Director of The Aquinas Project for Access to Justice, Inc, a foreign Corporation, in accordance with section 617.1803, Florida Statutes, does hereby certify:

- 1. The date on which corporation was first formed was August 18, 2017.
- The jurisdiction where the above-named corporation was first formed, incorporated, or otherwise came into being was The Commonwealth of Virginia.
- The name of the corporation immediately prior to the filing of this Certificate of Domestication was The Aquinas Project for Access to Justice, Inc.
- 4. The name of the corporation, as set forth in its articles of incorporation, to be filed pursuant to s. 617.01201 and 617.0202 with this certificate is The Aquinas Project for Access to Justice, Inc.
- 5. The jurisdiction that constituted the seat, siege social, or principal place of business or central administration of the corporation, or any other equivalent jurisdiction under applicable law, immediately before the filing of the Certificate of Domestication was Fairfax County in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- 6. Attached are Florida Articles of Incorporation to complete the domestication requirements pursuant to s. 617.1803.

I am A. Antonio Pedrero, of 7945 SW 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Miami, FL, and am authorized to sign this Certificate of Domestication on behalf of the corporation and have done so this 11<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2017.

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#### ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

of a Florida Not for Profit Research Corporation In compliance with Chapter 617, F.S.

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of the corporation shall be:

The Aquinas Project for Access to Justice, Inc.

#### ARTICLE II - PRINCIPAL OFFICE

- The initial principal place of business AND mailing address shall be:
   7945 SW 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Miami, FL 33155
- 2. The business of the Corporation may be conducted in all counties and cities of the State of Florida, and in all the states and territories of the United States, and in all foreign countries, as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine.

#### ARTICLE III – PURPOSE

1. This corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, scientific, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, including for such purposes, and as allowed by law, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code.

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- 2. This corporation is organized for the purpose of conducting interdisciplinary applied research, including analysis and dissemination of its findings, conclusions, and other information, on issues determined by the corporation to be of economic, legal, or social interest or import and related to advocating equal access to justice for all persons and institutions, regardless of sociopolitical grouping, economic standing, or other arbitrary or irrelevant criteria.
- 3. The corporation is, and shall continue to be, a nonprofit entity and shall utilize its resources to serve the public directly or through its constituencies, including other nonprofit or charitable institutions.
- 4. In order to accomplish its principal charitable purpose of research and dissemination, and to the extent allowed by the laws of the State of Florida and the United States, including the Internal Revenue Code, the corporation shall:
  - a. Engage in any and all activities and pursuits, and to support or assist such other organizations, as may be reasonably related to the purposes stated in this document;
  - b. Engage in any and all other lawful purposes, activities, and pursuits, which are substantially similar to the foregoing purpose and which are or may hereafter be authorized by Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and are consistent with those powers described in the Florida Statutes, Chapter 617, "Corporations Not for Profit," as amended and supplemented from time to time;
  - c. Solicit and receive contributions; purchase, own, and sell real and personal property; make contracts; invest corporate funds; spend

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corporate funds for corporate purposes; and engage in any activity in furtherance of, incidental to, or connected with any of the other purpose stated herein;

#### ARTICLE IV - MANNER OF ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

- 1. The number of Directors of the Corporation shall be three (3), or more than three, as fixed from time to time by the Bylaws of the Corporation.
- Directors shall elect their successors, and the manner in which they shall be elected shall be shall be established and detailed in the Bylaws of the Corporation.

#### ARTICLE V - INITIAL DIRECTORS

The Corporation shall have three (3) initial directors who shall serve until successors are appointed and qualified:

Boulanger, John A. 7945 SW 22<sup>nd</sup> Street Miami, FL 33155 Cedrone, Michael A. 7945 SW 22<sup>nd</sup> Street Miami, FL 33155

Hagedorn, Eric 7945 SW 22<sup>nd</sup> Street Miami, FL 33155

#### ARTICLE VI - INITIAL REGISTERED AGENT AND STREET ADDRESS

- 1. The name of the corporation's registered agent, a Florida resident, is Armando Antonio Pedrero, Esq.
- 2. The initial registered office address, located in the County of Miami-Dade, is

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7945 SW 22nd Street, Miami, FL 33155

3. The registered office may be changed at any time by resolution of the Board of Directors without Amendment of these Articles of Incorporation.

#### ARTICLE VII – INCORPORATOR

The name and address of the Incorporator is Armando Antonio Pedrero, Esq. 7945 SW 22<sup>nd</sup> Street Miami, FL 33155

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The period of duration for this corporation shall be perpetual or until such time as the Board of Directors shall adopt a resolution recommending that the corporation be dissolved pursuant to the Florida Statutes, or until such time as

dissolved by operation of law.

ARTICLE VIII - DURATION

#### ARTICLE IX - CAPITAL STOCK

1. This corporation does not, and shall not, have the authority to issue capital stock.

#### ARTICLE X - MEMBERS

1. The Corporation shall have one class of members with such designations, qualifications, and rights as set forth in the Bylaws and pursuant to the Florida Statutes.

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#### ARTICLE XI – BYLAWS

- 1. Provisions for the regulation of the internal affairs of the Corporation shall be set forth in the Bylaws, as adopted, and amended from time to time by the Board of Directors.
- 2. The Board of Directors may repeal the Bylaws of this Corporation,
- 3. The Bylaws shall govern the operation of this Corporation unless any Bylaw conflicts with these Articles of Incorporation, in which case the provisions of these Articles shall be controlling.

#### ARTICLE XII - DISSOLUTION

1. This Corporation shall use its funds only to accomplish the purposes restated in the Articles of Incorporation. Upon the winding up and dissolution of the Corporation, its assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended and supplemented, or shall be distributed to the federal government or to a state r local government for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the state court with appropriate jurisdiction for the County in which the principal office of the Corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine.

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#### ARTICLE XIII – OTHER PROVISIONS

- Statutory Authority. For the purposes of Incorporation of The Aquinas
  Project for Access to Justice, Inc., the Florida Statutes, Chapter 617,
  "Corporations Not for Profit", apply and prevail.
- 2. Lobbying and Political Activities. No substantial part of the activities of the Corporation shall be for the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office except as authorized under the Internal Revenue Code, as amended and supplemented.

No part of any activities of the organization will include participating in or intervening in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

- 3. Distributions. This Corporation is not organized for profit. No part of the net earnings of this corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, directors, officers, or other private persons, except that the Corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered to the Corporation and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article III ("Purpose") herein.
- 4. Limitations on Activities. The Corporation shall never be operated for the primary purpose of carrying on a trade or business for profit. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Articles of Incorporation,

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this Corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, as amended or supplemented, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended and supplemented (or the corresponding provision of any future United States internal revenue law).

5. Amendments to the Articles. This Corporation reserves the right to amend or repeal, by the affirmative vote of the majority of the members of its Board of Directors, any of the provisions contained in these Articles of Incorporation.

Having been named as registered agent and to accept service of process for the above stated corporation at the place designated in this certificate, I am familiar with and accept the appointment as registered agent and agree to act in this capacity.

Registered Agent

Incorporator