

## THE ROLE OF THE CITIZEN

The book by Professor Manuel Alcántara "El Oficio de Político" which talks about the role of politicians, made me wonder: Why do we always expect for them to make a difference? What about our "role"?

Article 83 of our Constitution states: "Sovereignty resides in the people." That's us! We have the power to do something, but still we prefer to close our eyes and ignore our responsibility.

Different factors have made us doubt our role in society. Every day we are bombarded with demotivating news, such as excessive violence or corruption. They have succeeded in restricting us not only physically, but they have also affected our hearts and minds, causing more people to decide to leave the country and change their reality, forgetting that no matter where we are, the blood in our veins will always be faithful to this land.

Therefore it is our responsibility not only to make El Salvador better, but to be a better version of ourselves for El Salvador. Although this may not be the solution, there are three points that will help us in this task: (i) zero mediocrity; (ii) zero tolerance; and (iii) goodwill. "Zero Mediocrity" is an invitation to step out of our comfort zone. I mean an inner commitment not to settle and always aim higher, that is, to question and challenge ourselves and in some way internalize the quote "If we only do what we can, we will never be more than what we are." For example, those who are interested in becoming public servants should always remember that "the first act of corruption is accepting a position for which one is not capable." The better we are, the less space will be left for those incapable.

According to the IMF, almost 2% of global GDP is lost through corruption. This is a reason why we should be "Zero Tolerant" towards corruption and injustice, discrimination, inequality and indifference. As Carl Sagan said: "We can judge our development for the courage of our questions and the depth of our answers, as well as our willingness to face what is right rather than what feels good". And although it is necessary to get involved in politics, there is nothing more important than the impact that we create in our reality. Something as simple as: Be kind to one another! Can you imagine how different the world might be if we remembered this constantly?

Every "good morning" every "thank you", each "please" counts to create a healthy and friendly environment with our peers. We need to support and to empower ourselves and each other, because only together, we can improve the country in which we live. Let's demonstrate that there is no need to trample others in order to succeed and that the welfare is better when it is for all.

Therefore, even though we feel that with every step forward we take three steps back, we should not be discouraged. Real progress is not easy, but with the help of the daring, the dreamers and with hope, we can achieve it. As Robespierre said "You can abandon a happy and successful country, but you can never leave it shattered and oppressed; you save it or die for it."



**Enrique Torruella**  
Paralegal

[enrique.torruella@ariaslaw.com](mailto:enrique.torruella@ariaslaw.com)