



### **International Association of Refugee Law Judges Guidelines on the Judicial Approach to the Evaluation of Expert Medical Evidence**

#### **Explanatory Note**

These Guidelines on the Judicial Approach to the Evaluation of Expert Medical Evidence are the culmination of several years work. Initiated by the IARLJ Expert Evidence Working Party at the IARLJ World Conference in Stockholm, 2005, the development of the Guidelines was further discussed at the 2006 Mexico World Conference. The Guidelines, as presented, have taken into account additional comments and observations made and recorded at the Cape Town Conference in January 2009.

The Guidelines are presented as aspirational best practice. It is accepted that procedural provisions might not be in place, or will vary throughout the different jurisdictions.

The Guidelines represent a tool to facilitate the decision-making process and are not intended to restrict judicial independence.

The Guidelines are intended as a living document to be utilised as appropriate by decision-makers. The IARLJ Expert Evidence Working Party will continue to work with IARLJ Members to ensure the Guidelines may be refined as necessary through their use in practice across jurisdictions.

Further to this, the IARLJ Expert Evidence Working Party will conduct a review, three years from the date the Guidelines' formal adoption, to appraise their application and interpretation by decision-makers.