

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### **TITLE I. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS ON INHERITANCE**

<b>CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION TO INHERITANCE INSTITUTION.....</b>	<b>16</b>
Section 1. Introductory aspects.....	16
Section 2. Terminology specifications .....	17
§ 1. The notion of inheritance .....	17
§ 2. The person who leaves the inheritance .....	20
§ 3. The persons who acquire the inheritance.....	21
§ 4. The estate .....	22
Section 3. The relevant provisions .....	23
Section 4. Legal characteristics of inheritance transmission.....	25
§ 1. Preliminary considerations .....	25
§ 2. Inheritance transmission is a transmission upon death.....	26
§ 3. Inheritance transmission is an universal transmission.....	27
§ 4. Inheritance transmission is an unitary transmission .....	34
4.1. Exceptions to the unitary character of inheritance transmission .....	35
4.2. Situations that could be considered exceptions, but are not .....	45
§ 5. Inheritance transmission is an indivisible transmission.....	48
Section 5. Types of inheritance .....	50
§ 1. Preliminary considerations .....	50
§ 2. Legal inheritance.....	53
§ 3. Testamentary inheritance .....	54
§ 4. Coexistence of legal heir capacity and legatee capacity.....	55
<b>CHAPTER II. OPENING OF THE INHERITANCE.....</b>	<b>58</b>
Section 1. Preliminary considerations .....	58
Section 2. Inheritance opening date.....	59
§ 1. Determining when the succession will be opened .....	59
§ 2. Legal importance of the date of opening the inheritance.....	62
Section 3. Place of opening the inheritance.....	63
§ 1. Determining where the succession will be opened .....	63
§ 2. Situations and different places of opening the succession.....	64
§ 3. Proof of place of last residence.....	68
§ 4. Importance of the place of opening the inheritance.....	69
<b>CHAPTER III. GENERAL CONDITIONS OF THE RIGHT TO INHERITANCE .....</b>	<b>73</b>
Section 1. Overview of the conditions in matter .....	73
Section 2. The capacity to inherit .....	74
§ 1. The notion of capacity to inherit.....	74
§ 2. The persons who have capacity to inherit.....	77
2.1. Natural persons alive at the date of death of the deceased.....	77
2.2. Missing Persons .....	78
2.3. The persons conceived but unborn at the time of opening the inheritance.....	88
2.4. Legal persons .....	90

§ 3. The persons who do not have capacity to inherit.....	91
3.1. Predeceased Natural persons and legal persons that ceased to exist .....	92
3.2. Commorientes and Co-deceased .....	92
Section 3. Unworthiness to inherit .....	94
§ 1. Origins, concepts and legal regulation.....	94
§ 2. Nature and legal characters.....	95
§ 3. Types of unworthiness .....	97
3.1. Unworthiness <i>ipso jure</i> .....	97
3.2. Legal unworthiness.....	103
§ 4. Effects of unworthiness .....	106
4.1. Effects towards the unworthy heir.....	107
4.2. Effects towards the unworthy heir descendants .....	108
4.3. Effects of unworthiness towards third parties .....	111
§ 5. Invoking successoral unworthiness .....	112
§ 6. Removal of successoral unworthiness .....	114
Section 4. Inheritance entitlement .....	115

## **TITLUL II. – TESTAMENTARY DEVOLUTION OF INHERITANCE**

<b>CHAPTER I. GENERAL RULES ON TESTAMENTARY INHERITANCE .....</b>	<b>120</b>
Section 1. Introductory aspects on testamentary inheritance.....	120
§ 1. Preliminary considerations .....	120
§ 2. Definition of Last Will and Testament .....	121
Section 2. Legal characters of the Last Will and Testament .....	122
§ 1. Last Will and Testament is a civil legal act .....	122
§ 2. Last Will and Testament is an unilateral legal act .....	123
§ 3. Last Will and Testament is a personal legal act.....	124
§ 4. Last Will and Testament is a solemn legal act.....	124
§ 5. Last Will and Testament is a legal <i>mortis causa</i> act.....	124
§ 6. Last Will and Testament is an essentially revokable document .....	125
Section 3. Contents of Last Will and Testament .....	126
Section 4. Interpretation and evidence of testament (Probate) .....	127
§ 1. Interpretation of the contents of the testament.....	127
1.1. General rules of interpretation of the testament .....	128
1.1.1. Interpretation by the real will of the testator .....	128
1.1.2. Systemic interpretation of the testament .....	128
1.2. Special rules of interpretation in case of the testament .....	129
1.3. Interpretation of doubtful testamentary provisions .....	129
§ 2. Evidence of testament.....	130
Section 5. Conclusions on the notion of testament.....	131
<b>CHAPTER II. CONDITIONS OF VALIDITY OF THE TESTAMENT .....</b>	<b>135</b>
Section 1. Substantive conditions .....	135
§ 1. The capacity relating to testamentary devolution of inheritance .....	135
1.1. Inabilities to dispose by testament.....	138
1.1.1. Total inability of the minor .....	139
1.1.2. Inability of the prohibited by court .....	141

1.2. Inabilities to receive by testament .....	143
1.2.1. Inabilities to use .....	143
1.2.1. Inabilities to exercise .....	150
1.3. Concealment in matter of inabilities.....	152
§ 2. Consent .....	153
2.1. Applicable rules. Formation legal will .....	153
2.2. Existence of discernment and consent in matters of inheritance testamentary .....	155
2.2.1. Existence of discernment .....	155
2.2.2. Existence of consent.....	158
2.3. Partially vitiated consent .....	158
§ 3. The subject .....	161
§ 4. The cause .....	163
Section 2. Formal conditions .....	165
§ 1. Preliminary considerations .....	165
§ 2. Written form .....	165
§ 3. Form of separate document.....	167
§ 4. Sanction for failure to comply with the conditions of form .....	171
<b>CHAPTER III. TYPES OF TESTAMENTS.....</b>	<b>174</b>
Section 1. Ordinary testaments .....	174
§ 1. General considerations.....	174
§ 2. Written testament.....	175
2.1. Own writing.....	176
2.2. Date.....	180
2.3. Signature.....	183
2.4. Formalities after the death of the testator .....	185
2.5. Probative force of testamentary document.....	188
§ 3. Authentic testament .....	190
3.1. The concept, advantages and disadvantages of authentic testament .....	190
3.2. Preparation of authentic testament .....	192
3.2.1. Dictation of the testament by the testator before the Notary .....	193
3.2.2. Writing the testament .....	194
3.2.3. Reading the testament .....	195
3.2.4. Signing the testament .....	196
3.3. Authentication in particular situations.....	196
3.3.1. Failure of writing by the testator.....	196
3.3.2. Failure of verbal dialogue .....	197
3.3.3. Failure of vision .....	198
3.4. Registration of authentic testament .....	198
3.5. Probative force of authentic testament .....	200
Section 2. Privileged testaments .....	201
§ 1. The will prepared in time of epidemics, disasters, wars .....	201
§ 2. Naval or aeronautical testaments .....	203
§ 3. Military Testament.....	203
§ 4. The testament of the persons hospitalized in a health institution .....	204
§ 5. Rules common to all privileged testaments .....	204
§ 6. Lapse of privileged testament .....	205

§ 7. Probative force of privileged testaments .....	206
Section 3. Other forms of testaments.....	206
§ 1. Testament of deposited amounts and values.....	206
1.1. Prerequisites of testamentary clause.....	207
1.1.1. Identity of the parties .....	207
1.1.2. Handwritten completion of the clause containing the testamentary disposition.	208
1.1.3. Object of the clause.....	208
1.1.4. Signature of the person who disposes and preparation date .....	209
1.2. Publicity of the testamentary clause .....	209
1.3. Delivery of the subject of testamentary clause.....	211
§ 2. The testament made abroad .....	212
<b>CHAPTER IV. LEGACIES AND OTHER TESTAMENTARY PROVISIONS .....215</b>	
Section 1. Legacies and appointment of legatees .....	215
§ 1. The notion of legacy .....	215
§ 2. Appointment of legatee.....	217
Section 2. Classification of legacies .....	220
§ 1. Classification of legacies according to their subject.....	220
1.1. Universal legacy .....	220
1.2. Legacy with universal title .....	223
1.3. Legacy with particular title.....	224
§ 2. Classification of legacies according to their method .....	231
2.1. Plain legacy .....	231
2.2. Legacy with term .....	231
2.3. Legacy under condition .....	232
2.4. Legacy with burden (sub modo).....	234
Section 3. Disinheritance.....	237
§ 1. Meaning and statutory regulation .....	237
§ 2. Types of disinheritance .....	238
2.1. Direct disinheritance.....	239
2.2. Indirect disinheritance .....	240
2.3. Disinheritance with sanction title .....	242
§ 3. Effects of disinheritance .....	243
3.1. Disinheritance of the surviving spouse only .....	243
3.2. Disinheritance of another heir who comes into competition with the surviving spouse .....	244
3.3. Partial disinheritance of an heir.....	246
3.4. Total disinheritance of an heir.....	247
§ 4. Nullity of disinheritance .....	247
Section 4. Appointment of a testamentary executor.....	248
§ 1. The notion of testamentary execution.....	248
§ 2. Legal nature of testamentary execution .....	249
§ 3. Appointment and capacity of testamentary executor.....	252
§ 4. Rights and obligations (powers) of testamentary executor.....	255
4.1. General considerations of the duties of testamentary executor. The right of administration.....	255
4.2. The powers of testamentary executor .....	259

4.3. Transmission of executor powers .....	263
4.4. The obligation to account for and liability of the executor.....	264
4.5. Remuneration of the testamentary executor.....	266
4.6. Expenses incurring .....	266
§ 5. Termination of testamentary execution .....	267
<b>CHAPTER V. INEFFECTIVENESS OF LEGACIES.....</b>	<b>271</b>
Section 1. Preliminary considerations .....	271
Section 2. Nullity of legacies.....	272
Section 3. Revocation of legacies.....	274
§ 1. Voluntary revocation of legacies .....	274
1.1. Express voluntary revocation .....	275
1.2. Tacit voluntary revocation.....	277
1.2.1. Destruction, tearing or deleting the handwritten testament .....	278
1.2.2. Preparing a new testament .....	280
1.2.3. Alienation of the asset which is the legacy subject.....	282
1.2.4. Voluntary destruction of the asset which is the legacy subject.....	285
1.3. Retraction of revocation .....	285
§ 2. Court revocation .....	287
2.1. Court revocation for failing to carry out the burdens .....	289
2.2. Revocation for ingratitude .....	292
Section 4. Legacies lapse.....	295
Section 5. Consequences of legacies ineffectiveness .....	297
<b>CHAPTER V. LIMITATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO DISPOSE OF THE SUCCESSION ASSETS BY LEGAL ACTS.....</b>	<b>299</b>
Section 1. Stopping documents (covenants) on the unopened inheritance.....	299
§ 1. Meaning and statutory regulation .....	299
§ 2. History and reason for enacting such prohibition.....	300
§ 3. Sanction of non-compliance to this interdiction .....	302
3.1. The existence of a legal act .....	303
3.2. Legal document covering eventual rights.....	303
3.3. Act on a inheritance not yet opened .....	305
3.4. The act not to be expressly permitted by law .....	306
Section 2. The trustee provision .....	307
§ 1. Notion, legal regulation and types of trustees provision .....	307
§ 2. Origin and evolution of trustees provision .....	310
§ 3. Constituents of trustees provision .....	313
3.1. The existence of two (or more) successive liberalities.....	313
3.2. Management and transfer of the asset to the substituted.....	314
3.3. Establishing the order of succession by the person who disposes.....	315
§ 4. Sanction of trustees provision.....	315
§ 5. Legal mitigation of the interdiction of trustees provision.....	316
5.1. Simple trustees provision. Legal boundary .....	316
5.2. The effects of simple trustees provision .....	318
5.2.1. The general effects of trustees provision .....	319
5.2.2. The effects of trustees provision regarding the assets.....	319
5.3. Ineffectiveness of substitution .....	322

§ 6. Mitigation of this interdiction .....	323
6.1. The trustee provision with no obligation.....	324
6.2. Legacy of remnant.....	324
6.2.1. Notion and legal nature .....	324
6.2.2. The right to dispose of the instituted.....	326
6.2.3. Patrimonial independence of the instituted.....	330
6.3. Conditional double legacy .....	331
6.4. Vulgar substitution .....	331
6.5. Double liberality in usufruct and bare ownership. ....	332
Section 3. Stopping the liberalities infringing inheritance reserve.....	333
§ 1. Preliminary considerations on the inheritance reserve and disposable portion of the estate .....	333
§ 2. The notion of inheritance reserve and disposable portion of the estate.....	334
§ 3. Legal characters of successional reserve .....	336
3.1. Successional reserve is part of the inheritance (pars hereditas) .....	336
3.2. The reserve is binding .....	338
3.3. The reserve has an intrinsic character .....	339
3.4. Successional reserve is provided in kind .....	340
3.5. The reserve has a collective character .....	341
3.6. Successional reserve can be affected by unavailability.....	342
3.7. Successional reserve is a flat rate of a variable rate .....	343
§ 4. Forced heirs.....	343
4.1. Heirs reserve .....	344
4.2. The reserve due to privileged heirs .....	349
4.3. The reserve due to the surviving spouse.....	354
4.3.1. Preliminary considerations.....	354
4.3.2. Share of the surviving spouse .....	355
4.3.3. Specifics of the surviving spouse reserve .....	358
4.3.4. Imputation of the share reserve of the inheritance to the surviving spouse .....	361
4.3.5. Special disposable portion of the estate of the surviving spouse .....	363
§ 5. Determination of heirs .....	368
5.1. Preliminary considerations .....	368
5.2. Determination of existing assets in the deceased patrimony at the time of opening the inheritance (gross assets).....	370
5.3. Determination of net assets of the inheritance .....	373
5.4. Fictitious joinder of the donations to the net assets made by the holder of the inheritance .....	375
5.4.1. Fictitious joinder of the assets disposed by donation.....	375
5.4.2. Evaluation of the assets donated .....	376
5.4.3. Gratuities not subject to return .....	378
5.4.4. The presumption of donation .....	379
§ 6. Restriction of excessive liberalities .....	382
6.1. The notion of restriction .....	382
6.2. The persons that may invoke restriction.....	384
6.3. Procedural ways of exercising the right to restriction .....	386
6.3.1. Restriction by agreement of the parties .....	387

6.3.2. Restriction by judicial means .....	387
6.4. The order of restriction of excessive liberalities .....	390
6.5. The effects of restriction.....	396
6.6. Restriction of some special liberalities.....	398
§ 7. Imputation of liberalities.....	402
7.1. Imputation of liberalities if their beneficiary is not a heir that reserves.....	402
7.2. Imputation of liberalities if their rewarded is an heir that reserves .....	403
<b>CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS DE LEGE FERENDA .....</b>	<b>407</b>
<b>REFERENCES .....</b>	<b>412</b>
<b>ANNEXES .....</b>	<b>426</b>