

**CONVENTION FOR THE ELIMINATION OF THE LEGALIZATION
REQUISITE
FOR FOREIGN PUBLIC DOCUMENTS (“CONVENTION OF THE
APOSTILLE”)**

In March of 2011, Costa Rica joined The Hague Convention on the Apostille, through which is recognized by the effectiveness of a public document issued in any signatory country to the convention.

Starting December 14 of 2011, the Convention will come into force between Costa Rica and the United States.

This means that the documents issued in the United States with the Apostille will be recognized in Costa Rica, **without the need to come to our consulates or the Foreign Ministry in San Jose.**

The established process of the Convention consists on placing on the public document itself an Apostille that certifies the authenticity of the document's signature issued in the United States. The Apostille can be obtained in the Secretary of State from the state where the document was issued. For more information from the different Secretaries of State, please visit this website: <http://www.fec.gov/pubrec/cfsdd/cfsdd.shtml>