



Est. 1992

Coalition of Bar Associations of Color

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING INCREASE NATIVE AMERICAN REPRESENTATION IN THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY

Endorsed March 2015

WHEREAS, the Coalition of Bar Associations of Color (CBAC), organized in 1992, is a coalition created to act as a collective voice for issues of common concern to its member organizations; and

WHEREAS, the member organizations of CBAC are the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA), the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), the National Bar Association (NBA), and the National Native American Bar Association (NNABA); and

WHEREAS, the member organizations of CBAC are the national voices of their respective legal communities in the United States and its territories and possessions; and

WHEREAS, given the undeniable authority that federal courts have over Native people and their lands, and that hundreds of cases are decided every year on issues of federal Indian law that effect the daily lives of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians; and

WHEREAS, throughout the history of the federal courts, only four Native Americans have been appointed to the federal judiciary: Judge Frank Howell Seay, nominated in 1979 by President Carter, who assumed senior status in 2003; and Judge Billy Michael Burrage, nominated by President Clinton in 1994, who resigned his appointment in 2001; Derrick Kahala Watson, a Native Hawaiian, in 2013; and Diane J. Humetewa who was sworn in in 2014; and

WHEREAS, there are 874 Article III federal judgeships in the United States—nine on the Supreme Court, 179 on the Courts of Appeals, 677 on the District Courts and nine on the Court of International Trade—and currently only one of these judgeships is held by an American Indian or Alaska Native; and

WHEREAS, NNABA has repeatedly submitted over two dozen names and resumes of qualified Native Americans for consideration by the White House for appointment to the federal bench; and

WHEREAS, the nomination and affirmative vote out of the Judiciary Committee of Derrick Kahala Watson, a Native Hawaiian, was the first Native attorney to be voted on by the Judiciary Committee since 1994; and

WHEREAS, the nomination an affirmative vote out of the Judiciary Committee of Diane J. Humetewa, a member of the Hopi Tribe of Indians, was the first American Indian attorney to be voted on by the Judiciary Committee since 1994;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that CBAC also supports other efforts and laws that are consistent with this resolution; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CBAC authorizes its officers and staff to communicate the content of this resolution to other bar associations, advocacy groups, members of Congress, the Administration, the press, and to whomever else CBAC board deems suitable to receive the information; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of CBAC until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

We, the duly-elected Presidents of the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA), the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), the National Bar Association (NBA), and the National Native American Bar Association (NNABA), hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly enacted by a duly-noticed meeting of the Coalition Bar Associations of Color.





Cynthia Mares
President, Hispanic National Bar Association

3/2/2015
Date



George C. Chen
President, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

3/2/2015
Date

Pamela Meanes

Pamela Meanes
President, National Bar Association

Date 3/2/2015

Mary Smith

Mary Smith
President, National Native American Bar Association

Date 3/2/2015