



RESOLUTION SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL ADOPTEES WITHOUT U.S. CITIZENSHIP

Endorsed February 28, 2017

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 the 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, hundreds of thousands of children have been adopted into American families and welcomed by the United States, where they have grown up in American families, attended American schools, and raised as nothing other than Americans; and

WHEREAS, these international adoptees entered the United States lawfully and transparently through legal adoption processes, but, for whatever reason, some of their adoptive parents or guardians failed to complete the naturalization process through which these international adoptees would have become United States citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Child Citizenship Act of 2000 (CCA), 8 U.S.C. §§ 1431-33, automatically granted United States citizenship to certain international adoptees *under* 18 years of age as of February 27, 2001, the CCA's effective date, but left international adoptees 18 years of age and *older* without United States citizenship and at risk of deportation; and

WHEREAS, given the current political climate, the fear of deportation for international adoptees without United States citizenship may be at its highest; and

WHEREAS, the deportation of adoptees for their parents' omission/failure to complete the naturalization process is disproportionate punishment; and

WHEREAS, the Adoptee Citizenship Act of 2015 (ACA) (H.R. 5454 and S. 2275, 114th Congress), if passed, would confer automatic citizenship on an estimated 35,000 international adoptees –there are verified accounts of adoptees without citizenship from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador, India, Haiti, Japan, Mexico, Panama, Philippines, Korea, and Vietnam – excluded from the automatic citizenship provision of the CCA for being 18 years of age and older as of the CCA's effective date; and

WHEREAS, international adoptees have been raised in the United States by American families, and in every sense, deserve the protection and rights as citizens of this country; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the United States to avoid uprooting people who have made a life in our nation and to preserve family unity; and

WHEREAS, the United States government system should uphold our basic values, and any legislative or administrative policies attempting to limit rights and privileges of international adoptees undermine our commitment to American values, core concepts of family, and fundamental human rights.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CBAC supports the passage of Adoptee Citizenship Act of 2015 (ACA) and any subsequent iterations or similar legislation to protect international adoptees from deportation and/or any threats of deportation; and

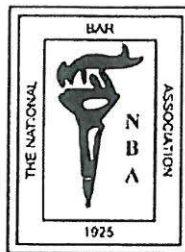
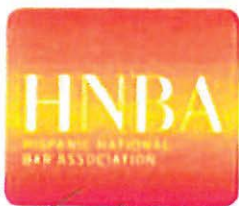
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CBAC supports any efforts to confer United States citizenship on international adoptees without United States citizenship and excluded from the Child Citizenship Act of 2000; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CBAC supports advocacy in favor of international adoptees in the United States, including supporting the international adoptee community and the protection of international adoptee rights and privileges, consistent with this resolution, as the benefits that will inure to society as a whole; and

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

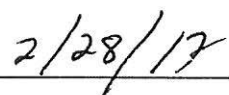
CERTIFICATION

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 Board of Directors.





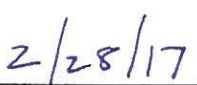
Pedro Torres-Diaz
President, Hispanic National Bar Association



Date



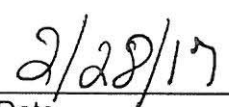
Cyndie Chang
President, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association



Date



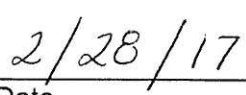
Kevin Judd
President, National Bar Association



Date



Jennifer H. Weddle
President, National Native American Bar Association



Date