WHEREAS, the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) is the national association of Asian Pacific American attorneys, judges, law professors and law students, representing the interests of over 40,000 attorneys and nearly 70 national, state, and local Asian Pacific American bar associations; NAPABA members include solo practitioners, large firm lawyers, corporate counsel, legal service and non-profit attorneys, and lawyers serving at all levels of government; and NAPABA is committed to addressing civil rights issues confronting Asian Pacific American communities and people of color;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is the federal agency that is responsible for protecting the national security of the United States of America and its territories;

WHEREAS, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is responsible for the enforcement of the immigration laws of the United States;

WHEREAS, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is responsible for enforcing U.S. trade, customs, and immigration regulations;

WHEREAS, the U.S. immigration enforcement system is overloaded with removal cases;

WHEREAS, Operation Streamline is a DHS program that requires the federal criminal prosecution and imprisonment of all unlawful border crossers;

WHEREAS, individuals caught up in Operation Streamline are placed directly into the federal criminal justice system and U.S. federal prisons in an expedited manner, with federal courts making deportation decisions sometimes in minutes or even a few seconds;

WHEREAS, according to a study by the Congressional Research Service, from 2005 to the end of fiscal 2012 more than 200,000 people were processed through the Operation Streamline program; which accounts for nearly half of all immigration prosecutions along the border during that period;

WHEREAS, Operation Streamline diverts time and resources away from prosecution and imprisonment of serious criminals, has resulted in skyrocketing caseloads in many federal district courts along the border, and raises serious due process concerns;

WHEREAS, Operation Streamline is a disproportionately harsh response to unlawful entry into the United States;
Statement of Opposition to Operation Streamline

WHEREAS, the right to due process before the taking of life, liberty, or property is a core value of the United States legal system;

WHEREAS, the enforcement of immigration law should uphold the United States’ core values of justice and fairness.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NAPABA:

1. Calls for DHS to end Operation Streamline.

2. Authorizes its president, board, and staff to communicate the content of this resolution to its members, affiliates, other bar associations, members of Congress, the Administration, the press, and others to take steps to implement this resolution, as they deem necessary.

3. Supports this resolution as a policy priority until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.