WHEREAS, the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) is the preeminent professional development organization and voice for 50,000 Asian Pacific American attorneys, judges, law professors, and law students. NAPABA represents the interests of nearly 90 national, state, and local Asian Pacific American bar associations.

WHEREAS, NAPABA is the national voice for the Asian Pacific American legal profession; promotes justice, equity, and opportunity for Asian Pacific Americans; and fosters professional development, legal scholarship, advocacy, and community involvement.

WHEREAS, NAPABA recognizes the importance of supporting the diverse cadre of military spouses who face unique challenges in licensing and employment as they move frequently in support of the nation’s defense.

WHEREAS, attorneys who are military spouses face significant challenges to employment opportunity due to the nature of short-term, geographically dispersed, compulsory military assignments and the significant time and cost associated with bar licensure in multiple jurisdictions.

WHEREAS, the non-transferability of bar admission between jurisdictions for military spouses directly impacts military readiness, retention, and diversity due to factors like geographical family separation and separation from service in support of spousal employment.

WHEREAS, the American Bar Association with support of the ABA Commission on Women in the Profession adopted in February 2012 a policy calling for states to amend traditional bar admission rules to accommodate attorneys married to military service members.

WHEREAS, the Conference of Chief Justices voted in July 2012 to support a resolution for admission of military spouse attorneys without examination.

WHEREAS, both the Armed Forces of the United States and the legal community will benefit from removing obstacles to employment for military spouses who are supporting service to our nation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT NAPABA:

1. Calls on the U.S. Congress to pass legislation that would give the Pentagon the authority to develop interstate agreements for professional licensing for military spouses;
2. Urges bar admission authorities in each U.S. state and territory to develop and implement rules permitting admission without examination for military spouses who are graduates of ABA-accredited law schools and members in good standing or admitted to practice before the highest court in at least one other U.S. state or territory;

3. 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; and,

4. Supports this resolution as a policy position until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.