WHEREAS, the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) is the national association of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) attorneys, judges, law professors and law students, representing the interests of over 60,000 attorneys and about 90 national, state, and local AAPI bar associations; NAPABA members include solo practitioners, large firm lawyers, corporate counsel, legal service and non-profit attorneys, law students, law professors, and lawyers serving at all levels of the government and military; and NAPABA is committed to addressing civil rights issues confronting AAPI communities and people of color; 

WHEREAS, NAPABA is the national voice for the AAPI legal profession; promotes justice, equity, and opportunity for AAPI individuals and communities; and fosters professional development, legal scholarship, advocacy, and community involvement; 

WHEREAS, NAPABA—since its inception—has acted to advance civil rights and the fair and equal application of law in the United States; 

WHEREAS, the death penalty’s history is inextricably linked to the United States’ history of racialized and extrajudicial killing in the form of lynching; 

WHEREAS, the death penalty is disproportionately imposed on members of minority groups, individuals suffering mental illness, and individuals raised in poverty; 

WHEREAS, states that have abolished the death penalty prove that it is not necessary to have this punishment; 

WHEREAS, studies of the relationship between the death penalty and deterrence show that that death penalty does not deter crime; 

WHEREAS, studies of the relationship between death penalty and the wellbeing of victims show that the death penalty does not serve victims;
WHEREAS, the death penalty has been imposed on innocent individuals and innocent individuals have been executed; and

WHEREAS, botched executions—resulting in inhumane suffering—have marred the carrying out of death sentences;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT NAPABA:

1. Calls on the federal government to abolish the death penalty;

2. Calls on the President of the United States to commute all death sentences to sentences of life without the possibility of parole;

3. Calls on state governments to abolish the death penalty;

4. Calls on governors, and other bodies authorized to grant clemency, to commute all death sentences to sentences of life without the possibility of parole;

5. 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

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