



Coalition of Bar Associations of Color

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING
THE DISCONTINUANCE OF RACIST AND STEREOTYPICAL
DEPICTIONS OF NATIVE AMERICANS IN AMERICAN SPORTS**

Endorsed March 2016

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, American professional sports and educational athletic programs have a long time tradition of using so-called “Native” names, images, mascots, and behaviors, e.g., the “Washington R*dskins” professional football team; and

WHEREAS, in part due to substantial efforts by Native Americans and Native communities, use of such references has declined over time, these references remain pervasive within American sports, with nearly 1,000 such references still used throughout the country;¹ and

WHEREAS, these kinds of sports references evoke and perpetuate race-based stereotypes that harm Native American people and communities; and

WHEREAS, studies conducted on the impact of such references have concluded they lower self-esteem and sense of worth among Native Americans, limit and narrow Native American’s sense of self, and facilitate negative associations towards Native Americans by others;² and

WHEREAS, the American Psychological Association has determined that these representations also undermine the ability of Native nations and people to portray themselves accurately as distinct and diverse cultures, and that stereotypical images are a dominant culture’s prejudiced representations of a racial or ethnic minority group;³ and

¹ COURTLAND MILLOY, *If the Redskins Care About Honor . . .*, THE WASHINGTON POST, Sep. 23 2009.

² See American Psychological Association, *Summary of the APA Resolution Recommending Retirement of American Indian Mascots*, <http://www.apa.org/pi/oema/resources/indian-mascots.aspx>, last visited January 22, 2016.

³ *Id.*

WHEREAS, in many instances the stereotypical references overtly depict Native Americans negatively, and in some cases constitute racial slurs, e.g., the term “Redskins,” which results in increased harm and discriminatory impact;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that CBAC opposes the perpetuation of race-based stereotypes including the use of so-called “Native” names, images, and mascots in American professional sports and educational athletic programs; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CBAC calls on the legal community and elected officials to help combat the ill effects of race-based stereotypes in sports by informing Americans that the use of these names, images, and mascot characters constitute race-based stereotypes that harm Native Americans’ sense of self, and encourage discrimination and prejudice towards Native American people; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CBAC calls on the Secretary of Education to urge all schools, which have a federal nexus and make these so-called “Native” references to change their team names, logos, and mascots to those that do not perpetuate race based stereotypes; and

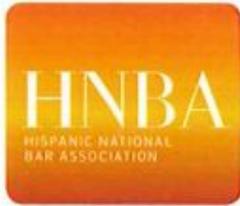
NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CBAC authorizes its officers and staff to communicate the content of this resolution to other bar associations, advocacy groups, members of Congress, the Administration, the press, and to whomever else CBAC board deems suitable to receive the information; and

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

[Remainder of page intentionally blank.]

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.



Robert T. Maldonado

Roberto Maldonado
President, Hispanic National Bar Association

March 1, 2016
Date

Jim Y. Hwang

Jim Hwang
President, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

March 1, 2016
Date

BCP

Benjamin Crump
President, National Bar Association

March 1, 2016
Date

Linda Benally

Linda Benally
President, National Native American Bar Association

March 1, 2016
Date