



RESOLUTION URGING DIVERSITY IN COURT-APPOINTED DELEGATIONS

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, the CBAC is committed to challenging the abuses within our criminal justice system today, in particular the unlawful and wrongful disproportionate criminal persecution and imprisonment of African Americans; and

WHEREAS, a fundamental underlying goal of the justice system is to provide equal treatment and opportunity for everyone; and

WHEREAS, the justice system as a whole has become increasingly diverse, including diverse judges, juries and litigants; and

WHEREAS, in exercising discretionary judicial authority to appoint lawyers to various positions (e.g., lead counsel for plaintiff classes, special masters, receivers, trustees, hearing officers, referees, mediators and arbitrators, guardians, and counsel for indigent defendants), trial courts have not appointed attorneys of color, women attorneys and LGBTQ attorneys to such positions in numbers commensurate with their representation in the legal profession; and

WHEREAS, there are ample numbers of such diverse lawyers who are experienced and highly qualified for appointments by trial courts; and

WHEREAS, research establishes that diversity enhances creativity and innovation, and leads to better decision-making and problem solving; and

WHEREAS, litigants and the justice system as a whole benefit from greater diversity in trial court appointments; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CBAC urges our nation's trial courts, both federal and state, to be mindful of the importance of diversity and to make appointments that are consistent with the diversity of our society and the justice system.



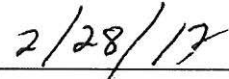
CERTIFICATION

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.





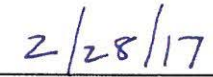
Pedro Torres-Diaz
President, Hispanic National Bar Association



Date



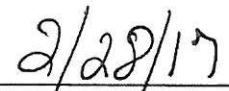
Cyndie Chang
President, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association



Date



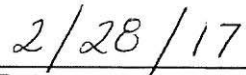
Kevin Judd
President, National Bar Association



Date



Jennifer H. Weddle
President, National Native American Bar Association



Date