



Resolution Supporting Refugee Resettlement Programs
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 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 admission of refugees to the United States and their resettlement here are authorized by the Immigration and Nationality Act ("INA"), as amended by the Refugee Act of 1980. Under the INA, a refugee is a person who is outside his or her country and who is unable or unwilling to return because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. In special circumstances, a refugee also may be a person who is within his or her country and who is persecuted or has a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion; and

WHEREAS, as a signatory to the United Nations' 1967 Protocol on the Status of Refugees ("Protocol"), the international treaty on refugees, the United States has obligations to assist refugees under international law, which was codified into law by the Refugee Act of 1980; and

WHEREAS, many immigrants came and still come to the United States as refugees due to volatile conditions, war, or strife in their countries of origin; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, between 1975 and 2015, the United States admitted a combined 1,863,809 refugees from Asia and South Asia and the Near East; 326,669 were admitted from Africa; and 125,657 were admitted from Latin America, which is more than half of the total 3,252,493 refugees admitted to the United States from around the world during the same period; and

WHEREAS, Asian refugees to the United States have increased in recent years and now many Burmese and Bhutanese nationals come to the United States as refugees; and

WHEREAS, refugees, like other immigrants, enrich our communities and contribute significantly to America; and

WHEREAS, although protecting national security and public safety are important to all Americans, such interests should not be used to justify policies and practices that discriminate against refugees, already present in the United States or awaiting resettlement, on the basis of national origin, race, ethnicity, religion, and/or other characteristics, including those under the INA, which would undermine our civil and human rights; and

WHEREAS, refugees are often in need of legal assistance and representation, and unable to pay for these services.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CBAC supports measures and legislation to increase the number of refugees resettled in the United States; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CBAC supports initiatives to increase and improve programs and services benefiting refugees in the United States, including extending the formal resettlement period, to promote the full integration and long-term physical, mental, and economic well-being of refugees; and

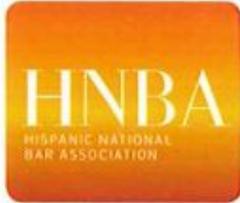
NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CBAC strongly condemns federal, state and/or local measures to restrict refugee resettlement or deny programs and services to refugees already present in the United States, especially any measures based on national origin, race, ethnicity, and/or religion; and

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

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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