



## **Resolution Supporting Increasing Funding for the Legal Services Corporation Budget**

**WHEREAS**, the Coalition of Bar Associations of Color (CBAC), organized in 1983, 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 Legal Services Corporation (“LSC”) was formed in 1974 with bipartisan Congressional support to ensure that all Americans have equal access to legal services and the justice system, regardless of their ability to pay; and

**WHEREAS**, LSC is the single largest provider of civil legal aid for the nation’s poor; and

**WHEREAS**, LSC currently funds 135 local programs with approximately 900 offices, serving every county, state, congressional district in the United States and its territories; and

**WHEREAS**, local programs funded through LSC provide direct legal services to approximately one million constituents with incomes at or below 125 percent of the federal poverty level; and

**WHEREAS**, local programs funded through LSC provide legal assistance through community outreach presentations, pro bono referrals and other legal assistance to approximately two million constituents with incomes near, or below the federal poverty level; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2008 recession and the increased unemployment rate since the recession has created higher demand for low cost and pro bono legal services; and

**WHEREAS**, the weakened economy has put even greater strain on the resources that support legal aid; and

**WHEREAS**, over 60 million Americans, including 18 million children, currently qualify for federally funded legal assistance; and

**WHEREAS**, LSC Justice Gap studies in 2005 and 2009 reported that one in every two individuals who qualified for and actually sought assistance from LSC-funded programs was denied help because of lack of resources; and

**WHEREAS**, clients of legal services organizations represent all ethnicities and ages, including the working poor, veterans, people facing foreclosure or evictions, families with children, farmers, people with disabilities, domestic violence victims, natural disaster victims and the elderly; and

**WHEREAS** LSC has estimated 81,000 fewer low-income American received assistant from the programs it funds; and

**WHEREAS** an increase in the LSC's Fiscal Year 2013 budget will help thousands of the most vulnerable Americans get access to critical legal assistance in matters where their home, their safety and their independence are at stake; and

**WHEREAS**, a failure to increase the budget to LSC's Fiscal Year 2013 budget will disproportionately impact communities of color with incomes near or below the federal poverty level; and

**WHEREAS**, any reduction in the budget to LSC's Fiscal Year 2013 budget will have a disproportionately large impact on programs that rely most heavily on the Federal grant, particularly in the states of Alabama, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Nevada, South Dakota, and Wyoming; and

**WHEREAS**, a broad coalition of state bar associations and minority bar associations, including every state bar and all major bars of color, have supported an increase in LSC funding for the past three consecutive years.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the CBAC opposes any proposals to reduce funding from the LSC's Fiscal Year 2013; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the CBAC calls upon Congress to support increased funding for the LSC's Fiscal Year 2013, at a minimum the Senate-approved budget request of \$402 million, to help meet the urgent need of vulnerable Americans who need legal assistance; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the CBAC authorizes the communication of the content of this resolution to members of the U.S. Senate, members of the U.S. House of Representatives, the press, and to others the CBAC deems appropriate to receive the information; and

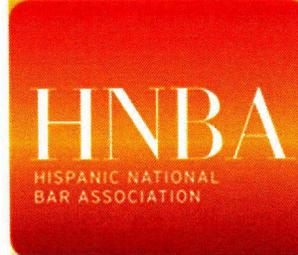
**THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be the legislative priority of the CBAC until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

**CERTIFICATION**

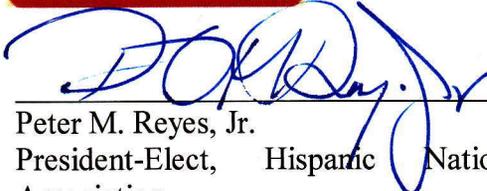
We, the duly elected leadership of the Hispanic National Bar Association, the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association, the National Bar Association, and the National Native American Bar Association, hereby certify that this resolution was duly enacted by the CBAC at its annual meeting on the 16th of May 2012.

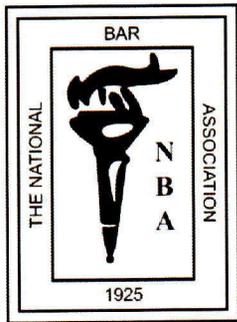


National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

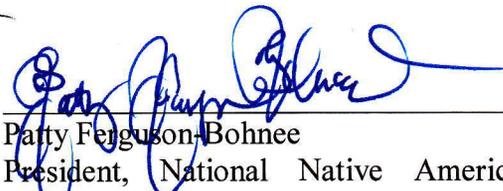


  
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Nimesh Patel  
President, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

  
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Peter M. Reyes, Jr.  
President-Elect, Hispanic National Bar Association



  
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Daryl Parks  
President, National Bar Association

  
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Patty Ferguson Bohnce  
President, National Native American Bar Association