



Est. 1992

Coalition of Bar Associations of Color

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING DIVERSITY IN THE
FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION AND FAIRNESS IN THE
CONFIRMATION PROCESS FOR FEDERAL EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS**

Endorsed March 2015

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, the member organizations of CBAC have been keen advocates for the diversity of key and qualified persons to fill important positions within the Administration; and

WHEREAS, the member organizations of CBAC are invested in promoting representation and leadership in the federal administration that reflects the rich tapestry of backgrounds, ethnicities, cultures, experiences and interest that characterize the American population; and

WHEREAS, communities of color have been underrepresented and historically faced barriers to equal opportunity in the legal profession and in all levels of government; and

WHEREAS, the member organizations of CBAC advocate for increased diversity in the executive branch to promote the expertise of the members of minority groups in areas of the public service; and

WHEREAS, delays in confirmation of the leadership of departments and agencies, including a recent history of vacancies of up to one fourth of the cabinet positions in the administration, imperils the operation of our government and key health, safety and security functions of the executive branch; and

WHEREAS, confirmation delays also serve to discourage potential candidates from seeking public service, including diverse candidates; and

WHEREAS, having diverse government leadership in this country, representing all of America, including women, people of color and people of modest economic means and background, a government in which all of the population can see itself reflected, is critical to reinforcing and strengthening civic participation and confidence in our government; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the member organizations of CBAC support the increased diversity of the executive branch particularly for the appointment of key positions throughout the federal administration; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the member organizations of CBAC support further reform in the confirmation process of presidential executive nominees which focuses on the underlying merit of the nominee and delay unrelated to the nominee's qualifications; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that CBAC also supports other efforts and laws that are consistent with this resolution; 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 THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of CBAC until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

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 Coalition Bar Associations of Color.



Cynthia Mares

Cynthia Mares
President, Hispanic National Bar Association

3/2/2015
Date

George C. Chen

George C. Chen
President, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

3/2/2015
Date

Pamela Meanes

Pamela Meanes
President, National Bar Association

3/2/2015
Date

Mary Smith

Mary Smith
President, National Native American Bar Association

3/2/2015
Date