RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LANGUAGE ACCESS IN FEDERALLY FUNDED SERVICES

Endorsed July 2014

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 Coalition of Bar Associations of Color 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, increasing access to justice for limited English proficient individuals has long been a high priority for CBAC; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 U.S. Census reports that 20 percent of the entire American and Native American populations are limited English proficient; and

WHEREAS, according to research gathered from the 2010 U.S. Census, limited English proficient individuals are more likely to live below the federal poverty line compared to the overall U.S. population; and

WHEREAS, Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and Executive Order 13166 requires all agencies receiving federal financial funding to make meaningful efforts to provide language access (e.g., qualified interpreters, translated documents) for limited English speaking persons; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates the employment of interpreters and translators will increase by 46 percent in the next 20 years – much faster than the average of all occupations – due to projected demand and continued growth of language diversity in the U.S.; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CBAC calls upon all courts and other adjudicatory tribunals to prioritize effective implementation of the ABA Standards on Language Access in the Courts; and
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CBAC calls upon state and federal executive branches to provide adequate funding to allow courts and other adjudicatory tribunals, including all tribal courts, to effectively provide service to limited English proficient individuals; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CBAC supports efforts to increase access to all federally funded services for limited English proficient individuals, including within the courts and larger justice system, as well as in the health care system, voting, schools, and other institutions; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CBAC authorizes its officers and staff to communicate the content of this resolution to other minority bar association members, members of the U.S. Congress, the press, and to whomever else the CBAC Board deems suitable to receive the information; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution shall be the legislative priority of the Coalition of Bar Associations of Color 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 Board of Directors.
Miguel Alexander Pozo  
President, Hispanic National Bar Association  

William J. Simonitsch  
President, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association  

Patricia Rosier  
President, National Bar Association  

Mary Smith  
President, National Native American Bar Association  

7-15-14  
Date  

7-15-14  
Date  

July 15, 2014  
Date  

5 July 2014  
Date