



RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FUNDING

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 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 Legal Services Corporation (LSC) was formed in 1974 with bipartisan Congressional support to ensure all Americans have equal access to legal services and the justice system, regardless of their ability to pay;

WHEREAS LSC is the single largest provider of civil legal aid for the nation's poor;

WHEREAS LSC currently funds 136 local programs with approximately 900 offices, serving every county, state, and congressional district in the United States and its territories;

WHEREAS local programs funded through LSC provide direct legal services to approximately one million constituents with incomes near or below the federal poverty level;

WHEREAS the 2008 recession and the rise in unemployment in 2009 have created higher demand for low cost and pro bono legal services;

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

WHEREAS over 50 million Americans, including 18 million children, currently qualify for federally funded legal assistance;

WHEREAS the 2005 LSC Justice Gap study 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;

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

WHEREAS an increase in the LSC's Fiscal Year 2012 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;

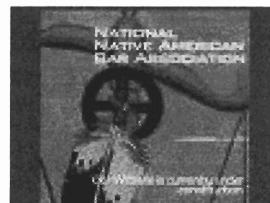
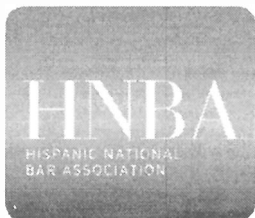
WHEREAS the bipartisan LSC Board requested a \$65 million dollar increase for Fiscal Year 2010 (for FY2011 Budget) in its attempt to close the justice gap and offer assistance to all those who seek advice; and

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 Coalition of Bar Associations of Color calls for Congress to amend the Fiscal Year 2012 budget for LSC by increasing its funding to at least \$435 million to help meet the urgent needs of vulnerable Americans who need legal assistance.

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 they foregoing Resolution was duly enacted by a duly-noticed meetings of the Board of Directors.



Diana Sen
President, Hispanic National Bar Association

Date

Paul O. Hirose
President, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

Date

Demetrius Shekon
President, National Bar Association

Date

Mary Smith
President-Elect, National Native American Bar Association

Date