



**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AN INCREASE NATIVE AMERICAN
REPRESENTATION IN THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY**

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, the National Native American Bar Association (“NNABA”) works to promote issues important to the Native American community and to improve professional opportunities for Native American lawyers, we do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, NNABA was founded in 1973 and serves as the national association for Native American attorneys, judges, law professors and law students, and NNABA strives to be a leader on social, cultural, political and legal issues affecting American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians; and

WHEREAS, given the undeniable authority that federal courts have over Native people and their lands, and that hundreds of cases are decided every year on issues of federal Indian law that effect the daily lives of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians; and

WHEREAS, throughout the history of the federal courts, only two Native Americans have been appointed to the federal judiciary: Judge Frank Howell Seay, nominated in 1979 by President Carter, who assumed senior status in 2003; and Judge Billy Michael Burrage, nominated by President Clinton in 1994, who resigned his appointment in 2001; and

WHEREAS, there are 874 Article III federal judgeships in the United States—nine on the Supreme Court, 179 on the Courts of Appeals, 677 on the District Courts and nine on the Court of International Trade—and currently not one of these judgeships is held by an American Indian, Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian judge; and

WHEREAS, in May 2009, NNABA submitted over two dozen names and resumes of qualified Native Americans for consideration by the White House for appointment to the federal bench; and


WHEREAS, the nomination an affirmative vote out of the Judiciary Committee of Derrick Kahala Watson, a Native Hawaiian is the first Native attorney to be voted on by the Judiciary Committee since 1994; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Native American Bar Association calls upon the President of the United States to nominate and to actively work with the Senate of the United States, in particular the Senate Judiciary Committee, to confirm qualified American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian candidates for the federal judiciary at the U.S. District Court, U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeals and the Supreme Court of the United States.

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

July 15, 2014
Date



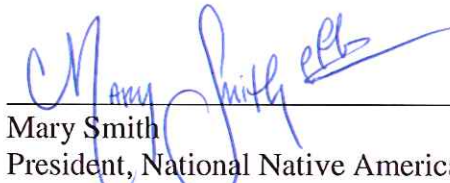
William J. Simonitsch
President, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

July 15, 2014
Date



Patricia Rosier
President, National Bar Association

July 15, 2014
Date



Mary Smith
President, National Native American Bar Association

July 15, 2014
Date