STATEMENT OF OPPOSITION AGAINST ARIZONA S.B. 1070

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, the Arizona State legislature has passed, and Governor Jan Brewer has signed into law, S.B. 1070;

WHEREAS, S.B. 1070 allows a law enforcement officer, without warrant, to arrest a person if the officer has probable cause to believe that the person has committed any public offense that makes the person removable from the U.S.;

WHEREAS, if an official or agency of the state or a county, city, town, or political subdivision has a reasonable suspicion that the person is an alien who is unlawfully present in the U.S., the legislation requires that law enforcement make a reasonable attempt be made to determine the immigration status of the person during any legitimate contact;

WHEREAS, a reasonable suspicion is not constitutionally sufficient grounds to stop someone for a civil violation based on their immigration status;

WHEREAS, S.B. 1070’s use of a “reasonable suspicion” standard is so arbitrary and capricious that it will result in racial profiling, an unjustified action based on skin color, general appearance, and language ability;

WHEREAS, S.B. 1070 disallows officials or agencies of the state or political subdivisions from adopting or implementing policies that limit or prohibit local officials from inquiring into the immigration status of suspects, witnesses, and victims of crimes;

WHEREAS, the policies are essential to maintaining effective community policing which relies on witnesses and victims coming forward irrespective of their immigration status; and

WHEREAS, S.B. 1070 forces state and political subdivisions to share immigration statuses with other government agencies, despite confidentiality restrictions imposed on those agencies.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Coalition of Bar Association of Color opposes the implementation of Arizona S.B. 1070 and similar bills being introduced, passed, and signed into law in other states.
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 they foregoing Resolution was duly enacted by a duly-noticed meetings of the Board of Directors.

Diana Sen
President, Hispanic National Bar Association

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

Demetrius Shelnutt
President, National Bar Association

Mary Smith
President-Elect, National Native American Bar Association

Date

Date

Date

Date