



**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT FOR TRIBAL PARTICIPATION IN RESPONSE AND RECOVERY
FROM DEEPWATER HORIZON SPILL**

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, on April 20, 2010, the Maconda Well of the Deepwater Horizon Rig exploded (BP Spill) creating the first oil spill of national significance since Exxon Valdez in 1989; and

WHEREAS, Indian Tribes have historically lived and occupied the Gulf Coast Region; and

WHEREAS, Indian Tribes are directly impacted by the Spill, impacting their lands, homes, sacred sites, and way of life; and

WHEREAS, members of these tribes are primarily fishermen for both commercial and subsistence purposes; and

WHEREAS, tribal fisheries and wildlife have been impacted by oil and dispersants and tribal members are concerned about the impacts of seafood on the health and well-being of tribal members; and

WHEREAS, tribal communities directly impacted by the BP Spill suffered wind and water devastation during the 2005 and 2008 hurricane seasons and have not yet recovered; and

WHEREAS, these tribal communities are not protected by levees; and

WHEREAS, tribal lands have been diminished and left vulnerable by oil exploration, loss of the barrier islands, and the rerouting of the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, the tribes seek to protect their sacred sites, village sites, homelands, fisheries, and way of life;

WHEREAS, measures have been taken to exclude participation of impacted tribes from important discussions and participation regarding tribal historic properties; and

WHEREAS, there should be coordination to take into account the concerns and needs of

tribal communities and to have impacted tribes participate in all stages of response and recovery; and

WHEREAS, all tribes, including the state-recognized tribes in the Gulf Coast, should be consulted in all areas of assessment mitigation, and recovery efforts in response to the Deepwater Horizon BP oil spill.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Coalition of Bar Associations of Color does hereby support the coordination of state, federal, and local officials with all tribes, including the state-recognized tribes in order to protect sacred sites and tribal communities and to organize response and recovery efforts; and

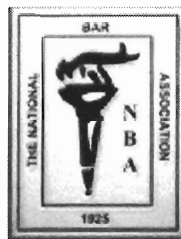
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Coalition of Bar Associations of Color does hereby request that the responsible parties be held accountable for the damage to tribal lands, tribal cultural resources, loss of tribal member income, and loss of subsistence resources for tribal members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Coalition of Bar Associations of Color does hereby support the rebuilding of the barrier islands and tribal lands and the building of protective defenses south of tribal communities in the Gulf region; 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

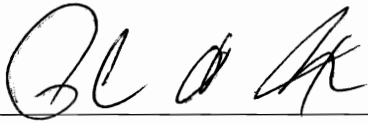
WE, the duly-elected Presidents of the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA), the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), the National Bar Association (NBA), and the National Native American Bar Association (NNABA), hereby certify that they foregoing Resolution was duly enacted by a duly-noticed meetings of the Board of Directors.



Diana Sen

President, Hispanic National Bar Association

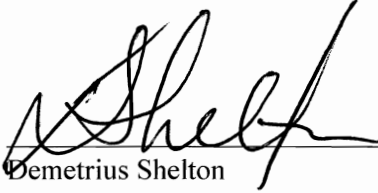
Date



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

7-20-11

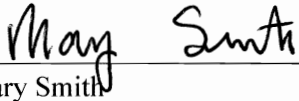
Date



Demetrius Shelton
President, National Bar Association

7/20/11

Date



Mary Smith
President-Elect, National Native American Bar Association

7-20-11

Date