



## **Resolution Urging Congress to Fully Fund the Criminal Justice Act**

**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 CBAC 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 need for competent CJA panel attorneys has increased; however, low compensation rates have made it difficult to both retain and recruit qualified attorneys; and

**WHEREAS**, a recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) study disclosed that hourly rates routinely paid by major federal agencies for legal services substantially exceed those paid to CJA panel attorneys; and

**WHEREAS**, increased hourly rates are needed to recruit and retain qualified CJA panel attorneys.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the CBAC urges Congress to fully fund the Criminal Justice Act with sufficient funds to increase the compensation for panel attorneys appointed under the Act to represent indigent defendants to a flat rate of \$113 per hour, plus annual pay adjustments.

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the CBAC will forward a copy of this resolution to President Barack Obama, and the Congressional leadership of both parties; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the CBAC authorizes the communication of the content of this resolution to members of the U.S. Senate, members of the U.S. House of Representatives, the press, and to others the CBAC deems appropriate to receive the information; and

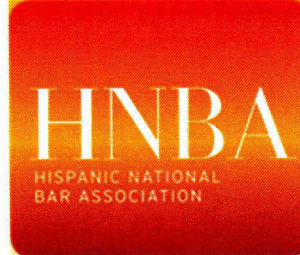
**THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be the legislative priority of the CBAC until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.


**CERTIFICATION**

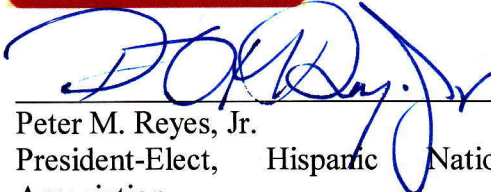
We, the duly elected leadership of the Hispanic National Bar Association, the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association, the National Bar Association, and the National Native American Bar Association, hereby certify that this resolution was duly enacted by the CBAC at its annual meeting on the 16th of May 2012.

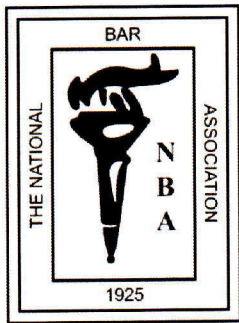


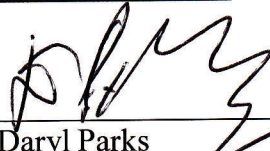
National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

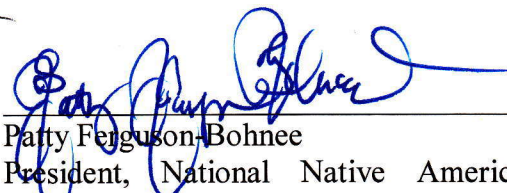


  
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Nimesh Patel  
President, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

  
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Peter M. Reyes, Jr.  
President-Elect, Hispanic National Bar Association



  
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Daryl Parks  
President, National Bar Association

  
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Patty Ferguson Bohnce  
President, National Native American Bar Association