



Resolution of Support for Anti-Human Trafficking Efforts

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, human trafficking, which the U.S. Department of State defines as “activities involved when one person obtains or holds another person in compelled service,” is an international human rights issue that requires the attention of the entire international community working toward justice and equality; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 2.5 million people—80 percent of whom are women and girls—worldwide are victims of this modern day form of slavery; and

WHEREAS, victims from Asia, particularly India, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, and the Philippines, are found in the widest range of countries into which individuals are trafficked, with the United States being among the most prominent of those countries; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking, which predominantly takes the form of labor or sex trafficking, ensnares victims from disadvantaged backgrounds who are coerced or tricked by traffickers under false promises of opportunity; and

WHEREAS, despite the underreporting of human trafficking in the United States, the U.S. Attorney General’s annual report from fiscal year 2010 shows that nearly half of trafficking victims who received certification and eligibility letters for social services were Thai, Indian, or Filipino, and that among the top ten language spoken among trafficking victims were Mandarin, Vietnamese, Korean, Thai, Farsi, Hindi, and Punjabi; and

WHEREAS, it has come to light that human trafficking in connection with overseas government contracts is another manifestation of this crime, with reports that individuals recruited to work for U.S. military contractors in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere from countries including Bangladesh, Fiji, and the Philippines have faced harassment, sexual abuse, and conditions akin to indentured servitude, demonstrating the lack of existing protections against human trafficking in the context of overseas government contracts; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations has taken note of the issue of human trafficking, introducing the *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children* (Palermo Protocol) in 2000, and initiating the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) in March 2007; and

WHEREAS, Congress has also acted to combat human trafficking, first enacting the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) in 2000, and reauthorizing the legislation in 2005 and 2008, which criminalizes traffickers and provides protection and assistance to victims of human trafficking in the United States, whether they are trafficked into the United States or trafficked internally; and

WHEREAS, a bipartisan group of Congressmen has introduced the End Trafficking in Government Contracting Act in order to address human trafficking via government contracts abroad; and

WHEREAS, despite current anti-human trafficking efforts, human trafficking remains a \$9.5 billion global industry that depends on the buying, selling, and abuse of human beings that directly impacts individuals of Asian descent; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the CBAC strongly condemns human trafficking in all its forms, and supports efforts to combat human trafficking and aid trafficking victims domestically and abroad; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CBAC supports the reauthorization of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and similar measures and legislation for the reasons set forth above; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CBAC Supports the End Trafficking in Government Contracting Act and similar measures and legislation for the reasons set forth above; 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

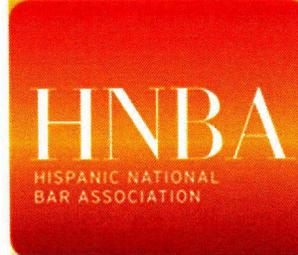
THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the legislative priority of the CBAC until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

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.

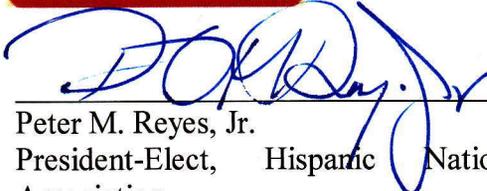


National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

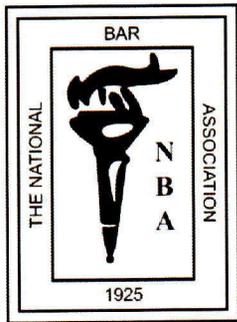




Nimesh Patel
President, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

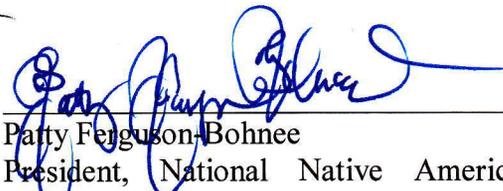


Peter M. Reyes, Jr.
President-Elect, Hispanic National Bar Association





Daryl Parks
President, National Bar Association



Patty Ferguson Bohnke
President, National Native American Bar Association