



Est. 1992

Coalition of Bar Associations of Color

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LANGUAGE ACCESS IN FEDERALLY FUNDED SERVICES

Endorsed March 2015

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 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 member organizations of CBAC are the national voices of their respective legal communities in the United States and its territories and possessions; and

WHEREAS, increasing access to justice for limited English proficient individuals has long been a high priority for CBAC; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 U.S. Census reports that 2% of the entire American and Native American populations are limited English proficient; and

WHEREAS, according to research gathered from the 2010 U.S. Census, limited English proficient individuals are more likely to live below the federal poverty line compared to the overall U.S. population; and

WHEREAS, Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and Executive Order 13166 requires all agencies receiving federal financial funding to make meaningful efforts to provide language access (e.g., qualified interpreters, translated documents) for limited English speaking persons; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates the employment of interpreters and translators will increase by 46% in the next 20 years – much faster than the average of all occupations – due to projected demand and continued growth of language diversity in the U.S; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that CBAC calls upon all courts and other adjudicatory tribunals to prioritize effective implementation of the *ABA Standards for Language Access in the Courts*; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVE, that CBAC calls upon state and federal governments to provide adequate funding to allow courts and other adjudicatory tribunals, including all tribal courts, to effectively provide service to limited English proficient individuals; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that CBAC supports efforts to increase access to all federally funded services for limited English proficient individuals, including within the courts and larger justice system, as well as in the health care system, voting, schools, and other institutions; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that CBAC also supports other efforts and laws that are consistent with this resolution; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CBAC authorizes its officers and staff to communicate the content of this resolution to other minority bar association members, members of the U.S. Congress, the Executive Office of the President, the press, and to whomever else CBAC board deems suitable to receive the information; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of CBAC 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 the foregoing Resolution was duly enacted by a duly-noticed meeting of the Coalition Bar Associations of Color.



Cynthia Mares

Cynthia Mares
President, Hispanic National Bar Association

3/2/2015
Date

George C. Chen

George C. Chen
President, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

3/2/2015
Date

Pamela Meanes

Pamela Meanes
President, National Bar Association

3/2/2015
Date

Mary Smith

Mary Smith
President, National Native American Bar Association

3/2/2015
Date