



Est. 1992

Coalition of Bar Associations of Color

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TASK FORCE ON  
AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE CHILDREN EXPOSED TO  
VIOLENCE REPORT**

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**, American Indian and Alaska Native children currently suffer exposure to violence at rates higher than any other race in the United States, including experiencing posttraumatic stress disorder at the same rate as veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan; and

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect of American Indian/Alaska Native children is more common than in the general population; and

**WHEREAS**, American Indian/Alaska Native youth commit suicide at more than three times the national average, with suicide being the second leading cause of death among American Indian/Alaska Native youth ages 10 to 24; and

**WHEREAS**, current legal and financial barriers prevent tribes from healing and protecting their children, and instead re-traumatize children; and

**WHEREAS**, tribal justice systems and tribal child welfare systems suffer from inconsistent and unequal federal funding compared to their state counterparts, including the perpetual failure for Congress to fund the Indian Tribal Justice Act of 1993; and

**WHEREAS**, Native youth are disproportionately incarcerated in the federal system to the extent that between 1999 and 2008, 43-60% of juveniles held in federal custody were American Indians; and

**WHEREAS**, Attorney General Eric Holder established an Advisory Committee on American Indian/Alaska Native Children Exposed to Violence, which in November 2014, subsequent to four hearings and multiple listening sessions, issued a report: *Ending Violence so Children Can Thrive*; and

**WHEREAS**, that report included 59 recommendations, which while touching upon various topics including jurisdiction, Alaska Natives, ICWA compliance, intergovernmental cooperation, training on trauma and cultural appropriateness, and juvenile justice, form a collection of necessary actions required to properly enable Native nations to properly treat and heal their Native youth; and

**WHEREAS**, specific among those recommendations is the recommendation that Congress should restore the inherent authority of tribes to assert full criminal jurisdiction over all persons who commit crimes against Native children in Indian country; and

**WHEREAS**, specific among those recommendations are the recommendations that Congress and the executive branch should direct sufficient funds to bring tribal funding for criminal and civil justice systems and child protection services into parity with the rest of the country, and that competitive grant-based funding should be replaced with recurring base funding; 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 bar associations, advocacy groups, members of Congress, the Administration, 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*

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Cynthia Mares  
President, Hispanic National Bar Association

3/2/2015  
Date

*George C. Chen*

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

3/2/2015  
Date

*Pamela Meanes*

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Pamela Meanes  
President, National Bar Association

3/2/2015  
Date

*Mary Smith*

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Mary Smith  
President, National Native American Bar Association

3/2/2015  
Date