



Coalition of Bar Associations of Color

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1965

WHEREAS the Coalition of Bar Associations of Color (CBAC), organized in 1993, 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), National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), the National Bar Association (NBA), and the National Native American Bar Association (NNABA); and

WHEREAS the Coalition of Bar Associations of Color believes that, in order for the American justice system to achieve its mission, it must value and embody racial, ethnic and gender diversity; and

WHEREAS many law schools are now using the LSAT as the primary factor in admissions, even though the test makers acknowledge that the LSAT is not a perfect indicator of academic performance;

WHEREAS the test makers recommend evaluating and considering each applicant's undergraduate grade point average, personal statement extracurricular activities, and work experience, in addition to LSAT score;

WHEREAS a consequence of this misuse and over reliance on the LSAT, African American, Latino, and Native American students and graduates are at the lowest they have been in almost twenty years;

WHEREAS between 2002 and 2004, 69 of the 84 schools in the eight largest law school markets raised their 25th percentile LSAT scores, and 43 of those 69 saw their African American enrollment decrease by an average of 19 per cent;

WHEREAS the American Bar Association (ABA), the Department of Education's official designee for the accreditation of law schools, has rejected or delayed the accreditation of applications of law schools based on their LSAT scores and has threatened sanctions against accredited schools unless they raise their minimum LSAT scores;

WHEREAS the ABA has taken this action without any reliable studies correlating increased LSAT scores with increased professional competence;

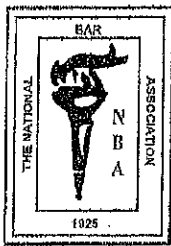
WHEREAS the Coalition of Bar Associations of Color adopted a resolution which calls on the ABA to, among other things, promote diversity in legal education within the limits allowed by the law, prohibit misuse of the LSAT, and increase transparency of law school admissions and accreditation practices;

WHEREAS members of Congress in September 2006 requested the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to do a quick turn around study on the accreditation process conducted by the American Bar Association but the study is not complete;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Coalition of Bar Associations of Color supports H.R. 4137 and S. 1642.

CERTIFICATION

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



NNABA

Vicente M. Marquez
President, Hispanic National Bar Association

5/15/08
Date

Vanita M. Banks
President, National Bar Association

5/15/08
Date

Heather Dawn Thompson
President, National Native American Bar Association

5/15/08
Date

President, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

Date