



Coalition of Bar Associations of Color

## SUPPORT FOR EXAMINATION OF INDIAN LAW ON STATE BAR EXAMINATIONS

**WHEREAS**, we, the members of the Coalition of Bar Associations of Color (CBAC),

**WHEREAS**, Tribal economic development and the resulting increase in interaction of Indian nations and people, with non-Indian entities and individuals both on and off of the reservation, has given rise to an array of business transactions, regulatory issues and litigation matters between Tribal and non-tribal parties; and

**WHEREAS**, the American public and their attorneys do not generally understand the legal import of our Indian nations' inherent sovereign rights; nor do they understand precisely how tribal self-governance and self-determination, and the laws and ways of Indian nations, affect and intersect Anglo-American legal principles; and

**WHEREAS**, if attorneys for the American public, particularly federal, state and local government, better understood the legal concepts of Tribal self-governance and Tribal jurisdiction, there would be fewer disputes and government-to-government dialogue would be greatly enhanced; and

**WHEREAS**, in February 2002 the State of New Mexico became the first state to test the topic of Indian law on its bar licensing exam, with a view towards educating public and private legal counsel and, in turn, the American public about the legal rights of sovereign Indian nations; and

**WHEREAS**, the majority of American states, which host large populations of Indian people and/or a significant presence of Tribal lands, including Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Montana, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, North and South Dakota, Oklahoma, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, New York, Maine, Connecticut, Louisiana and Florida, should likewise include the topic of Indian law on their bar licensing examinations.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the CBAC does hereby support the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians and the Association of Washington Tribes, and their friends and colleagues in the Northwest Indian Bar Association, the Washington State Bar Association Indian Law Section and Idaho State Bar Indian Law Section, and the National Native American Bar Association, in their endeavor to have the topic of Indian law tested by state bar associations, so the American public can better understand the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations.

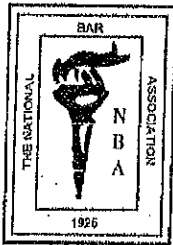
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the CBAC does hereby seek the assistance and

collaboration of the American Bar Association, and the bar associations, boards of bar examiners and Supreme Courts in states such as Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Montana, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, North and South Dakota, Oklahoma, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, New York, Connecticut, Maine, Louisiana and Florida, to carry out the provisions of this resolution.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this resolution be immediately transmitted upon its effective date to the President and President-elect of the American Bar Association.

**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 Coalition of the Bar Associations of Color Board of Directors.



NNABA

Victor M. Mosquez  
President, Hispanic National Bar Association

5-15-08  
Date

Nanita M. Banks  
President, National Bar Association

5/15/08  
Date

Heather Dant Thompson  
President, National Native American Bar Association

5/15/08  
Date

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President, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date