REPORT OF THE ISSUES AND RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE
# 2019 – 2020 RESOLUTIONS

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*Resolutions passed by the NBA Board of Governors since the last Annual Meeting.

**Resolutions passed at the Annual Meeting of the Coalition of Bar Associations of Color or “CBAC". CBAC is composed of the National Bar Association, the Asian Pacific American Bar Association, the Hispanic National Bar Association and the National Native American Bar.
Resolution Honoring the Life and Work of Rev. C.T. Vivian  Resolution No. 2020-12

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NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
Resolution Honoring the Life and Work of
The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings

WHEREAS the National Bar Association (“NBA”) was founded in 1925 and is the nation's oldest and largest national network of predominately African American attorneys and judges, representing approximately 60,000 lawyers, judges, law professors and law students and having over 80 affiliate chapters throughout the United States and around the world;

WHEREAS the National Bar Association, from its inception, has fought to advance the science of jurisprudence; improve the administration of justice; preserve the independence of the judiciary and to uphold the honor and integrity of the legal profession; promote professional and social intercourse among the members of the American and the international bars; to promote legislation that will improve the economic condition of all American citizens, regardless of race, sex or creed in their efforts to secure a free and untrammeled use of the franchise guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States; and protect the civil and political rights of the citizens and residents of the United States;

WHEREAS Congressman Elijah E. Cummings was a tenacious fighter for justice and defender of democracy and the United States Constitution, who served the 7th Congressional district of Maryland with honor and distinction for over twenty-three years;

WHEREAS Elijah Eugene Cummings was born in Baltimore on January 18, 1951, to Ruth and Robert Cummings and attended Baltimore public schools, graduating with honors from Baltimore City College High School;

WHEREAS Congressman Cummings received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Howard University in 1969, having majored in Political Science and earned the distinction of Phi Beta Kappa;

WHEREAS Congressman Cummings received a Juris Doctor from the University of Maryland School of Law and was admitted to the bar in 1976;

WHEREAS Congressman Cummings’ political career started in the Maryland House of Delegates after he had dedicated 19 years to the practice of law;

WHEREAS in the Maryland House of Delegates he served as Chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland and was the first African American in Maryland history to be named Speaker Pro Tempore, the second highest position in the House of Delegates;

WHEREAS following his election to the United States Congress for the first time April 1996, Congressman Cummings notably served on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (which he chaired) and the Select Committee on Benghazi;

WHEREAS in his role as Chair of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (from January 2019 until his death in October 2019), Congressman Cummings led the impeachment inquiry against President Donald Trump;

WHEREAS Congressman Cumming most recently introduced and or supported legislation that further empowered whistleblowers, enabled civil servants to better secure their careers and financial futures and modernized federal records retention;
WHEREAS Congressman Cummings chaired the Congressional Black Caucus during the 108th United States Congress, was Co-founder and Chairman of the Congressional Caucus on Drug Policy and was a member of the Task Force on Health Care Reform, Congressional Arts Caucus, Afterschool Caucuses and the Congressional Progressive Caucus;

WHEREAS Congressman Cummings most recently received an honorary Doctor of Public Service from the University of Maryland in 2017, having received a total of 12 honorary doctoral degrees from universities throughout the United States;

WHEREAS Congressman Cummings was a communicant for 40 years at Baltimore’s New Psalmist Baptist Church;

WHEREAS Congressman Cummings wrote a bi-weekly column for the Baltimore Afro-American newspaper;

WHEREAS Congressman Cummings’ service on multiple community boards, including the SEED Schools of Maryland Board of Directors, the University of Maryland Law School Board of Advisors, the United States Naval Academy Board of Visitors and the Elijah Cummings Youth Program in Israel, reflected his deep commitment to his community;

WHEREAS Congressman Cummings was a supporter of and mentor and advisor to attorneys in the National Bar Association and its mission

WHEREAS Congressman Elijah Eugene Cummings departed this life on October 17, 2019, and is survived by Maya Rockeymoore Cummings, three children and a host of other family and friends.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Bar Association, in mourning, honors, recognizes and celebrates the life of Congressman Elijah E. Cummings, a public servant and advocate for civil rights throughout his life, for his outstanding contributions to his community, the United States of America and the National Bar Association; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution will be presented to the Cummings family and recorded in the archives of the National Bar Association.

Done this 21st day of October in the year 2019 in the city of Washington, DC

By: _______________________________________
Alfreda Robinson
President, National Bar Association

Attested and subscribed to

__________________________________________
Ashley L. Upkins
Secretary, National Bar Association
NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
Resolution Honoring the Life and Work of
Barbara Whiting-Wright

WHEREAS the National Bar Association (“NBA”) was founded in 1925 and is the nation's oldest and largest national network of predominately African American attorneys and judges, representing approximately 60,000 lawyers, judges, law professors and law students and having over 80 affiliate chapters throughout the United States and around the world;

WHEREAS the National Bar Association, from its inception, has fought to advance the science of jurisprudence; improve the administration of justice; preserve the independence of the judiciary and to uphold the honor and integrity of the legal profession; promote professional and social intercourse among the members of the American and the international bars; to promote legislation that will improve the economic condition of all American citizens, regardless of race, sex or creed in their efforts to secure a free and untrammeled use of the franchise guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States; and protect the civil and political rights of the citizens and residents of the United States;

WHEREAS Barbara Whiting-Wright gave life to what it means to be an agent for social change and to empowering others, particularly African American women lawyers and minority law students;

WHEREAS Barbara Evon Whiting-Wright was a native of Yorktown, VA, who graduated from Hampton University (formerly Hampton Institute), in Hampton, Virginia before entering Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C., from which she graduated in 1963;

WHEREAS Ms. Whiting-Wright began her career as a customs law specialist at the U.S. Customs Service in 1964, remaining there until her retirement in 1996;

WHEREAS in the fall of 1974, just two years after the National Bar Association formed a Women Lawyers Division, Ms. Whiting-Wright, along with several African American women lawyers, began organizing a chapter in the District of Columbia metropolitan area;

WHEREAS Ms. Whiting-Wright served as President Pro Temp of the organization from 1974 - 1976;

WHEREAS in September of 1976 the Greater Washington Area Chapter, Women Lawyers of the National Bar Association – GWAC— was born and elected its first officers, including Barbara Whiting-Wright, who the members elected as GWAC’s first President;

WHEREAS with Whiting-Wright’s extraordinary vision and leadership, GWAC grew into one of the most preeminent National Bar Association affiliate chapters, boast throughout the years, a membership that has included hundreds of notable law school graduates, attorneys, and judges;

WHEREAS in 1993, Ms. Whiting-Wright was instrumental in helping GWAC establish its charitable arm, The GWAC Foundation;

WHEREAS Ms. Whiting-Wright worked tirelessly on the Foundation’s “GWAC Auction” and other Foundation fundraisers;

WHEREAS the Foundation subsequently provided funding for various community outreach and service projects throughout the DMV, including the Legal Intern Placement Program (L.I.P.P.), which placed law students in summer internships and then subsidized their monthly stipend, and bar review course and law school book scholarships;
WHEREAS Ms. Whiting-Wright remained an active member of the GWAC Foundation Board of Directors even at the time of her death on November 7, 2019;

WHEREAS Ms. Whiting-Wright also was active in the Howard University School of Law Alumni Association, incorporating the Howard University School of Law Alumni Dinner Committee Scholarship Fund and serving as Chair of the Inaugural Thurgood Marshall Award of Excellence Dinner for the Howard University School of Law Alumni Association of the Greater Washington Area;
WHEREAS Ms. Whiting-Wright worked tirelessly to both serve and help pave the way for others through her many volunteer efforts;

WHEREAS of all her many accomplishments, Ms. Whiting-Wright was most proud of being Jeffrey’s mother, grandmother to her two grandchildren, Elijah and Juno, and loving sibling to her sister Naomi; and

WHEREAS Ms. Whiting-Wright remained dedicated to serving others, constantly giving of her finances, time, leadership, and love.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Bar Association, in mourning, honors, recognizes and celebrates the life of Barbara Whiting-Wright, public servant, life-long volunteer, mother, grandmother, sister and friend; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution will be presented to the Wright family and recorded in the archives of the National Bar Association.

Done this 16th day of November in the year 2019, in the City of Washington, District of Columbia.

By: _____________________________________
   Alfreda Robinson
   President, National Bar Association

Attested and subscribed to

________________________________________
Ashley L. Upkins
Secretary, National Bar Association
 Resolution No. 2020-3

NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
Resolution Honoring the Life and Work of
W. George Allen

WHEREAS the National Bar Association ("NBA") was founded in 1925 and is the nation's oldest and largest national network of predominately African American attorneys and judges, representing approximately 60,000 lawyers, judges, law professors and law students and having over 80 affiliate chapters throughout the United States and around the world;

WHEREAS the National Bar Association, from its inception, has fought to advance the science of jurisprudence; improve the administration of justice; preserve the independence of the judiciary and to uphold the honor and integrity of the legal profession; promote professional and social intercourse among the members of the American and the international bars; to promote legislation that will improve the economic condition of all American citizens, regardless of race, sex or creed in their efforts to secure a free and untrammeled use of the franchise guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States; and protect the civil and political rights of the citizens and residents of the United States;

WHEREAS W. George Allen was born on March 3, 1936, attended segregated public schools in Sanford, Florida and graduated from Crooms High School in Sanford in 1954;

WHEREAS Mr. Allen earned a Bachelor of Science degree in political science from Florida A & M University ("FAMU") in 1958;

WHEREAS he was accepted into the University of Florida’s College of Law in 1960 after spending two years in the U.S. Army in the Counterintelligence Corps, attaining the rank of first lieutenant;

WHEREAS Mr. Allen was admitted to the Florida Bar on June 7, 1963 following his December 1962 graduation from the University of Florida as the University’s first African American student;

WHEREAS he was hired by the law firm of Orr & Kaplan in Fort Lauderdale but established his own practice handling trial work, probate, personal injury, insurance defense and wrongful death, just six months later in 1963;

WHEREAS Mr. Allen was recognized as a prominent civil rights attorney whose legal prowess led to the integration of beaches in Fort Lauderdale, success in a landmark lawsuit that resulted in the integration of Broward County public schools in 1970 and the desegregation of schools in Hendry County in Central Florida;

WHEREAS Mr. Allen was the thirty-first President of the National Bar Association, serving from 1975 through 1976 and inducted into the NBA's Hall of Fame in 2003;

WHEREAS the recipient of the University of Florida’s Distinguished Alumnus Award in May 2000 and the National Conference for Community and Justice Silver Medallion Award in 2001, Mr. Allen became president of the Broward County Bar Association in 1988, the first African American president of a major bar association in Florida;

WHEREAS he was a longtime member of New Mount Olive Baptist Church in Fort Lauderdale,
serving on its Board of Trustees from 1975 to 1997 and as Church attorney from 1963 to 1997;

WHEREAS Mr. Allen was one of FAMU’s most distinguished graduates and served on its Board of Trustees from 2005 through 2007;

WHEREAS in 2010 Mr. Allen self-published his autobiography, Where the Bus Stops;

WHEREAS Mr. Allen was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, the NAACP, the Urban League of Broward County, the University of Florida Foundation, and the Opportunities Industrialization Center of South Florida; and

WHEREAS W. George Allen departed this life on November 7, 2019, at the age of eighty-three.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Bar Association, in mourning, honors, recognizes and celebrates the life of W. George Allen and his outstanding contributions to the legal profession, his community and the National Bar Association; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution will be presented to the Allen Family and recorded in the archives of the National Bar Association.

Done this _________________________ day of _____________________________

In the year ________________ in the city of Washington, District of Columbia.

By: _____________________________________
    Alfreda Robinson
    President, National Bar Association

Attested and subscribed to

_____________________________________
Ashley L. Upkins
Secretary, National Bar Association
Resolution No. 2020-4

NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
Resolution Urging the Highest Court or Bar Admission Authorities to Permit Recent Law School Graduates to Practice under a Provisional License

WHEREAS the National Bar Association ("NBA") was founded in 1925 and is the nation's oldest and largest national network of predominately African American attorneys and judges, representing approximately 60,000 lawyers, judges, law professors and law students and having over 80 affiliate chapters throughout the United States and around the world;

WHEREAS the National Bar Association, from its inception, has fought to: advance the science of jurisprudence; improve the administration of justice; preserve the independence of the judiciary and to uphold the honor and integrity of the legal profession; promote professional and social intercourse among the members of the American and the international bars; to promote legislation that will improve the economic condition of all American citizens, regardless of race, sex or creed in their efforts to secure a free and untrammeled use of the franchise guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States; and protect the civil and political rights of the citizens and residents of the United States;

WHEREAS the coronavirus pandemic has resulted in the cancellation or postponement of the July 2020 Bar examination in some jurisdictions;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Bar Association strongly urges the highest court or bar admission authority of each jurisdiction to immediately adopt Emergency rules that would authorize: (1) 2019 and 2020 law graduates, and (2) graduates of prior years who have been since graduation serving as judicial law clerks, who have not yet taken a bar examination, and who apply for admission to the bar, to engage in the limited practice of law, if the July 2020 bar examination in their jurisdiction is cancelled or postponed due to public health;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this authorization to engage in limited law practice should apply only if the applicant is a graduate of a law school accredited or provisionally accredited by the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association and the applicant has successfully completed all requirements to be eligible to take the July 2020 examination;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this authorization to engage in the limited practice of law would extend through licensure of the applicant, or until further order of the court or bar admission authority;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this limited authority to practice law should be an emergency measure, available only for a specified time, as necessary to accommodate public health and safety concerns arising from the coronavirus pandemic;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED in adopting such an emergency rule, the court or bar admission authority should consider requiring that: the applicant register with the jurisdiction's bar
admissions authority (or other appropriate agency) and comply with all applicable registration requirements; the applicant be directly supervised by a lawyer authorized to practice in the jurisdiction whose license is active and in good standing; the supervising lawyer confirms in writing to the appropriate agency that he or she will directly supervise the practice of the applicant; and the supervising lawyer is identified as such in all papers submitted to a court, government agency or authority, or alternative dispute resolution tribunal, on which the applicant’s name appears;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the applicant be subject to the disciplinary authority of the jurisdiction in which the applicant is practicing and the applicant comply with all ethics and related rules of the jurisdiction, including specifically but not limited to rules requiring truthful and non-misleading advertising or other public statements concerning his or her limited authority to practice;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the applicant and the supervising lawyer disclose, in a clear and prominent manner, the applicant’s limited authority to practice to any client for whom the applicant does any work, and the supervising lawyer, by direct contact with the client, obtain the client’s consent to be represented by the applicant and provide the client with the supervising lawyer’s name and contact information;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the applicant disclose, in a clear and prominent manner, the applicant’s limited authority to practice to any person with whom he or she interacts in the practice, including any court, government agency or authority, or alternative dispute resolution tribunal; The applicant adhere to any conditions set by the emergency rule as to limitations on the authorization given to appear before any court, tribunal, governmental agency, or alternative dispute resolution tribunal; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the applicant take the bar examination by the end of 2021; and the applicant’s limited authorization will terminate if the applicant fails the bar examination.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Bar Association strongly urges the highest court or bar admission authorities of each jurisdiction to adopt Emergency Rules consistent with this Resolution.

Done this _______ day of July in the year 2020 in the city of Washington, DC.

By: _____________________________________
    Alfreda Robinson
    President, National Bar Association

Attested and subscribed to

_______________________________________
Ashley L. Upkins
Secretary, National Bar Association
Resolution No. 2020-5

NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
Resolution Recognizing and Thanking
The 2020 Annual Convention
Covid-19 Task Force

WHEREAS the National Bar Association ("NBA") was founded in 1925 and is the nation’s oldest and largest national network of predominately African American attorneys and judges, representing approximately 60,000 lawyers, judges, law professors and law students and having over 80 affiliate chapters throughout the United States and around the world;

WHEREAS the National Bar Association, from its inception, has fought to: advance the science of jurisprudence; improve the administration of justice; preserve the independence of the judiciary and to uphold the honor and integrity of the legal profession; promote professional and social intercourse among the members of the American and the international bars; to promote legislation that will improve the economic condition of all American citizens, regardless of race, sex or creed in their efforts to secure a free and untrammeled use of the franchise guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States; and protect the civil and political rights of the citizens and residents of the United States;

WHEREAS the Covid-19 pandemic has infected more than 12 million people worldwide and has caused more than 550,000 deaths around the globe;

WHEREAS in the United States, more than 3.3 million people have been infected and more than 130,000 Americans have died from Covid-19;

WHEREAS health disparities and discrimination have caused the Covid-19 pandemic to disproportionately impact African Americans, causing them to die at three times the rate of other Americans;

WHEREAS Covid-19 caused authorities in the United States to issue an unprecedented stay-at-home order throughout the country for several months, which resulted in 20 million Americans losing their jobs and livelihoods. Since many African Americans work in the transportation and services industries, many African Americans lost their jobs and experienced significant financial distress. African American lawyers also have lost jobs and have been impacted economically;

WHEREAS National Bar Association President Alfreda Robinson appointed Past NBA President Vanita Banks from Illinois and Past NBA Vice President Marlon Primes from Ohio to serve as co-chairs of the NBA Covid-19 Task Force on March 23, 2020. Under their leadership, the Covid-19 Task Force met every other week from April through July 2020 and formed the:

1) Webinar Subcommittee, which was chaired by Past NBA President Kevin Judd, organized and planned a series of webinars that have collectively received more than 500,000 views;

2) Resources Subcommittee, which was chaired by NBA Vice President Yuri Walker, posted a comprehensive set of helpful links on the NBA website for NBA members and members of our community;

3) CARES Act Subcommittee, which was co-chaired by NBA Vice President Nathaniel Lee and Past President Vanita Banks, advocated for changes to the initial CARES Act and helped NBA
members and members of our community understand and obtain benefits under the CARES Act (including the Pay Check Protection Program) and other legislation passed by Congress to aid those impacted by Covid-19;

4) Pro Bono and Community Outreach Subcommittee, which was led by NBA Young Lawyers Division Chairman Nick Austin, solicited volunteers to participate in pro bono programs through Legal Aid Societies and other entities to assist those impacted by Covid-19;

5) Education/Student Aid Subcommittee, which was chaired by Robert Drummer, organized a webinar and collected and distributed information about programs and legislation designed to help students and those with student loan debt.

6) Past YLD Chair Khyla Craine prepared a letter that was disseminated to NBA membership, urging NBA members to hire NBA law graduates and law students.

7) On July 7, 2020, the NBA adopted a Resolution urging State Bar Admission Authorities to permit law graduates whose bar exams have been cancelled or postponed to practice law under a limited law license.

8) The NBA entered a partnership with the Wall Street Journal in which NBA members may ask Covid-19 questions of the Wall Street Journal staff and receive prompt responses;

WHEREAS the following NBA members served on the NBA Covid-19 Task Force:

- President Alfreda Robinson
- President Elect CK Hoffler
- Past President Vanita Banks
- Past NBA Vice President Marlon Primes
- Past President Patricia Rosier
- Past President Kevin Judd
- Past President Demetrius D. Shelton
- Past President Evett Simmons
- Vice President Nathaniel Lee
- Vice President Yuri Walker
- Vice President Lonita Baker
- Vice President Lamont R. Bailey
- YLD Chair Nick Austin
- Chair-Elect YLD Onika Williams
- YLD Historian Carla Jordan-Detamore
- Past YLD Chair Khyla D. Craine
- Region 11 Director Adria Greene
- ADR Chair Gloria Johnson
- Professor George Edwards
- Past Judicial Council Chair Hon. Denise Langford-Morris
- Honorable Rosalyn H. Mattingly
- Legislation Committee Chair Tanya Clay House
- GWAC President Maryam Hatcher
- Ms. Beverly Baker-Kelly
- Mr. Robert Drummer
NOW THEREFORE FOR BE IT RESOLVED that President Robinson and the entire NBA thanks the NBA members who served on the Covid-19 Task Force for their tireless efforts to inform, uplift, educate, and advocate for the community that we serve.

Done this _______ day of July in the year 2020 in the city of Washington, DC.

By: ____________________________________________
    Alfreda Robinson
    President, National Bar Association

Attested and subscribed to

__________________________________________
Ashley L. Upkins
Secretary, National Bar Association
CBAC 2020 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATIVE ACTION TO RESTORE THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT

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

WHEREAS, the CBAC is invested in promoting the rich tapestry of backgrounds, ethnicities, cultures, experiences and interests that characterize the American population; and

WHEREAS, on June 25, 2013 the Supreme Court issued a decision in Shelby County v. Holder, a case challenging the constitutionality of certain provisions of the Voting Rights Act; and

WHEREAS, in a 5-4 decision, the Court struck down the most recent coverage formula under Section 4b of the Voting Rights Act, which had determined which jurisdictions were subject to the preclearance provisions of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act; and

WHEREAS, Chief Justice John Roberts explicitly recognized that “voting discrimination still exists,” and the Court did not rule on the constitutionality of Section 5; and

WHEREAS, the Voting Rights Act provides critical protection for millions of voters, particularly in states with a history of voter suppression; and

WHEREAS, without the coverage formula in Section 4b, the voting rights of millions of historically disenfranchised populations, which are primarily communities of color, are now endangered; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, attempts have been made to restrict access to the polls through strict voter identification laws, barriers to voter registration, purges of eligible voters from the rolls, reduced early voting opportunities, and failure to provide language access, among other recent forms of voter suppression that disparately impact voters of color; and

WHEREAS, a Congressional record including federal court findings in cases members of CBAC have supported and a report by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, among other evidence,
clearly demonstrates current conditions of ongoing voter discrimination concentrated in formerly-covered states, as well as across the nation;

WHEREAS, the Voting Rights Act has protected the voting rights of voters of color and received strong bipartisan support in Congress and the White House since 1965; and

WHEREAS, any change in the enforcement of the Voting Rights Act is of significant concern to communities of color and our attorney constituents;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that CBAC supports the passage of bipartisan legislation to protect the voting rights of all Americans, especially those targeted by discriminatory efforts; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that CBAC calls for passage of the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2019 (H.R. 4) to update and pass a new, modernized coverage formula to determine what jurisdictions will be subject to Section 5 so that voters in jurisdictions with pervasive histories of discrimination continue to be protected, and such that discriminatory voting practices that may occur across the country are also subject to preclearance; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that CBAC also supports other efforts and laws that are consistent with this resolution; including for example, automatic voter registration, increasing accessibility, accountability and integrity in the electoral process, decreasing barriers to voting, increasing federal funding for voter election security (physical and cyber); increasing prohibitions on and penalties for voter intimidation and suppression; eliminating restrictive voter identification laws and proof of citizenship laws, and eliminating restrictions on early voting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CBAC authorizes its officers and staff to communicate this Resolution’s content to other bar associations, members of the U.S. Congress, the press, and to whomever else is suited to receive the information in order to affect this Resolution.

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

[Remainder of page intentionally blank.]
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 Board of Directors.

Irene Oria
President, Hispanic National Bar Association

Bonnie L. Wolf
President, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

Alfreda Robinson
President, National Bar Association

Robert O. Saunooke
President, National Native American Bar Association

01/26/2020

2/26/2020

2/26/20

2/26/20
CBAC 2020 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF IMMIGRATION REFORM

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, the United States immigration system should uphold our nation’s basic values of family, economic opportunity, and fairness;

WHEREAS, families are the source of this nation’s social, cultural, and economic vitality, and a reasonable and workable comprehensive immigration plan must accord with America’s tradition of family reunification;

WHEREAS, the United States immigration system, which has torn apart families, created long visa backlogs, and contributed to the production of high numbers of undocumented foreign nationals in the country, is broken and in dire need of comprehensive reform;

WHEREAS, the United States needs legislation that provides a pathway to earned citizenship for undocumented immigrants currently residing within our country, who have been educated in the United States, who work hard in the United States, who share values cherished by the United States, and who otherwise pose no threats to the national security of our nation;

WHEREAS, family separation can lead to irreparable trauma and emotional distress for children and their parents;

WHEREAS, keeping families together and reuniting separated families are core national values that have direct, positive impact on reducing homelessness, crime, mental and physical health issues, and the number of children in state custody, which values must be upheld and advanced in any immigration reform legislation;

WHEREAS, according U.S. Customs and Border Protection, in 2018 there were 50,036 unaccompanied minors who entered the United States undocumented;
WHEREAS, undocumented and unaccompanied minors should be provided with adequate medical attention and mental health care to address the physical toll and mental trauma an immigration journey can cause on a child;

WHEREAS, unaccompanied minors should have the right and proper access to a court-ordered attorney and a timely hearing in court;

WHEREAS, the United States must require the highest standards in immigration detention centers to ensure that all detainees are treated with dignity, respect, and care, and that they are not subjected to ridicule, abuse, or other forms of maltreatment;

WHEREAS, food and medical attention must be provided for immigrant detainees and not withheld for any reasons, due process must be afforded to immigrant detainees, and judicial discretion must be restored to immigration and asylum hearings;

WHEREAS, there are currently more than 300,000 people from ten countries, including El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Nepal, Nicaragua, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Yemen, receiving protection under the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) program who are not currently able to safely return to their home countries because of natural environmental disasters, violence, ongoing armed conflict and other extraordinary conditions;

WHEREAS, TPS holders are an integral part of the United States economy, making and generating valuable economic contributions to their communities and the United States economy;

WHEREAS, TPS holders have lived in the United States for an average of 20 years and are employed at high rates, ranging in 2017 from 69.2% to 83.5% percent, which will continue to grow in the future;

WHEREAS, current data indicates that TPS holders from El Salvador, Haiti and Honduras contribute a combined 4.5 billion dollars to our nation’s gross domestic product;

WHEREAS, many recipients cannot return home due to fear of violence or other conditions in their country of origin that could bring them harm;

WHEREAS, TPS recipients should receive the support and protection of the United States as long as they qualify for protected status;

WHEREAS, the United States needs to simultaneously address the problems of family separation and immigration visa backlogs in both family and employment preference categories by implementing fair and efficient processes for the legal immigration system that do not sacrifice family-based immigration for employment-based immigration, as the two complement one another and must work in tandem;
WHEREAS, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals ("DACA") recipients, like other individuals with privacy rights, have the right to limit the use of their data for the specific purpose for which they provide the data;

WHEREAS, the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C.A 552a ("Privacy Act") prohibits the disclosure of a record about an individual from a system of records absent the written consent of the individual unless the disclosure is according to one or twelve statutory exceptions;

WHEREAS, DACA recipients were initially informed that information provided to the U.S. Government would be used only to review their DACA application;

WHEREAS, Section 14 Executive Order 13768, 82FR 8799 2017 ("Executive Order") removed Privacy Act protections for data given to the U.S. Government by individuals who are not U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents;

WHEREAS, DACA recipients did not provide free, informed and transparent consent to have their data that was provided for purposes of their DACA application or renewal application removed from the protections under the Privacy Act;

WHEREAS, the information provided by DACA recipients should be used for the limited scope of reviewing their DACA applications for qualification under the DACA status program as promised, and should not go beyond this use without freely given, informed and specific consent; notwithstanding anything to the contrary enacted in administrative policies or written in government forms or instructions to those forms pursuant to the terms of the Executive Order, which policies and other related writings and documents to the contrary should be null and void;

WHEREAS, the current policies for migrants seeking entry at the southern border including family separation, the Remain in Mexico policy, and family detention both endanger the individuals seeking refuge under international law and may violate due process for those seeking to apply for immigration relief using lawful methods;

WHEREAS, applicants saw a 46 percent increase in USCIS processing times in FY 2017 and 2018 which have caused harm for families seeking to reunite using lawful processes and US businesses who are seeking to employ crucial talent due to a lack of qualified employees in the US (see attached American Immigration Lawyers Association's (AILA) Policy Brief: USCIS Processing Delays Have Reached Crisis Levels Under the Trump Administration Report dated January 30, 2019);

WHEREAS, USCIS’s refusal to provide deference to prior employment-based visa renewals has led to arbitrary case denials, in some instances causing US businesses to lose millions of dollars to grow the US economy (see attached Business Roundtable August 22, 2019 Letter to Hon. Kirstjen M. Nielsen Secretary, Department of Homeland Security);

WHEREAS, the CBAC recognizes an alarming number of instances where overturning of immigration judge decisions and implementation of case completion quotas for judges has led to
arguably overreaching decisions and a growing case backlog approaching 900,000 cases which has delayed due process for some of those in removal proceedings;

WHEREAS, since the CBAC first began to advocate on immigration reform and recognized immigration reform as an important priority, Congress has not passed significant legislation, and further inaction will only continue to deteriorate the already dire condition of the immigration system;

WHEREAS, the CBAC incorporates by reference the CBAC’s 2018 Resolution in Support of Legislation to Protect the Status of, and Create a Path to Citizenship for DACA Recipients and 2018 Resolution in Support of Funding to Provide Minor Children Asylum Seekers With Access to Legal Representation to Protect Their Rights.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the CBAC calls for full support of the creation of fair and just immigration reform legislation by the Congress consistent with the recitals and provisions contained in this resolution;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the CBAC supports legislation ending case completion quotas that are hindering EOIR’s ability to thoroughly and fairly adjudicate cases and thus ensuring an independent Article I immigration court;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the CBAC supports heightened Congressional oversight of DHS’s policies for managing migration flows that ensure due process for all asylum seekers and other migrants arriving at the southern border in accordance with long standing international law;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the CBAC opposes immigration reform legislation that does not include an earned path to citizenship;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CBAC supports administrative relief that will address the harms caused by our broken immigration system, in the face of lack of action by Congress and consistent with the policy provisions reflected in the recitals herein;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CBAC request that proper medical and mental health attention be provided to children and families separated at the border;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CBAC supports access to timely legal representation and a hearing in court for unaccompanied minors entering the U.S.;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the CBAC demand that detention facilities are equipped to provide for the well-being of all undocumented immigrants in their best interests consistent with the policy provisions reflected in the recitals herein;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the CBAC urges Congress to pass permanent legislation that provides legal status for DREAMERS and TPS recipients;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that CBAC urges USCIS to rescind policies that have significantly increased employment- and family-based visa backlogs including memos requiring duplicative review of petitions for visa extensions, in-person interviews for employment-based visa applicants, and denials of immigrant visas for multi-national executives/managers who hold ownership interests in their companies;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the CBAC supports increased congressional oversight of ICE and CBP personnel and operations to ensure practices conform with our country’s long standing notions of humane treatment and due process;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the CBAC calls for any personal data provided by DACA recipients under any application for DACA status or application for continued DACA status be used only for determining DACA status or continued status, regardless of any consent on any such form or any information to the contrary in any form, instructions, or other information associated with the DACA application and renewal process that may allow other uses of such data;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the CBAC supports that all policies enacted under Section 14 of the Executive Order by administrative agencies of the U.S. Government and related information and forms be redacted or modified such that any data provided by DACA recipients and held by, or accessible to, the U.S. Government or such Agencies shall be under the protection of the Privacy Act;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the CBAC seeks implementation of the requests made in the CBAC’s 2018 Resolution in Support of Legislation to Protect the Status of, and Create a Path to Citizenship for DACA Recipients and 2018 Resolution in Support of Funding to Provide Minor Children Asylum Seekers With Access to Legal Representation to Protect Their Rights; and

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CBAC authorize its officers and staff to communicate this resolution’s content to other bar associations, members of the U.S. Congress, the press, and to whomever else is suited to receive the information in order to effect this resolution.

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

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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 Board of Directors.

Irene Oria
President, Hispanic National Bar Association

Bonnie L. Wolf
President, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

Alfreda Robinson
President, National Bar Association

Robert C. Seminole
President, National Native American Bar Association

Date

02/20/2020

Date

2/26/20

Date

2/24/20
Resolution No. 2020-8

NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
Resolution Urging Passage of
The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2020
(H.R. 7120 and S. 3912)

WHEREAS the National Bar Association ("NBA") was founded in 1925 and is the nation's oldest and largest national network of predominately African American attorneys and judges, representing approximately 60,000 lawyers, judges, law professors and law students and having over 80 affiliate chapters throughout the United States and around the world;

WHEREAS the National Bar Association from its inception has fought to: advance the science of jurisprudence; improve the administration of justice; preserve the independence of the judiciary and to uphold the honor and integrity of the legal profession; promote professional and social intercourse among the members of the American and the international bars; to promote legislation that will improve the economic condition of all American citizens, regardless of race, sex or creed in their efforts to secure a free and untrammeled use of the franchise guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States; and protect the civil and political rights of the citizens and residents of the United States;

WHEREAS on May 25, 2020, George Perry Floyd, Jr. was murdered while in police custody by members of the Minneapolis, MN Police Department, specifically by Officer Derek Chauvin who knelt on Mr. Floyd's neck for eight minutes and forty-seven seconds while he was handcuffed face down in the street, begging for his life, two other officers further restrained Mr. Floyd and a fourth prevented onlookers from intervening;

WHEREAS video of the officers' heinous and barbaric conduct, recorded by one of the onlookers, has been broadcast repeatedly throughout the entire world;

WHEREAS Mr. Floyd's murder was preceded by a series of killings of African Americans by white police officers and civilians in 2020 which continued a long-established pattern and practice by police and civilians throughout American history;

WHEREAS the official autopsy report classified Mr. Floyd's death as a homicide attributed to cardiopulmonary arrest caused by subdual and restraint;

WHEREAS Mr. Floyd's murder, as well as that of Breonna Taylor (who, as she slept in her apartment, was murdered on March 13, 2020 by detectives from the Louisville Metropolitan Police Department who fired over 20 shots when they attempted to execute a “no-knock” search warrant), have resulted in an unprecedented, vigorous protest movement in American and international cities and towns, injecting new life into the fight for civil rights, Black Lives Matter and other civil rights organizations;

WHEREAS subsequently on June 8, 2020, Congresswoman Karen Bass (D. CA and Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus) and 165 co-sponsors introduced The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2020 (H.R. 7120) (hereinafter “the Act”) in the 116th Congress of the United States;

WHEREAS Senator Cory Booker and 35 co-sponsors also introduced the Senate version of the Act, S. 3912, on June 8, 2020;
WHEREAS the Act contains a myriad of sweeping reforms that include but are not limited to: the prohibition of federal police officers from using chokeholds or other carotid holds such as those which led to the deaths of Mr. Floyd and of Eric Garner at the hands of the New York City Police Department on July 17, 2014 on Staten Island; the abolition of qualified immunity; the prohibition of “no-knock” warrants such as those which led to the murder of Ms. Taylor by the Louisville police; the establishment of a federal registry of police misconduct complaints and disciplinary actions; and a requirement that state and local law enforcement agencies that receive federal funding ensure the use of body-worn and dashboard cameras;

WHEREAS the Act is supported by a broad showing of civil rights organizations including but not limited to: the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, the NAACP and the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the National Urban League, the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Action Network;

WHEREAS following a hearing before the House Judiciary Committee at which Mr. Floyd’s brother Philonise Floyd and past National Bar Association President Benjamin Crump among others testified, the full House passed the legislation on primarily a party-line vote (i.e. with the support of only three House Republicans) on June 25, 2020; and

WHEREAS the Senate version of the Act, S. 3912, which was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee on June 8, 2020, now awaits action by the Republican controlled United States Senate.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Bar Association supports both the House and Senate versions of The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2020;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Bar Association urges immediate actions by the Senate Judiciary Committee and Senator Mitchell McConnell (R. KY and Senate Majority Leader) so that the full Senate may vote on S. 3912 as soon as possible;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Bar Association implores its members to contact their United States senators to impress upon them the urgency and seriousness of this issue and the need for their vote in favor of this proposed federal legislation to address it; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Bar Association urges the United States Senate to pass S. 3912 and take all further action necessary to see that it becomes law in the United States.
Done this 29th day of July in the year 2020, in the City of Washington, District of Columbia.

By: ________________________________
    Dean Alfreda Robinson
    President, National Bar Association

Attested and subscribed to

_______________________________
Ashley L. Upkins
Secretary, National Bar Association
Resolution No. 2020-9

NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
Resolution Supporting The VoteSafe Act
(H.R. 6807 and S. 3725)

WHEREAS the National Bar Association ("NBA") was founded in 1925 and is the nation's oldest and largest national network of predominately African American attorneys and judges, representing approximately 60,000 lawyers, judges, law professors and law students and having over 80 affiliate chapters throughout the United States and around the world;

WHEREAS the National Bar Association, from its inception, has fought to: advance the science of jurisprudence; improve the administration of justice; preserve the independence of the judiciary and to uphold the honor and integrity of the legal profession; promote professional and social intercourse among the members of the American and the international bars; to promote legislation that will improve the economic condition of all American citizens, regardless of race, sex or creed in their efforts to secure a free and untrammeled use of the franchise guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States; and protect the civil and political rights of the citizens and residents of the United States;

WHEREAS the National Bar Association throughout its history has made the protection of voting rights a legislative priority;

WHEREAS in 2020 American voters have been besieged by public health concerns because of the COVID19 pandemic that is projected to continue through the United States for the foreseeable future;

WHEREAS because of the COVID19 pandemic, voters in Georgia, Illinois and Wisconsin, for example, experienced primary election delays, shortages of poll workers and Supreme Court interference with state court order to extend absentee voting periods;

WHEREAS voters in Milwaukee experienced long lines and waited hours at the polls after the number of polling places was reduced from 180 to just five;

WHEREAS the experiences of these voters and projections for the continuation of the pandemic through the fall voting season make clear that there is a need to for action to ensure that voters in every state are provided the opportunity to exercise their right to vote in a safe and reliable election process;

WHEREAS only 33 states and the District of Columbia collect ballots by mail or allow “no excuse” absentee voting, i.e., absentee voting for any reason;

WHEREAS a shift for the remaining states may involve logistical and or legislative complications that could impair the extension of “no excuse” absentee voting in these states;

WHEREAS it is understood and recognized that access to “traditional” voting remains necessary and or a preference for many voters, for example those with disabilities or challenges who may require assistance and tribal communities where voting by mail may be less reliable because many do not have traditional residential mailing addresses;

WHEREAS Congressman James Clyburn (D. SC) introduced The VoteSafe Act, H.R. 6807 in the House of Representatives on May 12, 2020;
WHEREAS H.R. 6807 has been referred to the House Committee on House Administration;
WHEREAS Senator Kamala Harris (D. CA) introduced The VoteSafe Act, S. 3725 on May 13, 2020;
WHEREAS S. 3725 has been referred to the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration;
WHEREAS the bills are intended to expand vote by mail and early voting, and to improve the safety, accessibility, and efficiency of in-person voting during elections for Federal office;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Bar Association supports both the House and Senate versions of The VoteSafe Act of 2020;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Bar Association urges immediate actions by the House and Senate Committees to which the bills have been referred;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Bar Association implores its members to contact their United States senators to impress upon them the urgency and seriousness of this issue and the need for their support for this proposed federal legislation to address it; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Bar Association urges both houses of Congress to pass The VoteSafe Act of 2020 and take all further action necessary to see that it becomes law in the United States.

Done this 29th day of July in the year 2020, in the City of Washington, District of Columbia.

By: _____________________________________
Alfreda Robinson
President, National Bar Association

Attested and subscribed to

________________________________________
Ashley L. Upkins
Secretary, National Bar Association
Resolution No. 2020-10

NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
Resolution Supporting The Washington D.C. Admissions Act
(H.R. 51)

WHEREAS the National Bar Association ("NBA") was founded in 1925 and is the nation's oldest and largest national network of predominately African American attorneys and judges, representing approximately 60,000 lawyers, judges, law professors and law students and having over 80 affiliate chapters throughout the United States and around the world;

WHEREAS the National Bar Association, from its inception, has fought to: advance the science of jurisprudence; improve the administration of justice; preserve the independence of the judiciary and to uphold the honor and integrity of the legal profession; promote professional and social intercourse among the members of the American and the international bars; to promote legislation that will improve the economic condition of all American citizens, regardless of race, sex or creed in their efforts to secure a free and untrammeled use of the franchise guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States; and protect the civil and political rights of the citizens and residents of the United States;

WHEREAS the National Bar Association throughout its history has made the protection of voting rights a legislative priority;

WHEREAS the National Bar Association has consistently supported voting rights for all American citizens;

WHEREAS the nearly 600,000 citizens of the District of Columbia pay federal income taxes and "state" taxes and have fought in every war since the Revolutionary War;

WHEREAS the citizens of the District have no vote in Congress on federal measures that would overturn laws duly enacted by the Council of the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS the District's local budget containing its own taxpayer-raised revenue cannot become law until the Congress affirms it;

WHEREAS the District citizens have no vote on riders that Congress proposes to add to the District budget, even if those riders would undo decisions made by local legislators accountable to District citizens;

WHEREAS the District has no vote when Congress makes key decisions affecting both the District and the Nation, such as going to war, preparing for national emergencies, choosing federal judges, setting national priorities, imposing federal taxes, and enacting federal laws affecting District residents;

WHEREAS these undemocratic constraints negatively impact upon the administration of justice in District of Columbia;

WHEREAS during its Annual Convention and Exhibits in 2006 the members of the National Bar Association overwhelmingly passed a resolution in support of the DC Fairness in Representation Act, which would have provided Americans in living in the District of Columbia,
our nation’s capital with a full voting member of the House of Representatives for the first time ever;

WHEREAS at its 2006 Convention the National Bar Association supported full representation for the residents of the nation’s capital in the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate as proposed by The DC Fairness in Representation Act, H.R. 2043;

WHEREAS the 109th Congress failed to pass H.R. 2043;

WHEREAS Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D DC) introduced The Washington D.C. Admissions Act, H.R. 51 (hereinafter “the Act”) on January 3, 2019;

WHEREAS the Act was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform and to the Committee on Rules;

WHEREAS the Committee on Oversight and Reform held hearings on September 19 and December 19, 2019;

WHEREAS the Act provides for the admission into the United States of the state of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth, composed of most of the territory of the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS the Act provides that the commonwealth shall be admitted to the Union on an equal footing with the other states;

WHEREAS the Act provides that the Mayor of the District of Columbia shall issue a proclamation for the first elections to Congress of two Senators and one Representative of the commonwealth;

WHEREAS if the Act passes, current District laws will be applied to the commonwealth and pending judicial proceedings will continue;

WHEREAS under the Act the commonwealth (1) shall consist of all District territory, with specified exclusions for federal buildings and monuments, including the principal federal monuments, the White House, the Capitol Building, the U.S. Supreme Court Building, and the federal executive, legislative, and judicial office buildings located adjacent to the Mall and the Capitol Building; and (2) may not impose taxes on federal property except as Congress permits;

WHEREAS the Act maintains (1) the District as the seat of the federal government, and (2) the federal government’s authority over military lands and specified other property;

WHEREAS the Act provides for expedited consideration of a joint resolution repealing the 23rd Amendment to the Constitution, which provides for the appointment of electors of the President and Vice President;

WHEREAS on June 26, 2020 the full House of Representatives passed the Act by a vote of 232 to 180; and

WHEREAS the legislation was sent to the Senate on June 29, 2020 where there has been no action taken.
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Bar Association supports The Washington, D.C. Admissions Act of 2020;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Bar Association implores its members to contact their United States senators to impress upon them the urgency and seriousness of this legislation and the need for Senate action on and their vote in favor of this proposed legislation; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Bar Association urges United States Senate to pass The Washington, D.C. Admissions Act of 2020 and take all further action necessary to see that it becomes law in the United States.

Done this 29th day of July in the year 2020, in the City of Washington, District of Columbia.

By: _____________________________________
Alfreda Robinson
President, National Bar Association

Attested and subscribed to

___________________________________________
Ashley L. Upkins
Secretary, National Bar Association
Resolution No. 2020-11

NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
Resolution Honoring the Life and Work of
Rev. Joseph E. Lowery

WHEREAS the National Bar Association ("NBA") was founded in 1925 and is the nation’s oldest and largest national network of predominately African American attorneys and judges, representing approximately 60,000 lawyers, judges, law professors and law students and having over 80 affiliate chapters throughout the United States and around the world;

WHEREAS the National Bar Association, from its inception, has fought to: advance the science of jurisprudence; improve the administration of justice; preserve the independence of the judiciary and to uphold the honor and integrity of the legal profession; promote professional and social intercourse among the members of the American and the international bars; to promote legislation that will improve the economic condition of all American citizens, regardless of race, sex or creed in their efforts to secure a free and untrammeled use of the franchise guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States; and protect the civil and political rights of the citizens and residents of the United States;

WHEREAS Joseph Echols Lowery was born to Leroy and Dora Lowery, a small grocery store owner and a teacher, in Huntsville, Alabama on October 6, 1921;

WHEREAS Rev. Lowery’s parents sent him to Chicago for middle school, but he returned to Huntsville for high school before attending Knoxville College and Alabama A & M College and graduating from Paine College;

WHEREAS Rev. Lowery attended Payne Theological Seminary and completed a Doctor of Divinity degree at the Chicago Ecumenical Institute;

WHEREAS Rev. Lowery was pastor of the Warren Street Methodist Church in Mobile, Alabama from 1952 to 1961;

WHEREAS Rev. Lowery’s career in the Civil Rights Movement started in the early 1950’s and continued well into the 21st century;

WHEREAS Rev. Lowery as head of the Alabama Civic Affairs Association, which was dedicated to the desegregation of buses and public places, he helped to organize the Montgomery Bus Boycott after Rosa Parks’ arrest in 1955;

WHEREAS in 1957 Rev. Lowery, Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth and others founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) which Rev. Lowery led as president from 1977 to 1997;

WHEREAS on March 7, 1965 he participated in the Selma to Montgomery March that resulted in “Bloody Sunday”;

WHEREAS Rev. Lowery was a co-founder and president of the Black Leadership Forum, a consortium of Black advocacy groups that demonstrated against apartheid in South Africa,
starting in the mid-1970’s and lasting through the end of white minority rule in South Africa in 1994;

WHEREAS he was among the first five Black men arrested outside the South African Embassy in Washington, D.C. as they protested South African apartheid;

WHEREAS starting in 1986 Rev. Lowery served as pastor of Cascade United Methodist Church, adding over a thousand members to this Atlanta congregation and 10 acres of land to the church before leaving in 1992;

WHEREAS Rev. Lowery received numerous awards including: the NAACP’s Lifetime Achievement Award in 1997; the inaugural Walter P. Reuther Humanitarian Award from Wayne State University in 2003; the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center Peace Award and the National Urban League’s Whitney M. Young, Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004; and the Fred L. Shuttlesworth Human Rights Award from the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute in 2009;

WHEREAS the city government of Atlanta renamed Ashby Street, which runs past Atlanta’s Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Clark Atlanta University, Spelman College, Morehouse College and Morris Brown College, Rev. Joseph E. Lowery Boulevard;

WHEREAS Rev. Lowery received many honorary doctorates including honorary doctorate degrees from Dillard University, Morehouse College, Alabama State University, University of Alabama in Huntsville and Emory University;

WHEREAS Rev. Lowery was honored at the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site in Atlanta;

WHEREAS in 2009 Rev. Lowery delivered the benediction at the inauguration of Senator Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States;

WHEREAS also in 2009 Rev. Lowery received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor, from President Barack Obama;

WHEREAS Rev. Lowery was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity;

WHEREAS Evelyn Gibson Lowery, Rev. Lowery’s wife 63 years, a civil rights activist and leader of SCLC/Women, died in 2013; and

WHEREAS Rev. Lowery departed this life on Friday, March 27, 2020 and is survived by three daughters.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Bar Association, in mourning, honors, recognizes and celebrates the life and extraordinary achievements of Rev. Joseph E. Lowery, prolific preacher and pastor and renown civil rights activist and leader, for his outstanding contributions to his community and his country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution will be presented to the Lowery family and recorded in the archives of the National Bar Association.
Done this _______ day of July in the year 2020 in the city of Washington, DC.

By: _____________________________________
   Alfreda Robinson
   President, National Bar Association

Attested and subscribed to

_____________________________________
Ashley L. Upkins
Secretary, National Bar Association
WHEREAS the National Bar Association ("NBA") was founded in 1925 and is the nation's oldest and largest national network of predominately African American attorneys and judges, representing approximately 60,000 lawyers, judges, law professors and law students and having over 80 affiliate chapters throughout the United States and around the world;

WHEREAS the National Bar Association, from its inception, has fought to: advance the science of jurisprudence; improve the administration of justice; preserve the independence of the judiciary and to uphold the honor and integrity of the legal profession; promote professional and social intercourse among the members of the American and the international bars; to promote legislation that will improve the economic condition of all American citizens, regardless of race, sex or creed in their efforts to secure a free and untrammeled use of the franchise guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States; and protect the civil and political rights of the citizens and residents of the United States;

WHEREAS Cordy Tindell ("C.T.") Vivian was born in Booneville, Missouri on July 30, 1924;

WHEREAS as a small child Rev. Vivian migrated with his mother, who encouraged his pursuit of higher education, to Macomb, Illinois where he graduated from Macomb High School in 1942 before attending Western Illinois State Teachers College (now Western Illinois University);

WHEREAS Rev. Vivian’s first sit-in demonstration was in 1947 when he and others successfully integrated the Barton’s Cafeteria in Peoria, Illinois, years before such confrontations became a mainstream tactic of the civil rights struggle;

WHEREAS while studying ministry at American Baptist College in Nashville starting in 1959 Rev. Vivian met students such as Diane Nash, Bernard Lafayette, James Bevel and John Lewis, attending American Baptist, Fisk University and Tennessee State University as they all learned Gandhi’s nonviolent direct action strategy under the tutelage of James Lawson before later becoming civil rights luminaries;

WHEREAS these students, including Rev. Vivian, organized the Nashville Student Movement, a systematic nonviolent sit-in campaign against segregation at public facilities that forced the city to change its policy, before they assumed leadership roles in Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC);

WHEREAS throughout the 1960’s Rev. Vivian participated in Freedom Rides, traveling south to test the enforcement of a U.S. Supreme Court ban on discrimination in interstate transportation;

WHEREAS he served as national director of affiliates for the SCLC, Rev. Vivian presided over dozens of SCLC chapters and helped to orchestrate protest activities, training and community development efforts;
WHEREAS on February 16, 1965, just weeks before the March from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama on March 7, 1965 that became known as “Bloody Sunday”, Rev. Vivian was brutally attacked in Selma by Sheriff James Clark as Rev. Vivian stood in the rain around the courthouse with about 100 African American citizens as they tried to register to vote;

WHEREAS Rev. Vivian conceived and directed an educational program, Vision, that later became Upward Bound, and that put over 700 Alabama students in college with scholarships;

WHEREAS while living in Atlanta during the 1970’s Rev. Vivian founded the Black Action Strategies and Information Center (BASICS) to consult on multiculturalism and race relations in the workplace and other contexts;

WHEREAS Rev. Vivian’s Black Power and the American Myth, published in 1970, was the first book on the Civil Rights Movement by a member of Rev. King’s staff;

WHEREAS in 1979 he and Anne Braden established the Center for Democratic Renewal, initially the National Anti-Klan Network, to allow Black and White employees to work together in response to white supremacist activity;

WHEREAS Rev. Vivian served as the national deputy director for clergy for Rev. Jesse Jackson’s 1984 presidential campaign;

WHEREAS Rev. Vivian was featured as an activist and analyst in the civil rights documentary Eyes on the Prize and the focus of the biography Challenge and Change: The Story of Civil Rights Activist C.T. Vivian by Lydia Walker;

WHEREAS in 2008 he established the C.T. Vivian Leadership Institute, Inc. which, among other things, conceived, developed and implemented a campaign that mobilized the Atlanta community to donate over half a million dollars directly to Morris Brown University as bridge funding and positioned the school to negotiate with the city for restoration of water services;

WHEREAS in 2013 when President Barack Obama named Rev. Vivian as a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the country’s highest civilian honor, President Obama noted that Rev. Vivian was a distinguished minister, author and organizer who organized and or helped found multiple civil rights organizations before he returned to serve as interim president of the SCLC;

WHEREAS author Octavia Geanes Vivian, Rev. Vivian’s wife 58 years, died in 2011; and

WHEREAS Rev. Vivian departed this life on Friday, July 17, 2020 and is survived by six children, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Bar Association, in mourning, honors, recognizes and celebrates the life and extraordinary achievements of Rev. C.T. Vivian, Baptist pastor, author, organizer and lifelong civil rights activist, for his outstanding contributions to his community and his country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution will be presented to the Vivian family and recorded in the archives of the National Bar Association.
Done this _______ day of July in the year 2020 in the city of Washington, DC.

By: _____________________________________
    Alfreda Robinson
    President, National Bar Association

Attested and subscribed to

________________________________________
Ashley L. Upkins
Secretary, National Bar Association
Resolution No. 2020-13

NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
Resolution Honoring the Life and Work of
The Honorable John Robert Lewis

WHEREAS the National Bar Association ("NBA") was founded in 1925 and is the nation's oldest and largest national network of predominately African American attorneys and judges, representing approximately 60,000 lawyers, judges, law professors and law students and having over 80 affiliate chapters throughout the United States and around the world;

WHEREAS the National Bar Association, from its inception, has fought to: advance the science of jurisprudence; improve the administration of justice; preserve the independence of the judiciary and to uphold the honor and integrity of the legal profession; promote professional and social intercourse among the members of the American and the international bars; to promote legislation that will improve the economic condition of all American citizens, regardless of race, sex or creed in their efforts to secure a free and untrammeled use of the franchise guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States; and protect the civil and political rights of the citizens and residents of the United States;

WHEREAS John Robert Lewis was born on February 21, 1940 on a sharecropping farm in Troy, Alabama, the third of ten children born to Eddie and Willie Mae Lewis;

WHEREAS Mr. Lewis graduated from the American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville (1961) and subsequently earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in religion and philosophy from Fisk University (1967);

WHEREAS as one of the original 13 Freedom Riders who led demonstrations against racially segregated restrooms, hotels, restaurants, public parks and swimming pools, Mr. Lewis was arrested more than 40 times between 1960 and 1966;

WHEREAS the police and other agitators routinely beat them with, among other things, baseball bats, chains, lead pipes and stones, the Freedom Riders embraced Gandhi’s philosophy of reconciliation and nonviolence;

WHEREAS Mr. Lewis was a founder and in 1963 became a chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), which launched Freedom Schools, the Mississippi Freedom Summer (1964) and voter registration efforts under his tenure;

WHEREAS Mr. Lewis also was one of the organizers of the historic March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963, where he was then the youngest speaker and at the time of his death the last surviving speaker;

WHEREAS among the most notable of the of the nonviolent demonstrations in which he participated was the March 7, 1965 march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, across the Edmund Pettus Bridge where he and more than 600 other protestors were attacked when they stopped to pray and beaten by Alabama state troopers who responded to them with tear gas, night sticks, bullwhips and rubber tubing wrapped in barbed wire;
WHEREAS at this march, later known as “Bloody Sunday”, a state trooper fractured Mr. Lewis’ skull with a billy club and continued to beat Mr. Lewis while he was on the ground trying to get up, leaving him with scars on his head from the incident for the rest of his life;

WHEREAS internationally televised images of the barbarity of Bloody Sunday galvanized support for the voting rights legislation the demonstrators had sought, resulting in the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law on August 6, 1965;

WHEREAS Mr. Lewis’ later efforts resulted in a designation of the Edmund Pettus Bridge, to which he made an annual pilgrimage to retrace the route he had marched from Selma to Montgomery in 1965, as a part of the Historic National Trails program;

WHEREAS Mr. Lewis continued his work for the causes of voting, civil and human rights at the Field Foundation, the Voter Education Product (which was initially part of the Southern Regional Council), as director of ACTION and on the Atlanta City Council;

WHEREAS following his election to the United States Congress in 1986, as only the second African American from Georgia since Reconstruction, Mr. Lewis represented Georgia’s 5th Congressional district until his death;

WHEREAS Mr. Lewis was reelected 16 times, with less than 70% of the vote in only one general election;

WHEREAS starting in 1988 and every year thereafter Mr. Lewis introduced a bill in Congress, which failed each year until it gained bipartisan support in 2002, for the creation of a national African American museum in Washington;

WHEREAS in 2003 President George W. Bush signed into law Mr. Lewis’ legislation to establish, with the Smithsonian’s Board of Regents, the National Museum of African American History and Culture;

WHEREAS Mr. Lewis’ 1998 critically acclaimed autobiography Walking with the Winds: A Memoir of the Movement which he co-wrote with Mike D’Orso, was a national bestseller that won the Robert F. Kennedy Book Award, the Anisfield-Wolf Book award, the Christopher Award and the Lillian Smith Book Award, was selected as a New York Times Notable Book of the Year, was named by the American Library Association as its Nonfiction Book of the Year and was included on Newsweek Magazine’s 2009 list of “50 Books For Our Times”;

WHEREAS his 2013 graphic novel series, The March, also received numerous honors including the Carter G. Woodson Book Award in the Secondary (grades 7-12) category in 2017;

WHEREAS in 2009 Mr. Lewis was the only living speaker from the 1963 March on Washington on the stage for the inauguration of Senator Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States;
WHEREAS in 2011 President Baraka Obama awarded Mr. Lewis the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor, as President Obama noted that Mr. Lewis was “an American who knew that change could not wait for some other person or some other time; whose life is a lesson in the fierce urgency of now”;

WHEREAS Mr. Lewis’ countless other awards include: in 1999, the Wallenberg Medal from the University of Michigan in recognition of his courageous lifelong commitment to the defense of civil and human rights and the Four Freedoms Award for the Freedom of speech; in 2001, the Profiles in Courage Award from the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation for his extraordinary courage, leadership and commitment to civil rights; in 2002, the Spingarn Medal from the NAACP; in 2004, the Golden Place Award from the American Academy of Achievement; in 2006, the U.S. Senator John Heinz Award for Greatest Public Service by an Elected or Appointed Office (an annual award by the Jefferson Awards); in 2007, the Dole Leadership Prize from the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas; in 2010, the First LBJ Liberty and Justice for All Award from the Lyndon Baines Johnson Foundation and the Liberty Medal at the National Constitution Center; and in 2020, the Walter P. Reuther Humanitarian Award from Wayne State University, the UAW and the Reuther family;

WHEREAS Mr. Lewis was the recipient of many honorary doctorate degrees and other honorary degrees that were conferred as he delivered countless commencement addresses in which he regularly encouraged graduates to get into “good trouble”;

WHEREAS the 2020 documentary, John Lewis: Good Trouble, chronicles Mr. Lewis’s life of activism that continued throughout his time in Congress, including his leadership of a sit-in on the floor of the House of Representatives with his Democratic colleagues in June 2016 to demand that the Republican-led House leadership allow a vote on gun-safety legislation in the aftermath of the Orlando nightclub shooting;

WHEREAS Mr. Lewis was a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity;

WHEREAS Mr. Lewis was married to the former Lillian Miles, a teacher, librarian and former Peace Corp volunteer, from 1968 until her death in 2012;

WHEREAS Mr. Lewis is survived by their son, John-Miles, and several siblings;

WHEREAS known to his Congressional colleagues and others who knew him as “the conscience of Congress”, Mr. Lewis was a proponent of getting into “good trouble”, dedicated to the discipline and philosophy of nonviolence throughout his life; and

WHEREAS Congressman John Robert Lewis departed this life on Friday, July 17, 2020.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Bar Association, in mourning, honors, recognizes and celebrates the life and extraordinary achievements of Congressman John Lewis, a public servant and tireless advocate for civil and human rights throughout his life, for his outstanding contributions to his community and his country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution will be presented to the Lewis family and recorded in the archives of the National Bar Association.
Done this ______ day of July in the year 2020 in the city of Washington, DC.

By: _____________________________________
    Alfreda Robinson
    President, National Bar Association

Attested and subscribed to

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Ashley L. Upkins
Secretary, National Bar Association