



Resolution of the NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

RESOLUTION # 2016 - 1

TITLE: To Support Diversity and Inclusion in Higher Education and the Legal Profession

WHEREAS, the National Native American Bar Association (“NNABA”) works to promote issues important to the Native American community and to improve professional opportunities for Native American lawyers, we do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, NNABA was founded in 1973 and serves as the national association for Native American attorneys, judges, law professors and law students, and NNABA strives to be a leader on social, cultural, political and legal issues affecting American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians; and

WHEREAS, Diversity in higher education is a compelling national interest and NNABA has long supported the advancement of diversity and inclusion in higher education and the legal profession; and

WHEREAS, NNABA finds that it is critical that institutions of higher education reflect the diversity of our nation and ensure a richer and intellectually diverse experience for all students; and

WHEREAS, admission policies that consider race as one factor for admissions are critical to the advancement of diversity and such policies result in an increase in the number of minority students in the educational pipeline and the legal profession; and

WHEREAS, the pipeline to a diverse and inclusive legal profession is rife with barriers and while there have been significant strides toward developing a diverse educational pipeline and legal profession, race-based admission policies, and as a result diversity, continue to be the subject of challenge as displayed in *Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin*; and

WHEREAS, NNABA, as a part of the Coalition of Bar Associations of Color (CBAC) – the Hispanic National Bar Association, the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association, the National Bar Association, filed a joint *amicus curiae* brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in *Fisher* that discusses the unique perspectives of the communities each bar association represents, and highlights the importance of ensuring access to institutions of higher education from diverse populations; and



WHEREAS, the benefits of diversity are numerous and range from enhanced performance and retention in both higher education and the legal profession, to an intellectually-rich student body and profession and a universally valuable experience.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Native American Bar Association hereby supports diversity and inclusion in higher education, including race-based admission policies, and diversity and inclusion in the legal profession.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Board of the National Native American Bar Association, on January 21, 2016, with a quorum present.

Linda Benally, President

ATTEST:

Makalika Naholowa'a, Recording Secretary