

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 128

BY MADDOX AND MILLER

A Resolution to honor the National Bar Association for its important contributions to the legal profession and the judicial process.

WHEREAS, the National Bar Association was organized on August 1, 1925, in Des Moines, Iowa, to serve as an organization for African-American lawyers; and

WHEREAS, the objectives of the National Bar Association are to advance the science of jurisprudence, improve the administration of justice, preserve the independence of the judiciary, uphold the honor and integrity of the legal profession, promote legislation that will improve the economic condition of all American citizens, regardless of race, sex, or creed, and protect the civil and political rights of all United States citizens; and

WHEREAS, the National Bar Association is the nation's oldest and largest national association representing African-American lawyers and jurists, with 84 affiliate chapters in the United States and with affiliates in several countries, representing a professional network of over 20,000 lawyers, judges, educators, and law students; and

WHEREAS, the National Bar Association has an illustrative history of filing amicus briefs in support of civil rights, championing the pro bono legal movement, providing legal assistance to needy individuals, and supporting equal opportunity and voting rights; and

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1 WHEREAS, the National Bar Association sponsors  
2 college scholarships and a legal camp to introduce  
3 high school students to the legal profession, and has  
4 provided law school officials with an assessment of  
5 recruitment, retention, and placement of minority law  
6 students; and

7 WHEREAS, the National Bar Association developed a  
8 judicial selection process to ensure gains in minority  
9 judgeships through the federal Omnibus Judgeship Act,  
10 sponsored a summit among minority bar associations  
11 nationwide, and has engaged in a host of other  
12 activities to support the growth of minorities in the  
13 legal and judicial professions; and

14 WHEREAS, the National Bar Association has conducted  
15 commercial law seminars to promote minority business  
16 ownership, held the first Black-on-Black Crime  
17 Conference, and promoted minority business enterprises  
18 through technical assistance and education programs;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, the National Bar Association has supported  
21 efforts to promote equality and justice around the  
22 world, including providing observers to the first all-  
23 race democratic election in South Africa, and  
24 providing delegations to assist economic and political  
25 developments in other African countries; NOW  
26 THEREFORE,

27 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
28 That the House of Representatives recognizes the  
29 important contributions of the National Bar  
30 Association in promoting equality and justice through

1 responsible legal methods, not only in the United  
2 States but around the world, and that the organizing  
3 event which led to the founding of the National Bar  
4 Association represents a historical milestone in the  
5 history of Iowa.

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