

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Chicago Bar Association (the “CBA”) was founded in 1874 on the principles of maintaining the honor and dignity of the profession, cultivating social discourse among its members, and increasing its usefulness in promoting the administration of justice; and

WHEREAS, The CBA is one of the oldest and most active metropolitan bar associations in the United States, with more than 17,000 members, including attorneys from every practice area, the judiciary, and law students; and

WHEREAS, The CBA has been a leading advocate for changes to significant parts of Illinois law, including participation in two Constitutional Conventions (1920 and 1969), and passage of one Illinois Constitution (1970); and

WHEREAS, The CBA has been a proponent of a unified, fair, and available state and local court system and the creation of the first Juvenile Court, and was the driving force in creating the nation’s first Juvenile and Family Court, a reform that has helped millions of children; and

WHEREAS, The CBA has a long history of judicial evaluation, dating from before the turn of the century, and provides nonpartisan judicial evaluations for candidates seeking to become judges in Cook County, including those seeking a seat on the Illinois Appellate Court and the Circuit Court, as a public service to Cook County voters; and

WHEREAS, The CBA “Judge Smart Pocket Guide” is a tool created for voters to utilize the findings to cast informed votes for judicial candidates and is available in English, Spanish, and Polish; and

WHEREAS, The CBA has been a leader in the legal community in promoting diversity in the legal profession through its diverse leadership over the last 30 years and through developing programs and initiatives focused on diversity and inclusion – this effort aims to encourage a bar that is more reflective of the racial and ethnic diversity of the Chicago metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, The CBA provides legal resources, information, and education to the general public through public outreach programs like Law at the Library: a free, monthly, legal information series for Chicago residents in partnership with the Chicago Public Library system; Call-A-Lawyer: a monthly call-in program where the members of the public can call in for free general legal advice and self-help strategies provided by a CBA attorney; and Lawyers in the Classroom: a civic education program where attorney volunteers go into 2nd-8th grade classrooms to help students to understand better the U.S. Constitution, the legal system, and law-related careers; and

WHEREAS, Three CBA members have served on the United States Supreme Court, including founding charter member Melvin Weston Fuller, Arthur Joseph Goldberg, and John Paul Stevens, the third longest-serving justice in the court's history; and

WHEREAS, The CBA Committee on Defense of Prisoners was established in 1912 to have criminal court judges appoint volunteer members as defense counsel for indigent defendants, pre-dating the Cook County Public Defender's Office by 18 years; and

WHEREAS, Implemented in January 1940, the CBA's Lawyer Referral Service was the first of its kind in the United States, and served as a model for referral systems in large cities and continues to serve the public in need of legal advice and legal representation; and

WHEREAS, In 1948, The Chicago Bar Foundation (the "CBF") was formed as the charitable arm of the CBA to improve access to justice for people in need and make the legal system fairer and more efficient for everyone; through the years, the CBF has developed programs dealing with mortgage foreclosure, eviction, consumer credit, divorce, immigration, and other areas where representation of underserved people was needed; and

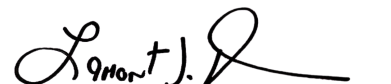
WHEREAS, The CBA worked tirelessly for the passage of the Judicial Article of 1964, which established a unified court system, with judges reelected on their records without party labels, a Supreme Court with three justices from Cook County and four from downstate, an Appellate Court, and the creation of the Illinois Courts Commission; and

WHEREAS, In 1971, the Young Lawyers Section ("YLS") of the CBA was formed so that members under 36 years of age could more directly participate in Association activities; currently, any attorney with ten years or less of practice is a member of the YLS, and the YLS offers 25 substantive committees, implements over 50 member and public service projects, and hosts numerous seminars and networking events for its 7,000 members; and

WHEREAS, This year, the CBA will mark its 150th Anniversary of championing justice, making an impact, and building connections throughout Chicago and Illinois; now, therefore

WHEREAS, The Chicago City Council has been informed of this momentous 150th anniversary of the Chicago Bar Association's founding by the Honorable Lamont J. Robinson, Alderman of the 4th Ward; and

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, do hereby congratulate the Chicago Bar Association on its milestone 150th Anniversary and encourage all residents to support this vital organization.



LAMONT J. ROBINSON
Alderman, 4th Ward