



JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION COUNCIL

JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION Ad Hoc DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Resolution for Presentation to the House of Delegates

Legal giants Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., Louis D. Brandeis, Moorfield Story and other renowned Massachusetts attorneys founded the Massachusetts Bar Association on the principle of inclusion. The founders wisely invited lawyers of all races, colors and creeds to be members of the Association.

Long ago, the MBA's House of Delegates adopted policy positions strongly in favor of equal opportunity and increasing diversity within the legal profession in our Commonwealth. The MBA has always advocated that our state court system should reflect the diversity of the citizens of our Commonwealth. Much progress has been made, and strong efforts to increase diversity are being made by Governor Baker to expand upon the important strides made by his predecessors as well as those made by the courts. However, more work remains to be done as we make strides towards increased diversity.

As members of the legal community and as citizens of our Commonwealth, the members of the MBA and its affiliated affinity bar associations resolve to continue to take pro-active steps in both the short term and the long term to collectively increase the diversity of our state court system so that it will more accurately reflect the diversity of our citizens. To address this important issue, the MBA is establishing a Judicial Diversity Task Force that will examine the status of diversity in our courts, investigate the circumstances which appear to inhibit diversity and explore potential solutions for increasing diversity while also maintaining the highest standard of excellence in our courts. We invite our colleagues in other bar associations and all other interested stakeholders across the commonwealth to join the MBA on its taskforce in an energetic quest to explore, assess and improve the diversity of our courts.