



# AMERICAN SAMOA

BAR ASSOCIATION

PO Box 23  
Pago Pago, AS 96799

**At a regularly scheduled meeting held at  
Fagatogo, American Samoa on Wednesday, August 3, 2011.**

## **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ABA RECOMMENDATION 11-2**

RESOLUTION NO. 05-2011

SUPPORTING THE ADOPTION OF AMENDMENT 11-2 TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION PROVIDING INDIVIDUAL SEATS FOR EACH OF THE UNITED STATES TERRITORIES OF AMERICAN SAMOA, GUAM, THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AND THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS.

WHEREAS, the American Bar Association represents the U.S. legal system across the country and abroad; and

WHEREAS, American Samoa is the only United States jurisdiction with no representation before the ABA House of Delegates; and

WHEREAS, the territories of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) share a rotating seat in the ABA House of Delegates, and the United States Virgin Islands holds one seat; and

WHEREAS, at the 2009 annual meeting of the ABA, the proposal to add a seat for American Samoa was proposed, but sent to the Admissions and Credentials Committee for review;

WHEREAS, the Admissions and Credentials Committee approved of the addition of American Samoa, and at the 2010 annual meeting of the ABA, an amendment was proposed the ABA Constitution to provide one seat for each of the United States territories of American Samoa, Guam, CNMI, and the U.S. Virgin Islands; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 attempt, which required a 2/3 majority vote, fell short of approval by just three votes with 301 in favor and 155 opposed (a margin of just 0.6%); and

WHEREAS, the American Samoa Bar Association has been advocating for a seat in the ABA House of Delegates since 1975; and

WHEREAS, the American Samoa Bar Association has in the past supported the policy of one territory-one vote in the ABA House of Delegates;

WHEREAS, the American Samoa Bar Association stands with its sister territories and supports an individual seat for each of the United States territories of American Samoa, Guam, CNMI, and the U.S. Virgin Islands;

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the American Samoa Bar Association, that it supports and recommends the passage of the proposed amendment to the American Bar Association constitution, attached herein, that would provide one seat in its House of Delegates for each of the United States Territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands Bar Associations; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the American Samoa Bar Association, that its Secretary attest to the adoption of this Resolution and that copies of the same be transmitted to the American Bar Association, to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Bar Association, Guam Bar Association and the United States Virgin Islands Bar Association.

This resolution goes into effect immediately upon approval.

I hereby certify that this resolution was approved by a majority vote of the active members of the bar present at a regular meeting of the American Samoa Bar Association.

Dated this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of August, 2011.

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
BLAKE HANLEY  
Secretary, American Samoa Bar Association