



**A RESOLUTION BY
THE NATIONAL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION
THAT
IT CONVENE A NATIONAL COMMISSION TO STUDY
RECOMMENDATIONS
TO IMPROVE LEGAL EDUCATION**

WHEREAS, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching (“the Carnegie Foundation”) is a Congressionally chartered independent policy and research center dedicated to the study and improvement of education and training in the professions, including law; and

WHEREAS, the Clinical Legal Education Association (“CLEA”) is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated, amongst other things, to furthering the integration of clinical methodology into legal education for the purpose of preparing law students and lawyers for more effective law practice; and

WHEREAS, in or about March 2007 a team of researchers and scholars from the Carnegie Foundation published a major study entitled *Educating Lawyers: Preparation for the Legal Profession* (“the Carnegie Report”) that recommended significant changes and improvements to the manner in which law students are trained, including a greater emphasis on integrating clinical training into the law school curriculum; and

WHEREAS, in or about March 2007 the CLEA also published a major report entitled *Best Practices for Legal Education: A Vision and a Road Map* (“the CLEA Report”) in which numerous scholars highlighted best practices in the training of law students and recommended significant changes to the law school curriculum, including a greater emphasis on clinical training; and

WHEREAS, legal education could benefit from the scientific and experiential insights about the most cost efficient and effective methods to teach and train professionals as developed by educators in the fields of psychology, educational psychology, and neuroscience, and

WHEREAS, the proper, cost effective, and competent training of law students is critical to the protection of the public, the effective functioning of our justice system, and the well-being of the legal profession; and

WHEREAS, members of the bench, members of the practicing bar, and legal educators, through their respective experiences, each have insights and knowledge that should be included in the law school curriculum in order to better prepare law students for the rigors of law practice; and

WHEREAS, in light of the recommendations of the Carnegie and CLEA Reports it is clear that further thoughtful study from the bench, bar, legal academy, and non-law school educational community is required to determine the changes, if any, that should be made to the education of law students;

NOW THEREFORE,

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT:

The National District Attorneys Association shall convene a national commission to study the recommendations of the Carnegie and CLEA Reports and any other information deemed pertinent, relating to what, if any, changes should be made to legal education to better prepare law students for law practice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

The National District Attorneys Association will invite the American Bar Association, the American College of Trial Lawyers Association, the National Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, and other interested agencies to participate in this national commission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

Such a commission will study and incorporate into its considerations, among other things the most cost effective methods and the best science and insights regarding the training of professionals as developed through the fields of psychology, educational psychology, and neuroscience; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

Such a commission be comprised of equal representation of (1) members of the bench, (2) the practicing bar, including representatives of the legal community in both the private and public sectors, (3) legal educators, and (4) non-law school educators trained in one or more of the fields of psychology, educational psychology, and/or neuroscience; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

The National District Attorneys Association further recommends that such a commission issue a report regarding its findings within twelve (12) months after it is convened with any recommendations that the commission may have regarding legal education.

Adopted by the NDAA Board of Directors April 12, 2008 (Savanna, Georgia) 2008.01.SPR