

Board Resolution Template

WHEREAS, the State of California is a majority-minority state with approximately 60 percent of its population made up of persons from racial-ethnic minority groups, while the California State Bar is made up of approximately 20 percent racial-ethnic minority lawyers.

WHEREAS, the community college system, with 112 community colleges, has the largest and most diverse student population of the three post-secondary public systems in California, with 60 to 70 percent of its population are students of color.

WHEREAS, studies show that diversity in the legal and judicial system is a priority for public trust and confidence and the appearance of fairness in the courts. Attorneys make up the majority of elected officials and other key local, state, and national leaders, and it is equally important that those leaders represent the rich diversity of California. In an increasing global economy, attorneys representing key entities should embody and have sensitivity to clients from diverse backgrounds in order to respond to global business demands. Attorneys directly representing clients should also reflect the rich diversity of the state population to the extent possible in order to maximize cultural sensitivity and public faith in the legal profession.

WHEREAS, the State Bar of California through its Council on Access and Fairness established the *Community College Pathway to Law School Diversity Pipeline Initiative* (also referred to as “2+2+3”) to create a pathway for community college students. The model requires the development of or affirming existing articulation agreements between community colleges and the four-year undergraduate institutions, and developing an admissions agreement between the community colleges and law schools. Twenty (20) community colleges will be selected for this ten (10) year pilot program. Students regardless of ethnicity/race from the selected community colleges would be guaranteed admission or priority enrollment if they achieve specific criteria such as completing certain community college courses that are based on the Shultz-Zedek Lawyering Competencies (Effectiveness Factors), achieving specified grade point averages, and obtaining predetermined Law School Admissions Test (L.S.A.T.) scores. Support for the students, including mentoring, pre-law activities, counseling, internships, and possibly scholarships, would be developed as part of the Initiative in order to provide students with the best possible chance for success on the L.S.A.T., in law school, and in the legal profession.

WHEREAS, Berkeley City College educates a diverse student population, and has a strong record of student success. Berkeley City College celebrates our student body which represents

the rich diversity of our home and neighboring cities, including a student body with more than 50% of our students indicating they are American Indian/Native American, African American/Black, Mexican American/Chicano, Latino/Other Hispanic, or Filipino in 2013. This year, Berkeley City College is also proud to host the District's largest percentage, and second largest number, of non-resident and international students. Accordingly, Berkeley City College's Faculty, Staff, and Administrative team works ardently to serve all students seeking the transformation education provides, including providing college transfer coursework, career technical education programs, as well as accelerated foundational coursework in English, mathematics, and ESL. In addition to the second highest transfer rate to UC Berkeley and to the UCs in Northern California, we are proud to lead the District in transfers to the University of California campuses. Berkeley City College continues to actively nourish our K-12 pathways, community relationships, and industry partnerships. We work to ensure the instructional and student services necessary for all of our students to succeed in their chosen path. We assist them to overcome historic barriers faced because of race and ethnicity, gender, age, and socioeconomic status, which fetter our state and nation, as well as the legal profession.

WHEREAS, Berkeley City College is committed to providing our students with educational opportunities beyond their time at our college, including pursuing a meaningful career in the legal profession. Berkeley City College also shares the State Bar's goal of a diverse legal profession to serve the needs of our diverse state and the diverse communities that Berkeley City College serves in Berkeley and our neighboring communities, including Albany, Emeryville, El Cerrito, Oakland, and Richmond, as well as the international communities with which our community has strong linkages and partnerships.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Berkeley City College wishes to submit a Letter of Interest to be selected among the 20 community colleges for this innovative initiative.