

## 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 (COAF) 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-Zedeck 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, the State Bar of California through its Council on Access and Fairness developed this Initiative through the work of Peralta Community College District’s General Counsel Thuy Nguyen who volunteered as chair of the College and Law School Committee for the State Bar’s COAF, Ms. Sheila Lau (College of Alameda) who was hired as the consultant on curriculum through a State Bar Foundation grant, Trustee Nicky Gonzalez Yuen who originally served on the “Think Tank” of prominent community colleges with Juris Doctorates, and Trustee Meredith Brown who recently joined the “Think Tank” and independently coordinated law-related activities with the “Trial of the Century” events at Laney College and Merritt College.

WHEREAS, College of Alameda educates a diverse student population with more than 72% of its student population are students of color. Moreover, College of Alameda's Faculty, Staff, and Administrative team works collaboratively to provide students with equal access to knowledge, and is dedicated to college transfer, career technical education, as well as accelerated foundational coursework in English, mathematics, and ESL.

WHEREAS, College of Alameda has strong learning communities that address the needs of various ethnic groups: *APASS* (Asian/Pacific American Student Success); *Amandla* (Zulu for Power), a member of the statewide *Umoja* (Unity) Community; and *Adelante* (Spanish for "onward" or "forward").

WHEREAS, College of Alameda is committed to providing our students with educational opportunities beyond their time at it college, including pursuing a meaningful career in the legal profession. College of Alameda also shares the State Bar's goal of a diverse legal profession to serve the needs of our diverse state and diverse communities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustee strong supports College of Alameda's submission of a Letter of Interest for selection among the 20 community colleges for this innovative initiative.