

## **A Resolution Concerning the Importance of an Independent Judiciary as the Third Branch of Government**

**WHEREAS**, federal judges are at times the targets of inaccurate and unfair accusations questioning their integrity and ability to render fair and unbiased decisions; AND

**WHEREAS**, federal judges are sworn to uphold the United States Constitution; AND

**WHEREAS**, as citizens and lawyers we recognize the importance of an independent judiciary as the Third Branch of government; AND

**WHEREAS**, there are 160 Ninth Circuit Lawyer Representatives practicing in the federal courts of nine western states and two Pacific Island jurisdictions; AND

**WHEREAS**, as Lawyer Representatives, we support and confer with the judiciary in an effort to improve the fair and equal administration of justice within the Ninth Circuit; AND

**WHEREAS**, federal judges are selected after extensive review and vetting, with every effort made to obtain an unbiased and diverse judiciary; AND

**WHEREAS**, Lawyer Representatives can and should respond when the federal judiciary is subjected to unfair, inaccurate and inappropriate public and political commentary focusing on a judge's race, ancestry, religion, gender, or sexual orientation;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Lawyer Representatives of the Ninth Circuit urge all persons, particularly those engaged in public and political commentary, to accord to the federal judiciary the dignity and respect it is due in fulfilling its Constitutional mandate to uphold the rule of law and the United State Constitution.

*Adopted July 11, 2016, by a unanimous vote of the Ninth Circuit Lawyer Representatives in attendance at the 2016 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference.*