

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 89

BY SENATOR MURRAY

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request Louisiana law firms, law departments, and courts to execute the Louisiana State Bar Association Statement of Diversity Principles.

WHEREAS, in seeking to foster diversity in the legal community, the Louisiana State Bar Association has pointed out that meaningful diversity advancements occur when the leaders of an organization embrace diversity, and demonstrate through their actions that diversity is a priority to the organization; and

WHEREAS, the bar association has developed a voluntary Statement of Diversity Principles, which provides:

"Those signing this Statement of Principles, hereby commit themselves to foster diversity in the legal profession. The LSBA recognizes that diversity is an inclusive concept that encompasses race, color, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, national origin, disability and other aspects of diversity.

We believe that with greater diversity, we can be more creative, effective and just, bringing more varied perspectives, experiences, backgrounds, talents and interests to the practice of law and the administration of justice. We further believe that a diverse group of talented legal professionals is critically important to the success of every law firm, corporate or government legal department, law school, and public service organization and every other organization that includes attorneys.

We recognize that to fully and equitably pursue justice our profession must reflect the full spectrum of our communities. To this end we pledge to make our best efforts to increase the diversity in our hiring, retention and promotion of attorneys and the elevation of attorneys to leadership positions within our respective organizations. We believe that all members of the bar should participate equally and fully in our profession. Ultimately, we believe that diversity in the legal profession is good for the profession, good for business, good for our communities and critical for enhancing the public's confidence in the judicial system.

We recognize that achieving diversity within our organizations and creating inclusive environments are evolutionary processes that require a continued effort and commitment on our part. We pledge to promote and participate in appropriate diversity awareness training programs. We further agree to participate in programs to measure our progress in the pursuit of these stated principles. "; and

WHEREAS, the Statement of Diversity Principles can be downloaded from the website of the Louisiana State Bar Association at www.lsba.org/diversity/DiversityPrinciples.asp; and

WHEREAS, the signed statement can be sent to the Louisiana State Bar Association address shown at the bottom of the form; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana State Bar Association is asking all Louisiana law firms, law departments, and courts to execute the voluntary Statement of Diversity Principles.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request Louisiana law firms, law departments, and courts to execute the Louisiana State Bar Association Statement of Diversity Principles.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana State Bar Association.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES