

By: Lewis

H.C.R. No. 55

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The National Bar Association is holding its 23rd
2 Annual Mid-Year Conference and Gertrude E. Rush Award Dinner on
3 April 9-13, 2003, in Austin, and this event provides a fitting
4 opportunity to honor this outstanding organization; and

5 WHEREAS, Established on August 1, 1925, the National Bar
6 Association was founded in Des Moines, Iowa, by 12 African American
7 pioneers who were united in their dedication to the pursuit of
8 justice and civil rights for all people; among the organization's
9 founders was Gertrude E. Rush, a Texas native who was the first
10 African American woman to practice law in the state of Iowa and the
11 namesake of the organization's awards dinner; and

12 WHEREAS, The organization, which is headquartered in
13 Washington, D.C., is under the astute leadership of Malcolm S.
14 Robinson, the group's 60th president; a cofounder and partner in
15 the law firm of Robinson & Hoskins L.L.P. in Dallas, Mr. Robinson
16 has established himself as a leader in the community, and his
17 impressive history of contributions to the area includes service as
18 chairman of the Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Dallas
19 Black Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Dallas Crime Commission, and
20 the Board of Trustees for the State Bar of Texas Insurance Trust;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Since its inception, the National Bar Association
23 has grown both in size and influence; with more than 20,000 members,
24 the organization is the country's oldest and largest national

1 association of predominately African American lawyers and judges;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, In addition to providing a professional network for
4 its membership, this visionary organization hosts numerous
5 noteworthy civic initiatives, including the Black Elderly Legal
6 Assistance Support Project; it promotes minority business
7 enterprise and development through advocacy, technical assistance,
8 and educational programs and advocates for the nomination and
9 confirmation of highly qualified African Americans to judicial
10 positions; it also supports international nondiscrimination
11 programs and was the only bar group sanctioned by the International
12 Elections Commission, with members serving as official observers
13 for the first all race democratic election conducted in South
14 Africa; and

15 WHEREAS, Over the last 78 years, the men and women of the
16 National Bar Association have worked to build a brighter and more
17 promising future for others, and it is a pleasure to recognize them
18 at this time; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
20 hereby commend Malcolm S. Robinson and all those associated with
21 the National Bar Association for their dedicated efforts in the
22 pursuit of justice and extend to them sincere best wishes for a
23 memorable and meaningful visit to Austin; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
25 prepared for the National Bar Association as an expression of high
26 regard by the Texas House of Representatives and Senate.