

By: Dutton

H.R. No. 368

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud members of the Southwest Region of National
2 Black Law Students Association are gathering at the State Capitol
3 on February 27, 2017; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1968, the National Black Law Students Association
5 was established on the campus of New York University Law School by
6 Algernon Johnson Cooper in order to provide educational support,
7 professional development, and community enrichment for African
8 American law students; today, the NBLSA represents more than 6,000
9 active members in over 200 chapters across the nation, making it one
10 of the largest student-run organizations in the United States; and

11 WHEREAS, At the group's 48th national convention in Baltimore
12 in 2016, Traci Gibson of the University of Houston, chair of the
13 NBLSA's Rocky Mountain region, proposed a new geographical
14 arrangement to better reflect the organization's growth and
15 development; as a result, the NBLSA is now represented by six
16 regional groups, with Ms. Gibson as inaugural chair of the new
17 Southwest region, which represents chapters at law schools in
18 Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana; and

19 WHEREAS, The SWBLSA will continue to support the mission of
20 the national organization by promoting the needs and goals of black
21 law students, improving the relationship of black attorneys and law
22 students with the American legal system, and bringing about
23 meaningful legal and political change that addresses the concerns
24 of the black community; and

1 WHEREAS, For nearly half a century, the members of the NBLSA
2 have contributed greatly to the cause of justice in our nation by
3 encouraging and supporting the success of black and minority
4 attorneys, and this dynamic new regional group represents an
5 exciting addition to this proud legacy; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
7 Legislature hereby recognize February 27, 2017, as Southwest Region
8 of National Black Law Students Association Day at the State Capitol
9 and extend to its visiting members sincere best wishes for a
10 meaningful and memorable visit to Austin; and, be it further

11 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
12 prepared for the SWBLSA as an expression of high regard by the Texas
13 House of Representatives.