



THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF  
SAN FRANCISCO

**RESOLUTION OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SAN FRANCISCO**

- (1) DEMANDING THAT THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA BOARD OF GOVERNORS HOLD AN OPEN MEETING REGARDING ITS DECISION NOT TO MOVE THE 2009 AND 2011 ANNUAL MEETINGS FROM THE MANCHESTER GRAND HYATT;**
- (2) DEMANDING THAT THE STATE BAR MOVE ITS 2009 AND 2011 ANNUAL MEETINGS FROM THE MANCHESTER GRAND HYATT;**
- (3) BOYCOTTING THE MANCHESTER GRAND HYATT AS A LOCALE FOR THE 2009 AND 2011 ANNUAL MEETINGS AS WELL AS ANY ANNUAL MEETING EVENTS HELD AT THE MANCHESTER GRAND HYATT AND URGING THAT ITS MEMBERS BOYCOTT THOSE EVENTS; AND**
- (4) ENCOURAGING PARTICIPATION OF ITS MEMBERS IN ANNUAL MEETING EVENTS THAT HAVE NO AFFILIATION WITH THE MANCHESTER GRAND HYATT**

WHEREAS, the State Bar of California 2009 and 2011 annual meetings are scheduled to be held at the Manchester Grand Hyatt in San Diego from September 10-13, 2009, and August 18-21, 2011;

WHEREAS, the Manchester Financial Group, owned by Mr. Doug Manchester, and which owns the Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego, contributed \$125,000 to the Proposition 8 campaign, a November 4, 2008, ballot measure amending the California Constitution to eliminate the fundamental right of couples to marry regardless of sexual orientation;

WHEREAS, given the financial support by Mr. Doug Manchester through the Manchester Financial Group to support the passage of the Proposition 8 campaign, the Beverly Hills Bar Association requested that the State Bar of California change the venue of its 2009 Annual Meeting;

WHEREAS, during a secret, emergency meeting on January 23, 2009, the State Bar of California Board of Governors decided not to take any action on the request by the Beverly Hills Bar Association to change the venue of the California State Bar's 2009 Annual Meeting;

WHEREAS, on February 5, 2009, Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom (BALIF), wrote the President and Board of Governors of the State Bar of California informing them that BALIF would lead a boycott and demonstration at the 2009 Annual Meeting if the State Bar of California did not move its 2009 Annual Meeting away from the Manchester Grand Hyatt;

WHEREAS, on February 23, 2009, the Conference of Delegates of California Bar Associations (CDCBA) announced that it would not hold its 2009 Conference at the Manchester Grand Hyatt, but instead at the Hilton San Diego, a move marking a break in the CDCBA's over-sixty-year tradition of holding its conference at the same site as the California State Bar Annual Meeting;

WHEREAS, on February 27, 2009, the Santa Clara County Bar Association adopted a resolution demanding that the State Bar of California reconsider its decision in an open board meeting to hold its 2009 and 2011 annual meetings at the Manchester Grand Hyatt;

WHEREAS, during a March 6, 2009, meeting, the State Bar of California Board of Governors decided yet again not to move the 2009 Annual Meeting from the Manchester Grand Hyatt despite pressure from various bar associations;

WHEREAS, the right to marry the person of one's choice is not a political or religious issue, but is a recognized civil right and constitutionally protected fundamental right of all adult citizens in the State of California, regardless of their sexual orientation;

WHEREAS, some members of The Bar Association of San Francisco (BASF) have indicated that they will boycott the Manchester Grand Hyatt in San Diego and any events held there;

WHEREAS, BASF argued in favor of marriage equality as amicus curiae in *In re Marriage Cases (2008)*;

WHEREAS, the California Supreme Court held in *In Re Marriage Cases (2008)* that marriage is a fundamental right of all Californians regardless of sexual orientation guaranteed by the California Constitution;

WHEREAS, BASF has, through its delegation to the CDCBA and through its Marriage Fairness Task Force, sought to preserve the fundamental right to marry for all adult citizens in the State of California;

WHEREAS, the State Bar of California should refrain from supporting any person or any institution that attempts to undermine the fundamental, constitutionally guaranteed rights of any group of citizens, particularly where such support directly impacts State Bar members, in this instance gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered attorneys and straight attorneys who in good conscience cannot support any attempts to thwart the fundamental rights of any minorities; and

WHEREAS, the BASF Board of Directors does not accept the notion that California lawyers should be required to support the elimination of their own fundamental rights through their state-mandated membership in the California State Bar;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The Bar Association of San Francisco hereby:

- 1) demands that the Board of Governors of the State Bar of California ("Board") specially set a Board meeting, with public notice to State Bar Members ("Members"), at which the Board transparently and candidly discusses the basis for its decision not to change the venue for its 2009 and 2011 annual meetings from the Manchester Grand Hyatt in San Diego, and offers Members the opportunity to address the Board concerning this decision; and
- 2) demands that the Board move the 2009 and 2011 California State Bar annual meetings from the Manchester Grand Hyatt to a location whose ownership does not fund the elimination of the civil rights of any Californian; and
- 3) as an institution, boycotts the Manchester Grand Hyatt as a locale for the aforesaid meetings; boycotts any meeting events held at the Manchester Grand Hyatt; and urges its members to boycott meeting events held at the Manchester Grand Hyatt; and
- 4) encourages participation of its members in State Bar annual meeting events that have no affiliation with the Manchester Grand Hyatt.

Adopted by The Bar Association of San Francisco Board of Directors: March 18, 2009