

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SENATE
RULES COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION
By Senators Barbara Lee and John L. Burton
RELATIVE TO COMMENDING THE

Bar Association of San Francisco

WHEREAS, On November 6, 1997, the Bar Association of San Francisco will host a Gala Event to celebrate its 125th Anniversary of serving the legal profession and the community, and upon this occasion, it is deserving of special public commendations; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1872, the Bar Association of San Francisco is the oldest bar association in the state, and members of this distinguished group of attorneys went on to establish the Hastings College of Law, California's first law school; to chair the Constitutional Convention which produced the California Constitution of 1879; and to found the State Bar of California; the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of California and the legislator credited with California becoming the first state to codify laws were members of this group; and

WHEREAS, The Association, one of the most progressive and innovative local bar associations in the nation, has an unparalleled long and distinguished record of service to the profession, community action, and public service; and

WHEREAS, The Bar Association of San Francisco is recognized as the national leader in efforts by the organized bar to achieve equality of opportunity in the legal profession and to provide pro bono legal services to the poor, and central to that commitment is the Association's support of its unique in-house Volunteer Legal Services Program, a nationally acclaimed program established in 1977, which is now the largest and only fully comprehensive legal services provider to low-income residents in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, The Association also serves as a national leader in efforts by the organized bar to achieve equal opportunity in the legal profession for racial and ethnic minorities, women, gay men and lesbians, and persons with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Since its establishment 125 years ago the Association has attained significant milestones, including preparing the first written code of legal ethics in California; creating a Barristers Club to serve younger attorneys; initiating a program of continuing education; inaugurating one of the first Lawyer Referral Services in the country; and electing its first woman president, its first Asian president, and its first African American president, and its first Latino president will serve in the year 2000; and

WHEREAS, The Association has also produced two award-winning videos, A Firm Commitment and Breaking Down Barriers; and

WHEREAS, In 1997 the Association is celebrating its 125th Anniversary by creating the new Bar Center at the venerable Merchants Exchange Building in the heart of San Francisco's financial district, investing in new technology to support services for members and the public, and establishing a Twenty-First Century Fund dedicated in support of the Volunteer Legal Services Program, its equality of opportunity initiatives in the legal profession, and other charitable programs of the Association; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE, That the Bar Association of San Francisco be congratulated on the celebration of its 125th Anniversary, commended on its unparalleled and distinguished record of service to the legal profession, community action, and public service, and that the Association be extended best wishes for continued success in the future.

Senate Rules Committee Resolution No. 138 adopted November 6, 1997.

Bill Lockyer
CHAIRMAN

Barbara Lee
SENATOR - 9TH DISTRICT

John L. Burton
SENATOR - 3RD DISTRICT

