



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the American Bar Association (ABA) Commission on the Future of Legal Services has submitted a report and resolution to the ABA House of Delegates for consideration at its 2016 Mid-Year Meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Resolution urges the ABA to adopt prescribed Model Regulatory Objectives and to urge each state's highest court to be guided by the objectives that would have each court assess its existing regulatory framework, and further identify and implement regulations related to legal services beyond the traditional regulation of the legal profession; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey State Bar Association (NJSBA) has submitted comments opposing the Model Regulatory Objectives, calling upon the Commission to withdraw the Resolution until the House of Delegates passes resolutions supporting the concepts; and

WHEREAS, the NJSBA believes these proposed objectives are contrary to our profession's core values, and promote a tiered system of justice that will imperil those most vulnerable in our society; and

WHEREAS, the Resolution assumes that non-lawyers should be permitted to provide legal services; and

WHEREAS, the Resolution also implicitly endorses alternative business structures, where non-lawyers can own law firms; and

WHEREAS, the NJSBA believes both concepts are contrary to the core principle of our legal system that lawyers are singularly and uniquely qualified to provide legal counsel; and

WHEREAS, The ABA has long been a leader in the area of unmet legal needs, and has called upon states to meet unmet legal needs by connecting those in need of legal services with the vast number of under-employed and unemployed attorneys; and

WHEREAS, The NJSBA has proudly supported those efforts as part of its mission, and has additionally launched the New Jersey Blue Ribbon Commission on Unmet Legal Needs to study innovative methods to bridge the access divide.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NJSBA directs its ABA Delegates to vote against the Resolution submitted by the ABA Commission on the Future of Legal Services in connection with Model Regulatory Objectives at the 2016 Mid-Year Meeting.

I, Kimberly A. Yonta, Secretary of the New Jersey State Bar Association, do hereby certify that the above is a full, true and correct copy of a resolution unanimously passed by the Board of Trustees at a regularly scheduled meeting on Dec. 11, 2015.

In witness whereof, I have hereto set my hand as such Secretary and affix the corporate seal of the New Jersey State Bar Association on this 16th day of December, 2015.



Kimberly A. Yonta
Secretary