



**WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**WSBA RESOLUTION OPPOSING LEGISLATION IMPOSING UPON INDIVIDUALS
A DUTY TO PROVE IMMIGRATION STATUS**

Whereas, the Washington State Bar Association, through its Rules of Professional Conduct, acknowledges that the continued existence of a free and democratic society depends upon the recognition of the concept that justice is based upon the rule of law, grounded in respect for the dignity of the individual;

Whereas, our Association's Rules of Professional Conduct acknowledge that when the law is not grounded in respect for the dignity of the individual, then individual rights become subject to unrestrained power, and respect for the law is destroyed;

Whereas, the Washington State Bar Association, through its Rules of Professional Conduct, acknowledges our duty to serve as guardians of the law;

Whereas, one purpose of the Washington State Bar Association is to advise the public and public officials about matters of concern to the Bar and to advise the public and public officials about the Bar's positions on such matters;

Whereas, the enactment of any law that ignores the rule of law, that violates either the Federal or the State Constitution, or that puts at risk the cherished principle that justice is color-blind, is a concern to the Bar and to all Washington residents;

Whereas, the Washington State Bar Association Board of Governors believes that the State of Arizona's newly-enacted SB 1070 violates the United States Constitution, and, if enacted here, would violate the Washington State Constitution;

Whereas such laws, if enacted here, would likely result in the detention and harassment of visitors, immigrants, and citizens who are legally present in Washington, because they do not have, or are not carrying, certain identification documents;

Whereas such laws, if enacted here, would likely put that segment of the population which is of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity, who are legally present in Washington, at undue risk of detention and harassment because of their appearance, their skin color and/or their language or accent;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Washington State Bar Association encourages Washington public officials, both at the State and Local levels: (1) to oppose the enactment of similar legislation in this State, and (2) to determine how best to address immigration issues without violating the Federal or the State Constitution, without undue risk of disregarding respect for human dignity, and without undue risk of causing people to be treated differently because of their appearance, the color of their skin, or their national origin.

Adopted by the Washington State Bar Association Board of Governors on September 23, 2010.

Paula C. Littlewood

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Executive Director