



A resolution honoring American Bar Association President-Elect Paulette Brown

Whereas, Paulette Brown, a New Jersey labor and employment lawyer, who is a long-standing member of the New Jersey State Bar Association, and one of the finest and most well-respected attorneys in the nation, will be sworn-in as president of the American Bar Association in August 2015, and

Whereas, Paulette Brown will be the first woman of color, third African-American and fourth New Jersey attorney to serve as president of the nation's largest legal organization in the 137-year history of the ABA, and

Whereas, In addition to her rich record of leadership roles and achievements in the American Bar Association, Paulette Brown is also a leader within the New Jersey State Bar Association as chair of the Labor and Employment Law Section and New Jersey State Bar Foundation, serving as a trustee, and having received the prestigious Medal of Honor Award from the Foundation and the Professional Lawyer of the Year Award from the New Jersey Commission on Professionalism, and

Whereas, Paulette Brown has been a thought leader and held leadership positions in other New Jersey legal organizations, including the Association of Black Women Lawyers, as well as the National Bar Association and the C. Willard Heckel Inn of Court, as well as authoring *Visible Invisibility: Women of Color in Law Firms*, and

Whereas, Paulette Brown has consistently represented the organized bar with distinction, having received the American Bar Association's Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award and its Spirit of Excellence Award from the organization's Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession, receiving DRI-The Voice of the Defense Bar's Sheryl J. Willert Pioneer Diversity Award, and being honored by the Rutgers Law-Camden Black Law Students Association for exemplifying the values advocated by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and

Whereas, Paulette Brown, a graduate of Howard University and Seton Hall University School of Law, has held many notable positions throughout her career, including in-house counsel to Fortune 500 companies, municipal court judge, and is currently a partner and chief diversity officer of Locke Lord, LLP, and

Whereas, In her professional capacity Paulette Brown has received many honors and distinctions, including leading a delegation to monitor the first free and democratic elections in South Africa, being named one of the 50 most influential minority lawyers in the country by the *National Law Journal*, and being listed by *US News and World Report* as one of the best lawyers in America, and

Whereas, Paulette Brown has given generously of her time and expertise to the community as a former president of the YWCA of Central New Jersey; completing five, three-day, 60-mile walks to raise money for the Susan Komen Breast Cancer Foundation; and previously serving as a co-chair of the Commission on Civic Education in our Nation's School, therefore

Be it Resolved, Paulette Brown has been, and continues to be, a trailblazer and inspiration to all in the legal community, who having worked tirelessly in our great State and nationally to make the profession more inclusive, and we stand proud of her dedication and honored to call her a friend and colleague, and

Be it Resolved, that the officers and trustees of the New Jersey State Bar Association, on behalf of our over 18,000 members, extend a heartfelt congratulations to NJSBA member Paulette Brown on her historic achievement as she is poised to serve as president of the American Bar Association.