

## EMERGENCY LATE FILED RESOLUTION 2

### DIGEST

Assistance with Hurricane Katrina Recovery Efforts

### TEXT OF RESOLUTION

Whereas less than two weeks ago the Gulf Coast of the United States experienced the combined natural catastrophes of Hurricane Katrina and flooding caused by the hurricane, perhaps the greatest natural disaster experienced in the history of the United States;

Whereas many cities in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi, including, Biloxi Mississippi, and New Orleans, Louisiana have been gravely damaged and their inhabitants, including judges lawyers, law students and faculty and staff forced to evacuate;

Whereas some communities in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi, no longer exist;

Whereas but for advanced warning systems that exist in the United States, the toll on human life caused by the disaster could have rivaled last year's Indonesian tsunami;

Whereas unaffected areas of the United States have a moral duty to lend humanitarian and recovery assistance to the affected regions;

Whereas the American Bar Association's August 30, 2005 press release pledged ABA assistance with the crisis;

Whereas California and its lawyers possess skills and resources well suited to assist with the recovery and the humanitarian crisis caused by Hurricane Katrina;

Whereas reports have begun circulating that there may be legal restrictions in the areas such as housing, education and employment which may be unnecessarily limiting the ability of private citizens to assist Hurricane Katrina victims;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Conference of Delegates of California Bar Associations offers the support of the Conference and encourages its member Associations and individual attorneys to assist with the ABA efforts, the efforts of Bar Associations and agencies in affected areas and other Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts and legal and humanitarian needs;

Be it further resolved that the Conference of Delegates of California Bar Associations asks its member Associations and individual attorneys to assist with Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts and humanitarian needs;

Be it further resolved that the Conference of Delegates of California Bar Associations commend the emergency and aid personnel, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service, news casters and volunteers throughout the country for the aid and assistance, early warnings and evacuation orders that may have saved hundreds of thousands of lives in the affected region;

1. Be it further resolved that that the Conference of Delegates of California Bar Associations ask the Governor and the State Legislature to consider imposing a moratorium extending through the end of the 2006 year, to limit the enforcement of those statutory and contractual restrictions that would unnecessarily impede providing aid to victims of the Hurricane Katrina. Areas for investigation, consideration, and recommendation include, without limitation, housing, education and employment

PROPONENT: 10 Delegates to the Conference of Delegates

STATEMENT OF REASONS:

Existing Law: California Laws Generally

This Resolution: Will encourage Bar Associations in our state to offer assistance to recovery efforts in the Gulf States, and encourage the Governor and the Legislature to review State laws that may impede recovery efforts. This resolution will also send a message of support and an offer of assistance to the Gulf States from lawyers in the State of California. As was the case following the attacks of September 11, 2001, now is the time for Americans to pull together so that the residents of the Gulf States can rebuild their communities and lives.

The Problem: During times of crisis affecting one area of our country, other areas have a moral obligation to lend assistance. Unfortunately, some of the same laws and restrictions that are designed to improve our way of life can interfere with needs in a crisis. Additionally, during times of crisis, some individuals seek to take advantage of those who are acting to assist others.

IMPACT STATEMENT

If implemented, this resolution may affect a multitude of laws, statutes and rules during the period of any moratorium if the Governor and the Legislature determine that the full enforcement of those laws impede recovery efforts in the Gulf States.

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