MASSACHUSETTS BAR ASSOCIATION

ENDORSEMENT

OF THE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION’S TASK FORCE ON THE FUTURE OF LEGAL EDUCATION

WHEREAS, the American Bar Association created a Presidential Task Force on the Future of Legal Education and charged it to examine the current problems and conditions in American legal education and to present recommendations that are workable and have a chance of broad acceptance; and

WHEREAS, the Task on the Future of Legal Education was chaired by the Honorable Randall T. Shepard, Chief Justice of the Indiana Supreme Court (ret.) and comprised of other distinguished jurists and legal scholars (such as the Honorable Christine Durham, Justice of the Supreme Court of Utah, the Honorable Ronald Castille, Chef Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, the Honorable James A. Wynn of the United States Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit, David Yellen, Dean of the Loyola University School of Law in Chicago, Illinois, Professor Joseph Harbaugh, Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad Law Center in Davie, Florida, Professor Leo Martinez, University of California Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco, California, Professor Maritza Saenz Ryan, U. S. Military Academy, West Point, New York) and a diverse group of practicing lawyers from across the Nation; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force on the Future of Legal Education solicited and reviewed written reports from interested parties, including specifically the 2012 Report of the Massachusetts Bar Association Task Force on Law, the Economy and Underemployment, and held two public hearings in Dallas and San Francisco and a mini-conference at Indiana School of Law in Indianapolis, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, the Conference of Chief Justices commended to its members the Task Force Report on the Future of Legal Education and encouraged them to consider implementing its findings and recommendations at its January 2014 Midyear Meeting (as adopted and proposed by its Professionalism and Competence of the Bar Committee); and
WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Bar Association through its House of Delegates (constituting a geographic, ethnic, and practice area diverse body of delegates from county and affinity bar associations, the various regions of the Commonwealth, and Section and other delegates) having duly considered the Report and Recommendations of the Task Force;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Bar Association endorses the key findings and recommendations of the American Bar Association’s Task Force on the Future of Legal Education and commends it to the Justices of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts to review and to consider implementing such findings and recommendations.