OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, during the unique course of American history there have been difficult trials and determined triumphs in our ongoing advancement that have undoubtedly affected culture, community, and change; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, the American justice system and our greater legal culture has sought to uphold the aims of these United States of America to treat and try every individual with fairness and civility whilst enforcing the law of the land; and

WHEREAS, defending liberty and pursuing justice, the American Bar Association was founded in 1878 as a voluntary bar association and legal society for lawyers and law students dedicated to serving its members, improving the profession, eliminating bias and enhancing diversity, and advancing the rule of law in every community; and

WHEREAS, the American Bar Association has long recognized the role of the Civil Rights Movement and its countless champions – many of whom were law students, lawyers, and judges – who helped to develop and fortify our cultural landscape through dedicated activism and unwavering resolve; and

WHEREAS, the Civil Rights Movement galvanized America's collective conscience by showcasing peaceful demonstration, enduring collaboration, and informed communication in the face of racism and bias while tackling the inherent inequality and social consequence within the notion of segregation; and

WHEREAS, this milestone year marks both the 50th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act which outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, and the 60th Anniversary of the Supreme Court decision in Brown v. Board of Education which ruled “separate educational facilities are unequal;” and

WHEREAS, the Staff Diversity Council of the American Bar Association will commemorate these definitive hallmarks of American culture and history with an inspiring program offering reflections of the past and visions toward the future at ABA’s Chicago headquarters on September 10, 2014:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RAHM EMANUEL, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, do hereby proclaim September 10, 2014 to be ABA – STAFF DIVERSITY COUNCIL DAY IN CHICAGO in recognition of their tireless work in upholding the ideals and laws established and set forth by the Civil Rights Act and landmark Brown v. Board of Education decision.

Dated this 10th day of September, 2014.

[Ralph Emanuel]
Mayor