RESOLUTIONS PASSED
Supporting GLOBAL YOUTH JUSTICE Movement
American Bar Association
(Both ABA House of Delegates and the Young Lawyers Division)
American Probation and Parole Association
Constitutional Rights Foundation
Street Law, Inc.

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
HOUSE of DELEGATES

RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association (ABA) urges federal, state, territorial, and local governments to create and provide appropriate support for Youth or Teen Courts that, through a nondiscriminatory peer-driven restorative justice process involving family members, diverts youth from the formal consequences of juvenile court petitions, proceedings, adjudications, or juvenile justice sanctions by:

(A) Providing civic education for all participants that builds respect for their rule of law and the legal process, including mentorship and community service opportunities;

(B) Permitting program referrals from prosecutors, probation departments and police, as well as from the courts, and not limiting program eligibility to first-time offenders;

(C) Encouraging judges, lawyers, law students, civic organizations and businesses to recruit youth volunteers and to provide training, other assistance and support to create, sustain and promote programs; and,

(D) Supporting national, state, and local research and evaluation on all aspects of these programs.

STREET LAW, INC.
Whereas Youth Courts offer:

…young first-time, nonviolent offenders who admit their guilt and are offered an opportunity to be sentenced by their peers and to receive a consequence that reflects the ideals of and educates the offenders in restorative justice;

…police officers, probation officers, and juvenile court judges with a heavy docket an innovative alternative to dismissing less serious causes and sending first-time offenders outside of the formal juvenile justice proceedings;
...young volunteers the chance to serve as judges, jurors, bailiffs, and clerks a coordinated effort to hold their peers accountable with balanced sentences that repair harm done to the offenders victim, the community, and to the offender himself or herself.

**And whereas Youth Courts build:**
...ties between the justice system, members of the community, and youth;

...an awareness in youth of the law and consequences of delinquency;

...a type of community where youth can contribute to society and demonstrate democracy to action;

**Therefore, be it Resolved:**
That we commend, support, and assist those involved in Youth Courts and others developing Youth Courts.

**AMERICAN PROBATION and PAROLE ASSOCIATION**  
**RESOLVED,** That the American Probation and Parole Association joins in the celebration of the first Youth Court Month and hereby recognizes that probation, parole, and community supervision agencies support and assist in the formation and expansion of diversionary programs, known as youth court.

**CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS FOUNDATION**  
**RESOLVED,** That the Constitutional Rights Foundation and the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago encourage schools, youth programs, attorneys, judges, and police departments to work together to form and expand diversionary programs, known as Youth Courts/Teen Courts, where juveniles, under the supervision of representatives from the education and legal communities, determine sentencing for first time juvenile offenders who are charged with misdemeanors or minor infractions of school rules and consent to participate in the program, recognizing than an important sentencing option – community services – serves both the offender and the community.

**AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION  
YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION**  
**RESOLVED,** That the American Bar Association (ABA) encourages states and territorial legislatures, court systems, and bar associations to support and assist in the formation and expansion of diversionary programs, known as Youth Courts, where youth/juvenile participants, under the supervision of volunteer attorney’s and advisory staff, act as judges, jurors, clerks, bailiffs, and counsel for the first time juvenile offenders who are charged with misdemeanors and consent to the program.  
ABA Young Lawyers Division:  [https://www.americanbar.org/groups/young_lawyers.html](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/young_lawyers.html)

**Visit**  
**GlobalYouthJustice.org**