State & Local Government Law

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE *GOAL IX REPORT CARD*

We are a strong supporter of diversity in our profession. We believe that replicating the rich diversity of the American people must be a priority goal of the legal community at large as well as the smaller community that comprises the ABA.

In our view, the *Goal IX Report Card* is an indispensable tool in meeting this goal. Like all ABA entities, we periodically grumble at the administrative "burden" of collecting data for the report card – but we recognize that individual ABA entities such as our Section are the only source for much of this data, and we believe that the insights we all obtain through publication of the data more than justify the effort involved in collecting it.

Moreover, we routinely use the Goal IX reporting requirements as a means of reinforcing within our Section the importance of electing diverse leadership, nurturing a diverse membership, and appointing diverse committee officers, CLE panels, and authors for our publications. Having to report on our own diversity every year is undeniably helpful in keeping this issue focused. In the absence of the requirement to collect Goal IX data and report it on an annual basis, the diversity in our Section, at all levels, would very likely decline over time as we lose focus on the goal.

Accordingly, while pressures of time and resources sometimes make it difficult to prepare our annual *Goal IX Report Card*, we wholeheartedly endorse its purpose and support its continuation.

Signatures:

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