Policy Implementation

The ABA House of Delegates, in its role as the policy-making body of the Association, meets at the Midyear Meeting in February and the Annual Meeting in August. At each meeting, the House considers and adopts new policy resolutions on a broad range of issues related to the legal profession. Once resolutions are adopted as official ABA policy, the Governmental Affairs Office coordinates implementation of the policies and serves as the focal point for the Association’s advocacy efforts before Congress, the executive branch and other governmental entities.

This list identifies resolutions adopted by the House of Delegates at its February 2016 Midyear Meeting.*

Report No. 10A

Urges the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Prisons to amend their policies with respect to monitoring emails between attorneys and their incarcerated clients to permit attorneys and their incarcerated clients to communicate confidentially via email and thereby maintain the attorney-client privilege.

Full text and report

For more information, please contact:

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Report No. 10B

Supports constitutional equality for women, urges the extension of legal rights, privileges and responsibilities to all persons, regardless of sex, and reaffirms support of and affirmatively act toward the goal of the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Full text and report

For more information, please contact:

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Report No. 102

Urges legislatures to review all statutes criminalizing consensual noncommercial sexual conduct, in private and between persons who have the legal capacity to consent, and, to repeal or amend such statutes to criminalize only sexual acts that are nonconsensual, commercial, public, or that involve individuals who lack the legal capacity to consent.

Full text and report

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Report No. 106B

Urges Congress to amend the rulemaking provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act.

Full text and report

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Report No. 108A

Opposes intellectual property laws and agency and court interpretations of intellectual property laws that impose the payment of the government’s attorney fees on a party challenging a decision of the United States Patent and Trademark Office in federal district court, unless the statute in question explicitly directs the courts to award attorney fees.

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Report No. 108 B

Supports interpretation and application of the statutory six-year patent damages period (35 U.S.C. §286) as limiting availability of the judicially created laches defense as a bar to legal damages for patent infringement.

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Report No. 110

Urges the United States Supreme Court to record and make available video recordings of its oral arguments.

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Report No. 111

Urges state, local, territorial and tribal child welfare and juvenile justice agencies to provide adequate resources for assessing and treating emotional and behavioral disorders of children in their custody, including psychosocial and clinical interventions, recreational opportunities and supportive services that can reduce the need for prescribing psychotropic drugs.

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Report No. 112B

Urges the United States Department of State to seek specific negotiations regarding a possible Hague Convention on private international law concerning children, including international surrogacy arrangements.

For more information, please contact:
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Report No. 300

Urges Congress to enact legislation to encompass services provided by advanced practice providers within the locum tenens exception to the prohibition on reassignment of Medicare billing privileges.
Full text and report

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Past Meetings
An archive of resolutions adopted at the August 2015 Annual Meeting can be found here:

- Policy Implementation Page Archive: August 2015 (PDF)

For meetings prior to August 2015, see the ABA House of Delegates website.