

WHEREAS, Protection of the public is the highest priority and paramount to other interests that may be promoted by the State Bar, and to that end, the Board of Trustees in February 2012 adopted a Five-Year Strategic Plan to maintain and sustain changes and improvements in the public protection function and in the management of State Bar resources;

WHEREAS, The Five-Year Strategic Plan includes a physical facilities initiative for a new workspace in Los Angeles designed and configured to reduce the operational footprint and to achieve greater efficiency and increased productivity;

WHEREAS, The pending purchase of the new building to house the State Bar's operations in Los Angeles will return the State Bar to its historic and traditional ownership of its facilities and is expected to enhance the fiscal position of the State Bar resulting in a net increase of available voluntary, non-dues revenues;

WHEREAS, The State Bar is authorized to advance the availability and delivery of free legal services to the poor; has historically supported and facilitated efforts of its members, voluntary bar associations, judicial branch partners, and other entities in this area; and has supported non-profit organizations providing free legal services through the Interest On Lawyers Trust Account funds, the California Equal Access Fund, and contributions to the Justice Gap Fund; and

WHEREAS, There remains a need for the increased funding of legal services for persons of limited means in California;

RESOLVED, That to the extent the purchase and payment of the obligations on the new facilities in Los Angeles generally results in a net enhancement of the State Bar's finances and specifically the availability of voluntary funds, the Board of Trustees hereby pledges on a yearly basis a significant amount of the available non-dues revenues to the Justice Gap Fund to support free legal services to the poor, provided that the State Bar is otherwise able to adequately finance services and programs necessary to fulfill its public protection mission.