


NEW ORLEANS
BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
October 16, 2007

**RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF RETAINING
THE ORLEANS CIVIL DISTRICT COURT & FIRST CITY COURT
IN DOWNTOWN NEW ORLEANS**

WHEREAS, the interests of New Orleans lawyers are represented by the New Orleans Bar Association whose mission is to preserve the dignity and the viability of the Rule of Law in post-Katrina New Orleans, thereby providing the Bench and Bar and community-at-large a belief in the City's future;

WHEREAS, over 6,700 lawyers and their support staff occupy over 30% of downtown office space in New Orleans which substantially contributes to the economic vitality of downtown New Orleans;

WHEREAS, this legal cluster exists downtown because of the proximity to state courts, including the Civil District Court, the First City Court, the Louisiana Supreme Court, the Louisiana Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal and to the federal courts such as the United States District Court, the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, and other administrative courts;

WHEREAS, studies indicate that proximity to courts, especially being in walking distance, is a leading factor in lawyers' decisions to locate law offices;

WHEREAS, having such a large number of lawyers in close proximity to courts facilitates court appearances and allows the lawyers and judges to collaborate on community, educational and bar projects;

WHEREAS, moving the Civil Courts will cause substantial loss of occupancy in buildings, loss of clientele for downtown restaurants, hotels and other support businesses thus causing severe economic hardship to downtown New Orleans;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the New Orleans Bar Association encourages the retention of the Orleans Civil District Court and First City Court in downtown New Orleans, thereby supporting the prosperity of downtown New Orleans.


President
New Orleans Bar Association