


NEW ORLEANS
BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
April 18, 2008

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the New Orleans Bar Association represents the interests of New Orleans lawyers and judges dedicated to preservation of the dignity and viability of the Rule of Law in post-Katrina New Orleans;

WHEREAS, preservation of the dignity and viability of the Rule of Law requires equal access to justice by all members of the community-at-large;

WHEREAS, the New Orleans Bar Association supports the equal right of all eligible Road Home applicants to receive legal assistance necessary to closure of their Road Home awards;

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana recognizes that many Road Home applicants lack financial resources to obtain legal services necessary to the pursuit of their Road Home awards; the State of Louisiana further recognizes the importance of funding Road Home legal services for such applicants, having previously authorized the expenditure of Road Home funds to pay for these needed legal services;

WHEREAS, funding legal services for those unable to pay affords access to justice and provides all homeowners the opportunity to rebuild their homes in Louisiana;

WHEREAS, an average Road Home grant is \$60,000 and the economic loss of Road Home grants to the State of Louisiana is about \$60 million for every 1,000 homeowners who can't get the legal aid to complete their successions and qualify for Road Home grants;

WHEREAS, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services, Acadiana Legal Services, Capitol Area Legal Services, the Pro Bono Project and the Louisiana Civil Justice Center have furnished cost-effective, competent legal services in handling successions and other legal problems that pose obstacles to closure of Road Home awards;

WHEREAS, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services, Acadiana Legal Services, Capitol Area Legal Services, the Pro Bono Project and the Louisiana Civil Justice Center require continued funding to complete the work necessary to resolve legal problems with remaining Road Home applications;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the New Orleans Bar Association vigorously supports the adequate funding by the Office of Community Development and the State of Louisiana for legal services for Road Home applicants unable to afford such services as being essential to the continued recovery of Louisiana.

Perry R. Staub, Jr.
President
New Orleans Bar Association