

**HOUSTON BAR ASSOCIATION'S
RESOLUTION ON
SCHOOL BULLYING PREVENTION**

WHEREAS, The Houston Bar Association ("HBA"), recognizes and understands that the many forms of bullying, including cyberbullying, affect one-third of our youth today; and

WHEREAS, Bullying and harassment is a continuing problem for school districts, parents, students and communities across the nation; and

WHEREAS, studies and research reflect an increase in the prevalence and incidence of bullying in Texas schools and the clear correlations between bullying and criminal behavior;

WHEREAS, studies and research reflect bullied students are four to eight times more likely to feel suicidal compared to non-bullied students; and

WHEREAS, studies and research reflect that bullying results in truancy as 160,000 victims of bullying miss one or more school days each month because they are too afraid to go to school; and

WHEREAS, studies and research reflect that one in three teenagers are involved in bullying either as a bully or a victim, and that 3.2 million youths are victims of bullying annually; and

WHEREAS, surveys and polls reflect that more than 13 million children in the United States, aged 6 to 17, are targets of cyber bullying; and

WHEREAS, research demonstrates that half or more of bullying can be prevented through comprehensive "whole-school" anti-bullying programs in schools.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, HBA recognizes that prevention of in-school bullying is a significant legal, law enforcement, crime prevention and social priority.

FURTHER RESOLVED, HBA supports appropriate government and private anti-bullying measures, efforts, and programs;

FURTHER RESOLVED, The HBA urges Internet Service Providers and social networking platforms to adopt Terms of Service that define and prohibit cyberbullying and cyberhate,

FURTHER RESOLVED, The application of bullying, cyberbullying, and related laws and policies should not be used to compromise the protected First Amendment free speech rights of students.

FURTHER RESOLVED, The HBA urges other local and state bar associations to join in the message and spirit of this resolution, to pass similar resolutions, and to encourage their members to promulgate the ideas of bullying prevention in all educational institutions in the State of Texas.

Date April 19, 2011

Signed 

T. Mark Kelly
President, Houston Bar Association
2010-2011