

## RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE LEANDRO DECISION

**WHEREAS**, the Supreme Court of North Carolina, in the case of Leandro v. State, has declared that every child in this state has a constitutional right to the opportunity for a sound basic education and that at-risk students require more and different resources in order to have the opportunity to obtain a constitutionally adequate education; and

**WHEREAS**, the Court further declared that the state is failing to identify at-risk students and to adequately provide them with a constitutionally adequate education and that these responsibilities fall upon the State; and

**WHEREAS**, the attorneys of North Carolina have an ethical and professional obligation to enforce and defend the Constitution and the decisions of the Supreme Court; and

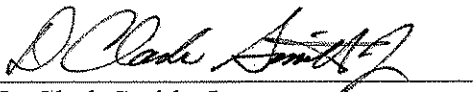
**WHEREAS**, the right of a sound basic education is essential to the functioning of our constitutional democracy and jury system, both civil and criminal, and is one of the highest duties of the State; and

**WHEREAS**, the implementation of the Leandro decision requires that the North Carolina General Assembly make concrete budgetary decisions and enact specific legislation to ameliorate the conditions that deprive North Carolina's children of the opportunity to obtain a sound basic education.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the North Carolina Bar Association will provide its full and vigorous organizational advocacy to the Executive and Legislative Branches and the People of the State to encourage the state to provide:

1. Full funding for policies and curriculum that educate students in a way that provides them the skills to meaningfully participate in our democracy and jury system and not just the ability to take and pass standardized tests;
2. Full funding for the disadvantaged student supplemental funding formula (DSSF), which is designed by the State to identify the at-risk students in each school district and to allocate additional state resources to meet their needs as required to provide a Leandro-compliant education in all North Carolina schools;
3. Full funding for new initiatives designed to attract, increase and retain the number of certified, competent teachers and administrators as required to provide a Leandro-compliant education in all North Carolina schools; and
4. Full funding for continued professional development for teachers and administrators especially targeted for assistance to at-risk children as required to provide a Leandro-compliant education in all North Carolina schools.

Adopted this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2006  
by the Board of Governors of the North Carolina Bar Association



D. Clark Smith, Jr.  
President, North Carolina Bar Association