

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is presently experiencing a budgetary crisis with significant ramifications to the commonwealth's judiciary and public interest community, and;

WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania General Assembly has recommended funding that fails to fully and adequately fund the Pennsylvania court system, and

WHEREAS, The failure to fully fund the court system would have an adverse and regressive impact on access to justice, falling disproportionately on the poor and disadvantaged, and

WHEREAS, Budget negotiations have failed to provide any relief to the gap in funding for the court system, and

WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Bar Association has called upon the Legislature to fulfill its obligation to address a shortfall of over \$50 million between what the court system states it needs and what Senate Bill 850 and other proposals have offered, and

WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania General Assembly has not yet addressed that shortfall despite its Constitutional obligation to fund the court system, and

WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Bar Association continues to urge the Legislature to fund the court system from the commonwealth's general operating fund, and

WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Bar Association has supported full funding supplemented by an increase in filing fees and has espoused the view that funding the court system should not fall exclusively on the litigants,

NOW THEREFORE, Be it resolved that the Pennsylvania Bar Association supports a temporary increase in court filing fees by a reasonable amount, but not to exceed 12 dollars, for a period of not more than two years or until such time as the Legislature resolves the issue, whichever is shorter.

July 28, 2009

****Approved by the PBA Board of Governors on July 28, 2009***

*****Approved by the PBA House of Delegates on July 30, 2009 via electronic vote***