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CAL-ABOTA

Resolution in Support of the California Civility Task Force

Whereas, the California Civility Task Force is a joint project of the California Judges Association (CJA) and the California Lawyers Association (CLA); and

Whereas, the governing board of CAL-ABOTA has been provided with the Task Force's Initial Report entitled Beyond the Oath: Recommendations for Improving Civility; and

Whereas, CAL-ABOTA agrees with and embraces the Task Force's efforts to improve civility in the legal profession;

NOW THEREFORE, CAL-ABOTA hereby respectfully:

1. Endorses Proposal 1 of the Task Force Initial Report and asks the State Bar Board of Trustees to mandate one hour of civility MCLE training for attorneys (without increasing total MCLE hours). Some portion of the civility training should be devoted to making the profession more welcoming to underrepresented groups by addressing the link between incivility and bias.

* Deceased

2. Endorses Proposal 2 of the Task Force Initial Report and asks the Chief Justice, as head of the Judicial Council, and the Center for Judicial Education and Research Advisory Committee (CJER) to provide voluntary training to judges on promoting civility inside and outside courtrooms.
3. Endorses Proposal 4 of the Task Force Initial Report and asks the Supreme Court to amend Rule of Court 9.7 to require all attorneys, when annually renewing their licenses to practice law, to swear or affirm: "As an officer of the court, I will strive to conduct myself at all times with dignity, courtesy and integrity;" and,
4. Urges the Chief Justice, Judicial Council, and State Bar to take further appropriate action to improve civility in the practice of law.
5. CAL-ABOTA has carefully reviewed Proposal 3 of the Task Force Initial Report and the related proposed changes to the Rules of Professional Conduct, attached as Appendix 8 to the Initial Report. After careful consideration, CAL-ABOTA has unresolved concerns with both the Proposal and the related changes to the Rules of Professional Conduct, and as such reserves its endorsement at this time.

Dated: October 25, 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Walter M. Yoka', written in a cursive style.

Walter M. Yoka, President
On Behalf of the Board of Directors
California Chapters of the
American Board of Trial Advocates
(CAL-ABOTA)