

Resolution 5

In Support of the 20th Annual Meeting of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts

WHEREAS, the Conference of Chief Justices represents the leadership of state and territorial judicial systems charged with ensuring that justice is administered fairly to all who come before the courts; and

WHEREAS, the Conference believes that all who are employed by and conduct business in state and territorial judicial systems should be treated equally and that state and territorial judicial systems should operate free of discrimination against any person; and

WHEREAS, the Conference has established a Committee on Access to and Fairness in the Courts in furtherance of the principle that equal treatment of all persons under the law is essential to the very concept of justice; and

WHEREAS, the National Consortium of Task Forces and Commissions on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts (National Consortium) was established in 1988 primarily to provide participants with an opportunity to share research and program activities relating to their common mandate to end bias in the courts; and

WHEREAS, the National Center for State Courts has served as the National Consortium's secretariat and provided direct and in-kind support to this organization since its inception; and

WHEREAS, the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts, in cooperation with the Washington State Minority and Justice Commission and the National Center for State Courts, will conduct the 20th Annual Meeting of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts in Seattle, Washington, April 29-May 2, 2008;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Conference endorses and supports the 20th Annual Meeting of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts and urges the President of the Conference to send a letter to all Chief Justices encouraging them to attend.

Adopted as proposed by the CCJ/COSCA Access to and Fairness in the Courts Committee at the 31st Midyear Meeting on January 30, 2008