

CONFERENCE OF CHIEF JUSTICES

Draft Resolution 28

In Support of the “17th 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 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 judicial systems should be treated equally and that state 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, several studies have documented the existence of racial and ethnic bias in the judicial systems of some states; and

WHEREAS, the National Consortium of Task Forces and Commissions on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts 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 Georgia Commission on Access and Fairness in the Courts and the National Center for State Courts, will conduct the “17th Annual Meeting of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts: Justice Power and Prejudice” in Atlanta, Georgia, April 13-16;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

- the Conference endorses and supports the “17th Annual Meeting of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts: Justice Power and Prejudice” and urges each Chief Justice to attend.

Adopted as proposed by the Access to and Fairness in the Courts Committee of the Conference of Chief Justices at the 28th Midyear Meeting on January 26, 2005.