



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Resolution Seeks Removal of State Flag Containing Confederate Design

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif., Dec. 30, 2013 – The Orange County Bar Association (OCBA) recently passed Resolution 2013R-01, which recommends the removal of the Mississippi State Flag from the Plaza of the Flags in Santa Ana’s downtown civic center because it incorporates the Confederate Battle Flag in its design.

The resolution, passed in a month that marked the 150th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address, explained that the flag’s design “is inextricably linked to a legacy of racism, exclusion, oppression, and violence in various ways, such as its adoption by groups opposed to school desegregation following judicial decisions in *Mendez v. Westminster School District of Orange County* and *Brown v. Board of Education*, as well as by hate groups including the Ku Klux Klan.” The resolution “urges the City of Santa Ana to remove the Mississippi state flag from the plaza and replace it with an alternative state symbol of the State of Mississippi to support equal justice for all.”

OCBA President Wayne Gross stated: “I am proud of the board of directors for passing this important resolution on the 150th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address. If we are to remain true to President Lincoln’s words that defined the Civil War as ‘a new birth of freedom,’ a flag design symbolizing racism and hatred has no place in or around courthouses.”

For more information and to read Resolution 2013R-01 of the OCBA Board of Directors in its entirety, please visit www.ocbar.org.

About the Orange County Bar Association

Established in 1901, the Orange County Bar Association, with over 8,500 members, is one of the largest voluntary bars in California. The mission of the Orange County Bar Association is to enhance the system of justice, to support the lawyers who serve it, and to assist the community served by it.

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*Resolution 2013R-01 of the
Orange County Bar Association
Board of Directors*

RECOMMENDATION REGARDING SANTA ANA'S PLAZA OF THE FLAGS

THE MISSISSIPPI STATE FLAG SHOULD BE REMOVED

WHEREAS the City of Santa Ana maintains the Plaza of the Flags in Santa Ana's downtown civic center; and

WHEREAS the flag of each state in the union is displayed, including the flag of the State of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS attempts were made as early as October 1997 to seek the removal of the flag of the State of Mississippi, which at the time and continuing today incorporates the Confederate Battle Flag in its design; and

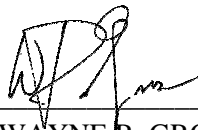
WHEREAS, the Confederate Battle Flag is inextricably linked to a legacy of racism, exclusion, oppression, and violence in various ways, such as by groups opposed to school desegregation following judicial decisions in *Mendez v. Westminster School District of Orange County* and *Brown v. Board of Education*, and by hate groups, including the Ku Klux Klan; and

WHEREAS Mississippi is the sole remaining state to fly a flag that includes such symbolism; and

WHEREAS visitors to Santa Ana's downtown civic center come in search of justice and due process under the law—ideals of central importance to American society that are betrayed by the Confederate Battle Flag;

THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Orange County Bar Association strongly urges the City of Santa Ana to remove the Mississippi state flag from the Plaza of the Flags and replace it with an alternative symbol of the State of Mississippi to support equal justice for all.

Executed this 20th day of November, 2013.



WAYNE R. GROSS

2013 ORANGE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

ATTEST:



TRUDY C. LEVINDOFSKE
ORANGE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR