



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCBA Passes Resolution in Support of the Independence of the Judiciary

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif., June 25, 2015 – The Orange County Bar Association (OCBA) has passed Resolution 2015R-02, which restates the OCBA’s strong support of judicial independence and urges citizens and litigants to support judicial independence as an integral part of our American justice system. (See Resolution 2015R-02 of the OCBA Board of Directors attached.)

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.

Media Contact:

Lisa Brown

(949) 440-6700, ext. 123

lbrown@ocbar.org

Resolution 2015R-02 of the Orange County Bar Association

Independence of the Judiciary

WHEREAS, the Orange County Bar Association (OCBA) is a leader of the legal community in Orange County;

WHEREAS, the OCBA promotes the integrity and honor of the legal profession and is committed to access to justice for all Orange County residents;

WHEREAS, the OCBA promotes our justice system and is committed to preserving an independent judiciary free from political fear or favor, which is essential to our democracy;

WHEREAS, the OCBA believes in judicial accountability through appropriate criticism and appeal;

WHEREAS, the OCBA believes that the recent attacks upon Judge Marc Kelly, such as insulting personal attacks and accusations, and physical threats, exceed the bounds of appropriate criticism and therefore threaten judicial independence; and

WHEREAS, the OCBA takes no position on the propriety or impropriety of Judge Kelly's rulings or comments;

NOW, IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED that the OCBA restates its strong support of judicial independence and urges citizens and litigants to support judicial independence as an integral part of our American system of justice; and

IT IS ALSO RESOLVED that the OCBA publicly disapproves of attacks against sitting judges which unfairly exceed the realm of appropriate criticism and exercise of the protected right of appeal, and unnecessarily impedes the independence of the judiciary.

The foregoing resolution is approved and adopted this 24th day of June, 2015 in Newport Beach, California by the Orange County Bar Association Board of Directors.

Signed,



Ashleigh E. Aitken
2015 President, Orange County Bar Association