

RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES TO JOIN THE
PERMANENT INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

WHEREAS, the nations of the world have established the International Criminal Court through the Rome Statute, an international treaty, as an essential component in a stable international order;

WHEREAS, terrorism, genocide and crimes against humanity continue to shock the conscience of the world;

WHEREAS, no community can morally permit those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes to escape justice;

WHEREAS, an effective International Criminal Court will likely deter the commission of these terrible crimes;

WHEREAS, the International Criminal Court is required by its Rome Statute to conform to the same standards of independence, impartiality and fairness which are expected in competent domestic court systems;

WHEREAS, the International Criminal Court as a permanent and separate body has powerful safeguards for its independence and its freedom from political manipulation;

WHEREAS, on 2 February 1998, the House of Delegates of the world's largest national lawyers association, the American Bar Association, adopted a resolution strongly reinforcing its 1992 and 1994 resolutions supporting the establishment of a permanent international criminal court, and calling on the United States to ratify the Rome Statute;

WHEREAS, on April 30, 1998, the Philadelphia Bar Association adopted a resolution to support the International Criminal Court;

WHEREAS, on October 24, 2003 the Bar Association of San Francisco (BASF) announced the adoption of a resolution urging the US government to join the International Criminal Court, and encouraging its members to learn about the Court and to support the participation of the US in it;

WHEREAS, on December 3, 2003 the Los Angeles City Council passed a resolution supporting US participation with the International Criminal Court;

WHEREAS, the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers unanimously passed a resolution on February 23, 2002, calling on the United States to ratify and participate in the Rome Statute;

WHEREAS, the International Association for Defense Lawyers supports the International Criminal Court;

WHEREAS, the Inter-American Bar Association at its 2003 annual conference in New Orleans, Louisiana passed a resolution supporting the International Criminal Court;

WHEREAS, the International Criminal Defence Attorneys Association in 1997 chose to support the International Criminal Court;

WHEREAS, the International Criminal Court Statute provides a meaningful and effective framework to prosecute terrorists internationally;

WHEREAS, on December 2003, Ambassador Bremer, on behalf of the US Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA), approved and signed into law the Statute of the Iraqi Special Tribunal whose section on international humanitarian law in the tribunal's jurisprudence is taken verbatim from the Rome Statute;

WHEREAS, the International Criminal Court is supported many organizations, including the following:

Alternative Law Research and Development Center, Inc.
American Association for the International Commission of Jurists
American Association of Jurists
American Jewish Committee
Amnesty International
Association of the Bar of the City of New York
Baha'i International Community
Catholic Commission of Peace and Justice
Center for Civil Human Rights
Center for Development of International Law
Center for Women's Global Leadership
Franciscans International
Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute
Friends World Committee for Consultation
General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church
Human Rights Watch
Humanitarian Law Center
International Association of Democratic Lawyers
International Bar Association
International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy
International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development
International Commission of Jurists
International Criminal Defense Attorneys Association
International Human Rights Law Group
International Law Association Committee on a Permanent International Criminal Court
Lawyers Committee for Human Rights
Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy
Lutheran World Federation
National Institute for Public Interest Law and Research

National Society for Human Rights
Pax Christi International
Presbyterian Church, USA
Salvation Army
Save the Children Fund
Unitarian Universalist Association
Women's Caucus for Gender Justice
World Conference on Religion and Peace
World Council of Churches Commission of the Churches on International Affairs
World Muslim Congress;

WHEREAS, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court has been ratified by 92 countries and signed by 137 nations ; and

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2002 the International Criminal Court came into existence and is now fully established and about to take its first cases;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Bar Association recommends that the United States government accede to the convention creating the International Criminal Court.