Maintaining Vigilance on the Issue of Human Trafficking

CONFERECE OF CHIEF JUSTICES
CONFERECE OF STATE COURT ADMINISTRATORS

WHEREAS, the Conference of Chief Justices and Conference of State Court Administrators adopted Resolution 4 at the Conference of Chief Justices 2016 Midyear Meeting on February 3, 2016 encouraging their members to promote the strategies and best practices identified at the National Summit on Human Trafficking and the State Courts, and called for increased education and training opportunities for justice system stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, many criminal justice stakeholders are aware of this issue; however, more work needs to be done; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Association of Counties, four out of five counties with populations above 250,000 report that human trafficking is an increasing problem; and

WHEREAS, the issue of human trafficking is often before the state courts, and those courts are uniquely positioned to identify and address the crime of human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, the Abolish Human Trafficking Act (S 1311) and the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (S 1312) would reauthorize programs under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, which established a fund to award grants to states and localities; and

WHEREAS, the courts recognize that human trafficking is a nationwide concern impacting all Americans, and state courts are taking a leadership role in the movement to prevent human trafficking;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conference of Chief Justices and Conference of State Court Administrators urge Congress and the United States Department of Justice to provide adequate funding to state courts to: (1) provide training for judges and court personnel on federal policies and requirements; (2) develop resources and best court practices; and (3) fully implement those best practices.

On December 5, 2017 the NACM Board voted to support this resolution.