



American Bar Association
News Release

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MEDIA ADVISORY

**ABA PRESIDENT MICHAEL S. GRECO TO DISCUSS REPORT ON WOMEN OF COLOR IN THE
LEGAL PROFESSION, POLICY RESOLUTIONS BEFORE HOUSE OF DELEGATES**

HONOLULU, Aug. 3, 2006 - American Bar Association President Michael S. Greco will discuss key issues at the ABA's first annual meeting in Honolulu since 1989, and will discuss a report on the troubled status of women of color in the legal profession, during a news conference Friday morning at the Hawaii Convention Center.

The news conference will start at 10 a.m. in Room 321A of the convention center.

Greco will discuss several resolutions expected to be debated next week by the ABA's policy making House of Delegates, regarding:

- Legislation that would establish an inspector general's office to investigate allegations of administrative and other misdoing within the judicial branch. A proposed resolution strongly urges the ABA to oppose such legislation, saying it would allow Congress to interfere with judges' ability to apply the law impartially.
- A practice employed by recent presidents of signing acts of Congress, but then issuing statements refusing to enforce them. According to an ABA resolution, the U.S. Constitution requires presidents to enforce new laws or to veto them.
- A House resolution that would urge a limited right to free legal representation in serious civil cases for poor Americans who face legal threats to their housing, health or family. At present, such a right exists only in criminal cases.

Greco will also discuss a report examining why women lawyers of color are leaving law firms in alarming numbers. The report, prepared by the ABA Commission on Women in the Profession, found widespread professional frustrations among women lawyers of color, despite law firm programs to promote diversity.

Many Hispanic, African American, Native American and Asian American women lawyers reported a lack of opportunities for professional advancement. Many also said they were subjected to demeaning comments and unfair evaluations.

Who: ABA President Michael S. Greco

What: News conference during 2006 ABA Annual Meeting

When: Friday, 10 a.m.

Where: Hawaii Convention Center
3rd Floor, Room 321 A

Reporters with ABA credentials are welcome to attend and cover any event at the meeting. Credentials can be obtained in the full-service Press Room in the Hawaii Convention Center, 3rd Floor, Room 324.

The Press Room is open daily at 8 a.m. It will close one hour after the adjournment of the House of Delegates on Tuesday, Aug. 8. Credential guidelines can be found online at www.abanet.org/media/credentials.html. **The on-site Press Room phone number is 808/792-6622. The fax number is 808/792-6624.**

With more than 400,000 members, the American Bar Association is the largest voluntary professional membership organization in the world. As the national voice of the legal profession, the ABA works to improve the administration of justice, promotes programs that assist lawyers and judges in their work, accredits law schools, provides continuing legal education, and works to build public understanding around the world of the importance of the rule of law in a democratic society.