

# **Resolution Allowing Non-Lawyers to Practice Law in Alaska**

WHEREAS, enabling non-lawyers to practice law under certain conditions and qualifications, would address the shortage of legal services and increase access to justice for all Alaskans;

WHEREAS, including non-lawyer practitioners in the legal profession would foster innovation, diversify the profession, and ultimately enhance the overall access of legal services in Alaska;

WHEREAS, expanding the pool of legal practitioners to include non-lawyers with appropriate qualifications would alleviate burden on existing attorneys;

WHEREAS, the implementation of safeguards and regulations can ensure the competence and ethical conduct of non-lawyer practitioners;

WHEREAS, non-ABA accredited schools, continuing education requirements, supervision by licensed attorneys, and adherence to the Alaska codes of professional conduct can be implemented as safeguards;

WHEREAS, allowing non-lawyers to practice law would increase the availability and affordability of legal services for individuals who cannot afford traditional representation;

WHEREAS, the inclusion of self-taught lawyers within the legal profession advances the principles of access to justice, innovation, meritocracy, democratic values, and the right to work. Recognizing the achievements of the founding fathers and Abraham Lincoln, who achieved legal prominence without a Bar Card, demonstrates that legal practice can thrive beyond traditional educational frameworks. By embracing self-taught lawyers and empowering them to provide their services, we forge a path towards a more inclusive and representative legal system that better serves the needs of our diverse society.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Alaskans support legislation that enables the everyday Alaskan to practice law, under appropriate conditions and regulations.