

**Resolution of the State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors
November 2004**

WHEREAS, many poor people in Georgia cannot obtain appropriate legal services for critical civil legal problems; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive, integrated statewide civil legal services delivery system in Georgia would serve more people and fill current gaps; and

WHEREAS, the bylaws of the State Bar of Georgia state that the Bar's core function is to foster among lawyers principles of duty and service to the public, improve the administration of justice, and advance the science of law; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Georgia and the State Bar of Georgia, through its elected leadership and its Access to Justice Committee, have demonstrated support for civil legal services for the poor; and

WHEREAS, the Bar's Access to Justice Committee assumed in 2002 the lead role in planning a comprehensive statewide system for civil legal services, convened an Access to Justice Convocation in 2002, created a leadership effort called Justice Builders, and hosted a second Justice Convocation in 2003, to address the critical need for an integrated justice community in Georgia; and

WHEREAS, since 2002 over sixty-five persons interested in equal justice, including judges, bar leaders, legislators, members of the non-profit community, legal services advocates, and clients have participated in the study of civil legal needs and the development of a comprehensive set of recommendations for addressing gaps in, and barriers to, access to civil legal services in Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the State Bar of Georgia is one of many organizations that share a commitment to improving access to justice, and it is uniquely positioned, along with the Supreme Court of Georgia, to provide the extraordinary leadership necessary for the creation of, and on-going work of, a successful Equal Justice Commission.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors endorses the creation by the Supreme Court of Georgia of a Georgia Equal Justice Commission whose primary mission will be to provide coordinated, unified statewide leadership on access to civil justice issues in Georgia.

SIGNED this 5th day of November, 2004.



President



President-elect

ATTEST:



Executive Director