

MULTNOMAH BAR ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Resolution
Dated: March 7, 2006

WHEREAS:

1. Multnomah County Commissioners Naito and Rojo de Steffey have, on February 24, 2006, introduced a resolution calling for the county “to acquire a site as the first step towards constructing a new facility for the Fourth Judicial District Circuit Court in, or in proximity to, downtown Portland’s Government Center area by December 31, 2006”; and

2. The Commission’s resolution further calls for development of a preliminary plan for such site acquisition within 60-days; and

3. The proposed resolution further observes that ORS 203.135 grants to the county “the power of eminent domain . . . to acquire any right or interest in real property for . . . public building or public institution purposes”; and

4. The existing courthouse was originally constructed between 1911 and 1914 and has long since become both inadequate and unsafe for conducting court business and maintaining a correctional facility; and

5. Repeated studies of the needs of the county and the community document the need for a new courthouse facility; and

6. The Multnomah Bar Association has consistently advocated on behalf of the community for the acquisition of a site for, and the construction of, a new downtown courthouse facility; and

7. It is fit and proper that the county acquire a suitable site for a new courthouse in this, the centennial year of the Multnomah Bar Association;

THEREFORE, the board of directors of the Multnomah Bar Association RESOLVES:

1. To support the adoption of the resolution by the full County Commission at its March 23rd meeting; and
2. To authorize the president of the board of directors or his designee to attend the March 23rd meeting of the Commission to present testimony in support of the above-referenced resolution; and
3. To support the use of the county’s power of eminent domain to acquire a site for a new courthouse in, or in proximity to, Portland’s Government Center, should the exercise of such power be necessary to the acquisition of such site;

Adopted this 7th day of March 2006

/s/ Kelly T. Hagan, President