

ESSEX COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
PAKISTANI ATTORNEYS EFFORTS TO RESTORE THE RULE OF LAW

WHEREAS, the Essex County Bar Association, incorporated in 1899, is the largest county bar association in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Essex County Bar Association exists to uphold and defend the constitutions of the United States and the State of New Jersey; to facilitate and improve the administration of justice; to promote the welfare of the bar and its capacity for public service; and to further the trust and confidence of the public in the practice of the law and the legal system; and

WHEREAS, the Essex County Bar Association has a long tradition and history of unyielding support for the rule of law and the administration of justice at all levels in all respects, here and abroad; and

WHEREAS, on November 3, 2007, Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf suspended the Constitution of the sovereign nation of Pakistan; and

WHEREAS, the imposition of military rule was followed immediately by the firing of several Supreme court Justices viewed to be disloyal to President Musharraf's Administration along with the suspension of operations in Pakistan's judicial system and the detention of several of the Justices of the country's Supreme Court, among others; and

WHEREAS, demonstrations and gatherings of some of Pakistan's nearly 12,000 attorneys and judges in Lahore, Karachi, Rawalpindi and Islamabad, among other cities in the country, resulted in the often violent arrest and/or detention of approximately 3,000 of these individuals; and,

WHEREAS, most if not all of these Pakistani attorneys and judges remain in jail or under house arrest without a path open to pursue judicial appeal or review as the operation of the court system remains suspended; and

WHEREAS, to date, international appeals to President Musharraf to restore the operation of the Pakistani judicial system have gone unheeded.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Officers and Trustees of the Essex County Bar Association (the "Board") staunchly oppose the suspension of operations of Pakistan's judicial system under these circumstances; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board condemns the cruel and violent response by Pakistani security forces and police to the Pakistani attorneys' and judges' expression of dissent against what is perceived to be an unjustified imposition of marshal law and suspension of the operations of the judicial branch; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board offers its support and encouragement to its brethren attorneys and members of the judicial branch who have suffered assaults and imprisonment for their efforts to express their dissatisfaction with the imposition of a state of

emergency and in favor of the reinstatement of the power and authority of the Pakistani judicial branch; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board respectfully urges the release of judges and lawyers remaining under house arrest or other confinement and imprisonment and impresses upon all persons the importance of maintaining the fair and efficient administration of justice and in preserving the rule of law here and abroad for the protection of all peoples.

November 15, 2007.

Marc J. Gross, President
Essex County Bar Association