



RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF THE MARTIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION IN OPPOSITION TO HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION HJR 197 AND SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION SJR 322 AND ANY PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION PROVIDING TERM LIMITS FOR JUDGES

WHEREAS the Martin County Bar Association is an organization dedicated to the promotion of justice, the enhancement of the delivery of quality legal services to the citizens of Martin County and the State of Florida, and the strong and independent judicial branch of government;

WHEREAS the Martin County Bar Association is comprised of over four-hundred (400) lawyers;

WHEREAS the Martin County Bar Association Board of Directors favors an independent judiciary;

WHEREAS the Martin County Bar Association Board of Directors believes that the public, business community, and attorneys need order, consistency, and predictability in the law, and that these important goals are undercut by increased turnover in the judiciary caused by term limits;

WHEREAS the Martin County Bar Association Board of Directors favors keeping experienced judges on the bench when they are doing a good job;

WHEREAS the Martin County Bar Association Board of Directors believes term limits for judges would create a harmful revolving door for the judiciary, which would in turn discourage recruitment of the best candidates to become judges;

WHEREAS the Martin County Bar Association Board of Directors favors allowing experienced, quality judges to remain on the bench in order to mentor the newer judges;

WHEREAS the Martin County Bar Association Board of Directors favors the current methods of removing judges, which include retention elections, the Judicial Qualifications Commission, and the ultimate managerial authority of the Florida Supreme Court to remove judges who behave in ways that bring dishonor on the state judicial and legal system;

WHEREAS the Martin County Bar Association Board of Directors believes the state legislature should not seek to take the rights away from the citizens of the State of Florida to remove objectionable appellate judges from office via retention and merit voting;

WHEREAS the Martin County Bar Association Board of Directors is aware of legislative proposals, including House Joint Resolution HJR 197 and Senate Joint Resolution SJR 322, to put term limits for appellate judges and state Supreme Court justices on the ballot in 2016 in order to amend the Florida Constitution;

WHEREAS the Martin County Bar Association Board of Directors is opposed to this effort to amend the Florida Constitution or otherwise change Florida law so as to institute term limits on Florida's judiciary;

WHEREAS amending the state constitution to institute term limits would be damaging to the public, to the attorneys of the state, to the judiciary, and to the ends of justice;

WHEREAS no state in the United States imposes term limits on appellate judges, other than in New Mexico, where term limits are imposed on non-lawyer probate judges;

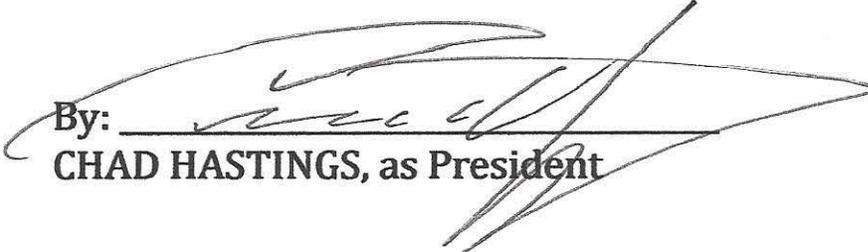
WHEREAS the Florida Bar Board of Governors has unanimously opposed implementation of term limits on judges in general;

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED that:

- 1. The Martin County Bar Association Board of Directors hereby opposes any legislative effort to put a proposal before the voters of the State of Florida to amend the Florida Constitution to create appellate judge term limits, an effort and a proposal that would be clearly harmful to the judiciary, the Bar, the businesses of Florida, and the people of Florida; and**
- 2. The Martin County Bar Association Board of Directors strongly encourages its membership and the public to inform their state representatives and senators that they oppose the legislative effort to put this proposal before the voters.**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Directors on this the 16th day of February, 2016.

MARTIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION, INC.

By: 
CHAD HASTINGS, as President