

ADOPTED

**COMMISSION ON YOUTH AT RISK
COALITION ON RACIAL AND ETHNIC JUSTICE
COMMISSION ON WOMEN IN THE PROFESSION
SECTION OF FAMILY LAW
CRIMINAL JUSTICE SECTION
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC EDUCATION
NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
GENERAL PRACTICE, SOLO AND SMALL FIRM DIVISION**

RESOLUTION

- 1 RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association urges federal, state, territorial, and local
2 governments to create and provide appropriate support for Youth or Teen Courts that, through a
3 nondiscriminatory peer-driven restorative justice process involving family members, diverts
4 youth from the formal consequences of juvenile court petitions, proceedings, adjudications, or
5 juvenile justice sanctions by:
- 6 a) Providing civic education for all participants that builds respect for the rule of law and
7 the legal process, including mentorship and community service opportunities;
 - 8 b) Permitting program referrals from prosecutors, probation departments and police, as well
9 as from the courts, and not limiting program eligibility to first-time offenders;
 - 10 c) Encouraging judges, lawyers, law students, civic organizations and businesses to recruit
11 youth volunteers and to provide training, other assistance and support to create, sustain
12 and promote programs; and
 - 13 d) Supporting national, state, and local research and evaluation on all aspects of these
14 programs.