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November 18, 2016

Keevin Woods
ABA Director, Commission for Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession
321 North Clark Street, 17th Floor
Chicago, IL 60654

Alan Bryan
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., Senior Associate General Counsel – Legal Operations
and Outside Counsel Management
702 SW 8th Street
Bentonville, AR 72716

Re: Boston Bar Association Support for ABA Resolution 113

Dear Mr. Woods and Mr. Bryan,

On behalf of the Boston Bar Association (BBA), we applaud the American Bar Association for advancing Resolution 113, and we are proud to support both the Resolution and the general counsel commitment letter. Both the Resolution and commitment letter were reviewed by all Section Steering Committees, our Executive Committee, and our 34-member governing Council, all of which voiced their unanimous support. We are grateful to the ABA, and in particular to participating general counsel, for their leadership on this important issue. We hope that the Resolution and the model survey will achieve their intended results, and we look forward to learning of this initiative's progress in the coming years.

We strongly believe that one of the most significant benefits of this initiative is that it will facilitate an ongoing constructive dialogue between law firms and corporations concerning diversity and inclusion within our profession. We view this initiative as one that affirmatively supports change through collaboration, and we are excited to be part of that discussion. Therefore, the BBA will convene a group of leaders in Boston who are eager to build upon this positive change and reach out to collaborate with other metropolitan bar associations in order to ensure the successful implementation of the Resolution and survey in the Boston legal community and beyond. We hope this will help further our shared goal of reaching consensus between law firms and general counsel offices on implementing Resolution 113.

We thank you for the opportunity to be part of this process. The BBA remains steadfastly committed to promoting diversity and inclusion in the bar and hope that the measures recommended in Resolution 113 and the commitment letter will play a valuable role in this effort.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Carol Starkey
President