

**YORK COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION/YORK COUNTY BAR FOUNDATION**  
**JUNETEENTH RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring millions of enslaved people in the United States to be free;

WHEREAS, on April 9, 1865, the Confederate Army surrendered to the Union Army, marking the unofficial end of the Civil War, which officially ended later on August 20, 1866;

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, the Union Army General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, and read aloud the declaration announcing the total abolition of enslavement in Texas;

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, enslaved Americans in Galveston, Texas, finally received word that they were free from bondage, African Americans came to commemorate Juneteenth with celebrations across the country, building new lives and a new tradition that are honored today;

WHEREAS, African Americans who had been enslaved have celebrated June 19, commonly known as “Juneteenth Independence Day”, as inspiration and encouragement for future generations for more than 150 years;

WHEREAS, the faith and strength of character demonstrated by the former enslaved and their descendants remain an example for all people, regardless of background, religion, or race;

WHEREAS, in 2019 Governor Tom Wolf Officially signed into legislation the declaration of June 19 as “Juneteenth National Freedom Day,” an official state holiday in Pennsylvania closing government offices under the governor's jurisdiction;

WHEREAS, in the year 2021, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania declared June 18, 2021, a court holiday in honor of Juneteenth and continues to recognize the holiday annually;

WHEREAS, on June 17, 2021, the American Bar Association proudly observed Juneteenth and looks forward to continuing to celebrate its rich history in the future;

WHEREAS, on June 17, 2021, Joseph R. Biden Jr., President of the United States of America, issued a proclamation recognizing Juneteenth as a National Holiday, recognizing the end of a long legacy of systemic racism, inequality, and inhumanity;

WHEREAS, currently, 49 of the 50 states and the District of Columbia have recognized Juneteenth as a state holiday, a ceremonial holiday, or a day of observance;

WHEREAS, the recognition of Juneteenth as a National and State holiday reminds us of our incredible capacity to heal, hope, and emerge from our darkest moments with purpose and resolve;

WHEREAS, the recognition of Juneteenth is not just a celebration of emancipation from enslavement, it is a celebration and testament to the enduring spirit and resilience of formerly enslaved people;

WHEREAS, the recognition of Juneteenth is a day for joy and celebration;

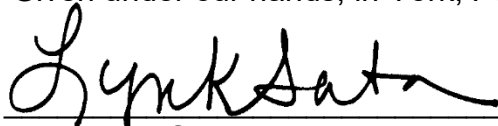
THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that We, the York County Bar Association, and the York County Bar Foundation, also stand in solidarity with the descendants of those enslaved Africans who continue to survive, and will continue to make equitable representation and inclusion a core part of our organizations' culture;

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that We, the York County Bar Association, and the York County Bar Foundation, call upon York County and York City Governments and the private business community to acknowledge and celebrate the emancipation of enslaved Americans, and to commit together to eradicate systemic racism that still undermines our founding ideals and collective prosperity;

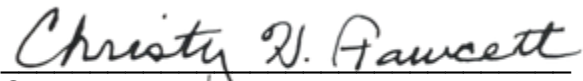
THEREFORE, LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED that We, the York County Bar Association, and the York County Bar Foundation, call upon York County and York City Governments and the private business community to:

- (1) recognize the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day to York County residents by recognizing Juneteenth as a holiday and by closing its offices;
- (2) support the continued celebration of Juneteenth Independence Day to provide an opportunity for the people of York County to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the United States; and
- (3) recognize that the observance of the end of enslavement and of the resilience of the enslaved and of those who fought against enslavement is part of the history and heritage of the United States.

Given under our hands, in York, Pennsylvania, on June 14, 2023.



Lynnore K. Seaton, President  
York County Bar Association



Christy H. Fawcett, President  
York County Bar Foundation