

2013-2014 ALA CD#37

Failed and 2 substitutes passed

Resolution on Whistleblower Edward Snowden

Whereas, in 2004 ALA passed a “Resolution on Securing Government Accountability through Whistleblower Protection” affirming its “support for accountable government and the role of whistleblowers in reporting abuse, fraud, and waste in governmental activities” (CD#20.7, 2004); and

Whereas, in 2008 ALA passed a “Resolution Commending the FBI Whistleblower Who Exposed Abuses on the Use of Exigent National Security Letters” stating that ALA “commends Mr. Bassem Youssef for bringing these serious abuses before the ALA and the American public,” and “supports and defends Mr. Youssef’s right to report FBI abuses,” and “urges the FBI to desist from any retaliation against Mr. Youssef for speaking before CD#20.5, 2008); and

Whereas, in 2011 ALA passed a “Resolution on Access to and Classification of Government Information,” which urged “Congress to pass legislation that expands protections for whistleblowers in the Federal government, such as the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2010” (CD#19.1, 2011); and also urged “the U.S. President, Congress, the federal courts, and executive and legislative agencies to defend the inalienable right of the press and citizens to disseminate information to the public about national security issues and to refrain from initiatives that impair these rights” (CD#19.1, 2011); and

Whereas, in 2013 ALA passed a Resolution on the Need for Reforms for the Intelligence Community to Support Privacy, open Government, Government Transparency, and Accountability. referred to recent “revelations related to NSA’s surveillance activities conducted pursuant to orders issued by the Foreign Intelligent Surveillance Court (FISC) under Sections 215 and 702 of the USA PATRIOT Act”;

3. in light of these revelations, called upon “upon the U.S. Congress, President Obama, and the Courts to reform our nation’s climate of secrecy, overclassification, and secret law regarding national security and surveillance, to align with these democratic principles”;

4. stated that ALA “values access to the documents disclosing the extent of public

Citations

CD#20.7, 2004

<http://www.ala.org/offices/sites/ala.org.offices/files/content/wo/reference/colresolutions/PDFs/000002CD20.7.pdf>

CD#20.5, 2008

<http://www.ala.org/offices/sites/ala.org.offices/files/content/wo/reference/colresolutions/PDFs/COL%20Resolution%20on%20Ba.pdf>

CD,#19.1, 2011

http://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/governance/council/council_documents/2011mw_council_docs/cd19_19_1_ifc.pdf

CD#19.2 and CD#20.40, 2010 <http://www.oif.ala.org/oif/?p=4803>

MMD#5, 2013 and CD#39, 2013

http://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/governance/council/council_documents/2013_annual_council_docs/cd_39_edward_snowden_off%29.pdf

FISA and NSA Resolutions Introduced in the 113th Congress (Revised 11/1/13)

http://www.ala.org/advocacy/sites/ala.org.advocacy/files/content/privacyconfidentiality/fisa_nsa_113th_congress.pdf