

1 [State Cuts to UC Hastings Budget]

2

3 **Resolution recognizing the educational, economic and pro-bono contributions of the**
4 **University of California, Hastings – College of the Law to the State of California and the**
5 **City and County of San Francisco, and urging the Governor and the California**
6 **Legislature to reverse the Governor’s proposal to eliminate all state funding for the**
7 **school.**

8

9 WHEREAS, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s revised budget proposes to reduce
10 state funding for University of California, Hastings - College of the Law (UC Hastings) by
11 \$10.3 million, which represents approximately 25% of UC Hastings’ total budget; and,

12 WHEREAS, The Governor’s proposal would eliminate 100% of existing state funding
13 for UC Hastings while only reducing funding to other UC and CSU system campuses by 18-
14 22%, raising fundamental questions of fairness; and,

15 WHEREAS, Since its founding as “the law department of the University of California” in
16 1878, UC Hastings has been an integral part of the educational infrastructure of the State of
17 California and the City and County of San Francisco, helping to educate and inspire prominent
18 business leaders, judges and elected officials; and,

19 WHEREAS, Students and clinical staff work tirelessly to make Hastings a responsible
20 member of the Tenderloin community by providing thousands of hours of pro-bono legal
21 services to the surrounding community each year; and,

22 WHEREAS, Members of the recently graduated class of 2009 provided over 3000
23 hours of pro-bono legal services during their tenure at UC Hastings, with projects including full
24 time staffing at the General Assistance Advocacy Project (GAAP), a weekly legal advice and
25 referral clinic at the 5th and Bryant Street Shelter, a collaboration with Volunteer Legal

1 Services Program (VLSP) on a monthly legal advice and referral clinic open to all San
2 Franciscans (typically serving between 100-130 residents each week), a joint project with the
3 American Immigration Lawyers' Association and Speaker Pelosi's office to organize two
4 Naturalization Days and a weekly tax clinic for Tenderloin residents from February through
5 April 15th of each year which assisted an average of 20 individuals/families each week; and,

6 WHEREAS, UC Hastings is an intellectual engine providing free legal support to
7 numerous public and private agencies and practitioners through a variety of research centers
8 on campus, including the Center for Gender and Refugee Studies which trains pro bono
9 attorneys who represent indigent women asylum-seekers in the Bay Area, provides technical
10 assistance to private practitioners and organizes important conferences to raise awareness of
11 refugee and human rights legal issues; and,

12 WHEREAS, The Center for State and Local Government Law makes UC Hastings one
13 of the few top-tier law schools in the country with programs devoted specifically to training
14 students to work in public law or as lawyers for local governments, providing two dozen
15 students the opportunity to earn credit working in the City Attorney's office and the State
16 Legislature each academic semester and, further, pairing students, faculty and public officials
17 to address pressing public policy concerns including work with the State Auditor to develop
18 regulations implementing Proposition 11 (2008), working with the CA Dept. of Health and
19 Human Services to promote understanding of health information privacy laws and assisting
20 San Francisco officials with legal analysis of issues surrounding gun control and pension
21 costs; and,

22 WHEREAS, UC Hastings has historically opened doors to a legal education for
23 California residents from a wide range of backgrounds, including many who are the first in
24 their families to attend college; and

25

1 WHEREAS, Disproportionate budget cuts will restrict access to a public legal education
2 for many California families and the massive tuition hikes that could result from the Governor's
3 proposal will create even greater barriers for students who wish to pursue careers in the
4 public interest and nonprofit fields; and,

5 WHEREAS, The faculty, staff, and administration at UC Hastings understand the
6 unprecedented nature of the state's budget crisis and are willing to bear their fair share to help
7 balance the state's budget; now, therefore, be it,

8 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors recognizes the important
9 educational, economic and social contributions of the University of California, Hastings -
10 College of the Law to the State of California and the City and County of San Francisco; and,
11 be it,

12 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges California
13 Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to reconsider his proposal to eliminate state funding for this
14 valuable educational institution; and, be it,

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges members
16 of the California Legislature to restore state funding to UC Hastings should Governor
17 Schwarzenegger fail to do so; and, be it,

18 FINALLY RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors shall send copies of
19 this resolution to the Office of Governor Schwarzenegger, Senator Mark Leno, Senator Leland
20 Yee, Assemblymember Tom Ammiano and Assemblymember Fiona Ma.

21
22
23
24
25