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**Los Angeles County Bar Association Adopts Resolution
Opposing California Proposition 66**

*Measure would further tax an already over-burdened court system
and potentially delay thousands of non-death penalty cases*

LOS ANGELES – October 25, 2016 – The Los Angeles County Bar Association (LACBA), one of the largest voluntary metropolitan bar associations in the country, has adopted a resolution opposing Proposition 66 – DEATH PENALTY. PROCEDURES. INITIATIVE STATUTE. – which will appear on the November California Ballot.

If enacted, this measure would require the Courts of Appeal to hear death penalty appeals in the first instance and the California Supreme Court to decide all death penalty appeals within five years.

“LACBA opposes Proposition 66 because it fails to provide additional judges, staff, or funds to process these death penalty appeals,” LACBA President Margaret P. Stevens said. “If Proposition 66 passes, it would further strain already inadequate court resources potentially delaying access to justice for thousands of civil and criminal non-death penalty cases each year. Based on our understanding, this type of effort would require approximately \$100 million in funding and there is no allocation to accomplish this. As a result, all non-death penalty matters would be put on hold indefinitely.”

“We are not taking a position on the fundamental issues concerning the death penalty: its effectiveness, moral concerns, or its societal merits,” Stevens added. “Our opposition to Proposition 66 is based solely on the negative impact the measure will have on an already over-taxed court system and its detriment to LACBA members and their current and future clients.”

California currently has more than 740 persons on death row, and has spent approximately \$4 billion since 1978 on capital punishment cases, while only 13 prisoners have been executed in the last 20 years.

About the Los Angeles County Bar Association

The Los Angeles County Bar Association (LACBA) is one of the largest voluntary metropolitan bar associations in the nation, with more than 20,000 members. LACBA is engaged in advancing the administration of justice and meeting the professional needs of lawyers. For more information, please visit www.lacba.org.

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