



**WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**Resolution Regarding the Establishment of a Special Commission to Study Regulatory
Options for Psychoactive Substances in the State of Washington**

In December of 2001 the Board of Governors of the Washington State Bar Association adopted a resolution regarding drug abuse policies in Washington State, commending the King County Bar Association Drug Policy Project and the Washington State Medical Society for taking a leadership role on these critical issues. In that resolution it was recognized that although criminal sanctions are a legitimate tool and have been effective in fighting some of the ill effects and conduct associated with drug and alcohol abuse, society's approach to drug and alcohol abuse problems should be expanded and reoriented. It was also resolved that a working group of statewide experts should be convened to improve Washington State's comprehensive substance abuse prevention plan.

The King County Bar Association Drug Policy Project issued a resolution on January 19, 2005, recommending that the Washington State Legislature establish a special consultative body to provide specific recommendations for legislation to establish regulatory systems and structures for the State of Washington to control psychoactive substances. The Board has considered that resolution and supporting resolutions and letters of support from the Washington State Medical Association, the Washington State Public Health Association, the Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility, King County Medical Society, the League of Women Voters of Seattle, the Loren Miller Bar Association, and the Church Council of Greater Seattle.

Having reviewed, debated and considered the matter, it is hereby resolved:

The Washington State Bar Association advocates that a special commission be established by the legislature of the State of Washington that is composed of experts in pharmacology, medicine, public health, law, law enforcement, and education, as well as public officials and civic leaders, for the purpose of investigating alternative regulatory approaches to the production, distribution and control of psychoactive substances that may have a more positive impact on the health and safety of the citizens of Washington.

Adopted by the Washington State Bar Association Board of Governors on October 29, 2005.

M. Janice Michels
Executive Director