



## RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, it has been proposed that Rutgers University-Camden, including its law school, be merged with Rowan University; and

**WHEREAS**, the name of Rutgers University School of Law-Camden, one of the outstanding public law schools in the United States and a preeminent institution training lawyers for New Jersey, the Philadelphia region, the Northeast and the nation will be lost if the merger occurs; and

**WHEREAS**, the law school is nationally recognized for its scholarship and outstanding faculty that includes leading scholars and committed teachers who have published noted scholarly books on topics as diverse as immigration law, criminal law, global trade, intellectual property, and antitrust law with leading university presses like Oxford, Cambridge, Princeton, and Yale, and won numerous awards, grants, and fellowships from esteemed academic bodies like the Fulbright Program, the American Council of Learned Societies, and Princeton University; and

**WHEREAS**, the retention of this acclaimed faculty is of prime importance; and

**WHEREAS**, Rutgers School of Law-Camden is the academic home to students from across the region, nation, and world who join the Law School from over 225 colleges and universities in 30 states, the District of Columbia, and four foreign countries; and

**WHEREAS**, the student body numbers more than 700, with about 175 students in each full-time entering class and the remainder in an accommodating part-time program, and boasts more than 9,000 alumni; and

**WHEREAS**, the law school's students contribute to a trio of journals--the *Rutgers Law Journal*, the *Rutgers Journal of Law and Religion*, and the *Rutgers Journal of Law and Public Policy*--and take part in innovative academic programs that support the rising trajectory of the school and students, including a Legal Research and Writing program ranked among the nation's top 12 by U.S. News & World Report; and

**WHEREAS**, the school is located in a new 53,000-square foot building that complements the law school's existing facility, offering "smart" classrooms, ample clinic space, faculty and staff offices, lounge and meeting space where faculty and students engage in learning, collaboration and scholarly interaction, and includes the state-of-the-art fully functional Archer & Greiner Moot Courtroom, which has already hosted a session of the New Jersey Supreme Court; and

**WHEREAS**, the Rutgers-Camden School of Law has produced graduates that are recognized in the legal community as top-notch lawyers, judges, and leaders of the organized bar and who take great pride in their alma mater; and

**WHEREAS**, the law school is also a fundamental asset to the underserved Camden community since its clinics and *pro bono* programs serve the various and important legal needs of the region's poorest residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the elimination of the Camden School of Law from Rutgers University will not only affect the university's reputation but also have negative financial implications for the university; and

**WHEREAS**, the placement of the law school within Rowan University will almost certainly trigger a years-long re-evaluation of the school by the American Bar Association, the accreditation body for all law schools, perhaps placing that critical accreditation in jeopardy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Schools of Law in Camden and Newark were exploring ways to enhance legal education in New Jersey and create a premier Rutgers School of Law, and that this important effort would be for naught if the School of Law in Camden leaves the Rutgers system,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the New Jersey State Bar Association considers the proposed merger of Rutgers University School of Law-Camden into Rowan University to be harmful to the future of legal education in New Jersey, to the viability and success of the bar, particularly in the southern part of the state, and to the communities served by the law school, its students and established alumni; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the New Jersey State Bar Association hereby urges the Governor, Legislature, Rutgers Board of Governors and Board of Trustees to reject the proposed merger between Rutgers University-Camden and Rowan University.

ADOPTED: Feb. 24, 2012