



**RESOLUTION No.:** 2017-18-6

**AUTHORED BY:** Brooke Holdren, Representative of the College of the Natural Resources and Sciences

Michael Freire, Representative of Professional Studies

Reza Sadeghzadeh, Student and Officer of Office of Diversity and Inclusion

**REFERRED TO:** AS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**ACTION SCHEDULED:** November 13, 2017

**SUBJECT:** An Act to Establish a Legal Center at Humboldt State.

1. **WHEREAS**, the Associated Students (A.S.) Board of Directors of Humboldt State University (HSU) is the single recognized voice for all H.S.U. students; and,
2. **WHEREAS**, the Mission of the Associated Students of Humboldt State University serves to "assist in the protection of rights and interests of the individual student and the student body," and to "stimulate the educational, social, physical, and cultural well-being of the University community"; and,
3. **WHEREAS**, HSU mission statement says: "We believe the key to our common future will be the individual citizen who acts in good conscience and engages in informed action"; and,
4. **WHEREAS**, Humboldt State University has had a functional legal center in the last 15 years, and it was fully functional until the faculty member retired; and,
5. **WHEREAS**, Many CSU campuses in Northern California have legal centers, including San Francisco State University, Northridge State University, and Chico State University; and,;
6. **WHEREAS**, Humboldt Center for Constitutional Rights (HumRights), a local non-profit organization, has expressed the recognition of a need for a legal center for students. This is because most students come from far away to attend, and may not have available resources when facing a legal dispute. Other CSU's have functional legal centers to empower students, and would also provide learning and peer-mentoring opportunities for students. HumRights is in support of this center, and is offering assistance such as gathering resources and providing local attorney connections and consultation; and,
7. **WHEREAS**, In a non-scientific student-led survey of 100 randomly selected students about 1/3 have been in a legal dispute since attending HSU, and none of them sought or received support from HSU. 97% of students surveyed said that students would benefit from a legal center on campus; and,

8. **WHEREAS**, According to Institutional Effectiveness, 53.1% of first time undergraduate students at Humboldt State University are low income.<sup>1</sup> Thus, those students may not have access to alternative legal recourse, since they do not have the financial ability to speak with an attorney if they have a legal issue; and,
9. **WHEREAS**, Humboldt State University openly serves undocumented students; and,
10. **WHEREAS**, 8,503 students attend HSU, and as of 2013 only 18% of students live on campus.<sup>2</sup> That means there are many students who are renters in Humboldt County; Be it resolved by the member by the Associated Students Board of Directors; Be it resolved by the member by the Associated Students Board of Directors,
11. **RESOLVED**, AS supports the establishment of this legal center, in the form of making the Legal Center a AS program; and,
12. **RESOLVED**, HSU Administration supports, recognizes, and acknowledges the need of a legal center on campus,
13. **RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to, but not limited to Lisa Rossbacher, HSU President and the HSU Cabinet.

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.humboldt.edu/irp/>

<sup>2</sup> [www.humboldt.edu/portalgraphics/HSU-HousingStudy.pdf](http://www.humboldt.edu/portalgraphics/HSU-HousingStudy.pdf)

Brooke Holdren

Brooke Holdren, Representative of the College of Natural Resources and Sciences

mf

11/8/17

Michael Freire, Representative of College of Professional Studies

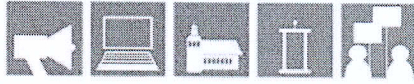
Reza Sadeghzadeh

Reza Sadeghzadeh, Student





## HUMBOLDT CENTER FOR



## CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

637 F Street, Arcata, CA 95521  
707.633.9085

Associated Students  
Humboldt State University  
1 Harpst St.  
Arcata, CA 95521

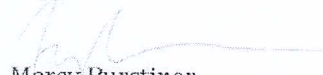
Dear Associated Students,

I am writing this letter in support of the proposed resolution for the establishment of a student legal rights center at Humboldt State. More than half the students enrolled at Humboldt State come from places that are hundreds of miles away. If they get into a dispute with a landlord or business, or a problem with police, they do not know where they can go to get legal advice.

Other universities, such as San Francisco State, house a legal resource center. Such centers serve to educate students on their legal rights, helping empower them when they get involved in disputes. Such centers provide basic information such as the Guide to Residential Tenant and Landlord Rights and Responsibilities published by the California Department of Consumer Affairs.

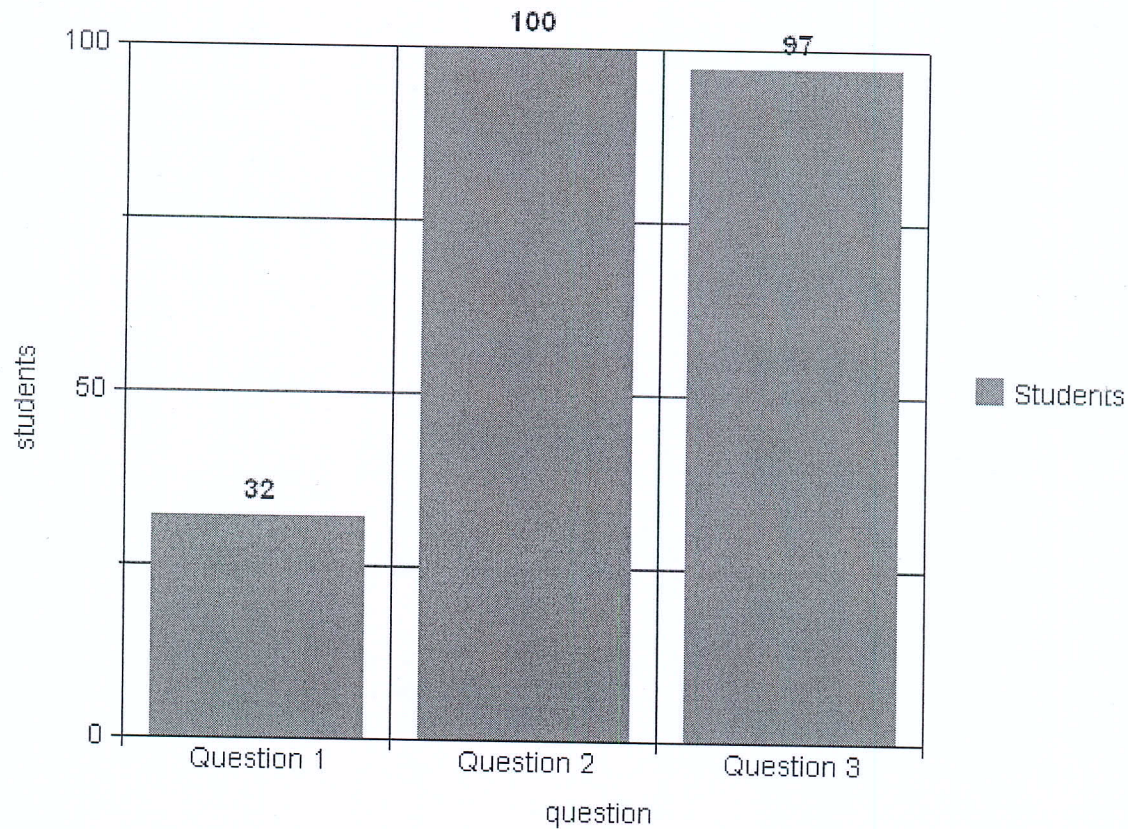
The center would also serve as a great learning opportunity in a peer-mentoring setting. The Humboldt Center for Constitutional Rights (HumRights) supports this concept and offers its assistance in establishing a student legal resource center. HumRights is an Arcata-based 501c3 non-profit organization, established in 2008 to educate citizens on their rights under the U.S. Constitution. HumRights has licensed attorneys on its board who can help establish curriculum for a student legal resource center class and provide assistance on gathering material and information that the center could provide. HumRights would also like to work with Humboldt State in putting together a list of local attorneys who would take referrals and offer students free initial consultations.

A legal resource center is needed at Humboldt State University. The Humboldt Center for Constitutional Rights supports this project and pledges what support it can offer to make it happen.

  
Marcy Burstiner  
Chair, Humboldt Center for Constitutional Rights  
Prof. Department of Journalism and Mass Communication



### Student Legal Center Survey



Question 1. While attending HSU, have you been in a dispute with your landlord, the law enforcement, and/or the local businesses?

YES

NO

Question 2. If yes, was HSU able provided you with any sources of legal assistance?

YES

NO

Question 3. Do you think HSU should have a legal information center for students?

YES

NO

