WHEREAS the King County Youth Services Center is located at 12th Avenue and East Alder Street in Seattle and houses juvenile courtrooms, administrative offices, and youth detention facilities in three conjoined buildings; and

WHEREAS the Alder Tower, built in 1972, is in a state of severe disrepair; and the Alder Wing, built in 1952, is also in a state of severe disrepair; and the Youth Detention Facility, built in 1991, is facing over $30 million in repairs to extend its useful life; and

WHEREAS the major building systems (HVAC, plumbing, etc.) have reached the end of their useful life and need to be replaced at an estimated cost of $20 million, with additional millions more in additional projects and major maintenance needs required to extend the life of the buildings; and

WHEREAS King County has been studying options for addressing these facility needs since 2005 and has determined that further remediation and renovation is less cost effective than demolition and new construction; and

WHEREAS the Metropolitan King County Council unanimously approved on April 16, 2012, placing on the August 7, 2012 ballot a nine-year property tax levy lid lift of $0.07 per $1,000 of assessed valuation to fund the replacement of the Youth Services Center; and

WHEREAS the King County Bar Association was founded in 1886 and represents over 14,000 attorneys, judges, and law professors in King County and has as its mission to work with the judiciary to achieve excellence in the administration of justice, which includes ensuring necessary facilities to support the county court system;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the King County Bar Association congratulates the Metropolitan King County Council on its unanimous vote to send this measure to the public; endorses the August 7, 2012 ballot measure funding a new King County Children and Family Justice Center; pledges the bar’s support in the public campaign to enact the ballot measure; and urges all King County voters to approve the ballot measure.

Adopted by the King County Bar Association Board of Trustees, April 18, 2012.

Joseph E. Bringman, President
Michael Wrenn, Secretary