A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE GRADUATION LATIN HONORS REQUIREMENTS

WHEREAS, Graduation Latin Honors ("Latin Honors") at the Brandies School of Law are based entirely on a student's cumulative Grade Point Average ("GPA") and are awarded to recognize students whose performance exceeded academic standards; and

WHEREAS, students at the Brandeis School of law are concerned that they are being treated unfairly because the current "Latin" Honors requirements do not account for the additional challenges presented by the SARS-CoV-2, ("COVID-19") pandemic, nor do the current requirements recognize the substantial deviations in academic standards from years absent the "COVID-19" pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Student Bar Association is responsible for the self-governance of the student body and represents student concerns and interests to the academic and legal communities; and

WHEREAS, this Assembly recognizes the concerns of students that a clear deviation from previous years' academic expectations and standards absent the "COVID-19" pandemic has occurred; specifically, the drastic and unexpected changes impacting instruction, attendance, assignments, course venues, grading, and the numerous additional challenges in the personal lives of students; and

WHEREAS, such deviations could not be taken in account when the original "Latin Honors" requirements were considered and implemented; and

WHEREAS, the students are currently being measured by standards considered for students in drastically different circumstances is inherently unfair; and

WHEREAS, the lowering of Latin requirements will not change the fact that class rank will continue to recognize and distinguish the individual academic performances of students compared to their peers; and

WHEREAS, the "Latin Honors" requirements were lowered for the class of 2020 to account for deviations caused by "COVID-19" during a single semester, the classes of 2021 and 2022 are still without remedy despite being more adversely affected by "COVID-19" than the class of 2020; namely, the omission of all GPA credits from the Spring 2020 semester, the continued impact of the pandemic on the Fall 2020 semester, and expected impact the Spring 2021 semester; and;

THEREFORE, it is proposed that the Latin Graduation Requirements for law students in the classes of 2021 and 2022 shall be amended as follows:

> Graduation Latin Honors for the degree of Juris Doctorate will be granted *summa cum laude* to those who have a point standing between 3.7 and 4.0, *magna cum laude* to those who have a point standing between 3.4 and 3.699, and *cum laude* to those who have a point standing between 3.1 and 3.399.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of the Student Bar Association hereby presents and encourages the adoption of the proposed Graduation Latin Honors requirements to the necessary decision-making authority.

YES_11_   NO_2_   ABSTAIN_7_