RESOLUTION

Whereas,
    One of the primary objects of the Union League Club of Chicago is to promote economy in office and to secure honesty and efficiency in the administration of national, state and municipal affairs; and

Whereas,
    The Union League Club of Chicago has supported this object by adopting and advocating positions supporting death penalty reform in the State of Illinois; and

Whereas,
    The Capital Litigation Trust Fund in Illinois was established to assist in funding the prosecution and defense of capital cases; and

Whereas,
    Current law permits prosecutors, public defenders and appointed defense attorneys to obtain and expend funds from the Capital Litigation Trust Fund in death-eligible cases in which the death penalty is not ultimately sought; and

Whereas,
    The Illinois General Assembly should address other weaknesses in the controls over expenditures of funds from the Capital Litigation Trust Fund which have been described in reports of the Governor’s Commission on Capital Punishment and by other sources; and

Whereas,
    A strengthening of controls over expenditures of funds from the Capital Litigation Trust Fund would promote economy and efficiency in the administration of the expenditures from the Capital Litigation Trust Fund; therefore

Be It Resolved,
    That the Union League Club of Chicago, without taking a position for or against the death penalty, supports the passage of legislation by the General Assembly of Illinois, to be signed by the Governor, as follows:
    (1) The legislation proposed by the Treasurer of the State of Illinois, and known as House Bill 869 and Senate Bill 1289, which would increase accountability and control over expenditures from the Capital Litigation Trust Fund; and
    (2) Legislation to require prosecutors and public defenders to obtain prior court approval for expenditures of monies from the Capital Litigation Trust Fund; and
    (3) Legislation requiring the Treasurer of Illinois to file a detailed report each year showing expenditures from the Capital Litigation Trust Fund; and

Be It Further Resolved,
    That the Public Affairs Committee and the Director of Public Affairs are authorized to inform the Governor of Illinois, members of the General Assembly and the general public of this position of the Union League Club of Chicago.

Adopted May 20, 2009 by the Board of Directors.

Nina Owen
President

James S. Barber
Secretary