

**Testimony before the Senate Rules Committee
In support of HB 4009
On behalf of the Oregon State Bar
February 18, 2016**

Chair Rosenbaum, members of the committee:

On behalf of the Oregon State Bar Board of Governors, I write in support of House Bill 4009 and designating March 28th as Minoru Yasui Day.

Mr. Yasui was a graduate of the University of Oregon Law School and the first Japanese-American member of the Oregon State Bar when he was admitted to practice in 1939.

Although Mr. Yasui practiced law in Oregon only briefly, his entire career exemplified the Oregon State Bar's mission of and commitment to access to justice beginning with his challenge to the military exclusion zones in Oregon established by Executive Order in 1942. Mr. Yasui was arrested, convicted, stripped of his citizenship and jailed before the US Supreme Court held the lower court ruling unconstitutional and restored Mr. Yasui's citizenship the following year. Nevertheless, Mr. Yasui spent the remainder of World War II in an internment camp. Upon release, he moved to Denver, Colorado, where he lived the rest of his life.

Mr. Yasui's wartime experiences did not diminish his love for his country; rather it propelled him to spend the ensuing years fighting for civil rights for all minorities and to seeking redress for those interned during World War II. He was recognized as an outstanding citizen by the city of Denver, which established a service award in his honor. Mr. Yasui died in 1986, two years before the Civil Liberties Act called on the President to apologize for internment. He is buried in Hood River, Oregon, where he was born. President Barak Obama awarded Mr. Yasui the Presidential Medal of Freedom on November 24, 2015. The Presidential Medal of Freedom recognizes civilians who have made a meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of the United States, world peace, cultural or other significant public or private endeavors. Mr. Yasui's lifetime commitment to civil rights, access to justice and diversity made him an ideal candidate.

The OSB Board of Governors is proud to support the passage of House Bill 4009 and encourages the Oregon Legislature to recognize Minoru Yasui's many contributions to making the United States a more just nation.

Respectfully,



Ray Heysell
Oregon State Bar President