

RESOLUTION REGARDING 2012 REVISION TO BLET FELA COUNSEL PROGRAM

WHEREAS, for nearly thirty years, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen has maintained a list of experienced personal injury lawyers so that the Union's members would have available to them competent, principled legal counsel to assist in the handling of their claims for personal injuries incurred during the course of their railroad employment, and

WHEREAS, this list, commonly known as BLET's Designated Legal Counsel ("DLC"), was created and maintained as part of the Union's mission to "advance the working conditions, wages, benefits, job security, and quality of life for its present and future members and their families," and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the BLET Advisory Board revised its criteria for becoming a DLC, developed various Rules of Conduct with which DLCs would be expected to comport themselves insofar as it relates to their DLC status, and issued a formal Protocol to that effect, and

WHEREAS, BLET has had to expend considerable time and resources to administer the Protocol's reporting requirement and to resolve frequent controversies associated therewith.

WHEREAS, the Advisory Board is desirous of expanding the number of lawyers specializing in representing injured employees under the Federal Employers' Liability Act who are available to represent injured BLET members without undertaking the expenditure of additional BLET resources that would be necessary to do so were the current DLC program to remain in effect, and

WHEREAS, the Academy of Rail Labor Attorneys ("ARLA") is an organization made up exclusively of lawyers who represent injured employees under the Federal Employers' Liability Act, many of whom already are BLET DLCs, and

WHEREAS, ARLA maintains its own Constitution which, along with the rules of conduct and ethics issued by the states in which ARLA attorneys practice law, assures BLET members, as well as the BLET can, that the attorneys they choose to represent them will maintain the standards set by ARLA,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that BLET will discontinue formally designating attorneys and maintaining a list of Designated Legal Counsel and will instead refer its members to the directory of ARLA as a source of lawyers who will represent injured members in handling their FELA claims against their employing rail carriers, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that BLET will provide its members with a set of recommended inquiries to assist any injured BLET member in deciding which personal injury attorney will best represent his/her interests, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Code of Compliance for BLET Officers and Employees Concerning Relationships with Employers and Designated Legal Counsel shall be revised to reflect this change and to assure that no BLET Officer or employee at any level (the National Division, the General Committees of Adjustment, the Local Divisions, and the National and State Legislative Boards) is relieved of his/her obligation to continue to comply with the Code of Compliance insofar as his/her dealings with any legal counsel representing, or seeking to represent, injured BLET members is concerned.

ADOPTED by the BLET Advisory Board on February 29, 2012.