

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 5

BY SENATOR BISHOP

A RESOLUTION

To commend Dillard University and its Pre-law Program on being awarded the 2018 ABA Section on Litigation's Diversity Leadership Award.

WHEREAS, competing against law schools, firms, and organizations across the country, the Dillard University Pre-law Program received the prestigious 2018 Diversity Leadership Award from the American Bar Association (ABA) Section on Litigation; and

WHEREAS, the Section on Litigation created this honor to recognize those who have made outstanding commitments to promoting full and equal participation in the legal profession through the encouragement and inclusion of women, people of color, persons with disabilities, and persons of differing sexual orientations and gender identities; and

WHEREAS, the Diversity Leadership Award was presented to Attorney Adria Kimbrough, Dillard's Pre-law Program advisor, during the Annual Conference Luncheon on Thursday, May 3, 2018, at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront in San Diego, California; and

WHEREAS, the award is evidence that the Dillard Pre-law Program is competitive, cutting edge, and committed to ensuring that its students are prepared and to increasing diversity in the legal profession; and

WHEREAS, Dillard's Center for Law and Public Interest Pre-law Program is designed to prepare students interested in a career in law and consists of a mock trial team, an LSAT boot camp, and field opportunities including workshops with attorneys and judges; and

WHEREAS, barely in its third year, the Dillard Pre-law Program has captured the national spotlight as the University's Mock Trial team has quickly become a formidable opponent, finishing its 2017-2018 competition season ranked in the top thirty percent of college mock trial teams nationwide; and

WHEREAS, in February, the team made history with its first-ever qualification to

the Opening Round Championship held March 23-25 at the D'Army Bailey Courthouse in Memphis, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, notably, the Dillard University Pre-law Program received \$180,000 in grant funding to increase diversity in law schools and the legal profession; and

WHEREAS, last year, Dillard University was awarded the AccessLex Institute Legal Education Diversity Pipeline Grant, which funds programs that provide students from historically underrepresented groups with resources to aid them in successful matriculation into law school and the legal profession, which is significant in that Dillard University is the only undergraduate institution and the only Historically Black College and University (HBCU) in the nation to be awarded a grant through this program; and

WHEREAS, Dillard University received \$125,000 in funds to launch a brand new program called LEAD (Legal Education Advancing Diversity) that provides students and graduates from the three HBCUs in New Orleans with a comprehensive year-long program that includes intensive preparation for the LSAT, law school admissions support, and a mentor in the legal profession; and

WHEREAS, the University also received an additional \$55,000 to launch a second program called "Foundation to LEAD" that will provide rising college juniors from Dillard, SUNO, and Xavier with exposure to analytical and logical reasoning skills, and participants will gain hands-on experience with a local public interest law organization and gain exposure to the legal profession through guest lectures by prominent members of the New Orleans legal community; and

WHEREAS, Loyola University College of Law and Tulane University College of Law will collaborate with the LEAD program to assist with law school admission workshops and other opportunities to expose the scholars to law school as the program plans to accept twenty new HBCU scholars each year, with a total of forty LEAD scholars over the course of two years; and

WHEREAS, only in its third year, the Pre-law Program continues to grow and excel.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana that Dillard University and its Pre-law Program are hereby commended on being awarded the 2018 ABA Section on Litigation's Diversity Leadership Award.

SR NO. 5

ENROLLED

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
Adria Kimbrough, Dillard University Pre-law Program advisor.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE