

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 106

BY SENATORS PEACOCK AND WALSWORTH AND REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend the Honorable Felicia Toney Williams upon her ascension to the position of chief judge on the Louisiana Second Circuit Court of Appeal and to congratulate her as the first female African-American jurist to do so in the second circuit.

WHEREAS, it is with great respect that the Legislature of Louisiana acknowledges the advancement of Chief Judge Felicia Williams to this prestigious position on the appellate bench in October 2018; and

WHEREAS, Chief Judge Williams can lay claim to several "firsts" in her life; she was the first African-American woman elected to the Second Circuit Court of Appeal in 1993, she was then reelected in 2002 and 2012 without opposition; and her current term continues until December 2022; and

WHEREAS, as chief judge, Felicia Toney Williams puts forth a vision statement for the court to work efficiently and appropriately and to give equal weight to the disposition of all cases before the bench; and

WHEREAS, Judge Felicia Williams holds excellent credentials as a jurist having served as a judge for the Sixth Judicial District, which encompasses the parishes of Madison, East Carroll, and Tensas; she was appointed to serve as an Associate Justice Pro Tempore for the Louisiana Supreme Court; and she also served as an Assistant District Attorney for the Sixth Judicial District; and

WHEREAS, Chief Judge Williams is an individual of great intellect and insight having graduated magna cum laude from Southern University with receipt of a Bachelor of Arts degree, also having graduated cum laude from Southern University Law Center with a Juris Doctor degree, and having been distinguished among her peers to serve as editor-in-chief of the Southern University Law Review; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, she completed the Appellate Judges Program at New York University School of Law; and

WHEREAS, Chief Judge Williams is active in an array of professional organizations that include the American Bar Association, Louisiana State Bar Association, Shreveport Bar Association, National Bar Association, Louisiana Judicial Council, National Association of Women Judges, Judge Fred Fudickar Jr. American Inn of Court, and the Northeast Louisiana Louis A. Martinet Legal Society; and

WHEREAS, with an interest in social activism, Chief Judge Williams provides helpful insight to the Louisiana Task Force on Women in the Courts, the Louisiana Task Force on Racial and Ethnic Bias, the Madison Parish Task Force on Education and Drug Abuse, and the Madison Parish Schools Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, she holds affiliations with service organizations such as, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Southern University Alumni Federation, and the Order of the Eastern Star; and

WHEREAS, Chief Judge Williams has been honored with tributes such as Who's Who in American Law and as an Honorary Member of the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools; and

WHEREAS, Chief Judge Williams has many well-deserved accolades that include receipt of the Thurgood Marshall Service Award from the American Bar Association, the Distinguished Alumni Award from Southern University Law Center, the Outstanding Service Award from the National Association of University Women, the Outstanding Community Service Award from Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the Silver Dollar Service Award from Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., the Human & Civil Rights Trailblazer Award from the Louisiana Association of Educators, and the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Award from the city of Shreveport; and

WHEREAS, Chief Judge Williams has also served her fellow jurists as president of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals Judges Association, as chairman and vice chairman of the Louisiana Supreme Court Judiciary Commission, and as chairman of the Louisiana Conference of Court of Appeal Judges; and

WHEREAS, Chief Judge Williams is proud to have broken through the court's "glass ceilings" of gender and ethnicity to faithfully serve the state on the Louisiana Second Circuit Court of Appeal; and

WHEREAS, Chief Judge Felicia Williams exhibits the finest qualities of diligence, character, perseverance, and social activism that shall be reminiscent of her tenure on the bench.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Chief Judge Felicia T. Williams for her stalwart public service to the citizenry of the state of Louisiana as a jurist and for her many contributions to the effectiveness and efficiency of the Louisiana Second Circuit Court of Appeal.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Felicia T. Williams, chief judge of the Louisiana Second Circuit Court of Appeal.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES