

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 282

BY REPRESENTATIVES GLOVER, BAGLEY, JEFFERSON, JENKINS, PHELPS,
PRESSLY, AND SEABAUGH

COMMENDATIONS: Commends the Southern University Law Center and all who have worked to establish the law center's off-campus instruction site in Shreveport

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Chancellor John K. Pierre, Professor Deleso Alford, and the Southern
3 University Law Center and all those who have worked to establish the law center's
4 off-campus instruction site in Shreveport and to commend the initial cohort of
5 students who completed their final semester of law school at the off-campus site.

6 WHEREAS, in House Concurrent Resolution No. 24 of the 2019 Regular Session
7 of the Legislature, the Legislature of Louisiana requested that the Board of Regents study
8 how the state can best meet the legal education needs of students and the economic and
9 workforce development needs of the Shreveport-Bossier region, including but not limited
10 to meeting these needs through establishing a campus of the Southern University Law Center
11 in Shreveport; and

12 WHEREAS, Chancellor Pierre of the Southern University Law Center submitted a
13 plan to the Board of Regents and established a team to develop and implement the off-
14 campus instruction site in Shreveport; Professor Deleso Alford was tapped as director of the
15 off-campus instructional site; Professor Alford and her team have taken a phase-in approach
16 to getting the program started, and with support from the Caddo Parish Commission and the
17 Shreveport Bar Association, May 21, 2022, marked the successful completion of Phase I;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, on May 21, seven students, Rachel Hughes, Allison Williams, Tiberlee
20 Barnum, Tanner Yeldell, Jakira Gibson, Kourtnee Jones, and Aja Winslow, recognized by

1 Chancellor Pierre as the Sagacious Seven, graduated with the rest of their law center
2 classmates after having completed the final semester of their legal education at the site in
3 Shreveport; and

4 WHEREAS, in 1946, World War II veteran Charles J. Hatfield, Jr. graduated from
5 Xavier University in New Orleans but was denied admittance to LSU's law school because
6 of his race; motivated by Mr. Hatfield's law suit, Louisiana authorized the creation of a law
7 school at Southern University Baton Rouge; the first five students admitted to the program,
8 Alex L. Pitcher, Leroy White, Ellyson F. Dyson, Jesse Stone, and Alvin B. Jones, known as
9 the Fearless Founding Five, charted a course that fundamentally altered access to legal
10 education in Louisiana; in the decades since, the need for further expansion of access to legal
11 education, especially in the Shreveport-Bossier area, has been clearly demonstrated and
12 directly articulated; and

13 WHEREAS, Chancellor Pierre, Professor Alford and her team, and many others have
14 worked hard in response to House Concurrent Resolution No. 24 of the 2019 Regular
15 Session of the Legislature to make access to high quality legal education in Northwest
16 Louisiana a reality and are worthy of great commendation and tremendous gratitude; as has
17 been the case with Mr. Hatfield's legacy, legion will be the beneficiaries, in the coming
18 decades, of the fruits of their labors.

19 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
20 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Chancellor John K. Pierre, Professor Deleso
21 Alford, and the Southern University Law Center and all those who have worked to establish
22 the law center's off-campus instruction site in Shreveport and does hereby express sincere
23 gratitude for their contributions to the people and the economy of the Shreveport-Bossier
24 region.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that of those deserving recognition, certainly not
26 least are the students who took the risk to try something new, and the House of
27 Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby also commend Rachel Hughes,
28 Allison Williams, Tiberlee Barnum, Tanner Yeldell, Jakira Gibson, Kourtnee Jones, and Aja
29 Winslow, the Sagacious Seven standing squarely on the shoulders of the Fearless Founding

1 Five, and does hereby express sincere hopes that the chance they took in their final semester
2 of law school produces a lifetime of rewards.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
4 Chancellor John K. Pierre of the Southern University Law Center.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 282 Original

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Glover

Commends Chancellor John K. Pierre, Professor Deleso Alford, and the Southern University Law Center and all those who have worked to establish the law center's off-campus instruction site in Shreveport and to commend the initial cohort of students who completed their final semester of law school at the off-campus site.