

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 117

BY REPRESENTATIVES GAINES, BOYD, BRASS, BRYANT, CARPENTER, WILFORD CARTER, COX, FISHER, GLOVER, GREEN, HUGHES, JEFFERSON, JENKINS, TRAVIS JOHNSON, JORDAN, KNOX, LAFLEUR, LARVADAIN, LYONS, MARCELLE, DUSTIN MILLER, MOORE, NEWELL, PHELPS, PIERRE, SELDERS, AND WILLARD AND SENATORS BARROW, BOUDREAUX, BOUIE, CARTER, DUPLESSIS, FIELDS, HARRIS, JACKSON, PRICE, AND TARVER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To designate Monday, May 22, 2023, as the Louisiana Judicial Council of the National Bar Association Day at the state capitol and to commend the council.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Judicial Council is an arm of the National Bar Association founded in 1971 and is the largest and oldest association of black judges in the world which has continued its legacy of service, activism, and justice for all; and

WHEREAS, the rapid increase in the number of black judges in the United States prompted the National Bar Association's national president, Edward F. Bell, to suggest coordination of an extension of the judicial body within the parent organization to provide an educational vehicle for judges, to reinforce and aid judges to uphold key principles, and to encourage judges to mentor others who enter the profession; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Judicial Council of the National Bar Association has one hundred forty-six active and retired members, with six members as federal judges, across the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Judicial Council of the National Bar Association consists of the following 2022-2024 Officers: Judge Lee V. Faulkner, Jr., 24th Judicial District Court, chair; Judge Kern A. Reece, Orleans Parish Civil District Court, chair-elect; Judge Sandra C. Jenkins, 4th Circuit Court of Appeal, secretary; Judge Marc E. Johnson, 5th Circuit Court of Appeal, treasurer; and the executive board members: Judge E. Adrian Adams, 24th Judicial District Court, Gretna; Judge Shonda D. Stone, 2nd Circuit Court of

Appeal, Shreveport; Judge Derrick D. Kee, 14th Judicial District Court, Lake Charles; Judge Tammy D. Lee, Monroe City Court, Monroe; Judge Trudy M. White, 19th Judicial Court, Baton Rouge; Judge Vercell F. Fiffie, 40th Judicial District Court, Edgard; Judge Rachel D. Johnson, 4th Circuit Court of Appeal, New Orleans; Judge D. Nicole Sheppard, Orleans Parish Civil District Court, New Orleans; Judge Karelia R. Stewart, 1st Judicial District Court, Shreveport; immediate past chairperson, Judge June B. Darensburg, 24th Judicial District Court, Gretna; and past chairperson, Justice Piper D. Griffin, Louisiana Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, in order to facilitate the provision of justice in Louisiana, the judges of the Louisiana Judicial Council undertake activities for the improvement of law, the legal system, and the administration of justice; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Judicial Council is committed to a more diverse ethnic and cultural balance of elected and nonelected judges throughout the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Judicial Council is committed to achieving the eradication of racial and class bias from the judicial process thereby improving the public's confidence in the judicial system; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Judicial Council of the National Bar Association aspires to be the beacon of light for justice in Louisiana and the world as it works to develop a shared sense of justice that respects the dignity of all human beings; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Judicial Council fashions effective remedies for legitimate grievances of the deprived, the oppressed, and the underrepresented in society; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Judicial Council facilitates and hastens the meaningful integration of the judiciary and of each agency of government controlled by or responsible to the judiciary; and

WHEREAS, the motto of the Louisiana Judicial Council is "*Fiat Justitia Ruat Coelum*" which means "*Let Justice Prevail Though the Heavens May Fall*"; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Judicial Council provides seminars, conferences, and forums for the exchange of judicial experiences and for the training and continuing education of its members; and

WHEREAS, the principle values of the Louisiana Judicial Council are justice and integrity, which are reflected by the respect, spirituality, selfless service, and personal courage of its membership.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize Monday, May 22, 2023, as Louisiana Judicial Council of the National Bar Association Day at the state capitol and does hereby commend and express enduring appreciation and gratitude to the Louisiana Judicial Council of the National Bar Association for its fight for justice and equality within the judicial branch of our government and for its contributions to the judiciary as a whole.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chairperson of the Louisiana Judicial Council of the National Bar Association.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE