

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 103

BY REPRESENTATIVES ST. GERMAIN, BARROW, CHAMPAGNE, HILL, HODGES,  
KATRINA JACKSON, NANCY LANDRY, MORENO, NORTON, SMITH,  
STOKES, THIERRY, AND WHITNEY AND SENATORS BROOME,  
BUFFINGTON, DORSEY-COLOMB, AND PETERSON

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson of New Orleans upon her receipt of a 2013 Women of Excellence Award from the La. Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To commend Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson of New Orleans upon her receipt of a  
3 2013 Women of Excellence Award from the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus  
4 Foundation for her achievements in the field of Louisiana Hero of Excellence.

5 WHEREAS, Bernette Joshua Johnson took her oath of office as Chief Justice of the  
6 Louisiana Supreme Court on February 1, 2013, having been first elected Associate Justice  
7 of the Louisiana Supreme Court in 1994 and reelected without opposition in 2000 and 2010,  
8 and having been the first woman elected to the Civil District Court in New Orleans; and

9 WHEREAS, Chief Justice Johnson grew up in New Orleans, attended public schools,  
10 and graduated valedictorian of her high school class; she then attended Spelman College in  
11 Atlanta on an academic scholarship, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree, and she  
12 was one of the first African-American women to attend the Law School at Louisiana State  
13 University, where she received her Juris Doctorate degree in 1969; and

14 WHEREAS, prior to her election to the bench, Chief Justice Johnson spent most of  
15 her legal career working in the public sector; she served as a legal services attorney and a  
16 Deputy City Attorney for the City of New Orleans; she worked as a law intern with the  
17 United States Justice Department, Civil Rights Division, and as a community organizer with  
18 the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund in New York City; and during the 1970s,

1 she helped to organize household workers to receive social security benefits and a minimum  
2 wage; and

3 WHEREAS, Chief Justice Johnson has been recognized for her many achievements;  
4 she received an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from Spelman College in 2001; her portrait was  
5 unveiled in 1996 and she was inducted into the LSU Law Center Hall of Fame; in 2010,  
6 Justice Johnson was inducted into the National Bar Association Hall of Fame and the  
7 Louisiana Justice Hall of Fame; and Chief Justice Johnson is the recipient of numerous  
8 awards, including the American Bar Association 2010 Spirit of Excellence Award, in 2010  
9 the Distinguished Civil Rights Advocate Award, in 2009 Louisiana State Bar Association  
10 Distinguished Jurist; and in 1998 the American Bar Association's Margaret Brent Women  
11 Lawyers of Achievement Award; she was the recipient of the first Ernest N. Morial Award  
12 given by the New Orleans Legal Assistance Corporation and the A.P. Tureaud Citizenship  
13 Award given by the Louisiana State Conference, NAACP; and former New Orleans Mayor  
14 Marc H. Morial presented her with the Medal of Honor from the City of New Orleans; and

15 WHEREAS, Chief Justice Johnson is a long-standing member of the National Bar  
16 Association; she has been Secretary and Chair of the National Bar Association Judicial  
17 Council and served as Chair for the Annual meeting in Memphis, Tennessee, when over one  
18 thousand two hundred lawyers, judges, and community leaders, including the entire  
19 Tennessee Supreme Court, attended the Judicial Council luncheon; and

20 WHEREAS, Chief Justice Johnson has two adult children, a son, David, an  
21 accountant who lives in Atlanta with his wife and children, and a daughter, Rachael, who is  
22 a lawyer, licensed in both Florida and Louisiana; and

23 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation created the  
24 Women of Excellence Awards to recognize and honor extraordinary women of excellence  
25 across the state for their outstanding achievements and contributions; and

26 WHEREAS, recipients of the Women of Excellence Awards exhibit characteristics  
27 of integrity and professionalism, personify excellence in their area of specialty, and are  
28 committed to community service to better society as a whole; and

1           WHEREAS, for 2013, there are six fields or categories for the Women of Excellence  
2 Awards: Business, College Woman of Excellence, Education and Research, High School  
3 Woman of Excellence, Louisiana Hero of Excellence, and Military; and

4           WHEREAS, the recipients of the 2013 Women of Excellence Awards are being  
5 recognized at the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation's Women of  
6 Excellence Awards Gala on Wednesday, May 29, 2013, at the historic Hilton Capitol House  
7 Hotel in Baton Rouge; and

8           WHEREAS, Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson of New Orleans has been named  
9 a recipient of a 2013 Women of Excellence Award in the field of Louisiana Hero of  
10 Excellence, a new field which recognizes an ordinary everyday person who is making  
11 extraordinarily positive differences in changing the lives of people in Louisiana and beyond;  
12 and

13           WHEREAS, Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson merits a sincere and heartfelt  
14 measure of commendation for her dedication to excellence and her outstanding  
15 accomplishments, and it is entirely appropriate for the Legislature of Louisiana to commend  
16 Chief Justice Johnson upon her receipt of a 2013 Women of Excellence Award from the  
17 Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation which recognizes her vital contributions  
18 to the citizens of Louisiana.

19           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
20 commend Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson of New Orleans upon her receipt of a 2013  
21 Women of Excellence Award from the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation  
22 for her achievements in the field of Louisiana Hero of Excellence; does hereby recognize  
23 and record for posterity her singular contributions to the citizens of Louisiana, and does  
24 hereby extend enduring appreciation for the tremendous honor and pride that she brings to  
25 the state of Louisiana.

26           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted  
27 to Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson.

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)]

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St. Germain

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