

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 215

WHEREAS, Brad Toben is concluding his remarkable 32-year tenure as dean of Baylor Law School on July 1, 2023, to focus on his work as the M. C. and Mattie Caston Professor of Law; and

WHEREAS, Appointed in 1991, Dean Toben has been acknowledged as the longest-serving dean of a major law school; the average tenure in this demanding role is a mere four years, but Dean Toben has devoted the greater part of his career to the advancement of Baylor Law and legal education; under his leadership, the school has risen to the top 50 in the nation, and it has been ranked No. 2 in trial advocacy by *U.S. News & World Report*; its students have regularly achieved a high pass rate on the Texas bar exam, and their success in finding employment has enabled the school to earn outstanding marks for placement; drawn from numerous undergraduate institutions, the law school boasts a diverse enrollment; presently, over 30 percent are students of color and over half are women; and

WHEREAS, Dean Toben guided the \$35 million building campaign for the Sheila and Walter Umphrey Law Center, and he has raised the Baylor Law endowment from under \$1 million to more than \$180 million; committed to maintaining small class sizes and promoting mentorship, he expanded the faculty considerably; the community-oriented pro bono and public service initiatives he developed have won such accolades as the American Bar Association Pro Bono Publico Award; moreover, he strengthened the national reputation of Baylor's renowned legal writing program and launched innovative programs in professional development and leadership, as well as exceptional study abroad opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, Dean Toben has been active in accreditation and membership inspections for the ABA and Association of American Law Schools; he was appointed to the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws and elected to the American Law Institute, and he is a fellow of the ABA and the Texas Bar Foundation as well as a Master of the Bench in the Judge Abner V. McCall American Inn of Court; after graduating from Baylor Law with honors in 1977, he went on to earn a master of laws degree from Harvard University; he taught at Indiana University School of Law-Indianapolis before joining the Baylor faculty in 1981; and

WHEREAS, A leader of exceptional vision, dynamism, and dedication, Brad Toben has made a profound impact on Baylor Law School and the Texas legal community, and his legacy will resonate for years to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 88th Legislature, hereby honor Brad Toben for his exceptional service as dean of Baylor Law School and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

S.R. No. 215

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for Dean Toben as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Birdwell, Hughes

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 28, 2023.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate