

By: Birdwell, Hughes

S.R. No. 215

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

17 WHEREAS, Dean Toben guided the \$35 million building campaign
18 for the Sheila and Walter Umphrey Law Center, and he has raised the
19 Baylor Law endowment from under \$1 million to more than \$180
20 million; committed to maintaining small class sizes and promoting
21 mentorship, he expanded the faculty considerably; the
22 community-oriented pro bono and public service initiatives he
23 developed have won such accolades as the American Bar Association
24 Pro Bono Publico Award; moreover, he strengthened the national

1 reputation of Baylor's renowned legal writing program and launched
2 innovative programs in professional development and leadership, as
3 well as exceptional study abroad opportunities; and

4 WHEREAS, Over the years, Dean Toben has been active in
5 accreditation and membership inspections for the ABA and
6 Association of American Law Schools; he was appointed to the
7 National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws and
8 elected to the American Law Institute, and he is a fellow of the ABA
9 and the Texas Bar Foundation as well as a Master of the Bench in the
10 Judge Abner V. McCall American Inn of Court; after graduating from
11 Baylor Law with honors in 1977, he went on to earn a master of laws
12 degree from Harvard University; he taught at Indiana University
13 School of Law-Indianapolis before joining the Baylor faculty in
14 1981; and

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

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

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
24 prepared for Dean Toben as an expression of high regard by the Texas
25 Senate.