

By: Reynolds

H.R. No. 912

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Legal Defense Fund Advocacy Day is taking place on
2 April 23, 2025; and

3 WHEREAS, The first civil rights law organization in the
4 nation, LDF was founded in 1940 by legendary attorney Thurgood
5 Marshall, who later became the first Black U.S. Supreme Court
6 justice; the organization was initially a part of the NAACP, but it
7 began operating independently in 1957; and

8 WHEREAS, Through litigation, advocacy, and public education,
9 LDF has worked to expand democracy, eliminate disparities, and
10 protect the constitutional and civil rights of all Americans,
11 especially Black people and other communities of color; today, the
12 organization continues to address key issues such as voting rights,
13 education equity, economic justice, and criminal justice reform;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, LDF has played an instrumental role in some of the
16 most significant legal victories in American history, including
17 *Smith v. Allwright* in 1944, which eliminated whites-only primary
18 elections in Texas, and *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954, the
19 landmark Supreme Court decision that outlawed racial segregation in
20 public schools nationwide; in addition, the organization
21 represented leaders of the civil rights movement such as Dr. Martin
22 Luther King Jr. as well as countless grassroots activists,
23 resulting in litigation that overturned state-sanctioned
24 segregation of public buildings, parks and recreation facilities,

1 hospitals, and restaurants; more recently, the organization has led
2 efforts to restore and strengthen voting protections in the
3 aftermath of *Shelby County v. Holder*, the 2013 case that struck down
4 parts of the Voting Rights Act; and

5 WHEREAS, Over the past eight and a half decades, the Legal
6 Defense Fund has championed racial justice and equality, and it is a
7 pleasure to join in recognizing the organization for its many
8 contributions to the civil rights movement; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
10 Legislature hereby recognize April 23, 2025, as Legal Defense Fund
11 Advocacy Day and extend to all those affiliated with the
12 organization sincere best wishes for continued success in their
13 important work; and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
15 prepared for the Legal Defense Fund as an expression of high regard
16 by the Texas House of Representatives.