

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Texans have a long and honored tradition of serving  
2 the state and each other, and certain notable Texas attorneys in  
3 private practice have continued that tradition by serving as  
4 special counsel to the State Commission on Judicial Conduct; and

5           WHEREAS, Our legal system is based on the principle that an  
6 independent, fair, and competent judiciary will interpret and apply  
7 the laws that govern the people of Texas; further, the role of the  
8 judiciary is central to our concept of justice and the rule of law;  
9 and

10          WHEREAS, In addition to representing their clients, lawyers  
11 are officers of the legal system and public citizens with special  
12 responsibility for upholding the quality of justice; lawyers, as  
13 guardians of the law, play a vital role in the preservation of  
14 society, and, as public citizens, lawyers seek to improve the law  
15 and the administration of justice; and

16          WHEREAS, The State Commission on Judicial Conduct is  
17 constitutionally mandated to ensure that everyone appearing before  
18 the judges in this state can be confident that these  
19 decision-makers themselves comply with state and federal laws, as  
20 well as with the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct; to that end, the  
21 State Commission on Judicial Conduct is authorized to investigate  
22 allegations of judicial misconduct, issue appropriate sanctions in  
23 connection with its findings that a judicial officer has engaged in  
24 misconduct, and, if warranted, institute formal proceedings

1 seeking the public censure, removal, or retirement of judges who  
2 willfully or persistently violate the laws and rules of this state;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Since 2001, the following attorneys have made  
5 significant contributions to the State Commission on Judicial  
6 Conduct, the judiciary, and the people of Texas by serving as  
7 special counsel in connection with disciplinary proceedings before  
8 the State Commission on Judicial Conduct: Rusty Hardin, Anthony  
9 Drumheller, and Eric J. Davis of Houston; Edgar M. Duncan, Mark  
10 Greenwald, Robert E. Valdez, Frank R. Rivas, and Eduardo Guzman of  
11 San Antonio; Kirk Mills and David Horton of South Padre Island; and  
12 John J. "Mike" McKetta and Jennifer P. Johnson of Austin; further,  
13 these attorneys were assisted behind the scenes by talented support  
14 staff employed by their firms, making their extraordinary  
15 contributions to the state possible; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas  
17 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby publicly thank these  
18 attorneys and their staffs for their dedication and commitment to  
19 preserving the integrity of the judiciary and for their exemplary  
20 performance in protecting the public by providing thousands of  
21 hours of pro bono legal assistance to the State Commission on  
22 Judicial Conduct; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
24 prepared for these attorneys as an expression of high regard by the  
25 Texas House of Representatives.

Gallego

H.R. No. 191

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 191 was adopted by the House on  
October 10, 2003, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House