

By: Thompson

H.C.R. No. 206

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Houston Lawyers Association, an affiliate
2 chapter of the National Bar Association, was founded in 1955 to
3 address the needs of Black Lawyers and the legal needs of the Black
4 community in general; at the time the organization was established,
5 Black lawyers in the Houston area were not permitted to join the
6 Houston Bar Association; and

7 WHEREAS, The association's history reflects its continued
8 desire to address racial injustice after its founder, Robert W.
9 Hainsworth, challenged and fought against the evils of racial
10 discrimination that were prevalent in his day; he challenged
11 the 'one chair' rule in the County Law Library, which allowed only
12 one particular chair to be used by a 'colored' lawyer, the rule in
13 the District Courts that all 'black cases' would be handled at the
14 end of the court's docket and the Houston Bar Association's rule of
15 non-admission of Black lawyers; several other pioneer members were
16 also involved in litigation that resulted in the outlawing of
17 segregation in the Houston Independent School District, the
18 prohibition of segregated service in the County Court House
19 cafeteria and the changing of voting practices; these persons
20 included Weldon Berry, Matthew Plummer, Francis Williams, Heulean
21 Lott, Robeson King and the late Honorable Henry Doyle; and

22 WHEREAS, The Houston Lawyers Association continues to
23 provide its lawyers a forum and an opportunity to address various
24 issues that affect the Black community; The association also

1 conducts continuing legal education seminars, evaluates judicial
2 candidates, and distributes information of interest to its
3 membership in an effort to foster the network necessary for
4 professional growth and development; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
6 Legislature hereby recognize and congratulate the Houston Lawyers
7 Association on their 50th anniversary; and, be it further

8 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
9 prepared for the Houston Lawyers Association as an expression of
10 high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.