

By: Hughes

H.R. No. 2052

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Honorable Leonard Davis is retiring as chief
2 judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District
3 of Texas in May 2015, concluding an exemplary 15-year tenure on the
4 bench; and

5 WHEREAS, Appointed as a U.S. district judge in 2002, Judge
6 Davis has gained recognition as one of the nation's top
7 intellectual property law jurists; the patent docket in the Eastern
8 District has grown on his watch from under 10 cases in 2002 to more
9 than 1,100 in 2015, and he has personally handled more than 1,700
10 intellectual property cases, including as many as 11 patent jury
11 trials in a single year; and

12 WHEREAS, Many of his cases have become landmark decisions of
13 the Federal Circuit and U.S. Supreme Court, and they have a high
14 affirmance rate on appeal; Judge Davis has been invited to sit by
15 designation on both the United States Federal Circuit Court of
16 Appeals and the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, and he has served on
17 the Judicial Council of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and the
18 Federal Circuit Advisory Council Committee on Case Management;
19 moreover, he has served as co-chair of the Federal Judges Committee
20 of the Federal Circuit Bar Association; and

21 WHEREAS, Previously, Judge Davis served as chief justice of
22 the Twelfth Court of Appeals of the State of Texas; before taking
23 the bench, he distinguished himself as a trial lawyer in East Texas
24 for more than two decades, and from 1983 to 1988, he was general

1 counsel to the Republican Party of Texas; he served by
2 gubernatorial appointment on the Judicial Districts Board and the
3 State Ethics Advisory Commission, and he has served the State Bar of
4 Texas on its Legal Publications Committee; and

5 WHEREAS, A Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation, Judge Davis
6 was named 2013 Jurist of the Year by the Texas Chapter of the
7 American Board of Trial Advocates; in 2012, he received the
8 prestigious Baylor Lawyer of the Year Award from his alma mater,
9 where he graduated first in his class in 1976; he also holds a
10 bachelor's degree in mathematics from The University of Texas at
11 Arlington and a master's degree in management science from Texas
12 Christian University; and

13 WHEREAS, Leonard Davis has set high standards of excellence
14 throughout his career, and his contributions to his profession have
15 earned the respect and admiration of the legal community in Texas
16 and across the country; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
18 Legislature hereby congratulate Leonard Davis on the occasion of
19 his retirement as chief judge of the United States District Court
20 for the Eastern District of Texas and extend to him sincere best
21 wishes as he embarks on the next exciting chapter of his life; and,
22 be it further

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