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By:  Rosenthal H.R. No. 179

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Harris County marked the dawn of a new era on January 1, 2019, with the swearing-in of a record number of newly elected African American women as judges; and

WHEREAS, Although the demographics of Harris County have shifted dramatically in recent years, the judiciary had remained dominated by white men; 19 distinguished female, African American attorneys, including 2 sitting judges, recognized the need to broaden the diversity of the courts, and in 2018, they joined forces in a campaign they dubbed "Black Girl Magic," adopting a popular social media theme that celebrates the accomplishments of African American women in all arenas; when all 17 new candidates won their elections, their victory gained national attention; and

WHEREAS, The 19 members of the campaign include Judge Maria T. Jackson, presiding judge of the 339th State District Court, Judge Ramona Franklin, presiding judge of the 338th Criminal District Court, and newly elected jurists Judge Sandra Peake, 257th Judicial District (Family), Judge Michelle Moore, 314th Judicial District (Juvenile), Judge Germaine Tanner, 311th Judicial District (Family), Judge Cassandra Y. Holleman, County Criminal Court-At-Law No. 12, Judge Lucia Bates, Justice of the Peace, Precinct No. 3, Place 2, Judge Linda Marie Dunson, 309th Judicial District (Family), Judge Dedra Davis, 270th Judicial District (Civil), Judge Lori Chambers Gray, 262nd Judicial District (Criminal), Judge Tonya Jones, County Criminal Court-At-Law No. 15, Judge Erica Hughes, County Criminal Court-At-Law No. 3, Judge Sharon M. Burney, Justice of the Peace, Precinct No. 7, Place 2, Judge Ronnisha Bowman, County Criminal Court-At-Law No. 2, Judge Latosha Lewis Payne, 55th Judicial District (Civil), Judge Shannon Baldwin, County Criminal Court-At-Law No. 4, Judge Toria J. Finch, County Criminal Court-At-Law No. 9, Judge LaShawn A. Williams, County Civil Court-At-Law No. 3, and Judge Angela Graves-Harrington, 246th Judicial District; and

WHEREAS, One of the most diverse counties in the nation, Harris County now has a judiciary that better reflects the population it serves, and this achievement is a source of tremendous pride to the community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate the 19 African American women serving as judges in Harris County and extend to them sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for the judges as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.