

By: Rosenthal

H.R. No. 179

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Harris County marked the dawn of a new era on January
2 1, 2019, with the swearing-in of a record number of newly elected
3 African American women as judges; and

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

13 WHEREAS, The 19 members of the campaign include Judge Maria
14 T. Jackson, presiding judge of the 339th State District Court,
15 Judge Ramona Franklin, presiding judge of the 338th Criminal
16 District Court, and newly elected jurists Judge Sandra Peake, 257th
17 Judicial District (Family), Judge Michelle Moore, 314th Judicial
18 District (Juvenile), Judge Germaine Tanner, 311th Judicial
19 District (Family), Judge Cassandra Y. Holleman, County Criminal
20 Court-At-Law No. 12, Judge Lucia Bates, Justice of the Peace,
21 Precinct No. 3, Place 2, Judge Linda Marie Dunson, 309th Judicial
22 District (Family), Judge Dedra Davis, 270th Judicial District
23 (Civil), Judge Lori Chambers Gray, 262nd Judicial District
24 (Criminal), Judge Tonya Jones, County Criminal Court-At-Law

1 No. 15, Judge Erica Hughes, County Criminal Court-At-Law No. 3,
2 Judge Sharon M. Burney, Justice of the Peace, Precinct No. 7, Place
3 2, Judge Ronnisha Bowman, County Criminal Court-At-Law No. 2, Judge
4 Latosha Lewis Payne, 55th Judicial District (Civil), Judge Shannon
5 Baldwin, County Criminal Court-At-Law No. 4, Judge Toria J. Finch,
6 County Criminal Court-At-Law No. 9, Judge LaShawn A. Williams,
7 County Civil Court-At-Law No. 3, and Judge Angela
8 Graves-Harrington, 246th Judicial District; and

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

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

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