

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 84

WHEREAS, The retirement of James T. "Jim" Worthen as chief justice of the Twelfth Court of Appeals in Tyler on December 31, 2026, will conclude his remarkable 27-year tenure as a jurist; and

WHEREAS, Chief Justice Worthen first joined the court in 1999, and he became chief justice in 2003; before taking the bench, he practiced law in Tyler with the firms of Sammons and Parker and Bain, Files, Worthen and Jarrett, P.C.; and

WHEREAS, Active in his professional community, Chief Justice Worthen has held the office of chair for the Council of Chief Justices, and he has served on the Texas Bar Journal Board of Editors Committee and the Law Library Committee of the Smith County Bar Association; he is also a member of the American Bar Association, a Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation, and a Charter Fellow of the Smith County Bar Foundation; and

WHEREAS, A seventh-generation Texan, Chief Justice Worthen grew up in Big Sandy; he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from The University of Texas at Tyler, his juris doctor degree from South Texas College of Law, and his master of laws degree from the University of Virginia; he holds bar membership in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas and the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals; and

WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Chief Justice Worthen benefits from the love and support of his wife, Laura; and

WHEREAS, Jim Worthen's dedication, integrity, and commitment to the law have greatly benefited the work of the Twelfth Court of Appeals, and he may indeed reflect with pride on his many years of service as he embarks on the next exciting chapter of his life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 89th Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby congratulate James T. Worthen on his retirement as chief justice of the Twelfth Court of Appeals and extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for Chief Justice Worthen as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Hughes

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the
above Resolution was adopted by
the Senate on September 4, 2025.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate