

By: Leach

H.C.R. No. 138

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Honorable Nathan L. Hecht retired as chief
2 justice of the Supreme Court of Texas on December 31, 2024,
3 concluding a remarkable 35-year tenure on the court; and

4 WHEREAS, First elected to the state's highest civil court in
5 1988, Justice Hecht became the longest-serving member in its
6 history, as well as the longest-tenured Texas judge in active
7 service; in 2013, he was appointed chief justice, and he was twice
8 reelected to that post; and

9 WHEREAS, Justice Hecht gained wide admiration for his sharp
10 intellect, philosophical approach, and commitment to court reform;
11 he oversaw revision of the rules of administration, practice, and
12 procedure in the state's courts, and his efforts led to the
13 simplification of appellate rules and promoted more swift
14 resolution of cases; moreover, he drove modernization of
15 technology, and Texas adopted e-filing in advance of many other
16 states; as president of the National Conference of Chief Justices,
17 he advised other states that were taking their systems online
18 during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

19 WHEREAS, Dedicated to improving access to the justice system,
20 Justice Hecht worked to reduce barriers for low-income Texans, and
21 he successfully urged the Legislature to increase Legal Aid
22 funding; and

23 WHEREAS, Justice Hecht was appointed to the federal Advisory
24 Committee on Civil Rules by the chief justice of the United States;

1 in addition, he served his profession through his service on the
2 Council of the American Law Institute, of which he is a life member;
3 he is also a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and
4 the Philosophical Society of Texas; and

5 WHEREAS, A graduate of Yale University and the Southern
6 Methodist University Dedman School of Law, Justice Hecht clerked
7 for Judge Roger Robb on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District
8 of Columbia Circuit; he served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy
9 Reserve Judge Advocate General's Corps and then entered private
10 practice, becoming a partner in the Locke firm in Dallas; appointed
11 to the district court in 1981, he was elected to the court of
12 appeals five years later; and

13 WHEREAS, Over the course of his exemplary career, Nathan
14 Hecht helped shape Texas jurisprudence and improve the
15 administration of the court system, and his enormous contributions
16 will continue to resonate in the years to come; now, therefore, be
17 it

18 RESOLVED, That the 89th Legislature of the State of Texas
19 hereby congratulate Nathan L. Hecht on his retirement as chief
20 justice of the Supreme Court of Texas and extend sincere best wishes
21 for the future; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
23 prepared for Justice Hecht as an expression of high regard by the
24 Texas House of Representatives and Senate.