

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, The Houston Lawyers Association, an affiliate  
2 chapter of the National Bar Association, was founded in 1955 to  
3 address the needs of Black lawyers and the legal needs of the Black  
4 community in general; at the time the organization was established,  
5 Black lawyers in the Houston area were not permitted to join the  
6 Houston Bar Association; and

7           WHEREAS, The association's history reflects its continued  
8 desire to address racial injustice after its founder, Robert W.  
9 Hainsworth, challenged and fought against the evils of racial  
10 discrimination that were prevalent in his day; he challenged  
11 the "one chair" rule in the county law library, which allowed only  
12 one particular chair to be used by a "colored" lawyer, the rule in  
13 the district courts that all "black cases" would be handled at the  
14 end of the court's docket, and the Houston Bar Association's rule of  
15 nonadmission of Black lawyers; several other pioneer members were  
16 also involved in litigation that resulted in the outlawing of  
17 segregation in the Houston Independent School District, the  
18 prohibition of segregated service in the county courthouse  
19 cafeteria, and the changing of voting practices; these persons  
20 included Weldon Berry, Matthew Plummer, Francis Williams, Heulean  
21 Lott, Robeson King, and the late Honorable Henry Doyle; and

22           WHEREAS, The Houston Lawyers Association continues to  
23 provide its lawyers a forum and an opportunity to address various  
24 issues that affect the Black community; the association also

1 conducts continuing legal education seminars, evaluates judicial  
2 candidates, and distributes information of interest to its  
3 membership in an effort to foster the network necessary for  
4 professional growth and development; now, therefore, be it

5         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives and Senate of the  
6 79th Texas Legislature hereby recognize and congratulate the  
7 Houston Lawyers Association on its 50th anniversary; and, be it  
8 further

9         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
10 prepared for the Houston Lawyers Association as an expression of  
11 high regard by the Texas House of Representatives and Senate.

Thompson

David Newkirk

President of the Senate

Jim Coakley

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 206 was adopted by the House on May 17, 2005, by a non-record vote.

Robert Haney

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 206 was adopted by the Senate on May 20, 2005, by a viva-voce vote.

Letsy Spaw

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: 18 JUNE 05

Date

Rick Perry

Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
10:20 AM O'CLOCK

Roger Williams  
JUN 18 2005  
Secretary of State