

By: Senator(s) Harden, Butler, Carmichael,  
Frazier, Jackson (11th), Jordan

To: Rules

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 579

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER  
2 OF "DIVORCE COURT" JUDGE MABLEAN EPHRAIM AND WELCOMING HER TO  
3 MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, Mablean Ephraim has been playing the role of Judge  
5 since 1999 on the popular TV show "Divorce Court"; and

6 WHEREAS, "Judge" Ephraim brings her message of self-esteem to  
7 Mississippi as she makes several appearances in the month of  
8 March, 2004; and

9 WHEREAS, with more than 20 years experience as a trial  
10 attorney and mediator, the quick-witted Ephraim takes a  
11 straightforward, but compassionate approach as she oversees  
12 courtroom battles between real-life couples; and

13 WHEREAS, the "judge" began her career in law as a  
14 correctional officer at a women's prison and worked as a legal  
15 secretary, while putting herself through school. Ephraim, who  
16 reared a family of four, got her law degree in 1978 from Whittier  
17 College of Law. After serving as a Deputy City Attorney in Los  
18 Angeles, in 1982 she went into private practice emphasizing family  
19 law. Since then, she has won many awards for her work and service  
20 to the Los Angeles community and is a favorite on the speaker  
21 circuit; and

22 WHEREAS, she's filled in for judges in Los Angeles superior  
23 and municipal courts. She's also been a hearing examiner for the  
24 Los Angeles civil service commission and a mediator; and

25 WHEREAS, The Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles in 1993  
26 conferred its Distinguished Service Award to her for co-founding  
27 the Harriet Buhai Center for Family Law. The Los Angeles County

28 Bar Association bestowed the Spencer-Brandeis Award on Ephraim in  
29 1996. She is a past president of the Black Women Lawyers. She  
30 spent five years as a domestic violence coordinator for spousal,  
31 parental and child abuse as Los Angeles' Deputy City Attorney.  
32 Her credentials are impressive; and

33 WHEREAS, Ms. Ephraim contacted Twentieth Television when an  
34 entertainment lawyer told her the company was reviving the  
35 syndicated show. It ran two different seasons, 1957-69 and  
36 1986-91, and the new "Divorce Court" will feature real people and  
37 their disputes, not actors playing a role or reading a script.  
38 Litigants will be in the process of divorcing, preparing to file  
39 for divorce or legally separated; and

40 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this  
41 individual whose community service is a matter of record, and who  
42 honors the State of Mississippi with her visit:

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
44 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
45 we do hereby commend the distinguished career of "Divorce Court"  
46 Judge Mablean Ephraim, welcome her to our state, and extend to her  
47 the best wishes of the Legislature on her future endeavors.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
49 Judge Ephraim and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.