

By: Senator(s) Turner-Ford, Fillingane,
Jackson (32nd)

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 5

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE JUDICIAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND LEGACY
2 OF THE HONORABLE JUDGE DOROTHY WINSTON COLOM, THE FIRST AFRICAN
3 AMERICAN JUDGE IN MISSISSIPPI'S 14TH CHANCERY DISTRICT, AND
4 EXTENDING THE BEST WISHES OF THE MISSISSIPPI SENATE.

5 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the
6 judicial career and legacy of a Mississippi jurist with enormous
7 civic energy; and

8 WHEREAS, the Honorable Judge Dorothy Winston Colom was born
9 in Richmond, Virginia, on November 25, 1952, to Warren and
10 Drucilla Winston. She, along with her two younger sisters, Avis
11 and Drucilla, as well as her older brother, Warren 'Chip' Winston
12 II, were raised in a loving home and attended Bethel Baptist
13 Church. Her mother was an Educator with the Richmond Public
14 School system and her father was a World War II Veteran and an
15 officer with the United States Postal Service. Throughout her
16 upbringing, she learned of the tribulations and struggles of her
17 direct descendants and of her community at large. But more
18 importantly, she learned of the triumphs and the passing of the
19 baton: the effort of generations of African Americans to improve



20 their station in life to the greatest extent possible and passing
21 that wisdom and resources to the next generation with the
22 foundation and support of the prior; and

23 WHEREAS, Judge Colom attended Roanoke College in the fall of
24 1970 to determine her best path forward toward making a
25 contribution. She excelled at Roanoke and studied the gains made
26 by African Americans using the legal system. Upon graduation, she
27 decided to pursue a legal career to continue her family's legacy
28 of service while also contributing to the legal gains won by prior
29 generations of lawyers in the efforts toward a just and fair legal
30 system. She decided to take the baton and run the path of law and
31 justice; and

32 WHEREAS, Judge Colom completed her Juris Doctorate from
33 Antioch School of Law in Washington, D.C., in 1978. During her
34 first year of law school, while studying in the school library,
35 she was approached by a surprised third-year student, curious to
36 know the young woman studying dutifully on a Saturday night. This
37 lawyer, Wilbur O. Colom, would become her husband and professional
38 partner of Colom and Colom Law Firm. The strength of the bond
39 forged between the couple can be illuminated throughout their
40 legal career; and

41 WHEREAS, North Mississippi Rural Legal Services (NMRLS) hired
42 Dorothy as a Staff Attorney in 1979, which began her legal career.
43 She defined her style of running from the start: service for the
44 disadvantaged. She took her experience with the NMRLS and joined



her husband in Columbus, Mississippi, in 1980 to work as a partner for Colom and Colom Law Firm for 14 years. Together, the firm won many historic cases in the area, including the University of Mississippi School for Women Vs. Hogan in 1982, the same year her twins, Andrew and Scott Colom, were born. Dorothy was also a proud stepmother to Niani Colom Omotesa; and

WHEREAS, we join the Mississippi legal community and the citizens of the Columbus area in honoring the contributions of an attorney who has brought pride to the legal profession in Mississippi:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend the judicial contributions and legacy of the Honorable Judge Dorothy Winston Colom, the first African American Judge in Mississippi's 14th Chancery District, and extend the best wishes of the Mississippi Senate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to Judge Colom and her family, forwarded to The Mississippi Bar, and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

