

By: Representatives Coleman (65th), Clark, Espy, Evans, Fleming, Green, Harrison, Morris, Perkins, Robinson (63rd), Scott (80th), Smith (27th), Wallace, Watson, West

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 28

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING JUDGE JOE BROWN FOR HIS MANY  
2 ACHIEVEMENTS AS A JUDGE AND AS A SYNDICATED TELEVISION  
3 PERSONALITY.

4 WHEREAS, Judge Joe Brown is a nationally acclaimed judge,  
5 presiding in a nontraditional manner as judge of a syndicated  
6 reality courtroom show entitled "Judge Joe Brown"; and

7 WHEREAS, born in Washington, D.C., the only child of  
8 hard-working teachers, Judge Brown relocated to South Central Los  
9 Angeles early in life, gaining and exhibiting the early philosophy  
10 of tough-love; and

11 WHEREAS, Judge Brown, determined not to become another  
12 statistic of the harsh inner city, modeled his parents, and chose  
13 the avenue proffered by education, one surely to grant success and  
14 opportunities; and

15 WHEREAS, graduating at the top of his high school class,  
16 Judge Brown entered the University of California, Los Angeles  
17 (UCLA), paying his way through college by loading trucks and  
18 digging ditches, and earning his bachelor's degree in political  
19 science; and

20 WHEREAS, Judge Brown, upon completion of his undergraduate  
21 studies, was accepted into UCLA's School of Law, earning his Juris  
22 Doctorate in 1973; and

23 WHEREAS, in 1974, Judge Brown moved to Memphis, Tennessee,  
24 taking a legal service position with the Equal Employment  
25 Opportunity Commission (EEOC), and later becoming the first  
26 African-American Prosecutor for the City of Memphis; and



27           WHEREAS, after serving as Director of Memphis' Public  
28 Defender's Office, Judge Brown, in 1978, entered into private  
29 practice, working therein for 12 years before returning to public  
30 service in 1990 upon being elected as Division 9 Judge of the  
31 State Criminal Courts of Shelby County, Tennessee; and

32           WHEREAS, Judge Brown's alternative sentencing method placed  
33 him in the national spotlight, with appearances on "Nightline" and  
34 "Street Stories," as well as being the feature of many prominent  
35 magazines such as "Newsweek," "Time" and "Life Magazine"; and

36           WHEREAS, it was Judge Brown's appearance on "Nightline" that  
37 caught the attention of Big Ticket Television President, Larry  
38 Lyttle, opening the door of opportunity for a televised program;  
39 and

40           WHEREAS, with a magnetic and dynamic personality, coupled  
41 with a unique background, Judge Brown spends many weekends in the  
42 toughest Memphis communities encouraging the youth to maintain a  
43 positive outlook on life and to distance themselves from trouble;  
44 and

45           WHEREAS, Judge Brown, who currently lives in Memphis and  
46 actively participates in the upbringing of his two sons, has been  
47 chosen to be guest speaker for the Mississippi Baptist Seminary  
48 Founder's Day on February 23, 2002; and

49           WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives of  
50 the State of Mississippi to commend excellence in such an  
51 outstanding and exemplary individual as Judge Joe Brown, whose  
52 contributions to society have been influential in positively  
53 altering the lives of many:

54           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
55 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
56 commend and congratulate Judge Joe Brown on his many achievements  
57 as a judge and syndicated television personality.



58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
59 furnished to Judge Joe Brown and to the members of the Capitol  
60 Press Corps.

