

By: Senator(s) Tollison, Turner, Walls, Robertson, Doxey, Clarke, Dawkins, Dearing, Frazier, Gordon, Harden, Jackson (11th), Jackson (32nd), Little, Michel, Nunnelee, Ross

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 566

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF
2 MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL OF LAW ON THE OCCASION OF ITS SESQUICENTENNIAL
3 COMMEMORATION.

4 WHEREAS, this year the University of Mississippi School of
5 Law celebrates its Sesquicentennial; and

6 WHEREAS, in early 1854, aware of the need for formalized
7 legal education in Mississippi, the university's Board of Trustees
8 petitioned the State Legislature to establish a "Professorship of
9 Governmental Science and Law" at the fledgling institution, which
10 had opened its doors in Oxford only six years earlier. The
11 Legislature acted favorably on the petition, and the Department of
12 Governmental Science and Law was born; and

13 WHEREAS, William Forbes Stearns, who had given the principal
14 address at the laying of the cornerstone for the Lyceum on July
15 14, 1846, was the first holder of the professorship in law. On
16 September 9, 1854, seven young men enrolled as the first class to
17 begin their law studies and Ole Miss became the fourth oldest
18 public law school in America; and

19 WHEREAS, a century and a half has passed since that modest
20 beginning in the fall of 1854. Today's modern Law Center bears
21 little resemblance to the unassuming Department of Law of 1854.
22 The student enrollment of more than 500 is taught by a full-time
23 faculty of 28; the Law Library contains more than 325,000 volumes
24 and volume equivalents; classrooms and courtrooms employ
25 state-of-the-art instructional technology; computer labs provide
26 law students and other patrons instant access to electronic
27 databases; the various components of the Law Center provide

28 extraordinary research capabilities as well as continuing
29 education for thousands of lawyers, judges and court officials;
30 and

31 WHEREAS, the postwar history of the Department of Law was
32 marked by a period of enlightenment under the leadership of the
33 very able L.Q.C. Lamar, who reorganized the department and
34 significantly revised and improved the 19th Century methods of
35 teaching law, and whose competence and genius ever since have
36 served as the touchstones for excellence in legal education.
37 Lamar introduced a method of teaching from reported opinions that
38 is in essence the same as the case method used in law schools
39 today. In addition to these revisions of the academic program,
40 Lamar was successful in obtaining recognition of the Law
41 Department as an independent administrative unit within the
42 university; and

43 WHEREAS, the law school is looking ahead to the next 150
44 years. Plans are underway to move the law school into a new,
45 modern home to be named for Chancellor Robert Khayat. In his
46 eighth year as Dean, Samuel Davis is working to obtain a Chapter
47 of the Order of the Coif, the highest academic recognition for law
48 graduates; and

49 WHEREAS, the significance of this Sesquicentennial in the
50 development of the University of Mississippi and indeed of the
51 State of Mississippi cannot be overemphasized, and it is with
52 pride that we share this commemorative occasion with the faculty
53 and students at the School of Law:

54 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
55 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
56 we do hereby recognize the University of Mississippi School of Law
57 on the occasion of its Sesquicentennial (150th) Commemoration, and
58 extend to the Dean, faculty, students and former students the best
59 wishes of the Legislature as the law school looks forward to the
60 next 150 years.

61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
62 Chancellor Robert Khayat and Dean Samuel Davis, be forwarded to
63 the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning and
64 be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.