

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 354

Commending Annice M. Wagner, Chief Judge of the District of Columbia
Court of Appeals, for her public service.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 11, 2005

Ms. NORTON submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on Government Reform

RESOLUTION

Commending Annice M. Wagner, Chief Judge of the District
of Columbia Court of Appeals, for her public service.

Whereas Annice M. Wagner, Chief Judge of the District of
Columbia Court of Appeals, entered Federal Government
service in 1973 as the first woman to be appointed Gen-
eral Counsel of the National Capital Housing Authority,
then a Federal agency;

Whereas from 1975 to 1977, the Honorable Annice M. Wag-
ner served as People's Counsel for the District of Colum-
bia, an office created by Congress to represent the inter-
ests of utility consumers before the District of Columbia
Public Service Commission and the District of Columbia
Court of Appeals;

Whereas in 1977, the Honorable Annice M. Wagner was ap-
pointed by President Carter and confirmed by the Senate

to serve as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia;

Whereas while serving as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court, the Honorable Annice M. Wagner served in the civil, criminal, family, probate, and tax divisions and served for 2 years as presiding judge of the probate and tax divisions;

Whereas while serving as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court, Annice M. Wagner served on various commissions and committees to improve the District of Columbia judicial system, including serving as chairperson of the Committee on Selection and Tenure of Hearing Commissioners, and as a member of the Superior Court Rules Committee and the Sentencing Guidelines Commission;

Whereas as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court, Annice M. Wagner served as chairperson of the Court's Advisory Committee on Probate and Fiduciary Rules and was largely responsible for the implementation of new rules intended to streamline and clarify procedures regarding missing, protected, and incapacitated individuals;

Whereas as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court, the Honorable Annice M. Wagner served as chairperson of the Task Force on Gender Bias in the Courts, which conducted a comprehensive study of bias in the courts;

Whereas under Annice M. Wagner's leadership, the District of Columbia courts established the Standing Committee on Fairness and Access to the Courts to ensure racial, gender, and ethnic fairness;

Whereas Annice M. Wagner was appointed by President George H.W. Bush and confirmed by the Senate in 1990

to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals;

Whereas Annice M. Wagner was appointed in 1994 to serve as Chief Judge of the District Court of Appeals;

Whereas while an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, Annice M. Wagner served as Chair of the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration in the District of Columbia;

Whereas under Annice M. Wagner's leadership, the District of Columbia courts initiated the renovation of the Old District of Columbia Courthouse (Old City Hall) in Judiciary Square, a National Historic Landmark, for future use by the District of Columbia Court of Appeals;

Whereas under Annice M. Wagner's leadership, the District of Columbia courts initiated the master planning process for the renovation and use of court properties, which will lead to the revitalization of the Judiciary Square area in the Nation's Capital;

Whereas under Annice M. Wagner's leadership, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, along with the District of Columbia Bar, the District of Columbia Bar Foundation, and the District of Columbia Consortium of Legal Service Providers, established the District of Columbia Access to Justice Commission, a commission that will propose ways to make lawyers and the legal system more available for poor individuals in the District of Columbia;

Whereas Annice M. Wagner served as President of the Conference of Chief Justices, an organization of Chief Justices and Chief Judges of the highest court of each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the territories;

Whereas Annice M. Wagner served as Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the National Center for State Courts;

Whereas the Honorable Annice M. Wagner commands wide respect within the legal profession nationally, having been selected to serve as one of 11 members of the American Bar Association's Section on Dispute Resolution's Drafting Committee on the Uniform Mediation Act, which collaborated with the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws in promulgating the Uniform Mediation Act, which, in 2001, was approved and recommended for enactment in all of the States, to foster prompt, economical, and amicable resolution of disputes through mediation processes which promote public confidence and uniformity across State lines;

Whereas since 1979, Annice M. Wagner has been involved with the United Planning Organization, which was established in 1962 to conduct initiatives designed to provide human services in the District of Columbia and she has served as Interim President of the Organization's Board of Trustees;

Whereas since 1986, Annice M. Wagner has served as a member of a teaching team for the Trial Advocacy Workshop at Harvard Law School;

Whereas Annice M. Wagner, Chief Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, was born in the District of Columbia and attended District of Columbia Public Schools and received her Bachelor's and law degree from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan; and

Whereas Annice M. Wagner's dedication to public service and the citizens of the District of Columbia has contributed

to the improvement of the judicial system, increased equal access to justice, and advanced public confidence in the court system: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives com-
- 2 mends the Honorable Annice M. Wagner for her commit-
- 3 ment and dedication to public service, the judicial system,
- 4 equal access to justice, and the community.

○