

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

22-389

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

September 18, 2018

To posthumously recognize and honor the significant contributions of Judge Mary Ellen Abrecht to the administration of justice in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, Mary Ellen (Benson) Abrecht was born on December 18, 1945, in South Hadley, Massachusetts;

WHEREAS, Mary Ellen Abrecht earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Mount Holyoke College in 1967, studied for a year at Union Theological Seminary, and received her Juris Doctor degree from Georgetown University Law Center in 1974;

WHEREAS, Mary Ellen Abrecht came to the Capitol Hill neighborhood of the District of Columbia in September of 1968 with her husband, Gary Lorne Abrecht, where she was an active member of Christ Church, Washington Parish thereafter;

WHEREAS, Mary Ellen Abrecht served as a substitute teacher at Beers Elementary and Ketcham Elementary schools in 1968 before joining the Metropolitan Police Department (“MPD”) that same year;

WHEREAS, Mary Ellen Abrecht served as one of the District of Columbia’s first female patrol officers and, in 1972, as a sergeant in the patrol division, coordinated what was then the nation’s largest pilot program putting 100 women on patrol;

WHEREAS, Mary Ellen Abrecht attended law school in the evenings while serving as an MPD officer;

WHEREAS, Mary Ellen Abrecht joined the United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia in 1975, where she served as a prosecuting attorney for 15 years and was part of one of the first all-women Assistant United States Attorney trial teams assigned to a felony calendar at the Superior Court of the District of Columbia;

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WHEREAS, Mary Ellen Abrecht was appointed to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia in 1990 and presided over family, civil, and criminal matters for 13 years as an associate judge and another 12 years as a senior judge;

WHEREAS, Mary Ellen Abrecht is remembered as a fair, courteous, reasoned, and patient jurist;

WHEREAS, Mary Ellen Abrecht joined the Board of Directors of the Council for Court Excellence in 1999, where she volunteered over the course of 19 years on projects to teach high school students about jury service, gain local control of the District's parole and clemency processes, and expand eligibility for and access to record sealing and expungement for people with criminal records;

WHEREAS, Mary Ellen Abrecht is survived by her husband, Gary Abrecht; 2 daughters, Karen Tompros and Rachel Abrecht-Litchfield; 3 siblings; and 5 grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mary Ellen Abrecht made significant contributions to the administration of justice for residents of the District of Columbia for 50 years.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Judge Mary Ellen Abrecht Recognition Resolution of 2018".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia posthumously recognizes and honors Judge Mary Ellen Abrecht for her 50 years of service to the District of Columbia, and for her lifelong dedication to seeking justice for its residents.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.