

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

22-393

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

September 18, 2018

To recognize Earl J. Silbert, his achievements, and his more than 20 years of service to The Fishing School.

WHEREAS, Earl J. Silbert graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Harvard University in 1957, and cum laude from Harvard Law School in 1960, and embarked on an almost 60-year esteemed legal career;

WHEREAS, Earl J. Silbert spent several years as an attorney at the Department of Justice, working in the Tax Division and Deputy Attorney General's Office of the Department of Justice and as an Assistant United States Attorney;

WHEREAS, Earl J. Silbert became the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia in 1974.

WHEREAS, Earl J. Silbert entered private practice, joining Schwalb, Donnenfeld, Bray, and Silbert;

WHEREAS, Earl J. Silbert continued his private practice work at DLA Piper, LLP, where he is a partner;

WHEREAS, Earl J. Silbert is perhaps best known for serving as the lead prosecutor for the 1972 Watergate case, the most challenging case of his career, while working as a Principal Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, Earl J. Silbert was hailed as "One of the most revered lawyers in Washington, D.C." by the Journal of the American College of Trial Lawyers;

WHEREAS, Earl J. Silbert has been named a Washington, D.C. Super Lawyer, recommended in The Legal 500 United States, and listed among the Top 100 Super Lawyers in the Washington, D.C. area and Lawdragon's 500 Leading Lawyers in America;

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WHEREAS, Earl J. Silbert has twice been named to Washingtonian Magazine's list of Washington's top lawyers, in 2007 and again in 2009;

WHEREAS, Earl J. Silbert is listed among Chambers USA's "Senior Statesmen" for being "one of the most revered lawyers in Washington," "deeply respected for strategic sense in criminal defense and investigations," "lauded by peers as a 'first-rate white-collar lawyer,'" "a legend of the national white-collar Bar," and "the gold standard" for white-collar crime lawyers;

WHEREAS, Earl J. Silbert, described as a "highly regarded trial lawyer," was "highly recommended" in the PLC Which Lawyer? Yearbook 2009;

WHEREAS, Earl J. Silbert was honored in 2009 by the Council for Court Excellence with the Justice Potter Stewart Award for his work to improve the judicial system, both as a United States Attorney and subsequently in private practice;

WHEREAS, Earl J. Silbert was described by the Ethisphere Council in 2009 as among "the best and brightest in the legal field" who exemplify "the best public service, legal community engagement and academic involvement" and "help lead their companies to the top of the ethics and compliance world" and accordingly named to the Council's list of 2009 Attorneys Who Matter, and as one who scored highest in "recognized expertise, peer/client endorsements, high-profile litigation, number of cases won, high-profile clients, public service, legal community engagement, academic involvement and other awards and recognitions," was one of only 5 lawyers distinguished in the Hall of Fame category;

WHEREAS, Earl J. Silbert was recognized for "work that has advanced the practice of law" and "upheld the profession's core values through public service, pro bono work and advocacy for civil liberties," and accordingly honored by the National Law Journal as a Champion in its annual Champions and Visionaries awards in 2012;

WHEREAS, Earl J. Silbert has been active in several legal organizations, having served as the President of the American College of Trial Lawyers, President of the National Association of Former United States Attorneys, President of the Assistant U.S. Attorney's Association for the District of Columbia, President of the Council for Court Excellence, Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers and Chairperson of the District of Columbia and Regent, Master of Bench of the Edward Bennett Williams Inn of Court, Master of Bench of the Fahy Inn of Court, member of the Practitioners Advisory Group of the United States Sentencing Commission, member of the District of Columbia Advisory Commission on Sentencing, Chair of the Grievance Committee of the United States District Court, District of Columbia, Chair of the Hearing Committee of the Board of Professional Responsibility in the District of Columbia, and faculty of numerous American Bar Associations and other continuing legal education programs;

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WHEREAS, Earl J. Silbert is regarded as the “Dean of the Criminal Defense Bar in D.C.” whose judgment, integrity, and counsel are respected;

WHEREAS, Earl J. Silbert is known for his integrity, compassion, and unwavering commitment to philanthropy;

WHEREAS, Earl J. Silbert has been a long-time member of the Board of Directors, a former Board Vice-Chair, and a part of The Fishing School, a nonprofit organization located in Ward 7 whose mission is to prepare elementary and middle school students for success in high school and life by improving their academic performance and life skills; and engaging them and their parents in intensive, multi-year, and research-based out of school time and parent engagement programs and activities;

WHEREAS, Earl J. Silbert is the featured honoree at The Fishing School’s Annual Celebration of Service, “A Special Tribute to Earl Silbert: 60 Years of Integrity, Compassion, & Generosity” because of his extraordinary dedication and service to The Fishing School for more than 20 years, having been integral to transforming it into an award-winning organization that has touched the lives of thousands of children and their families in communities throughout the District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, Earl J. Silbert is quoted as saying about his service at The Fishing School that “[t]wenty years is a long time to work with one organization, but the spirit there and the success of our work has been most gratifying to me.”

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Earl Silbert Recognition Resolution of 2018”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes the outstanding public achievements of Earl J. Silbert and his more than 20-year commitment to the children and families of Ward 7 and Ward 8 through his tireless service and contributions as a Board member and former Board Vice-Chair for The Fishing School.

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