

Vincent C. Gray
Councilmember Vincent C. Gray

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A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To posthumously honor the life of Barbara Whiting-Wright.

WHEREAS, Barbara Whiting-Wright was a native of Yorktown, Virginia, born on July 28, 1936;

WHEREAS, Barbara Whiting-Wright graduated from Hampton University, formerly Hampton Institute, in Hampton, Virginia, with a degree in business administration in 1957 and from Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C. in 1963, the only woman in her graduating class;

WHEREAS, Barbara Whiting-Wright started her legal career in 1964 as a lawyer at the United States Customs Service where she was one of only a few women and the very first African American woman lawyer in the agency;

WHEREAS, Barbara Whiting-Wright and a group of African American women lawyers began organizing the Greater Washington Area Chapter of the National Bar Association's Women Lawyers Division (GWAC) in the fall of 1974;

WHEREAS, Barbara Whiting-Wright served as the very first President of GWAC from 1974-1976;

WHEREAS, Barbara Whiting-Wright, until the time of her death, served as an active Board Member on the Board of Directors of the GWAC Foundation, GWAC's charitable arm that provides funding for various community outreach and service projects throughout the D.C. metropolitan area, including the Legal Intern Placement Program (L.I.P.P.), that provided monthly stipends to minority law students, with financial need, completing summer internships;

Wm. C. Stearns

35 WHEREAS, Barbara Whiting-Wright's extraordinary vision and leadership helped the
36 GWAC grow into one of the most preeminent National Bar Association affiliate organizations,
37 with many notable law school graduate, attorney and judge members throughout the years;
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39 WHEREAS, Barbara Whiting-Wright incorporated the Howard University School of
40 Law Alumni Dinner Committee Scholarship Fund in 1978, and served as Chair of the Inaugural
41 Thurgood Marshall Award of Excellence Dinner for the Howard University School of Law
42 Alumni Association of the Greater Washington Area in 1992;
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44 WHEREAS, Barbara Whiting-Wright worked tirelessly to serve and help pave the way
45 for others through her many volunteer efforts, in addition to shattering the glass ceiling in her
46 professional life;
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48 WHEREAS, Barbara Whiting-Wright remained dedicated to serving others, constantly
49 giving of her time and leadership;
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51 WHEREAS, Barbara Whiting-Wright gave life to what it means to be an agent for social
52 change, and to empower others, particularly African American women lawyers and minority law
53 students; and
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55 WHEREAS, Barbara Whiting-Wright, of all her many accomplishments, was most proud
56 of being a mother to her son, noted actor, Jeffrey Wright; grandmother to Elijah and Juno
57 Wright; and sibling to her sister, Naomi Whiting.
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59 IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF
60 COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Barbara Whiting-Wright Recognition
61 Resolution of 2019".
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63 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia posthumously recognizes and celebrates
64 the accomplishments, service and life of Barbara Whiting-Wright.
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66 Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in
67 the District of Columbia Register.