

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

SENATE  
RESOLUTION 26

By: Jech

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution honoring the life of Robert A. Ravitz;  
recognizing his distinguished legal career; and  
directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Robert A. Ravitz earned his law degree from Oklahoma City University, began his career at the Oklahoma County Public Defender's Office, and was named lead public defender in 1987; and

WHEREAS, Robert "Bob" Ravitz protected the rights of all, believing society should not be judged based on how it treats the fortunate, but on how it treats those some consider society's worst; and

WHEREAS, even Ravitz's courtroom adversaries held him in the highest regard as they knew he would advocate for his clients with zeal and ardor and that the trial would be a tough but fair fight; and

WHEREAS, Ravitz constantly fought for the mentally ill who were accused of crimes because he believed using the criminal justice system to house the mentally ill was immoral; and

1           WHEREAS, Ravitz served as an adjunct professor and mentor,  
2 teaching hundreds of young lawyers to advocate for the least among  
3 us and to practice law and life with integrity and honor; and

4           WHEREAS, Ravitz served tirelessly on countless boards,  
5 commissions, and committees related to the law and criminal justice,  
6 always seeking to make our system fairer and more effective; and

7           WHEREAS, Ravitz earned the respect of officials in Oklahoma  
8 County and beyond; positively impacted many citizens, public  
9 officials, criminal defendants, and lawyers; and is undoubtedly one  
10 of the most significant figures in the history of Oklahoma County;  
11 and

12           WHEREAS, Ravitz leaves a legacy of lifelong service to all,  
13 admiration and love of his family and, indeed, all who knew him.

14           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION  
15 OF THE 59TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

16           THAT the Oklahoma State Senate honors the life of service lived  
17 by Robert A. Ravitz.

18           THAT the Oklahoma State Senate recognizes Bob Ravitz's  
19 distinguished legal career, dedication to criminal justice reform,  
20 and commitment to shaping Oklahoma's future lawyers.

21           THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the family of  
22 Robert A. Ravitz, Judge Scott Rowland, and the Oklahoma County  
23 Public Defender's Office.

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