

HOUSE RESOLUTION 68

By Miller

A RESOLUTION to honor Harrison D. McIver III on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body take great pleasure in recognizing a gentleman and scholar who has dedicated his career to ensuring that our most vulnerable citizens have access to the highest quality of legal representation; and

WHEREAS, Harrison D. McIver III is taking a much-deserved retirement from his position as chief executive officer of Memphis Area Legal Services, Inc., (MALS) but not his quest for justice; and

WHEREAS, during his more than twenty years in this essential role, Mr. McIver has raised the profile and reputation of MALS locally and nationally with the help of his dedicated staff; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, MALS has become an excellent law firm by making a real difference in the lives of clients residing in its four-county service area; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, MALS's budget has more than doubled; its staff increased to include more than twenty attorney positions; its delivery structure reorganized into specialty units; and partnerships and collaborations with the private bar, community-based organizations, and governmental agencies expanded; and

WHEREAS, these partnerships and collaborations include the region's first medical legal partnership with Methodist Le Bonheur Children's Hospital and the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphrey's School of Law, a specialized program to address the legal and housing needs of homeless veterans, and a statewide collaboration to assist seniors in overcoming barriers that affect their legal and financial well-being; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McIver has also expanded MALS's impact as a community law firm through litigation and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, a devoted servant of the legal community, he has served as chair of the National Legal Aid and Defender Association Board, president of the Southeast Project Directors Association twice, chair of Equal Justice University, and a member of the boards of the National Equal Justice Library, the Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services, the Memphis Bar Association, and the Ben F. Jones Chapter of the National Bar Association; he is currently a member of the Tennessee Bar Association (TBA) House of Delegates; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, he has been honored with the prestigious Charles Dorsey Award by the American Bar Association (ABA), the A.A. Latting Award by the Ben F. Jones Chapter of the National Bar Association, the E. Riney Green Award by the Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services, and the Jessie Turner Award by the Memphis Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McIver was recognized for his life's work by the TBA during a reception at one of the ABA's annual meetings; and

WHEREAS, one of the many highlights of his illustrious career was testifying about the importance of legal services to the poor before a Congressional committee as the representative for legal aid organizations from across the country; and

WHEREAS, Harrison D. McIver III is a graduate of Morehouse College and Rutgers University School of Law; and

WHEREAS, although he is retiring, Mr. McIver will remain involved in the Memphis and Shelby County community and in bar activities; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor Harrison D. McIver III for his ongoing commitment to equal justice and fairness for all, commend his exemplary tenure as chief executive officer of Memphis Area Legal Services, Inc., and wish him much continued success and happiness during his retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.