

*Virginia Court Clerks' Association
Resolution Honoring the Life and Achievements of
Chief Justice Leroy Rountree Hassell, Sr.*

WHEREAS, Chief Justice Leroy Rountree Hassell, Sr., a Justice on the Supreme Court since 1989 and Chief Justice since February 1, 2003, concluded his second term as Chief Justice on January 31, 2011; and

WHEREAS, Chief Justice Leroy Rountree Hassell, Sr., was the 24th Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia, and the first African American to serve as Chief Justice; and

WHEREAS, as Chief Justice, Leroy Rountree Hassell, Sr., served as the administrative head of the Judicial System and strove to promote a judicial system in which all Virginians are treated fairly with dignity, equality and respect; and

WHEREAS, as Chief Justice, Leroy Rountree Hassell, Sr., in furtherance of the goal of making the courts accessible to all, worked to establish a program to train lawyers who provide services to indigent defendants and to increase the compensation of those lawyers; and

WHEREAS, as Chief Justice, Leroy Rountree Hassell, Sr., worked to provide foreign language interpreters in the courts to serve the needs of the Commonwealth's diverse population; and

WHEREAS, as Chief Justice, Leroy Rountree Hassell, Sr., appointed the Commission on Mental Health Law Reform to conduct a comprehensive examination of Virginia's mental

health laws and services and recommend reforms to Virginia's mental health laws, and that many of the Commission's recommendations were enacted by the General Assembly, including improvements to the involuntary commitment process; and

WHEREAS, a native of Norfolk, Chief Justice Leroy Rountree Hassell, Sr., served Virginia proudly in many professional and civic roles with an enduring commitment to the people of the Commonwealth, and with an emphasis on the importance of faith and humility in such service; and

WHEREAS, Chief Justice Leroy Rountree Hassell, Sr., set an inspiring example for all people in the manner in which he continued to discharge his duties with dignity and selflessness as he faced serious illness; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Virginia Court Clerks' Association that Chief Justice Leroy Rountree Hassell, Sr., is commended for his dedicated service and leadership as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia and for his determination to work for good despite hardship; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Public Relations Chairman for the Virginia Court Clerks' Association prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Chief Justice Leroy Rountree Hassell, Sr., and to the Executive Secretary of the Virginia Supreme Court, as an expression of the Virginia Court Clerks' Association's gratitude and appreciation.