Resolution

COMMENDING JAMES R. PRATT, III, FOR EXEMPLARY PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AND DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVICE


WHEREAS, highest commendation is herein conveyed to James R. Pratt, III, President-Elect of the Alabama State Bar, in recognition of his outstanding professional achievements, dedicated public service, and significant contributions to the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, born and reared in Birmingham, Alabama, Mr. Pratt accepted a full athletic scholarship to Auburn University to run track and graduated from the university and was nominated for and received, by order of the President of the United States, a regular Army commission where he served three years as an armor officer with the 9th Infantry Division; and

WHEREAS, after his honorable service to this country, Mr. Pratt returned to Birmingham, graduated from Cumberland School of Law and commenced his distinguished legal career in 1978 with Hare Wynn Newell and Newton LLP; and

WHEREAS, an active and exemplary member of both the Birmingham Bar Association “BBA” and the Alabama State Bar, Mr. Pratt has served as a member of the Executive Committee for the BBA and on numerous committees, has served two terms on the state bar’s Disciplinary Commission and is currently in his second term as Bar Commissioner of the Alabama State Bar, and is an Atticus Finch member of the Alabama Bar Foundation, a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, and a member of the American Law Institute, and is currently President-Elect of the Alabama State Bar; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pratt is past president of the Alabama Trial Lawyers Association, and a past chair of the Products Liability Section of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, as well as a past member of the Executive Committee of the American Trial Lawyers; and

WHEREAS, an AV-rated lawyer by Martindale-Hubbell, Mr. Pratt has been selected for inclusion in the “Best Lawyers in America” since 1991, designated by Super Lawyers as one of the top lawyers in Alabama, and chosen by Law Dragon as one of the leading 500 plaintiffs attorneys in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his distinguished professional achievements, he is a dedicated community leader and educator, and has made significant contributions to the Legislature, and we are eternally grateful for his insight, guidance, and dedication to formulating effective solutions to the paramount issues facing this state; and
WHEREAS, during the 2010 Special Session, Mr. Pratt was an invaluable resource to the Legislature as he assisted Legislators with landmark reforms to state ethics laws to ensure that state and local governments in Alabama operate more honestly, transparently, and with more accountability; and

WHEREAS, drawing upon his vast experience in both federal and state courts, Mr. Pratt has addressed critical tort reform issues before this Legislature, by collaborating with Legislators to frame reasonable reforms designed to promote judicial efficiency, as well as justice and equality to all those litigating in the courts of this state; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pratt has served as a catalyst for significant improvements to the indigent defense system in this state by tirelessly working on behalf of the Alabama State Bar with Legislators to craft innovative legislation improving the efficiency and effectiveness of this system; and

WHEREAS, devoted to his family, Mr. Pratt is married to Marcia Pratt, who is an attorney at Maynard Cooper and Gale, and they are the proud parents of four children, including their son, Andy, who is also an Alabama State Bar member practicing in New York City; and

WHEREAS, through the years, Mr. Pratt has earned respect for his exceptional legal abilities and unwavering commitment to justice and to his fellow citizens; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That in recognition of his outstanding professional achievements, his dedicated public service, as well as his unmatched contributions to the Senate, James R. Pratt, III, is honored and commended, and this resolution is offered in highest tribute and deepest appreciation to him, along with best wishes in all future endeavors.

I hereby certify that the above is a true, correct and accurate copy of Session Resolution No. 11-586, filed with the Senate of Alabama on June 9, 2011.

Patrick Harris
Secretary of Senate