

2021 SPECIAL SESSION II

INTRODUCED

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SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 715

Offered August 3, 2021

1 3 Commending the Honorable Janice Justina Wellington.

2
4 Patrons—Surovell, Barker, Bell and McPike

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6 WHEREAS, the Honorable Janice Justina Wellington, a trailblazer for African American women in
7 the legal profession, retired as a judge of the Prince William Juvenile and Domestic Relations District
8 Court in July 2020; and

9 WHEREAS, Janice Wellington grew up in New York City and is a first-generation American, her
10 father having immigrated to the United States from Honduras and her mother from the West Indies; she
11 was inspired at a young age to fight injustice and strive to make a positive difference in the lives of
12 others; and

13 WHEREAS, after receiving a law degree from the George Washington University School of Law,
14 Janice Wellington began her career with the U.S. Department of Transportation then became one of the
15 first practicing African American women attorneys in the region when she agreed to help a friend
16 represent a child in juvenile court; she subsequently practiced law with a firm in Prince William County
17 for more than a decade; and

18 WHEREAS, Janice Wellington was appointed as a judge of the 31st Judicial District of Virginia in
19 1990; she was the first African American woman appointed as a judge of a juvenile and domestic
20 relations district court in Northern Virginia and went on to become the longest serving juvenile and
21 domestic relations district court judge in the Commonwealth; and

22 WHEREAS, over the course of her 30 years on the bench, Janice Wellington presided over the court
23 with great fairness and wisdom, demonstrating a passion for legal scholarship and compassion for people
24 and families coming before the court; and

25 WHEREAS, Janice Wellington helped create the children's waiting room at the Prince William
26 Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court to help put children at ease during stressful situations
27 and worked with Court Appointed Special Advocates to ensure that children had proper representation;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, Janice Wellington was active in local bar associations and professional organizations,
30 inspired countless students at the high school, college, and law school levels, and was a nationally
31 recognized judicial educator who served as a teacher, mentor, and friend to many fellow judges around
32 the Commonwealth and the country; and

33 WHEREAS, Janice Wellington served the Commonwealth with the utmost dedication, integrity, and
34 distinction; now, therefore, be it

35 RESOLVED by the Senate of Virginia, That the Honorable Janice Justina Wellington hereby be
36 commended on the occasion of her retirement as a judge of the Prince William Juvenile and Domestic
37 Relations District Court; and, be it

38 RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for
39 presentation to the Honorable Janice Justina Wellington as an expression of the Senate of Virginia's
40 admiration for her achievements in service to the residents of Prince William County.

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