

Dr. Lawrence Feldman, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 16-096 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING JUDGE STANFORD BLAKE

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: HIGHLY EFFECTIVE TEACHERS, LEADERS AND STAFF

For 22 years, Circuit Court Judge Stanford Blake served the Miami-Dade community with noted wisdom, grace and wit. Graduating from the University of Florida and the University of Miami School of Law, Judge Blake began his career as a public defender and later joined a private practice.

It was in 1994, following the infamous Court Broom corruption scandal, that he was elected to serve. Judge Blake presided over many high profile and complex cases that garnered national attention and he did so with courtesy and a passion that did not go unnoticed.

Judge Blake's kindness and respect for human dignity was admired by fellow judges and attorneys, who gave his work the highest ratings on the Dade County Bar Poll, nearly 99% exceptionally qualified. Additionally, many criminal case defendants have publically credited him with their rehabilitation, noting his sage advice, genuine concern and sense of humor.

Former jurors also cited his ability to build rapport and engage them in the civic duty they were performing. Manny Garcia, former *Miami Herald* court reporter and current editor of the *Naples Daily News*, noted he often welcomed reporters to his chambers for coffee and was "a discerning jurist with a great sense of humor and heart."

Judge Blake's fairness, integrity and professionalism earned him the admiration of all courtroom observers. He handled many intricate and often conflictive cases and never shied away from offering difficult legal decisions.

The recipient of countless awards, including the **Judge William Hoeverler Lifetime Achievement Award**, **The Outstanding Jurist Award** and **The Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Award for Judicial Excellence**, perhaps Judge Blake's most telling recognition is the **Transplant Foundation of South Florida Miracle Maker Award**; an award given to him after donating a kidney to his ailing brother. This precious and selfless gift gave his brother another decade of life. An undaunted cancer survivor himself, Judge Blake has consistently demonstrated the passion, will, ethical jurisprudence, and courage of a true hero.

Judge Stanford Blake retires after 22 years of faithful and dutiful public service to the residents of Miami-Dade County and continues to teach litigation skills at the University of Miami School of Law.

The School Board commends Judge Stanford Blake for his public service and commitment to the citizens of Miami-Dade County.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. LAWRENCE FELDMAN: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 16-096 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Judge Stanford Blake for his public service and commitment to the citizens of Miami-Dade County.

**RESOLUTION NO. 16-096
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING JUDGE STANFORD BLAKE**

WHEREAS, for 22 years Circuit Court Judge Stanford Blake served the Miami-Dade community with noted wisdom, grace and wit. Graduating from the University of Florida and the University of Miami School of Law, Judge Blake began his career as a public defender and later joined a private practice. It was in 1994, following the infamous Court Broom corruption scandal, that he was elected to serve; and

WHEREAS, Judge Stanford Blake's kindness and respect for human dignity was admired not just by fellow judges and attorneys, but also by criminal case defendants who have publically credited him with their rehabilitation, noting his sage advice, genuine concern and sense of humor. Formers jurors also cited his ability to build rapport and engage them in the civic duty they were performing. Judge Blake's fairness, integrity and professionalism earned him the admiration of all courtroom observers; and

WHEREAS, he is the recipient of countless awards, including the **Family Bar's American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers "Jurist of the Year"** and the **Civil Bar's Judge Steve Levine Award for Fairness, Integrity and Professionalism**. He has received many other awards while on the Bench including, but not limited to, **The Judge William Hoeveler Lifetime Achievement Award, The Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Award for Judicial Excellence, The Conference of Circuit Judges Chair's Award, The Justice Gerald Kogan Judicial Distinction Award, The Alan Schwartz Judicial Excellence Award, the League of Prosecutors Justice Award** and the **University of Miami Law Alumni Achievement Award**. He was also honored to receive the highest bar approval rating ever of the Dade County Bar Association of almost 99% exceptionally qualified/qualified in 2012; and

WHEREAS, Judge Stanford Blake has always sought to teach and pass on a legacy of integrity. He has been an adjunct professor at the University of Miami School of Law, teaching Litigation Skills for nearly 20 years and teaches at the New Judge's mandatory program yearly. He has also been a regular instructor for the Circuit Court Conference and Advanced Judicial Studies during his tenure on the Bench. Additionally, he was a presenter for the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts 48th Annual Conference and a lecturer for the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. for a national symposium on indigent defense in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Judge Stanford Blake has also served our community for many years. He was the President of the Board of Directors of the Haven School for the Developmentally Disadvantaged, President of the Kiwanis Club of Biscayne Bay, as well as a Board Member of Lauren's Kids. Having donated a kidney to his brother in 1996, Stan became active in the Transplant Foundation.

WHEREAS, he retires after 22 years of faithful and dutiful public service to the residents of Miami-Dade County and continues to teach litigation skills at the University of Miami School of Law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 16-096 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Judge Stanford Blake.

A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent records of this Board.

Presented this fifth day of October, A.D. 2016

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary