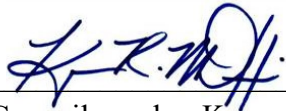
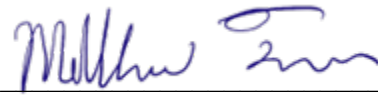
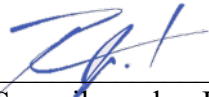


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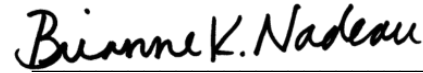
2  
3 Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie



Councilmember Matthew Frumin

4  
5 

6  
7 Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.



Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau

8  
9  
10 A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

11  
12 \_\_\_\_\_  
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14  
15 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

16  
17 \_\_\_\_\_  
18  
19 To recognize, honor, and celebrate the late Stephen J. Pollak for his outstanding career in public  
20 service, passionate commitment to equal rights, racial justice, and the advancement of the legal  
21 profession's role in fulfilling those commitments.

22  
23 WHEREAS, Mr. Pollak was born on the south side of Chicago, and grew up on the north side in  
24 Highland Park where he was an Eagle Scout;

25  
26 WHEREAS, Mr. Pollak earned his undergraduate degree from Dartmouth College, where he  
27 captained the swim team, and wrote a paper entitled "What Are We Americans Doing About Racial  
28 Discrimination";

29  
30 WHEREAS, Mr. Pollak served in the Navy throughout college and as an Officer of the Deck on  
31 several ships including the destroyer USS Borie during the Korean War;

32  
33 WHEREAS, Mr. Pollak was honorably discharged from the Navy in 1953 and then attended Yale  
34 Law School where he was managing editor of the Yale Law Journal, graduating in 1956;

35  
36 WHEREAS, between 1961 and 1969, Mr. Pollak served the administrations of Presidents  
37 Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson as Assistant to the Solicitor General, Legal Counsel to the President's  
38 Task Force on the War Against Poverty, First Assistant and then, later, head of the Civil Rights Division,  
39 Deputy General Counsel for the Office of Economic Opportunity, Special Assistant to the Attorney  
40 General, and leader of President Johnson's Legislative Task Force on Civil Rights;

41

42 WHEREAS, in March 1965, Mr. Pollak met with march organizers, worked with local police, and  
43 coordinated with the Federalized National Guard to secure the safety of the civil rights activists who  
44 marched in Alabama from Selma to Montgomery;

45  
46 WHEREAS, Mr. Pollak was there when the marchers arrived at the Alabama State Capitol and  
47 heard Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. declare “the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward  
48 justice”;

49  
50 WHEREAS, in 1965, Mr. Pollak was tasked with managing the progress of the Voting Rights Act  
51 legislation on Capitol Hill;

52  
53 WHEREAS, Mr. Pollak worked to gain the full support of Republican Senator Everett Dirksen of  
54 Illinois and Democratic Senator Mike Mansfield of Montana, influential members of the Judiciary  
55 Committee, for the Voting Rights Act;

56  
57 WHEREAS, in 1968, as head of the Civil Rights Division, Mr. Pollak argued the case *Allen v.*  
58 *State Board of Elections* in front of the Supreme Court of the United States, facing withering questioning  
59 from Justice Hugo Black and ultimately winning the case and protecting African American voting rights  
60 for more than fifty years;

61  
62 WHEREAS, in 1967 President Johnson named Mr. Pollak as his advisor to the President for  
63 National Capital Affairs where, at the President’s direction, Mr. Pollak consulted key leaders in Congress  
64 about the reorganization plan for the government of the District of Columbia and, upon its passage,  
65 assisted the President in identifying and appointing the city’s first African American Mayor, Walter  
66 Washington, and the new Council of the District of Columbia;

67  
68 WHEREAS, in late 1967, Mr. Pollak returned to the Department of Justice, first as Special  
69 Assistant to the Attorney General and then as head of the Civil Rights Division;

70  
71 WHEREAS, under his leadership the civil rights focus of the Justice Department expanded  
72 beyond the Deep South, intensifying its efforts in equal employment, law enforcement, and school  
73 desegregation across the nation;

74  
75 WHEREAS, following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and upheaval in cities  
76 across the nation, Mr. Pollak led and coordinated the federal response from Washington as well as in  
77 Memphis and elsewhere;

78  
79 WHEREAS, Mr. Pollak led the Johnson Administration’s battle for fair housing, both in Congress  
80 and the courts, including important work to secure the passage of the Fair Housing Act of 1968;

81  
82 WHEREAS, across his career, Mr. Pollak argued twelve cases before the Supreme Court;

83  
84 WHEREAS, in 1969 Mr. Pollak joined the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law;

85

86 WHEREAS, Mr. Pollak served on the Board of the Lawyers’ Committee until 2022, co-chaired  
87 both the national and DC organizations, and was recognized with the Whitney North Seymour Award for  
88 1994 as well as the Lloyd Cutler Lifetime Achievement Award in December 2023;

89  
90 WHEREAS, in 1969 Mr. Pollak joined the law firm of Shea & Gardner as its youngest partner,  
91 serving on and chairing the firm’s Executive Committee for a term prior to its merger with Goodwin  
92 Proctor in 2004;

93  
94 WHEREAS, Mr. Pollak served as outside counsel for the International Ladies’ Garment Workers  
95 Union, fighting for worker protections under the Fair Labor Standards Act from wage, child labor, and  
96 other abuses;

97  
98 WHEREAS, Mr. Pollak served as lead outside counsel on major litigation for the United Mine  
99 Workers of America Health and Retirement Funds, and lead outside counsel for the National Education  
100 Association;

101  
102 WHEREAS, in 1977 Mr. Pollak served as outside counsel to President Jimmy Carter’s Secretary  
103 of Health, Education and Welfare;

104  
105 WHEREAS, Mr. Pollak drafted the regulations implementing Section 504 of the Rehabilitation  
106 Act of 1973, which guaranteed persons with disabilities reasonable accommodations and access to public  
107 services;

108  
109 WHEREAS, Mr. Pollak was a member of the Panel of Mediators for the U.S. Court of Appeals –  
110 D.C. Circuit since 1989, acting as Chair from 2016 to 2023;

111  
112 WHEREAS, Mr. Pollak served as President of the DC Bar, as well as the DC Bar Foundation, and  
113 as a Commissioner of the DC Access to Justice Commission;

114  
115 WHEREAS, Mr. Pollak twice chaired the DC Judicial Nominations Commission;

116  
117 WHEREAS, Mr. Pollak was Chair, President, and member of the Board of Directors of the  
118 Historical Society of the District of Columbia Circuit, serving for more than 30 years and leading the  
119 Society’s Oral History Program;

120  
121 WHEREAS, Mr. Pollak passed away on February 3, 2024, at the age of 95; and

122  
123 WHEREAS, Mr. Pollak is survived by his wife Ruth, four children and their partners,  
124 eight grandchildren, and one great grandchild, with another on the way.

125  
126 RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this  
127 resolution may be cited as the “Stephen J. Pollak Posthumous Recognition Resolution of 2024”.

128

129           Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes, honors, and celebrates  
130 Stephen J. Pollak for his lifelong commitment to public service, championing of civil rights, and  
131 service as a powerful beacon to generations of younger attorneys.  
132

133           Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in  
134 the District of Columbia Register.