

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 334

By Haile

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dean William C. Koch, Jr., and Nashville School of Law.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud while commending the respective organizations they lead; and

WHEREAS, William C. Koch, Jr., is one such estimable individual, who has served with distinction as president and dean of Nashville School of Law (NSL) since 2014, after having relinquished his spot on the Tennessee Supreme Court and potentially the position of chief justice to lead the school; and

WHEREAS, prior to joining NSL, Dean William C. Koch, Jr., served on the Tennessee Supreme Court and the Tennessee Court of Appeals; during his thirty-year judicial career, Dean Koch was recognized as one of the 500 Leading Judges in America and as Tennessee Appellate Judge of the Year; and

WHEREAS, he also received the Tennessee Bar Association's Justice Frank F. Drowota III Outstanding Judicial Service Award and the Nashville Bar Association's Liberty Bell Award; and

WHEREAS, Dean Koch earlier served as Counsel to Governor Lamar Alexander, Commissioner of Personnel, and Deputy Attorney General; and

WHEREAS, born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii, Dean William C. Koch, Jr., earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut; a Juris Doctor degree from Vanderbilt University; and a Master of Laws degree from the University of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Dean Koch teaches Constitutional Law and Tennessee Constitutional Law at NSL; he has also received appointments as an adjunct professor at Vanderbilt School of Law and Belmont College of Law; and

WHEREAS, highly respected in the legal profession, Dean Koch is a local and national leader in the American Inns of Court movement, chairs the Tennessee Trial Court Vacancy Commission, and serves on the Tennessee Board of Judicial Conduct; he is also a member of the boards of Cumberland University, the United Way of Metropolitan Nashville, and the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Dean Koch utilizes his legal expertise and decades of knowledge to shape the minds of the next generation of lawyers that will practice across the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Dean William C. Koch, Jr., is most appreciative of the love and companionship he shares with his wife of thirty-eight years, Deborah Patterson Koch; the couple resides in Nashville and attends Christ Church Cathedral; and

WHEREAS, Nashville School of Law is a private nonprofit law school founded in Nashville in 1911 by four graduates of Vanderbilt Law School; their intent in establishing the school was to provide working men and women with the opportunity to receive a quality legal education at an affordable price, while believing that creating an opportunity to study law part time would benefit not only the students but also Nashville and its residents; and

WHEREAS, in a unique collaboration, NSL's students formerly completed part of their coursework at nearby Cumberland Law School and were awarded Cumberland law degrees; in 1927, however, the Nashville YMCA Night Law School began conferring the degree of Doctor of Jurisprudence in its own name; and

WHEREAS, throughout the law school's illustrious 112-year history, NSL has been led by five deans: Owen Hughes, Ferris Clay Bailey, J.G. Lackey, Jr., Joe C. Loser, Jr., and William

C. Koch, Jr., each of whom has stayed true to NSL's historic mission to provide a quality legal education to working men and women at an affordable price; and

WHEREAS, Nashville School of Law's graduating class of 2023 has been through a pandemic, many losses, and several new beginnings. The class thanks Dean Koch and the NSL staff for providing continuous and exemplary support over these past four years; and

WHEREAS, the opportunity to pursue a legal education while working full time has been life-changing for not only the current graduating class but also for the hundreds of students before them; and

WHEREAS, no matter where they may go or what profession they may pursue following graduation, the Class of 2023 will forever be grateful for Nashville School of Law, Dean Koch, and the school's numerous staff members and professors; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that we specially recognize and applaud such an exceptional institution and its current dean on this occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Dean William C. Koch, Jr., and the faculty and staff of Nashville School of Law for their dedicated service to the citizens of this State and extend our deepest appreciation for their laudable contributions to the legal profession.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.