

2015-J3151

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending The Honorable Debra J. Kiedaisch upon the occasion of her retirement after 20 years of distinguished service as Orange County Family Court Judge

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor the significant milestones in the distinguished careers of esteemed individuals whose lives have been committed to the pursuit of excellence and who bring great pride to the citizens of our great State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend The Honorable Debra J. Kiedaisch upon the occasion of her retirement after 20 years of distinguished service as Orange County Family Court Judge, to be celebrated at a Retirement Party held in her honor on Tuesday, December 1, 2015, at Villa Venezia, Middletown, New York; and

WHEREAS, Justice Debra J. Kiedaisch earned her bachelor's degree cum laude from Hofstra University in 1973; she then obtained her Juris Doctor cum laude from New York Law School in 1982; and

WHEREAS, In 1983, Justice Debra J. Kiedaisch was admitted to the New York State Bar, and one year later, she was admitted to United States District Court for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York; and

WHEREAS, In June of 1977, Justice Debra J. Kiedaisch began her illustrious legal career, holding the position of Associate Attorney-Paralegal at Berney & Zweben, Esqs.; she worked in divorce and personal injury litigation until August of 1983; and

WHEREAS, Justice Debra J. Kiedaisch was then employed with Debra E. Jenkins, Esq. from September of 1983 to September of 1985; for two years, she worked as a Solo Practitioner, practicing both general and family law; and

WHEREAS, In June of 1985, Justice Debra J. Kiedaisch was elected to the position of Justice of the Village of Poquott, New York, a position she held until June of 1987; and

WHEREAS, From October of 1985 to September of 1986, Justice Debra J. Kiedaisch held the title of Associate Attorney at Sussman & Gottlieb, Esqs.; and

WHEREAS, After leaving Sussman & Gottlieb, Esqs., Justice Debra J. Kiedaisch went on to hold the esteemed position of Partner of Jenkins-Kiedaisch & Kiedaisch, Esqs., formerly known as Lambiase, Jenkins-Kiedaisch & Kiedasich, and Bernstein & Kiedaisch, from October of 1986 to 1995; throughout the years, she focused on family law, specializing in divorce and real estate issues; and

WHEREAS, From June of 1987 until 1995, Justice Debra J. Kiedaisch was the Legal Counsel for the Village of Greenwood Lake Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA); in this capacity, she attended and advised the ZBA during hearings, assisted in training new board members, and represented the organization in Article 78 proceedings; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, Justice Debra J. Kiedaisch acted as the Legal Counsel for the Village of Greenwood Lake Planning Board from June of 1991 to 1994; she attended and advised the Planning Board at meetings, and drafted proposed zoning ordinances; and

WHEREAS, In January of 1996, Justice Debra J. Kiedaisch was elected to the revered title of Orange County Family Court Judge, a position she held for two decades until her retirement in 2015; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her role as Family Court Judge, Justice Debra J. Kiedaisch has held the title of Acting Supreme Court Justice, Ninth Judicial District for 15 years, and has been the Presiding Judge for Integrated Domestic Violence Court since 2004; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the years, this exceptional woman was a vital member of numerous organizations including the New York State Unified Court System, the Family Violence Task Force, and the Orange County Continuing Legal Education Committee; and

WHEREAS, Justice Debra J. Kiedaisch has always enjoyed sharing her extensive knowledge; in December of 1998, she was the instructor at the Office of Administration Training Program for Domestic Violence for newly elected Judges in New York State; she also taught several courses at Orange Community College including Civil Procedure, American Jurisprudence, and Estates and Trusts, and Law for the Layperson, as well as Assertiveness Training; and

WHEREAS, An advocate for domestic violence victims, Justice Debra J. Kiedaisch lectured on Domestic Law and Violence for organizations such as Orange County Safe Homes Project, Inc., Long Island Women's Coalition, and Long Island Jewish Hospital Spousal Abuse Program, as well as

Parents Without Partners; and

WHEREAS, From 1978-1982, Justice Debra J. Kiedaisch held the position of Assistant Producer of "Nite Talk", The Lonn Berney Show, WOR Radio, and was the Assistant Editor of the LITIGATION LETTER from 1977-1983; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable woman has also held numerous leadership positions in various organizations such as Vice President of both the Mid-Hudson Chapter of Women in Management and the League of Women Voters Orange County South, and was an Officer of the Suffolk County Academy of Law from 1986-1987; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated to her profession, Justice Debra J. Kiedaisch was the Director of the Orange County Bar Association from 1994-1998, and held the title of Co-Editor of ORANGE COUNTY LAW, the Orange County Bar Association Newsletter from 1989-1995; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the occurrence of such a compassionate blending of strength, leadership, intellect, and commitment as that demonstrated by Justice Debra J. Kiedaisch over a lifetime of sacrifice and dedication to others; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that when public servants of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to recognize and commend The Honorable Debra J. Kiedaisch upon the occasion of her retirement, and to wish her continued success in all her future endeavors; and be it further

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RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Debra J. Kiedaisch.