

## 2015-J3514

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Jessica Persaud upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Robert F. Bensing Award by Prisoners' Legal Services of New York

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, Jessica Persaud has given not only of her time and energies but also of her competence, intelligence and leadership and consequently has been designated for special honor; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Jessica Persaud upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Robert F. Bensing Award by Prisoners' Legal Services of New York; this momentous occasion was celebrated at its 5th Annual Pro Bono Event on Monday, October 5, 2015, at the Capital Repertory Theater in Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Robert F. Bensing Award for Pro Bono Service by a Law Student was established in honor of the late Robert F. Bensing, a passionate advocate for civil rights who served as a Staff Attorney at Prisoners' Legal Services during the 1980s and 1990s; and

WHEREAS, Each year, this prestigious award is presented to one person who has demonstrated exceptional commitment to service and support, as well as an exemplary dedication to the education of students; and

WHEREAS, Jessica Persaud earned her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Philosophy from Florida Atlantic University in 2013; currently, she is attending Albany Law School and is a candidate for graduation in May of 2016; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed young woman has gained tremendous experience from several legal internships including the Albany County District

Attorney's Office, the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Northern District of New York, the Empire Justice Center and the New York Civil Liberties Union; and

WHEREAS, Upon graduation, Jessica Persaud plans to enter the field of public service to continue her dedication to helping those who are disadvantaged; and

WHEREAS, Volunteerism is an essential element of all societies; it provides a way in which the human values of community, caring and serving can be sustained and strengthened; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of her community service, a period of constructive involvement, Jessica Persaud has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Jessica Persaud has displayed throughout her life; and

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

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Jessica Persaud upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Robert F. Bensing Award by Prisoners' Legal Services of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Jessica Persaud.