

2019-K974

Assembly Resolution No. 974

BY: M. of A. McMahon

COMMENDING The Honorable Lisa Bloch Rodwin upon
the occasion of her retirement after more than 35
years of distinguished service to Erie County

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and
pay tribute to those singular individuals who devote their purposeful
lives and careers to preserving the rights and protecting the welfare of
the citizens of their community and the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend The
Honorable Lisa Bloch Rodwin upon the occasion of her retirement after
more than 35 years of distinguished service to Erie County; and

WHEREAS, Lisa Bloch Rodwin was appointed Erie County Family Court
Judge by Governor Eliot Spitzer in May of 2007, and the following year,
she was elected to a full term; prior to this role, she served as an
Assistant District Attorney with the Erie County District Attorney's
Office from 1985-2008, and served as Chief of the Domestic Violence Unit
from 1995-2007; and

WHEREAS, Specializing in matters of abuse, neglect, juvenile
justice, custody and family violence, Judge Lisa Bloch Rodwin was
instrumental in establishing a new partnership with the Department of
Social Services focused on the reduction of the disproportionate number

of minority children placed in foster care; and

WHEREAS, Judge Lisa Bloch Rodwin also created the first local collaborative in New York State designed to provide outreach and education to Muslim, immigrant and refugee families connected to the civil and criminal court systems while concurrently training professionals from the child welfare and criminal justice systems about cultural competency issues; and

WHEREAS, Judge Lisa Bloch Rodwin served on the statewide committee which drafted the Judicial Guide to Domestic Violence Risk Factors for Family and Supreme Court Judges throughout New York State and was one of a select few judges chosen to be on the New York State Family Court Advisory and Rules Committee; and

WHEREAS, This passionate and articulate woman also served as the Director of the New York State Family Court Judges' Association and was appointed by the Chief Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals to the New York State Advisory Council on Immigration Issues in Family Court; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her role with the Family Court, Judge Lisa Bloch Rodwin was devoted to serving domestic violence awareness causes; she was the founder of New York State's first Domestic Violence Bureau outside of New York City, and was responsible for the prosecution of more than 4,000 family violence and child abuse cases annually; and

WHEREAS, While at the District Attorney's Office, Judge Lisa Bloch Rodwin developed protocols for the investigation and prosecution of

domestic violence crimes for local police agencies and initiated interview and investigation policies for child abuse investigations at

the Child Advocacy Center in Buffalo; and

WHEREAS, Judge Lisa Bloch Rodwin appeared on national television as a domestic violence expert on "20/20" and "The Oprah Winfrey Show," and served as a keynote speaker at numerous national conferences on family violence and has lectured at the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Law, Canisius College, the National College of District Attorneys, New York State Prosecutor's Training Institute, and the Erie County Police Academy; and

WHEREAS, Judge Lisa Bloch Rodwin developed and conducted training on child abuse and domestic violence laws, the Indian Child Welfare Act, the over-representation of minority children in foster care, best practices in working with immigrant and refugee families, internet crimes against children, elder abuse, stalking and cyber-stalking, and edited "Supporting Family Safety, A Resource Guide for Erie County Family Court"; and

WHEREAS, As a volunteer, Judge Lisa Bloch Rodwin was the founder and first Board President of the Erie County Family Justice Center, as well as a founder of the Alexa Foundation which serves child abuse and sexual assault survivors; she served as a State Director and Committee Chair for the New York State Women's Bar Association and has been a Board Member of the YWCA and Child Advocacy Center; and

WHEREAS, For her steadfast and unremitting commitment to her profession and ideals, Judge Lisa Bloch Rodwin has been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades including the Lois Haight Award of Excellence and Innovation from the U.S. Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus, the Women Lawyers of Western New York's Lawyer of the Year Award, the Susan Still Profile in Courage Award from the Family Justice Center, the President's Award and Kupferman Juvenile Justice Award from

the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Law's Distinguished Alumni Award, the Award for Excellence from Everywoman Opportunity Center, and the Leaders in Law Award from The Daily Record, as well as many service awards from The Buffalo News, the National Federation for Just Communities, the Alexa Foundation, the Erie County Coalition Against Family Violence, Hispanics United, New York State Crime Prevention Coalition, Prevention Focus and Time Warner's Western New York Local Hero nomination; and

WHEREAS, In April of 2016, Judge Lisa Bloch Rodwin was honored by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, D.C. for forming the first Immigrant and Refugee Collaborative in New York State in 2010; and

WHEREAS, With her throughout have been her husband, Michael; two sons, David and Benjamin; and one daughter-in-law, Rozzi, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of her life and rejoice in her achievements; and

WHEREAS, The quality and character of life in Erie County has been ably served and uniquely enriched through the selfless dedication and benevolent concern of Judge Lisa Bloch Rodwin; and

WHEREAS, Judge Lisa Bloch Rodwin, in every capacity in which she served, has left her permanent mark on the criminal justice community and will forever be remembered as a determined, innovative and genuinely concerned expert in her field; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend The Honorable Lisa Bloch Rodwin upon the occasion of her retirement after more than 35 years of distinguished service to Erie County, and to wish her well in all her future endeavors; and be it

further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Lisa Bloch Rodwin.