

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 32**

**Ronda F. Williams**

**WHEREAS**, we pause in our deliberations to note the untimely passing of lifelong St. Louis resident, Ronda F. Williams; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Williams earned her undergraduate degree in business marketing from Hampton University in Virginia where she was a Dean's Scholar and recipient of the Dean's Graduate Achievement Award. Ronda was a graduate of Saint Louis University School of Law where she earned her Juris Doctorate and served in several leadership roles. She was licensed to practice law in Missouri, Illinois, the United States Federal District Court of the Eastern District of Missouri and the United States Federal District Court of the Central District of Illinois; and

**WHEREAS**, Ronda served as Senior Corporate Counsel at SAVVIS, Inc., a global internet technology company at the forefront of IT innovation as a leading global provider of cloud computing services, with a presence in more than 45 countries worldwide. Ronda was awarded the company's highest merit award, the SAVVIS ACE award for "A Commitment to Excellence" in 2008, an Outstanding Service Award in 2009 and a Special Award of Merit in 2010. This past year Ronda was responsible for closing deals valued at more than \$1 billion dollars; and

**WHEREAS**, Since 2004, Ronda had been an Adjunct Professor at Saint Louis University in the School for Professional Studies. She developed and taught courses in the disciplines of Law and Business. Ronda also designed, implemented and taught online courses for the University; and

**WHEREAS**, Ronda served in many leadership roles within the legal community, most recently serving as President of the Mound City Bar Association ("MCBA"). As President of MCBA, she created and developed the "MCBA Adopt-A-School" pipeline program. This program received special recognition by the St. Louis Public School District in a ceremony during a special school board meeting. Also under Ronda's leadership, MCBA conducted community service abroad through its donation of clothing and toys to a Rafiki Village orphanage and of books to the Abiriw Village town library, both located in Ghana, Africa. MCBA was awarded the National Bar Association's Affiliate of the Year Award under her administration; and

**WHEREAS**, Ronda sat on the National Bar Association (NBA) Board of Governors where she was elected as a Member-At-Large in August of 2011, and served as Chief of Staff to the President of the NBA. She was a Past President of the Mound City Bar Foundation, and served as its Treasurer. She was elected to the Board of Governors of the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis as a Member-at-Large. Ronda served on the Missouri Bar Annual Meeting Planning Committee since 2008, the St. Louis Diversity Job Fair Planning Steering Committee since 2009, the Regional Business Council Young Leaders Network Steering Committee since 2007 and she participated in the Missouri Bar Leadership Academy (2008-2009); and

**WHEREAS**, Ronda's awards and honors included: 2011 YWCA Leader of Distinction Award awarded for excellence in her field of endeavor and significant contributions to the community, both inside and outside the workplace; National Bar Association & IMPACT's 2011 Nation's Best Advocates: 40 Lawyers Under 40 and Excellence in Leadership award, based on achievement, innovation, vision, leadership, and legal community involvement; 2010 *St. Louis Business Journal's* "40 under 40" honoree based on career achievements and community work; 2010 *Missouri Lawyer's Weekly* "Women's Justice Award" in the Business Practitioner category for her accomplishments in the business community and at SAVVIS; 2010 National Bar Association President's Award for exemplary service to the NBA; 2010 National Bar Association Young Lawyers' Division Meritorious Service Award for long-standing service and dedication; 2010 Saint Louis University Black Law Students Association Service Award for providing the students with guidance and assistance throughout the school year; 2009 St. Louis Bar Foundation "Spirit of Justice Award" awarded to St. Louisans who exemplify professionalism and make significant contributions to the community; 2008 Mound City Bar Association Outstanding Service Award; and 2007 Mound City Bar Association President's Award for outstanding service and commitment.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause to remember the many contributions of Ronda F. Williams to the citizens of the City of St. Louis and we join with her many friends in expressing our sorrow at her passing, and we further direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of these proceedings and to prepare a memorial copy for presentation to the Williams family, at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2013 by:

**Honorable Chris Carter, Alderman 27<sup>th</sup> Ward**

Honorable Antonio D. French, Alderman 21<sup>st</sup> Ward

Adopted this the 26<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2013 as attested by:

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David W. Sweeney  
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

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Lewis E. Reed  
President, Board of Aldermen