SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 29

BY SENATOR JACKSON

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Isiah Chavis for winning the 2023 George A. Spiegelberg Award as Best Oral Advocate at the National Trial Competition.

WHEREAS, the National Trial Competition was established in 1975 to encourage and strengthen student's advocacy skills through quality competition and valuable interaction with members of the bench and bar; and

WHEREAS, the competition is designed to expose law students to the nature of trial practice and serve as a supplement to their education; and

WHEREAS, the competition, which attracts teams from more than 150 law schools and involves more than 1,000 law students, allows for a team of two law students from the same school to represent fictitious parties that are either the plaintiff/prosecutor or the defendant in a mock trial; and

WHEREAS, the students are scored by members of the bench and bar on how they present and argue their side of the case through their opening statements, closing arguments, direct and cross examination of witnesses, and pretrial, and during trial motions and objections; and

WHEREAS, to compete at the national event, participants must be one of the top two teams at one of the fifteen regional qualifiers, and at both the regional and national stage of the competition, teams qualify through competition in preliminary rounds, a quarterfinal round, a semifinal round, and then the final round; and

WHEREAS, at the 2023 National Trial Competition held in San Antonio, Texas, on March 30th through April 3rd, the Mercer University team of Isiah Chavis and John Flowers made it to the semifinal round and Isiah Chavis was awarded the George A. Spiegelberg Award for the Best Oral Advocate of the competition; and

WHEREAS, originally from Church Point, Louisiana, Isiah is currently a third-year law student at Mercer University School of Law in Macon, Georgia, a 2020 graduate of University of Louisiana at Monroe in Monroe, Louisiana, and a 2016 graduate of Northside High School in Lafayette, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Isiah has been competing and excelling in mock trial competitions since high school and has been coached along his way by Liz Tullier in high school, Bob Noel and Kyle Moore in college, and Katie Powers in law school; and

WHEREAS, Isiah attributes his success and that of his team to many hours of dedicated practice and preparation; to his coaches, he is known for his strong work ethic and true leadership; and

WHEREAS, the hard work and success achieved by Isiah Chavis in being named the best advocate in the country in the National Trial Competition merits a special measure of commendation for the pride it brings to his hometown of Church Point and his home state of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Isiah Chavis for winning the 2023 George A. Spiegelberg Award as Best Oral Advocate at the National Trial Competition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Isiah Chavis.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE