



HR0518

LRB104 15872 MST 29092 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Judge
4 Shelvin Louise Marie Hall, who passed away on October 8, 2025;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Judge Hall was born in Cuero, Texas in 1948; she
7 moved with her family to the west side of Chicago in the early
8 1950s; she graduated from Hampton University and the Boston
9 University School of Law; and

10 WHEREAS, Judge Hall trained in civil rights law with the
11 NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund before co-founding
12 the first Black female-owned law firm in the nation
13 specializing in civil rights cases in Houston, Texas; she
14 returned to Chicago in 1982 to serve as general counsel for the
15 Illinois Department of Human Rights, overseeing civil rights,
16 labor, and legislative matters; and

17 WHEREAS, Judge Hall was appointed to the Cook County
18 Circuit Court in 1991, where she presided over the Domestic
19 Relations Division for four years, then led the Law Division
20 from 1995 to 1999, handling some of the county's most
21 prominent civil cases; she was appointed to the Illinois
22 Appellate Court, First District in 1999, where she served

1 until her retirement in 2020; and

2 WHEREAS, Judge Hall was a respected leader in the legal
3 community; she chaired the Judicial Council of the National
4 Bar Association, a 100-year-old organization of Black lawyers
5 and judges; during her tenure, she and the late legal icon
6 Judge Leon Higginbotham opposed an invitation for U.S. Supreme
7 Court Justice Clarence Thomas to address the 1998 National Bar
8 Association convention, citing disagreements with his
9 conservative positions on race and equality; and

10 WHEREAS, Judge Hall served as chair of the Illinois
11 Judicial Council, became the first woman judge on the
12 executive committee of the Illinois Judicial Conference, and
13 held leadership roles with the Cook County Bar Association,
14 the National Bar Association, and numerous civic
15 organizations; and

16 WHEREAS, Judge Hall was inducted into the Glen Ellyn Area
17 Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in 1995
18 and was an engaged member, involved in several public service
19 programs and activities; and

20 WHEREAS, Judge Hall was a lifelong member of Friendship
21 Baptist Church and the daughter of the late Rev. Dr. Shelvin
22 Jerome Hall, who served as pastor there for more than 50 years

1 and advised Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during his Chicago
2 civil rights efforts addressing discriminatory housing
3 practices; and

4 WHEREAS, Judge Hall devoted her life to civil law and
5 public service, sharing that legacy with her sister, retired
6 Justice Priscilla L. Hall of the New York Supreme Court; and

7 WHEREAS, Judge Hall is survived by her husband, Dr.
8 Ephraim Martin (BHM); her daughter, Dana Martin; and her
9 sister, her niece, her church family, and a generation of
10 legal professionals; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
12 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
13 we mourn the passing of Judge Shelvin Louise Marie Hall and
14 extend our sincere condolences to her family, friends, and all
15 who knew and loved her; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
17 presented to the family of Judge Hall as an expression of our
18 deepest sympathy.