

No. R-452. House concurrent resolution congratulating Sandra Baird on her most-deserved receipt of the 2014 Vermont Bar Association's Pro Bono Service Award.

(H.C.R.339)

Offered by: Representatives Ram of Burlington, Ancel of Calais, Bissonnette of Winooski, Buxton of Tunbridge, Cole of Burlington, Connor of Fairfield, Cross of Winooski, Deen of Westminster, Donovan of Burlington, Ellis of Waterbury, Head of South Burlington, Keenan of St. Albans City, Krowinski of Burlington, Kupersmith of South Burlington, Masland of Thetford, McCormack of Burlington, Miller of Shaftsbury, Nuovo of Middlebury, O'Brien of Richmond, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Pearson of Burlington, Pugh of South Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, Townsend of South Burlington, Webb of Shelburne, Wizowaty of Burlington, Wright of Burlington, and Yantachka of Charlotte

Whereas, Sandy Baird grew up as a first-generation American in Springfield, Massachusetts, and this childhood experience sparked her concern for the underprivileged, and

Whereas, she graduated from the University of Massachusetts and earned a graduate degree at the University of Wisconsin, before reading the law at Vermont Legal Aid as a Vista Volunteer and earning admission to the Vermont Bar, and

Whereas, Sandy Baird served as a prosecutor before establishing a private law practice focusing on representing low-income clients, and

Whereas, as a Burlington College faculty member, Sandy Baird chairs the Legal and Justice Studies Department, the Cuba Overseas Study Program, and the Institute for Civic Engagement, and works with paralegal studies, and

Whereas, for two terms, Sandy Baird represented a Burlington legislative district in the House of Representatives, and

Whereas, the Vermont Bar Association's Pro Bono Service Award honors an attorney who has provided extraordinary legal advice and support to disadvantaged Vermonters in need of legal assistance, and

Whereas, for the 2014 award, several members of the Vermont legal community, including Angele Court of the Vermont Volunteers Lawyers Project and Chittenden County Probate Judge Susan Fowler, nominated Sandy Baird for this honor, and

Whereas, Sandy Baird's history of pro bono representation impressed the selection panel, and she was presented this special award in recognition of her volunteer work as a private attorney accepting nonpaying clients from the Vermont Volunteer Lawyers Project and the Burlington College Pro Se Legal Clinic, and

Whereas, Sandy Baird continues her work as a tireless advocate on behalf of those whose need for her legal representation is often dire, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Sandra Baird on her most-deserved receipt of the 2014 Vermont Bar Association's Pro Bono Service Award, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Sandy Baird.