

**RESOLUTION  
OF THE  
SEMINOLE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF  
JUDGE JOHN L. WOODARD III**

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable John L. Woodard III was admitted to The Florida Bar on March 28, 1978, and has been Board-Certified as a Criminal Trial Specialist since 1988; and

**WHEREAS**, Judge Woodard earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Florida and his Juris Doctor from Wake Forest University; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to his judicial service, he served as an Assistant State Attorney in the Ninth Judicial Circuit, practiced in private practice, was President of the Central Florida Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, and chaired the Orange County Bar Criminal Law Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 2, 2007, Governor Charlie Crist appointed him to the Seminole County Bench as County Court Judge; and

**WHEREAS**, among his judicial assignments, Judge Woodard has been a lead figure in establishing the County Court within the 18th Judicial Circuit; he has also been significantly involved with specialized courts, serving both as Judge of the Mental Health Court and Judge of the Veterans Court in Seminole County; and

**WHEREAS**, Judge Woodard has helped secure federal grants to fund the Mental Health Court, demonstrating dedication to addressing complex social issues through the judicial system and

**WHEREAS**, his professional service includes membership in many organizations: the Seminole County Bar Association; the Volie Williams Inns of Court; the Seminole County Mental Health Task Force; serving on the Seminole County Supervisor of Elections Canvassing Board, including a term as Chair from 2010-2014; past membership in the Central Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (including as President); and participation in national legal organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, his work has been recognized with multiple awards, including the Seminole County Bar's Lifetime Achievement Award (2019); the Bar's Distinguished Service Award for his creation and implementation of Veterans Court (2013); Certificate of Appreciation from Navy Seabee Veterans of America (2013); the Gary Formet Award of Judicial Excellence (2012); and the Mize-Dickey "Judge of the Year" Award (2010); and

**WHEREAS**, over his time on the bench, Judge Woodard has presided with fairness, compassion, and professionalism, championing access to innovative court programs, particularly in the areas of mental health and veterans' issues.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Seminole County, Florida, that we do hereby recognize and commend the Honorable John L. Woodard III for more than 18 years of dedicated and distinguished service as County Court Judge (2007-2025), honoring his many professional accomplishments, judicial leadership, and his immeasurable contributions to Seminole County's legal and civic community.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we extend our deepest gratitude to Judge Woodard for upholding the rule of law with integrity, for advancing the cause of justice in all his rulings, and for his vision in establishing courts and programs which serve the most vulnerable among us.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that we wish Judge Woodard a well-earned, restful, and joyous retirement, with our very best wishes for health, happiness, and continued service in whatever new ways he may choose to engage with this community.

**ADOPTED** this 28<sup>th</sup> day of October 2025

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**Jay Zembower, Chairman  
Seminole County, Board of County Commissioners**