

RESOLUTION HONORING JUDGE MARIO E. RAMIREZ, JR.

WHEREAS, Mario E. Ramirez, Jr., a native of Roma, Texas, is Hidalgo County's Senior Judge and the longest-serving, currently-presiding Judge in Hidalgo County and in the 5th Region of the State of Texas; Judge Ramirez has been an exemplary public servant, a model of justice and integrity, and an astute voice of wisdom and leadership in Hidalgo County's judicial system; and

WHEREAS, born in 1950 to Dr. Mario E. Ramirez, Sr. and the late Sarah Ramirez, Judge Ramirez graduated from Rio Grande City High School in 1968; upon graduating from high school, he attended the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, and obtained his Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1972. Judge Ramirez decided to pursue a legal career and attended St. Mary's University School of Law in San Antonio, Texas, where he graduated with a Juris Doctorate in 1974; and

WHEREAS, Judge Ramirez began his professional vocation as a public servant, commencing his career as an attorney for the Department of Public Welfare in 1975 and later opened a private practice; Judge Ramirez also served as Assistant Municipal Court Judge for the City of McAllen from 1976 through 1980; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, Judge Ramirez was appointed by Hidalgo County Commissioners Court as Judge of County Court at Law #2, beginning his tenure serving Hidalgo County residents. In 1981, Judge Ramirez was appointed by then-Governor Bill Clements as Judge of the 93rd State District Court; the following year, Judge Ramirez was appointed by then-Governor Mark White as State District Judge of the newly-created 332nd State District Court. On January 1, 1983, Judge Ramirez began his long and illustrious occupancy in this particular courtroom and has been the sole officeholder of the Court since its inception; and

WHEREAS, Judge Ramirez, a lifelong public servant with numerous honors and recognitions to his name, served as the Presiding Judge of the Hidalgo County Board of Judges from 2005-2007; Past-President and Director of the Hidalgo County Bar Association; Committee Member of the 5th Administrative Judicial Region of Texas Death Penalty Qualified Attorneys Selection Committee since 2007; Committee member of the State of Texas Legal Services to the Poor in Civil Matters Committee since 2007; and Board Member of the Texas Department of Juvenile Justice Advisory Council on Juvenile Services Committee since 2013. Judge Ramirez has also received awards by the Texas State Senate and Hidalgo County Commissioners Court for twenty years of judicial service in 2003; and

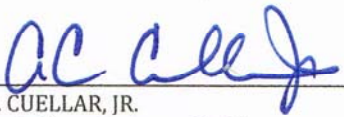
WHEREAS, a diligent advocate for the protection and improvement of life for youth, Judge Ramirez also presently serves as the judicial overseer of the Hidalgo County Juvenile Probation Department, and in 2009, became the namesake of the newly-expanded Mario E. Ramirez, Jr. Juvenile Justice Center, a short-term stay facility for 96 male and female juveniles to help better address and treat juvenile delinquents; Judge Ramirez continues to work to help bring troubled youth through the justice system and steer them away from a life of crime; and


WHEREAS, Judge Ramirez is married to Noelia Ramirez; they have three children, Melissa Ramirez, Rebecca Ramirez Stocker, and Mario Eduardo Ramirez; Judge Ramirez has been an influential model throughout his children's lives: two of his children, Melissa and Eduardo, have followed in his footsteps and became attorneys themselves; Rebecca continues his legacy of public service and helping others, serving as the Director of the Hope Family Health Clinic in McAllen; and

WHEREAS, this January marked the 30th year since Judge Ramirez first took office as Judge for the 332nd State District Court of Texas; Judge Ramirez has been the only Judge of this court, and was most recently re-elected without opposition into office in 2012. Though Judge Ramirez likely celebrated the 30th anniversary with little deviation from his normal, daily activities, he deserves utmost respect and recognition for this momentous milestone of achieving 33 total years on the bench; he also merits sincere appreciation for his many years of selfless public service to Hidalgo County residents.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court hereby recognizes and congratulates the Honorable Judge Mario E. Ramirez, Jr., for his tremendous accomplishments throughout his legal and judicial career, for his leadership and commitment to improving the lives of youth, and for his dedication to serving the citizens of Hidalgo County and the State of Texas.

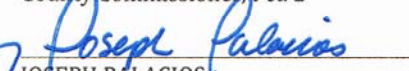
Approved this 13th day of August, 2013.



A.C. CUELLAR, JR.
County Commissioner, Pct. 1


JOE M. FLORES
County Commissioner, Pct. 3


RAMON GARCIA
County Judge


HECTOR "PITO" PALACIOS
County Commissioner, Pct. 2


JOSEPH PALACIOS
County Commissioner, Pct. 4


Attest: ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.
County Clerk