

## 2015-J2529

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Grace Mellen upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Robert F. Bensing Award by the Prisoners' Legal Services of New York

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, Grace Mellen has given not only of her time and energies but also of her competence, intelligence and leadership and consequently has been designated for special honor; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Grace Mellen upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Robert F. Bensing Award by the Prisoners' Legal Services of New York; this momentous occasion was celebrated at its 4th Annual Pro Bono Event on Wednesday, October 22, 2014, at the Albany Barn, Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Robert F. Bensing Award for Pro Bono Service by a Law Student was established in honor of the late Robert F. Bensing, who served as a Staff Attorney at Prisoners' Legal Services, to acknowledge his passion for service and his support and dedication to the education of students; and

WHEREAS, Volunteerism is an essential element of all societies; it provides a way in which the human values of community, caring and serving can be sustained and strengthened; and

WHEREAS, Grace Mellen graduated from Albany Law School with Pro Bono Honors; she has been a volunteer with Prisoners' Legal Services of New York since the Fall of 2012, assisting with hearing transcripts and reviewing article 78 petitions; and

WHEREAS, After dedicating 72 hours of Pro Bono Service to this vital organization, Grace Mellen continues to expand her knowledge of prison-

ers' rights as a Law Graduate Intern with Prisoners' Legal Services of New York; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of her community service, a period of constructive involvement, Grace Mellen has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Grace Mellen has displayed throughout her life; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Grace Mellen upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Robert F. Bensing Award by the Prisoners' Legal Services of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Grace Mellen.