

## 2015-J2728

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending The Honorable Joseph J. Cassata upon the occasion of his retirement after many years of distinguished service as Tonawanda City Court Judge

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those singular individuals who devote their purposeful lives and careers to preserving the rights and protecting the welfare of the citizens of their community and the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, The quality and character of life in the Tonawanda community has been ably served and uniquely enriched through the selfless dedication and benevolent concern of Judge Joseph J. Cassata; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend The Honorable Joseph J. Cassata upon the occasion of his retirement after many years of distinguished service as Tonawanda City Court Judge; and

WHEREAS, Joseph J. Cassata earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science at the University of Buffalo and his Juris Doctorate degree at the University of Cincinnati; and

WHEREAS, Following the completion of his studies, Joseph J. Cassata was elected Corporation Counsel to the City of Tonawanda, a position he held for 23 years; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed public servant has served as the City Court Judge of the City of Tonawanda where he has presided on a part-time and full-time basis for many years; and

WHEREAS, Prior to presiding on the bench full-time, Judge Joseph J. Cassata was engaged in a general practice of law for approximately 30 years; his area of specialization was criminal defense; and

WHEREAS, During his illustrious tenure, Judge Joseph J. Cassata spearheaded an Adult Drug Treatment Court in the City Court of Tonawanda, and was certified as a National Drug Treatment Court Judge after matriculat-

ing at Georgetown Law School; and

WHEREAS, Recently, Judge Joseph J. Cassata formulated and implemented the first young adult drug treatment court in New York State, a program which is already showing great promise and success; and

WHEREAS, A respected legal expert, Judge Joseph J. Cassata has served as President of the New York State Association of City Court Judges, and as Chairman of the Local Courts Advisory Committee of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Judge Joseph J. Cassata has lectured on a national, state and local basis and was invited to speak at the University of London, England, on drug treatment courts in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Currently, Judge Joseph J. Cassata serves as President of the New York Association of Drug Treatment Court Professionals, Inc., and Presiding Member of the Local Courts Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, An integral part of his community, Joseph J. Cassata has served as legal counsel to the United Way, the Tonawanda Industrial Expansion Corporation, the Boys and Girls Club of the Tonawandas, the Tonawanda Fireman's Benevolent Association and the Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Judge Joseph J. Cassata is also very active in the domestic violence field, co-chairing a domestic violence committee which set up standards for the eighth Judicial District; and

WHEREAS, The recipient of numerous awards and honors for his outstanding service Judge Joseph J. Cassata was named Man of the Year by numerous community organization's including the YWCA and the Boys and Girls Club of the Tonawandas; and

WHEREAS, Judge Joseph J. Cassata has also received the 2004 Tonawanda High School Distinguished Alumni Award, the City of Tonawanda Youth

Service's John F. Kopczynski Award, and the 2002 YWCA of the Tonawandas Domestic Violence Program Award; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Joyce, their three

children, Joseph, Roman, and Jason, and seven grandchildren, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Judge Joseph J. Cassata, in every capacity in which he served, has left his permanent mark on the criminal justice and drug treatment community; he will forever be remembered as a determined, innovative and genuinely concerned expert in his field; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend The Honorable Joseph J. Cassata upon the occasion of his retirement after many years of distinguished service as Tonawanda City Court Judge and to extend its sincere gratitude for his contribution to the people of New York State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Joseph J. Cassata.