

2017-J5460

Senate Resolution No. 5460

BY: Senator BRESLIN

HONORING Betsy R. Ruslander upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Howard A. Levine Award for Excellence in Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare by the New York State Bar Association's Committee on Children and Law

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the quality of life in their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to the maintenance of high standards in their profession, certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Betsy R. Ruslander upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Howard A. Levine Award for Excellence in Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare by the New York State Bar Association's Committee on Children and Law, to be celebrated on Wednesday, June 6, 2018, at State Bar Center's Great Hall, Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, Each year, the New York State Bar Association's Committee on Children and the Law presents the Howard A. Levine Award for Excellence in Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare to recognize individuals who have done outstanding work to improve New York's child

welfare and juvenile justice systems; Betsy R. Ruslander is one such individual; and

WHEREAS, Betsy R. Ruslander is the Director of the Office of Attorneys for Children for the New York State, Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Third Judicial Department; and

WHEREAS, Prior to serving in this esteemed position, Betsy R. Ruslander was the Assistant Director from 1994 to 2010, primarily in charge of coordinating training for the panel attorneys in the 28 counties of the Third Judicial Department; and

WHEREAS, A graduate of Gettysburg College and Pace University School of Law, Betsy R. Ruslander was admitted to the practice of law in the State of New York in January of 1987; and

WHEREAS, Betsy R. Ruslander began her illustrious legal career as an associate with the law firm of Ainsworth, Sullivan, Tracy & Knauf, where she practiced civil defense litigation for nearly eight years and served as a law guardian in Albany County Family Court; and

WHEREAS, A true asset to her profession, Betsy R. Ruslander is a long time member and former Chair of the New York State Bar Association's Committee on Children; she was also a member of the Character and Fitness Committee for the Appellate Division, Third Judicial Department for 24 years; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Betsy R. Ruslander is a member of the Statewide Advisory Committee on Attorneys for Children, the New York

State Children's Justice Task Force, and the NYS OCFS Child Welfare Court Improvement Project Statewide Multidisciplinary Child Welfare

Workgroup; and

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

WHEREAS, It has always been the objective of this Legislative Body to honor and support those individuals who have displayed their commitment to the betterment of their communities, and it is the intent of this Legislative Body to inscribe upon its records, this tribute to Betsy R. Ruslander, that future generations may know and appreciate her admirable character, her many benevolent deeds, and the respect and esteem in which she is held by her peers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Betsy R. Ruslander upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Howard A. Levine Award for Excellence in Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare by the New York State Bar Association's Committee on Children and Law; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Betsy R. Ruslander.