A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To honor and recognize the Street Law Program at Georgetown University Law School for 45 years of providing law-related education to laypersons in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, since 1972, the Georgetown Street Law Program has trained over 1,300 law students to teach law-related concepts in the District of Columbia public high schools, serving over 35,000 District students;

WHEREAS, in addition to its work in the schools, the Street Law Program teaches practical law to adults and youth in a variety of local settings, including correctional facilities, drug and alcohol treatment centers, homeless shelters, halfway houses, the Department of Corrections Inspired Youth Program, and the D.C. Superior Court Balanced and Restorative Justice Centers;

WHEREAS, the hallmark of the Street Law Program for both law students and the learners they teach is its methodology of highly participatory, interactive, inquiry-based, and experiential instruction to transform the classroom into a model of justice, due process, human rights, and civics;

WHEREAS, as the first program of its kind in the world, the Georgetown Street Law Program set the precedent for the development of other street law programs, of which there are now over 40 such programs nationally and additional programs around the globe;

WHEREAS, the Street Law Program effectively enhances civic participation in the District of Columbia by empowering students with a law-focused education and motivating Georgetown Law School students to be active participants in the local community;
WHEREAS, the Street Law Program supports the high school to law school pipeline in partnership with the Washington Lawyers Committee, pairing a law firm or legal organization with a high school class, allowing students to learn from practicing attorneys who stimulate their interest in the legal profession and promote positive relationships with local institutions;

WHEREAS, since 2011, the District of Columbia Human Rights Commission has partnered with the Street Law Program to facilitate a capstone project centered around the District of Columbia Human Rights Act and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in which hundreds of students participate each year;

WHEREAS, evaluations show that the Street Law Program increases civic knowledge and analytical skills of students;

WHEREAS, every year the program culminates with a mock trial held at the District of Columbia Superior Court where hundreds of high school students demonstrate their skills by playing lawyers and witnesses, and are evaluated by practicing attorneys and judges of the District of Columbia Courts;

WHEREAS, a number of high school student participants in the program have gone on to become lawyers; and

WHEREAS, the Georgetown Street Law Program exemplifies the power of civic engagement and strives to strengthen institutions of democratic practice.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this resolution may be cited as the “Georgetown University Law School Street Law Program Recognition Resolution of 2018”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia honors and recognizes the Street Law Program at Georgetown University Law School for its 45-year history of providing law-related education to laypersons in the District of Columbia.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.