

CLERK'S OFFICE

APPROVED

Date: 1-31-12

Submitted by: Assemblymembers Birch, Drummond, Flynn, Gray-Jackson, Hall, Honeman, Johnston, Ossiander, Starr, Traini, Trombley and Mayor Sullivan
Prepared by: Municipal Clerk
For reading: January 31, 2012

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR No. 2012-31

1 A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY HONORING AND THANKING MORGAN CHRISTEN FOR
2 ALL HER PUBLIC SERVICE ON THE ALASKA SUPREME AND SUPERIOR COURTS, CONGRATULATING HER
3 ACHIEVEMENTS, AND CELEBRATING HER APPOINTMENT AND CONFIRMATION TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF
4 APPEALS FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT.
5

6
7 WHEREAS, former Alaska Supreme Court Justice Morgan Christen was confirmed by the U. S. Senate on December 15,
8 2011 by a vote of 95 to 3 to a seat on the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals and took her commission on January 11, 2012,
9 becoming the first Alaskan woman and only the third Alaskan to sit on that Court,
10

11 WHEREAS, with the support of both Alaska U.S. Senators, President Obama nominated her on May 18, 2011 to a seat
12 vacated when Judge Andrew Kleinfeld of Fairbanks took Senior Status,
13

14 WHEREAS, after attending college in England, Switzerland, and the People's Republic of China, Morgan Christen earned a
15 B.A. degree from the University of Washington in International Studies and a J.D. degree from Golden Gate University
16 School of Law,
17

18 WHEREAS, after coming to Alaska in 1986 to Clerk for Alaska Superior Court Judge Brian Shortell, Judge Christen worked
19 in private practice, before being appointed to the Alaska Superior Court in 2001 by Gov. Tony Knowles, serving as presiding
20 judge from 2005-2009, and to the Alaska Supreme Court in 2009 by Gov. Sarah Palin,
21

22 WHEREAS, Judge Christen's integrity and fairness and her experience in both the trial and appellate courts have led to her
23 high regard across the ideological spectrum in Alaska,

24 WHEREAS, Judge Christen is legendary for her caring commitment to Alaskans through her volunteer work, having served
25 on the boards of directors for the Rasmuson Foundation and the Alaska Community Foundation, receiving in 2004 both the
26 Light of Hope Award for work on behalf of Alaska's children and the Chamber of Commerce Athena Society Award, as well
27 as being named, with her husband Jim Torgerson, Philanthropists of the Year,

28 WHEREAS, the Alaska Supreme Court's Community Outreach Award was presented to Judge Christen in 2008 and the
29 YWCA Woman of Achievement award in 2009,

30 WHEREAS, Judge Christen is famous for her homemade wild berry jams, which she sends to colleagues, friends and family
31 across the country,
32

33 WHEREAS, for many years Judge Christen has sworn in new members of the Anchorage Assembly,
34

35 THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES:
36


37 Section 1. NOW, THEREFORE, the Anchorage Assembly hereby honors and thanks Morgan Christen for all her public
38 service to the people of Alaska through her judicial and volunteer work, congratulates her on her achievements and celebrates
39 her appointment and confirmation to the U.S. Court of Appeals for 9th Circuit.
40

41 Section 2. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage and approval by the Assembly.
42

43 PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 31st day of January, 2012.
44

45
46 
47 Chair of the Assembly
48

49 ATTEST:
50

51
52
53 
54 Municipal Clerk
55