

8 HIR _____ COMMENDING HELEN FRANCES HANBY FOR EXCEPTIONAL
9 SERVICE TO THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA.
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11 WHEREAS, Helen Frances Hanby began her invaluable
12 service to the State of Alabama in 1983 when she joined the
13 staff of the Administrative Procedure Division of the
14 Legislative Reference Service, assisting in the implementation
15 of Alabama's new Administrative Procedure Act; subsequently,
16 Ms. Hanby assumed a myriad of essential duties with the
17 Legislative Reference Service, and its successor, the
18 Legislative Services Agency, where she has worked for over 38
19 years, becoming one of the longest continuously-serving
20 employees in the history of the agency; and

21 WHEREAS, having earned her bachelor's and master's
22 degrees in History from Auburn University, Ms. Hanby never
23 dreamed her career would center around the legal intricacies
24 of the Alabama Legislature, which include bill preparation,
25 proofing, cataloguing, and codification, as well as the
26 multitude of constitutional requirements that must be
27 satisfied for legislation to become law; one of the last

1 surviving employees of the old State Capitol crew, she is a
2 free-flowing fountain of institutional knowledge, a literal
3 and literary know-it-all who can drown legislators, staff, and
4 the legislative community with historical context of the
5 peculiarities of our legislative process, as well as vital
6 information needed to preserve and perpetuate precedent and
7 sustain stability in Alabama's ever-evolving political
8 machinations; indeed, Ms. Hanby is likely the only person in
9 this state who has actually read every code section and
10 constitutional amendment; and

11 WHEREAS, as the agency's librarian, she excels in
12 telling people where to go, both literally and figuratively,
13 as this woman does not readily suffer fools; Helen is the only
14 employee who could answer such perplexing questions as:
15 "What's an Oxford comma?"; "Who's Big Bertha?"; "What's the
16 possessive of this noun?"; "Is this the correct verb tense?";
17 "Why won't my computer work?"; "What is necessary to file a
18 motion to amend rules?"; "What's the number of this
19 constitutional amendment?"; "Which function was better, the
20 Bayou La Batre seafood dinner or the Alabama Poultry
21 Association omelette breakfast?"; and, as was asked during the
22 drafting of this clause, "Does the semicolon go inside or
23 outside the quotation marks?"; moreover, she was the final say
24 for less technical queries, such as: "What is a 'girl
25 Friday?'"; "Why do you know so much about the vernal
26 equinox?"; "How is the weather?"; "How is the weather going to
27 be in 15 minutes?"; "Is Angela on the sit-com 'The Office'

1 your sister?"; "Who does my team play this weekend?"; "Why do
2 we always get sandwiches from Chappy's?"; and "Who is
3 obligated to buy the King Cake?"; and

4 WHEREAS, Granny Grammar's favorite book is a 10th
5 grade English textbook, and we surmise she knows not only the
6 chapters, but the pages and paragraphs that explain how to
7 treat a gerund or a split infinitive, and when it is okay for
8 a participle to dangle and why the passive voice lacks
9 passion; she is the undisputed final judge on all questions of
10 grammar and sentence structure; her absolute adherence to
11 doing it correctly has long been the final line of defense in
12 ensuring statutes are clear, precise, and properly punctuated;
13 indeed, many an attorney continues to receive a pay check
14 because a magical fairy with initials "H.H." fixed their
15 screw-ups; her research talents rival those of the Library of
16 Congress, and her cataloguing skills could rival those of the
17 Library of Alexandria; she excels in finding obscure code
18 language and obtuse case law long thought not to exist; she is
19 a West Law Wizard to those old-timers who are technologically
20 challenged; she is the authority on "Helen's four Hs":
21 hyphens, hierarchy, history, and hygiene; she hates a messy
22 workplace like she hates a messy kitchen; Helen is an
23 essential employee in the truest sense, an invaluable
24 confidant and "girl Friday" for her boss, and one of the rare
25 individuals who can keep private matters private; and

26 WHEREAS, as keeper of office decorum and ardent
27 arbiter of professionalism, her advocacy of a professional

1 dress code has resulted in Ms. Hanby being given the cold
2 shoulder for not allowing the cold shoulder; this wardrobe
3 warden believes leggings belong on the cavalry, not
4 legislative staffers - don't chap her on this; her distaste of
5 a particular footwear will not be flip-flopping any time soon;
6 her essential, but non-enviable daily duties also included
7 writing thank you notes on behalf of the staff; arranging
8 menus, meals, memos, and meetings; keeping track of office
9 keys, cards, files, parking places, books, and artifacts; and
10 basically ensuring the smooth functioning of a mid-size
11 bureaucracy, including preserving the sanity of her
12 colleagues; and

13 WHEREAS, Ms. Hanby bleeds orange and blue; this AU
14 alumna follows all things Auburn; she knows the roster not
15 only of the football and basketball teams, but also of the
16 softball, baseball, volleyball, gymnastics, and swimming
17 teams; who needs a schedule when Helen is around?; she is
18 equally proud of the academic achievements of her institution;
19 she is so hardcore Auburn that she refuses to read her
20 six-year-old great-niece a children's story about an elephant,
21 the only bird she tolerates is a War Eagle, her favorite
22 jewelry is Bruce Pearls, and she won't play corn hole if she
23 has to use Alabama bean bags; if you think she gets grumpy
24 when a special session is called, just approach her after a
25 Tiger loss; and

26 WHEREAS, her personal life intentionally remains
27 intensely personal; however, we do know all of the following:

1 She is a Jeopardy Junkie who could give Ken Jennings a run for
2 his money, and she is everyone's ideal "'Who Wants to be a
3 Millionaire' phone-a-friend"; she is the reigning office
4 trivia champion; she enjoys reading, especially historical
5 tomes about World War II - perhaps they remind her of Alabama
6 politics; she is an internationally-renowned expert on "Mad
7 Men", a Don Draper disciple who can tell you the brand of
8 cigarettes he smoked - "Lucky Strikes - It's Toasted!"; she
9 endures an insufferable cable bill so she can watch her
10 Atlanta Braves, the Weather Channel, and HGTV; her 11:00
11 lunchtime is more predictable than "Old Faithful," and
12 although she has the fortitude to abstain from the many free
13 sweet treats around the office, if a potato chip makes its way
14 to the sixth floor, she "has to have 'em"; she enjoys
15 collecting all things vintage, especially household gadgets
16 and Christmas decorations; she spoils her niece and nephew and
17 great-niece and great-nephew to a fault; and although she
18 believes in heaven, she seems to think there is a second one
19 in Orlando called Disney World; and

20 WHEREAS, as we recount these skills and talents, we
21 wonder how her office will function without this petite lady
22 who talks fast and reads faster, and who either possesses, or
23 could rapidly find, the right answer to any inquiry; who is
24 never shy about telling her boss what was really needed; and
25 who ensured this agency did the right thing and looked good
26 while doing it; the value of her service to her
27 contemporaries, the Legislative Services Agency, and this

1 legislative body is incalculable, and she will be woefully
2 missed; now therefore,

3 BE IT RESOLVED, That Ms. Helen F. Hanby is highly
4 commended for exceptional service to the Alabama Legislature,
5 the Legislative Services Agency, and the people of Alabama; we
6 direct that a copy of this resolution be delivered to Ms.
7 Hanby as a token of our immense gratitude, and wish the utmost
8 blessings of good health and happiness to her and her family.