

1 SJR144
2 131696-1
3 By Senator Figures
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 25-MAY-11

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8 COMMENDING MS. KAREN SMITH, 2011 LEGISLATIVE
9 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR.

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11 WHEREAS, annually, one exceptional employee from the
12 Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches of state
13 government is recognized for exemplary performance on behalf
14 of the people of Alabama; and

15 WHEREAS, we are highly pleased to note that the 2011
16 Legislative Employee of the Year is Ms. Karen Smith, a highly
17 respected attorney with the Legislative Reference Service and
18 a dear friend to many of us; and

19 WHEREAS, Ms. Smith was born in Delaware and grew up
20 on a farm in New Jersey, the Deep South region of Jersey as
21 she is quick to remind; her impressive academic achievements
22 include graduating magna cum laude from the University of
23 South Carolina and in the top fifth of her law school class at
24 Delaware's Widener University; her legal career is equally
25 notable and includes service as an assistant prosecutor in New
26 Jersey, private practice in California, Special Master for an

1 Alabama Circuit Court Judge, and staff attorney for two
2 Alabama Court of Civil Appeals Judges; and

3 WHEREAS, Ms. Smith joined the Legislative Reference
4 Service in 1994 and during the last 17 years her immeasurable
5 contributions to the legislative process include crafting
6 scores of complex and challenging statutes and composing a
7 multitude of authoritative and well-reasoned opinions; her
8 impressive legal research talents are graciously offered and
9 gratefully accepted by fellow staff attorneys, as well as
10 those in the private sector; Karen's writing skills, both
11 technical and creative, are exceptional and her demanding
12 attention to detail is both daunting and delightful; she is an
13 eminent authority on the Alabama Sunset Law and has ably
14 served as the Sunset Committee Attorney since 1994; her 12
15 years' tenure as the Attorney for the Senate Education
16 Committee was distinguished and her vast knowledge of school
17 law is widely recognized; she has played a singular role in
18 the codification of local laws and the recompliation of Title
19 16, the Education Chapter, and has been a critical component
20 in the continued codification of the entire Code of Alabama;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, in addition to her professional abilities,
23 Ms. Smith is an extraordinary individual; she is a six year
24 breast cancer survivor and her Sunny Gal disposition is a true
25 inspiration to all; she is a proud Jersey Girl with old
26 fashion values, modern day moxie, and a precise moral compass
27 that always points to what is right; the devoted mother of

1 Alexandra, Samantha, and Sydney, she somehow manages to handle
2 legislative demands with those of family, church, and
3 community, causing some to wonder if folks in Clanton have
4 more than 24 hours in a day; and in her limited spare time,
5 Karen is active in Relay For Life, and enjoys church softball,
6 beading, lake weekends, and having Born To Be Wild moments on
7 her motorcycle; and

8 WHEREAS, it is self-evident that Karen Smith has
9 made invaluable contributions to the Legislative Branch of
10 government; Senators, Representatives, staffers, and members
11 of the legislative community highly value her knowledge,
12 responsible manner, persistence, can do attitude, and genuine
13 concern for others; in this highly charged environment her
14 sensitive and skillful professionalism is an indisputable
15 asset to this body; now therefore,

16 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
17 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That with great pride and immense
18 pleasure we commend Ms. Karen Smith for her well-deserved
19 selection as the 2011 Legislative Employee of the Year. A copy
20 of this document shall be presented to our respected colleague
21 accompanied by our deep admiration and sincere appreciation.