



2009 SENATE RESOLUTION 13

December 15, 2010 – Introduced by Senators DECKER and RISSER. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1 **Relating to:** the retirement of Ron Sklansky, Senior Staff Attorney, Legislative
2 Council Staff, following a long and distinguished career in nonpartisan service
3 to the Wisconsin legislature.

4 Whereas, Ron Sklansky was born in Chicago, Illinois, and moved with his
5 family to Racine, Wisconsin, in 1957; and

6 Whereas, Ron graduated from Racine Horlick High School in 1968, honing his
7 prodigious work ethic during school breaks and summers, working at his father
8 Milton’s business; and

9 Whereas, Ron attended the University of Wisconsin–Madison, earning his B.A.
10 in 1972 and his J.D. in 1975, and meeting his future wife, Carol Ottenstein, during
11 their first semester of law school; and

12 Whereas, despite his mother’s admonition that he “get a real law job,” Ron
13 accepted Bonnie Reese’s offer of employment as a staff attorney at the Legislative
14 Council in October 1975; and

1 Whereas, Ron’s organizational skills and attention to detail soon led to his
2 appointment as director of the Council’s Administrative Rules Clearinghouse, a
3 responsibility he conducted diligently and capably for over 30 years; and

4 Whereas, Ron’s legal acumen and unflappable demeanor landed him key
5 committee staffing assignments, including the Joint Committee for Review of
6 Administrative Rules, the Senate Committees on Judiciary and Financial
7 Institutions, and committees on audit, state affairs, local government, campaign
8 finance reform, and ethics; and

9 Whereas, Ron’s efficient, no-nonsense approach helped bring speedy
10 conclusion to numerous Council study committees on complex subjects ranging from
11 surrogate parenting and interstate banking to trade secrets and remediation of
12 contaminated land; and

13 Whereas, legislators and staff of both sides of the aisle valued Ron’s trustworthy
14 guidance on issues substantive and procedural, delivered punctually, concisely, and
15 candidly; and

16 Whereas, Ron will be greatly missed by his Council colleagues for his
17 good-natured sarcasm, disturbingly neat desk, and command of all subjects, from
18 administrative rules and open records to movies and earned run averages; and

19 Whereas, colleagues hoping to solicit Ron’s advice in retirement will likely find
20 the diehard Cubs fan sipping Coke within “the friendly confines” or keeping stats for
21 his sexagenarian softball team, the Wet Noodle; and

22 Whereas, while unquestionably devoted to his career, Ron has maintained
23 admirable life balance, devoting generous time and attention to his family, nurturing
24 his children’s intellectual curiosity, publishing his father’s World War II letters, and

1 reassuring his mother that, he had, after all, chosen a real law job; now, therefore,
2 be it

3 ***Resolved by the senate, That:*** the members of the Wisconsin senate honor
4 and commend Ron Sklansky for his 35 years of devoted service to the Wisconsin
5 legislature and the Administrative Rules Clearinghouse and wish him many
6 fruitful, active, and enjoyable years in retirement; and, be it further

7 ***Resolved, That*** the senate chief clerk shall provide copies of this joint
8 resolution to Ron and his wife, Carol; his son, Daniel; his daughter, Alexandra; and
9 his mother, Beverly Sklansky of Racine.

10 (END)