

## Senate Resolution 416

By: Senators Miles of the 43rd, Butler of the 55th, Tate of the 38th, Thomas of the 2nd, Brown of the 26th and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and congratulating Justice Leah Ward Sears; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Justice Leah Ward Sears has had a stellar legal career and achieved a  
3 distinguished position in Georgia history; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Justice Ward Sears is the consummate public servant and is a member of  
5 numerous professional and civic organizations, including the Atlanta and Georgia Bar  
6 Associations, the Atlanta Chapter of Links, Inc., and Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Justice Ward Sears is a shining example of intellect, having graduated from  
8 Cornell University and the Emory University and University of Virginia law schools; and
- 9 WHEREAS, she is a woman of impeccable integrity and a champion of justice, fairness, and  
10 balance; and
- 11 WHEREAS, Justice Ward Sears was the first African American to serve as Superior Court  
12 Judge in Georgia; and
- 13 WHEREAS, when appointed by the Governor of Georgia in February, 1992, Justice Ward  
14 Sears was the first woman and youngest person ever to serve on the Georgia Supreme Court;  
15 and
- 16 WHEREAS, it is fitting in this month of March, 2005, set aside as women's history month,  
17 that the Georgia Supreme Court, in its wisdom, unanimously elected Justice Ward Sears as  
18 Chief Justice, making her its first woman Chief Justice in history; and
- 19 WHEREAS, Justice Ward Sears is the highest ranking member of the state's judicial branch  
20 and enjoys the distinction of being the first African American woman Chief Justice in the  
21 United States of America; and

1 WHEREAS, Justice Ward Sears is the daughter of Colonel and Mrs. Thomas Sears of  
2 Savannah, Georgia, the mother of two wonderful children, Addison Sears-Collins and  
3 Brennan Sears-Collins, and the wife of Mr. Haskell Sears Ward of Griffin, Georgia.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
5 join in recognizing Justice Leah Ward Sears, congratulate her on her election as Chief Justice  
6 of the Georgia Supreme Court, and extend their sincere best wishes for her continued  
7 happiness and success.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
9 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Justice Leah Ward Sears.