

## House Resolution 787

By: Representatives Ashe of the 56<sup>th</sup>, Abrams of the 84<sup>th</sup>, Benfield of the 85<sup>th</sup>, Henson of the 87<sup>th</sup>, Morgan of the 39<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the Georgia Justice Project on the occasion of its 25th  
2 anniversary; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, since 1986 the Georgia Justice Project has been ensuring justice for the indigent  
4 criminally accused as well as assisting them in establishing crime-free lives and becoming  
5 productive citizens; and

6 WHEREAS, the staff attorneys at the Georgia Justice Project provide high-quality legal  
7 defense at no charge so that their clients are assured that they have someone who believes  
8 in them and is fighting on their behalf to make sure they are afforded due process; and

9 WHEREAS, upon resolution of each case, clients and their family members are assigned to  
10 a member of the social work staff at the Georgia Justice Project who offers a range of  
11 counseling and referral services such as substance abuse treatment, education support,  
12 financial assistance, and MARTA cards for so long as such support is needed; and

13 WHEREAS, the employment support team of the Georgia Justice Project provides job  
14 readiness assessments, access to job openings and leads, and comprehensive support with  
15 each step of an employment plan; and

16 WHEREAS, the recidivism rate for Georgia Justice Project clients is just 17 percent, less  
17 than one-third the national average; and

18 WHEREAS, this incredible organization, which has not sought or received any government  
19 funding, is funded entirely by private donations from local and national foundations, the  
20 Atlanta faith community, and individuals; and

21 WHEREAS, the Georgia Justice Project and its amazing staff such as Doug Ammar, who  
22 has been with the organization for more than 20 years, first as a volunteer then as a staff

23 attorney and now as its executive director, are a beacon of light for this state and for every  
24 community, making an everlasting impact in the lives of those whom they represent; and

25 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding work of this fine  
26 organization located just behind Dr. Martin Luther King's grave on Edgewood Avenue in  
27 Atlanta be appropriately recognized.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
29 the members of this body congratulate the Georgia Justice Project on its 25th anniversary,  
30 recognize the legacy of achievement and the impact it has had on Georgia's indigent  
31 criminally accused, and extend best wishes for continued success in its ongoing mission of  
32 ensuring justice, promoting crime-free lives, and transforming individuals into productive  
33 citizens.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
35 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Justice Project.