

## House Resolution 390

By: Representatives Kendrick of the 93<sup>rd</sup>, Stephenson of the 90<sup>th</sup>, Bennett of the 94<sup>th</sup>, Hugley of the 136<sup>th</sup>, and Boddie of the 62<sup>nd</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Justice Leah Ward Sears on her outstanding public service as  
2 a trailblazer in Georgia Black History; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Justice Leah Ward Sears has long been recognized by the citizens of this state  
4 for the vital role that she has played in leadership and her deep personal commitment to the  
5 welfare of the citizens of Georgia; and

6 WHEREAS, Justice Sears is an American jurist and former Chief Justice of the Supreme  
7 Court of Georgia; she was the first African American female Chief Justice in the United  
8 States; and

9 WHEREAS, she was first appointed as Justice in 1992 by Governor Zell Miller and became  
10 the first woman and youngest person to sit on Georgia's Supreme Court; she has practiced  
11 as an appellate lawyer since returning to private practice in 2009; and

12 WHEREAS, Justice Sears' significant organizational and leadership talents, remarkable  
13 patience and diplomacy, keen sense of vision, and sensitivity to the needs of the citizens of  
14 this state have earned her the respect and admiration of her colleagues and associates; and

15 WHEREAS, this distinguished jurist has given inspiration to many through her high ideals,  
16 morals, and deep concern for her fellow citizens, and she possesses the vast wisdom which  
17 only comes through experience and the strength of character which is achieved through  
18 overcoming the many challenges of life; and

19 WHEREAS, Justice Sears was twice on the President's short list for appointment to the  
20 United States Supreme Court; she has consistently been on the list of Georgia Super  
21 Lawyers, a distinction for Georgia's preeminent attorneys who attain a high degree of peer  
22 recognition and professional achievement; and

23 WHEREAS, Justice Sears contributes her many talents to the community; she currently  
24 serves on the Board of Trustees for Emory University, The Carter Center, the Oakland  
25 Cemetery Foundation, and the Georgia Historical Society, and she previously served on the  
26 boards of the Woodruff Art Center, the Alliance Theater, the Sadie G. Mays Nursing Home,  
27 the Georgia Chapter of the National Council of Christians and Jews, the Advisory Board for  
28 the Georgia Institute of Technology, the Cornell University Council, the Board of Visitors  
29 of Mercer University Law School, and the Emory University Law School Council; and

30 WHEREAS, in recognition of her many accomplishments, Justice Sears has been a recipient  
31 of the Emory Medal, the American Bar Association's Margaret Brent Award, the Daily  
32 Report's Lifetime Achievement Award, as well as being named one of the 50 Top Innovators,  
33 Visionaries, and Legal Leaders in the Law; and

34 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this  
35 remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
37 the members of this body recognize and commend Justice Leah Ward Sears for her efficient,  
38 effective, unselfish, and dedicated public service to the State of Georgia and extend the most  
39 sincere best wishes for continued health and happiness.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
41 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to  
42 Justice Leah Ward Sears.