



Supreme Court of Georgia

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JUDGE SCHUSTER TO HEAR GEORGIA SUPREME COURT CASE

Atlanta, February 2, 2012 – Judge J. Stephen Schuster of the Cobb Judicial Circuit has been designated to serve in place of Justice P. Harris Hines in the appeal of *Tampa Investment Group, Inc., et al v. Branch Banking and Trust Co., Inc.* and *Legacy Communities Group, Inc. et al v. Branch Banking and Trust Co., Inc.* The Supreme Court of Georgia will hear arguments in the case on Monday, Feb. 6 during its 10:00 A.M. session. In this Fulton County case, two companies are appealing a Georgia Court of Appeals decision favoring the bank that sued them for more than \$19 million in unpaid debt. In addition to hearing arguments, Judge Schuster will participate in the Court’s decision.

Judge Schuster, 60, was elected to an open seat on the Cobb County Superior Court in 2004. He was re-elected in 2008 and is again up for election this year. Prior to his service on the superior court, he served as Presiding Judge of the Cobb County Juvenile Court, where he was appointed in 2002. Judge Schuster is a former Assistant District Attorney of the Cobb Judicial Circuit and a former attorney with extensive family law practice. He is admitted to all courts in the State of Georgia, as well as the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Judge Schuster has participated in numerous judicial and community organizations, including the American College of Business Court Judges, for which he is a member of the Executive Committee, the Board of Governors for the State Bar of Georgia, the Board of Directors for Cobb County Boys and Girls Club, and the Cobb County Chamber of Commerce. He is past president and past chaplain of the Cobb County Bar Association, past president of the Cobb County Symposium, former chairman of the Cobb County Board of Ethics for the Board of Education and a frequent speaker in the areas of family law, business law and ethics and professionalism. Judge Schuster received the Distinguished Judicial Service Award from the state bar’s Young Lawyers Division for the Cobb County Truancy Program and was named “Boss of the Year” by the Cobb County Legal Secretaries Association. He is a member of the Marietta Kiwanis Club, a Master with the Charles Weltner Family Law Inn of Court and a member of the Honorary Commanders with the U.S. Military.

He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1973 from Tulane University and his Juris Doctor Degree in 1976 from the University of Georgia School of Law. He is a graduate of the National Judicial College. Judge Schuster and his wife have two daughters.