



Supreme Court of Georgia

Jane Hansen, Public Information Officer
244 Washington Street, Suite 572
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
404-651-9385
hansenj@gasupreme.us



GEORGE CARLEY TO SERVE AS CHIEF JUSTICE

Atlanta, September 8, 2011 – Chief Justice Carol Hunstein announced today that next year, George H. Carley will serve for two months as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia.

In a unanimous vote, the high court today approved Chief Justice Hunstein’s plan to step aside to allow Presiding Justice Carley to serve as the leader of Georgia’s judicial system before his term in office comes to an end Dec. 31, 2012. Carley, who turns 73 later this month, does not plan to run for re-election.

“George Carley has served the citizens of this state with distinction as an elected judge for 32 years,” said Chief Justice Hunstein. “His keen mind, devotion to the rule of law, and commitment to maintaining the integrity and independence of the judicial branch are why we are taking this step.”

It is not without precedent. In July 1992, then Chief Justice Harold G. Clarke stood aside to allow an ailing Presiding Justice Charles L. Weltner to serve for a brief period as chief justice. As Chief Justice Clarke did then, Chief Justice Hunstein will resume her position as chief after Carley steps down. Her term as the court’s highest official, which would normally run until June 30, 2013, will be extended for the two months Carley serves. In the interim, she will serve as Presiding Justice. The exact months Carley will serve as chief justice have yet to be determined.

Once he assumes the office, Carley will become the first in Georgia history to have served as Presiding Judge and Chief Judge of the Georgia Court of Appeals, as well as Presiding Justice and Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court.

“I am humbled beyond words that my colleagues have elected me to serve as Chief Justice,” Presiding Justice Carley said. “I am indebted to Chief Justice Hunstein for her selflessness in giving me this honor toward the end of my service to this great state.”