

MEDIA ADVISORY



Supreme Court of Georgia

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PORTRAIT UNVEILING OF FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE LEAH WARD SEARS

Atlanta, December 1, 2009 – The portrait of Leah Ward Sears, former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia, will be unveiled in a special ceremony Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2009 at 2:00 P.M. in the Supreme Court courtroom.

The former Chief Justice, who stepped down from the Court on June 30, was the first woman and youngest person ever to serve on the state's highest court when Gov. Zell Miller appointed her in 1992. She was chosen Chief Justice in 2005, becoming the first African American female Chief Justice in the United States.

Since leaving the court, she has joined the law firm of Schiff Hardin, where she specializes in general and appellate litigation. The former Chief Justice also teaches a seminar on family law at the University of Georgia Law School and serves as the William Thomas Sears Distinguished Fellow in Family Law for the Institute for American Values.

At Wednesday's special session, current Chief Justice Carol Hunstein will formally accept the portrait on behalf of the Court. The portrait's artist, Jamie Lee McMahan, will be introduced and participate in the unveiling. Others due to attend include the former Chief Justice's family and friends, the state Supreme Court Justices, and members of the Georgia Court of Appeals.

All media are welcome to cover the event. Any media planning to photograph, videotape or broadcast the event should complete and fax in the media request form located on the Court's website:

www.gasupreme.us.