

MEDIA ADVISORY



Supreme Court of Georgia

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YOUTH SUMMIT COMES TO COURT

Atlanta, February 17, 2009 – For the first time in its history, the Georgia Supreme Court will co-host an event in the courtroom to teach teens how to avoid breaking the law before they get into lifelong trouble. Friday morning, Feb. 20, from 9 until noon, **Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears** will welcome 160 students from Atlanta, Columbus, Savannah and other parts of the state for a special summit called “Play by the Rules.”

The Chief Justice will be joined by **J. Tom Morgan, former District Attorney of DeKalb County**, who has traveled the state and talked to thousands of students about his book, *Ignorance is No Defense: A Teenager’s Guide to Georgia Law*. She will also be joined by the **Grammy-award winning rapper, T.I.**, who will share his story and talk to the teens about mistakes he’s made and the lessons he’s learned. Both men will then answer the young people’s questions.

The event is co-sponsored by the Georgia PTA and is modeled after a similar summit in Alabama that was promoted by that state’s Supreme Court. “All too often, Georgia’s teens are simply unaware that the action they are about to take is a crime,” Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears has said. This Georgia conference is designed to arm teens with information that will help steer them down a positive path and keep them out of courtrooms.

Media are welcome to cover the event. As with any court proceeding, broadcast media should fill out and fax in the Media Request Form available on our website at www.gasupreme.us. Due to the packed courtroom, all media, including print, will need to remain in the alcove area. If you plan to cover this, you may want to brush up on the Court’s Media Rules, also on our website. Please do not interview any teenagers, unless you get special permission from their adult chaperones. As always, no interviews can be conducted in the courtroom or the Judicial Building, but rather must be taken outside. Thanks for your cooperation.

