



SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

STATE JUDICIAL BUILDING
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

LEAH WARD SEARS
CHIEF JUSTICE

(404) 656-3474

September 6, 2006

Honorable John H. Ruffin, Jr.
Chief Judge
Court of Appeals of Georgia
334 State Judicial Building
40 Capitol Square
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Chief Judge Ruffin:

On behalf of the Justices of the Supreme Court of Georgia, both those now serving on the Court and those who have served in the past, I write to congratulate the Court of Appeals of Georgia on the historic occasion of its Centennial Celebration.

One century ago Georgia voters ratified an amendment to the state's Constitution authorizing the creation of the Court of Appeals, Georgia's second and much needed appellate court. One hundred years later, there can be no doubt that those Georgia voters who went to the polls in October of 1906 did the right thing.

Although your annual caseload has grown considerably over the years, you continue to be held in high esteem among members of the bench and bar alike for the excellence of your decisions, your steadfast adherence to the rule of law, and your commitment to the pursuit of justice.

This year's celebration provides us with a perfect opportunity to reaffirm the wisdom and foresight that led to the creation of the Court of Appeals of Georgia one hundred years ago. Congratulations!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leah Sears", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears

A Message from the Chief Judge

October 6, 2006
Atlanta, Georgia

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to the Centennial Dinner of the Court of Appeals of Georgia, and to the Georgia Aquarium.

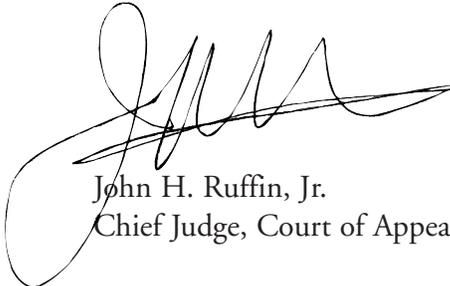
Tonight, we celebrate history. History is a sense of journey and a sense of purpose. The journey of the Court of Appeals has been nothing short of fulfilling — fulfilling of both its mission and its purpose. The journey has also been enriching to the citizens we serve, and to the lives of those of us who have been and are privileged to serve on this great Court.

History is birth and death; local and global; temporary and enduring; singular and diverse; symbolic and real; sadness and joy; serendipitous and purposeful; war and peace; justice and injustice.

If history is empty, it is also fulfilling; a song, then it is also a dance; vague, it is also well-defined; misperception, it is also perception; midnight, it is also high noon; old, it is also new; simple, it is also complex; remembering, it is also forgetting; conservative, it is also liberal; the setting sun, it is also the dawning day.

History is also you and me. It is our strengths and our weaknesses. As we gather here to celebrate the One Hundredth Anniversary of the founding of our Court, let our hearts be pure; let our minds be sharp; let our intentions be clear: there shall be no retreat from those inseparable twins of liberty and justice.

We hope that you enjoy yourselves during this wonderful and exciting evening.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John H. Ruffin, Jr.', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the left.

John H. Ruffin, Jr.
Chief Judge, Court of Appeals of Georgia



STATE OF GEORGIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ATLANTA 30334-0900

Sonny Perdue
GOVERNOR

October 6, 2006

Dear Guests:

Welcome to the Centennial Dinner, celebrating 100 years of the Court of Appeals of Georgia.

From January of this year, when I first proclaimed 2006 as the Court of Appeals Centennial Year, to the wonderful gathering this evening here at the Georgia Aquarium, this year has been full of events designed to honor and celebrate the Court of Appeals in Georgia.

Since 1906, when the Court of Appeals' was assigned its first 155 cases from the Supreme Court, the caseload of the Court of Appeals has grown to 3,140 case filings in 2005, and members of the Court have grown from its original three to its current number of twelve. This growth is evidence of the integral role the Court of Appeals continues to play in the judicial system of Georgia.

"Upon the integrity, wisdom and independence of the judiciary depend the sacred rights of free men and women." This motto of the Court of Appeals is just as important today as when the Court was first organized in 1906. The citizens of Georgia are fortunate to have such a distinguished group of men and women who seek to ensure fairness, impartiality and consistency in the application of the law.

Again, it is my pleasure to welcome you to this culmination of the year long Centennial Celebration of the Court of Appeals of Georgia. I'm certain that in the years to come the honorable members of the Court will continue to provide the same level of integrity and wisdom that has been imparted in Georgia's judicial system for the past 100 years.

Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue



OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
240 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

MARK TAYLOR
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

October 6, 2006

Centennial Celebration
"A Century of Serving Justice"

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the state of Georgia, it is a pleasure to welcome and extend greetings to all those attending the Georgia Court of Appeals Centennial Dinner Celebration. You have chosen a most appropriate theme for this significant milestone and I commend your prestigious organization for its 100 years of serving justice in our great state.

The Court of Appeals of Georgia has a long and rich history of distinguished leaders who have devoted their lives and careers to protecting the rights of others. I am proud of the high standard of excellence and civic spirit that exists within the Court of Appeals and we are fortunate to have such a group of professionals dedicated to serving our great state. Thank you for helping to make Georgia a better place in which to live and raise our families.

My best wishes to you all for an enjoyable and memorable fellowship experience. Congratulations and thank you for allowing me to share in this Centennial Celebration.

Sincerely,


Mark Taylor

MT/ljh

Centennial Dinner Program

Master of Ceremonies - Marion T. Pope, Jr.,
Senior Judge, Court of Appeals of Georgia &
Chairman, Board of Justice Served, Inc.

National Anthem and Presentation of Colors

Mr. Jason Hardy and
Honor Guard, Georgia National Guard

Welcome

John H. Ruffin, Jr., Chief Judge, Court of Appeals of Georgia

Recognitions and Special Guests

Marion T. Pope, Jr., Senior Judge, Court of Appeals of Georgia

Invocation

Judge Herbert E. Phipps, Court of Appeals of Georgia

Dinner

Student Presentation and Scholarships

Mr. James H. Miller, III, Justice Served, Inc.,
Ms. Jill Pryor, Centennial Committee, and
Judge Anne Elizabeth Barnes, Court of Appeals of Georgia

Introduction of Speaker

Judge Hugh Lawson,
United States District Court, Middle District of Georgia

Speaker

Judge William R. Wilson, Jr.,
United States District Court, Eastern District of Arkansas

Closing Remarks

John H. Ruffin, Jr., Chief Judge, Court of Appeals of Georgia

America the Beautiful

Led by Mr. Jason Hardy

Private Access to All Georgia Aquarium Exhibits