

House Resolution 1500

By: Representatives Welch of the 110th, Ralston of the 7th, Reeves of the 34th, Fleming of the 121st, Efstrotation of the 104th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending the Honorable Justice Keith R. Blackwell; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Justice Keith R. Blackwell was appointed to the Supreme Court of Georgia in
3 July, 2012, by Governor Nathan Deal and previously served as a judge of the Court of
4 Appeals of Georgia, a position to which he was appointed by Governor Sonny Perdue; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Justice Blackwell was born on the Fourth of July and raised in Cherokee
6 County, where he graduated as valedictorian from Cherokee High School; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Justice Blackwell is a proud Double Dawg, having attended the University of
8 Georgia, from which he graduated summa cum laude as First Honor Graduate, and the
9 University of Georgia School of Law, where he served as senior editor of the Georgia Law
10 Review, was elected to the Order of the Coif, and graduated summa cum laude again as First
11 Honor Graduate; and
- 12 WHEREAS, Justice Blackwell served as a law clerk to Judge J.L. Edmondson of the United
13 States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit and practiced law with Alston & Bird,
14 served as an assistant district attorney in Cobb County, and later joined Parker, Hudson,
15 Rainer & Dobbs where he was elected as a partner; and
- 16 WHEREAS, Justice Blackwell, during his service on the State Supreme Court, has
17 exemplified the characteristics of a dedicated public servant to the citizens of Georgia above
18 and beyond his service as a Justice, by also serving as the Supreme Court liaison to the State
19 Bar of Georgia and to the Office of Bar Admission and Board of Bar Examiners, as chair of
20 the Commission on Interpreters, as a member of the Commission on Dispute Resolution, as
21 a liaison to the Strategic Planning Committee of the Judicial Council, as a master of the
22 Joseph Henry Lumpkin American Inn of Court and the Columbus American Inn of Court,
23 as a member of the Board of Advisors for the Atlanta Chapter of the Federalist Society for
24 Law and Public Policy Studies, as a member of the Governor's Appellate Jurisdiction Reform

25 Commission, as a member of the Governor's Judicial Nominating Commission, and as an
26 advisor to the Georgia House of Representatives Judiciary Committee with respect to the
27 revision of the state evidence code; and

28 WHEREAS, Justice Blackwell, through his decade of service as an appellate jurist has
29 personified the role of a judge dedicated to the rule of law, never forgetting that the state
30 exists to preserve freedom, that the separation of governmental powers is central to our
31 Constitution, and that it is emphatically the province and duty of the judiciary to say what
32 the law is, not what it should be; and

33 WHEREAS, Justice Blackwell has always exhibited the characteristics most cherished of a
34 judge through his superior intellect, collegial nature, and his kindness shown to those who
35 appeared before him in argument and to his colleagues on the Supreme Court; and

36 WHEREAS, Justice Blackwell, routinely throughout his appellate career, has managed to
37 work into oral argument uniquely applicable hypotheticals related to *Smokey and the Bandit*,
38 *Trans Ams*, and *Red Dawn*, to say nothing of the importance of pie; and

39 WHEREAS, Justice Blackwell is a devoted husband and father and, having announced his
40 retirement from the Supreme Court of Georgia, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the
41 outstanding accomplishments of this remarkable and distinguished Georgia be appropriately
42 recognized.

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
44 the members of this body commend Justice Keith Blackwell for his many years of dedicated
45 public service as a member of the Court of Appeals of Georgia and as a Justice on the
46 Supreme Court of Georgia; congratulate him upon the occasion of his retirement; and extend
47 to him their most sincere best wishes for continued health and happiness.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
49 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
50 Honorable Keith R. Blackwell.