

## House Resolution 790

By: Representatives Moore of the 95<sup>th</sup>, Park of the 101<sup>st</sup>, Kelley of the 16<sup>th</sup>, Jones of the 47<sup>th</sup>,  
Nguyen of the 89<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Congratulating and commending Georgia State University College of Law on its 40th  
2 anniversary; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia State University College of Law welcomed its first class of 200 Juris  
4 Doctor (JD) candidates taught by six professors on September 13, 1982, as a result of the  
5 efforts of the college's founder, Dean Ben F. Johnson Jr., and many others with a common  
6 goal to answer the demand for a part-time and evening accredited law school in Atlanta,  
7 Georgia; and

8 WHEREAS, in the beginning, the school was housed on the first floor of Georgia State  
9 University's Urban Life building in Atlanta, Georgia, at the downtown campus; in December  
10 1984, Georgia State Law graduated its first class of seven students, and in January 1988,  
11 Georgia State College of Law won the National Moot Court Competition. The college gained  
12 full accreditation from the American Bar Association in 1990 under the leadership of  
13 Marjorie Fine Knowles, Georgia State Law's second dean; and

14 WHEREAS, ten years later in 1992, the college grew to 617 students and 35 faculty  
15 members, 120,000 volumes filled the law library, and applications for admission exceeded  
16 2,200 for 180 slots; the Georgia Civil Justice Foundation funded the college's first endowed

17 scholarship with the purpose to provide financial assistance to a student who has shown a  
18 preference for or a skill in trial advocacy; and

19 WHEREAS, 40 years after opening its doors, the Georgia State University College of Law  
20 maintains its long-standing commitment of accessibility and affordability and has gained  
21 national recognition as one of the "best value" law schools in the nation. In 2022, it was  
22 named the No. 1 ranked health law program and earned state-wide recognition for having the  
23 best overall bar passage rates in Georgia for the February 2020 and 2021 Georgia Bar  
24 Examinations; and

25 WHEREAS, in 2015, under the leadership of then-Dean Steven Kaminshine, the Georgia  
26 State University College of Law relocated to a new \$82.5 million state-of-the-art building  
27 at 85 Park Place in Downtown Atlanta, Georgia, offering 12 degree programs of study,  
28 including the JD and Master of Laws, as well as a variety of experiential learning  
29 opportunities through six clinics, six centers, and initiatives, incorporating 70 faculty  
30 members, an alumni community numbering more than 6,500, and a significant growth of the  
31 college's endowments to 71; and

32 WHEREAS, the college has been led by seven law school deans, including current Dean  
33 LaVonda Reed in 2021.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
35 the members of this body recognize Georgia State University College of Law on the occasion  
36 of its 40th anniversary and commend its contribution to providing a quality legal education  
37 to a diverse student body, promoting legal scholarship and service that enriches the legal  
38 profession and the communities we serve.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
40 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the  
41 Georgia State University College of Law.