

Senate Resolution 465

By: Senators McKoon of the 29th, Stone of the 23rd and Thompson of the 5th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 11, 2015, as Georgia Justice Project Day at the state capitol; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, for almost 30 years, Georgia Justice Project has developed a comprehensive
4 suite of services, coupling holistic legal defense and social services with advocacy support,
5 to address the barriers to economic stability faced by the criminally accused; and

6 WHEREAS, Georgia Justice Project serves the lowest-wealth members of the community
7 who are also at the highest risk for criminal involvement with many of its clients aged 17 to
8 25; and

9 WHEREAS, Georgia Justice Project's programs serve individuals who have criminal issues
10 facing them by providing Holistic Indigent Defense; Coming Home, criminal record
11 expungement and advocacy services to minimize the consequences of a criminal record;
12 Collateral Consequences Advocacy; and Systemic Change; and

13 WHEREAS, building on its years of direct service to those in need, Georgia Justice Project
14 works with legislators and others to advocate for common-sense changes to the laws on
15 collateral consequences; and

16 WHEREAS, through its programs and advocacy, Georgia Justice Project achieves
17 outstanding and cost-effective results, including much lower-than-average incarceration and
18 recidivism rates and increased awareness about the adverse impact of a criminal record on
19 individuals and their communities; and

20 WHEREAS, Georgia Justice Project serves its clients through financial support provided by
21 a number of corporations and foundations, such as The Robert W. Woodruff Foundation, The
22 Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, The Tull Charitable Foundation, The Coca-Cola
23 Company, Rustoleum, UPS, The Sapelo Foundation, and many others; and

24 WHEREAS, Georgia Justice Project is an academic partner with many schools across the
25 country, including prominent Georgia institutions such as Emory University, John Marshall
26 School of Law, Georgia State University, and Mercer University; and

27 WHEREAS, it is honored to have local law firms supporting its efforts, including Alston &
28 Bird, Bondurant Mixson & Elmore, Hunton & Williams, Jones Day, King & Spalding,
29 Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, Parker Hudson Rainer & Dobbs, Sutherland Asbill &
30 Brennan, and many others; and

31 WHEREAS, Georgia Justice Project has been nationally recognized for its innovation and
32 impact on individuals and the community, and it has been honored with the Martin Luther
33 King, Jr., Community Service Award from Emory; and

34 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
35 distinguished organization, including the agency's staff and volunteers, be appropriately
36 recognized for the services it provides to Georgians.

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
38 commend the Georgia Justice Project, its staff, and its volunteers for their work in the
39 community and recognize March 11, 2015, as Georgia Justice Project Day at the state
40 capitol.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
42 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Georgia Justice
43 Project.