

Georgia's chief justice to teach at Georgia Law



For the 2009-10 academic year, students at Georgia Law will have the privilege of studying under the former Supreme Court of Georgia Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears.

As a visiting professor, she will teach Contemporary Issues in Family Law as well as another course yet to be named.

Regarding the teaching post, Sears said, “I’m excited to have the chance to work with young people. And I look forward to being back in the academic world of a college campus.”

Sears will step down from the state’s Supreme Court on June 30, when her term as chief justice ends.

In addition to teaching at Georgia Law, Sears will join the Atlanta office of the law firm Schiff Hardin and will begin a one-year term at the Institute for American Values in a fellowship post bearing her late brother’s name – William Thomas Sears.

Sears was appointed to the state’s highest court in 1992, becoming the first woman and youngest person ever to serve on its bench. Sears became presiding justice in 2001 and was named chief justice in 2005, becoming the first African-American female chief justice in the country.

Her previous judicial experience includes service on the Superior Court of Fulton County as well as the City Court of Atlanta. She also practiced law as an attorney at Alston & Bird in Atlanta.

Sears earned her bachelor’s degree from Cornell University, her law degree from Emory University and her Master of Laws from the University of Virginia.

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