

DAILY REPORT

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Ga. High Court Honors Trial Lawyer With Amicus Curiae Award

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THE GEORGIA SUPREME Court has given an Amicus Curiae Award to Joel Wooten, founding partner of Butler Wooten & Peak, the firm announced Monday.

Chief Justice Harris Hines, along with Justices Keith Blackwell and Nels Peterson, surprised Wooten with a special honor Thursday during a meeting of the Columbus Bar Association at the Chattahoochee River Club in Columbus. The justices presented Wooten with a resolution stating he has had a “profound impact on the State of Georgia and its legal system” and is “described by



Georgia Supreme Court Justice Keith Blackwell (from left) and Chief Justice Harris Hines surprised Joel Wooten with the award along with Justice Nels Peterson at a Columbus Bar Association event Thursday.

his colleagues and friends as a quiet man of understated excellence, who is devoted and equally kind to people from all walks of life, who is always calm, well-prepared,

and can be counted on to get the job done, and who never calls attention to himself.”

Butler Wooten partner Brandon Peak said in the news release, “The work he

has done and continues to do to better our state and profession—often behind the scenes and with no fanfare—has made Georgia a better place to live and practice law.”

“I’ve not only practiced law with Joel for thirty years, I have known Joel Wooten since we were both students at the University of Georgia,” partner Jim Butler said in the news release. “There is no one more deserving of this high honor. We appreciate the Justices of the Georgia Supreme Court bestowing this high honor on Joel.”

The resolution offered a brief biography of Wooten: born in 1950 in Wayne County; raised in Hazlehurst; undergraduate and law school at the University of Georgia in Athens; entered the practice of law in 1975 in Columbus; and later became a founding partner of Butler Wooten & Peak, a law firm with offices in Columbus and Atlanta—and a new one just added in Savannah. The resolution called Butler Wooten & Peak “among the most

distinguished firms of trial lawyers in the United States.”

Wooten is a past president of the Columbus Bar Association and is now chair of the Business Court Committee of the State Bar of Georgia. He was a

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founding member of the board of the Georgia Center for Law in the Public Interest. He has served as chair of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. He’s a member

of the board of the Georgia Ports Authority. And he has served on the University of Georgia Board of Visitors for the School of Law.

“I am extremely humbled to receive this award,” Wooten said in response. “Georgia is blessed with an outstanding judiciary comprised of bright and hard-working public servants. To be honored by the Georgia Supreme Court in this manner is a highlight of my professional career. I am most grateful for this recognition and look forward to continuing to help the people of Georgia.” 