



Court of Appeals of Georgia

Press Release

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For Immediate Release
February 1, 2010

Atlanta, GA --- Chief Judge M. Yvette Miller announced today that John H. Ruffin, Jr., a former Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals of Georgia and the first African American Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals of Georgia, died suddenly on Friday, January 29, 2010. Presiding Judge Ruffin died at Piedmont Hospital.

Presiding Judge Ruffin was appointed to the Court of Appeals of Georgia in 1994 by then Governor Zell Miller. He was Chief of the Court of Appeals during the Court's Centennial celebration in 2006. Presiding Judge Ruffin retired on December 31, 2008. Prior to serving on the Court of Appeals, Presiding Judge Ruffin served as a superior court judge in the Augusta Judicial Circuit for eight years. He was one of the first African American lawyers in the Augusta Judicial Circuit where his practice in the sixties and the seventies involved civil rights litigation.

There will be a wake for Presiding Judge Ruffin to be held at the Tabernacle Baptist Church located at 1223 Laney Walker Boulevard in Augusta, Georgia on Friday, February 5, 2010 from 6-8 p.m. The funeral will be Saturday, February 6, 2010 at 11 a.m. also at the Tabernacle Baptist Church. In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that contributions be made to Morehouse College or the charity of the donor's choice in memory of Presiding Judge Ruffin.

Presiding Judge Ruffin is survived by his wife, Judith Ruffin, one son, Brinkley Ruffin and daughter-in-law, Candace Ruffin, of Indianapolis, Indiana, two grandsons, and his father, John Ruffin, Sr., of Birmingham, Alabama.

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