

Proclamation

WHEREAS, in 1968, The National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA) was founded, and established as the largest student-run organization in the country with over 6,000 members across chapters and affiliates in six different countries; its mission is “to increase the number of culturally responsible Black and minority attorneys who excel academically, succeed professionally, and positively impact the community”; and



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WHEREAS, Georgia State University College of Law was founded in 1982 after Georgia legislators and academics began to recognize the need for a part-time law school in downtown Atlanta to ensure greater access to legal education; at the time Black students made up only 5 percent of students enrolled in the three ABA-approved law schools in Georgia, in stark comparison to the population of Black Georgians, which stood at 26.8 percent; and



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WHEREAS, Ronald J. Freeman and the first Black faculty member at the College of Law, Linda Earley Chastang, founded a chapter of the National Black Law Students Association at Georgia State University College of Law in 1983 to provide Black law students with a supportive learning community for its members, to influence the legal profession, and to serve the Black community by addressing its legal concerns and needs; the BLSA chapter was renamed in 2014 after its founding member, the Honorable Ronald J. Freeman; and



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WHEREAS, 40 years after its founding, the Ronald J. Freeman Chapter of the Black Law Students Association at Georgia State University College of Law remains the most active and inclusive student organization at the College of Law; the 40th Year Anniversary Celebration Gala seeks to acknowledge and to celebrate BLSA alumni who have made and who continue to make outstanding contributions to the bench and the bar, who exemplify excellence in the legal profession and in other professions, who serve the Black community, and who continue to pave the way for current and future Black law students in Georgia;



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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes the Georgia State University Black Law Students Association and celebrate its students, and the alumni, faculty, staff, and advisors for nurturing our community’s future leaders who will fight for justice in Atlanta, in Georgia, and across the United States and beyond, and does hereby proclaim Saturday, March 23, 2024 as “**GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY BLACK LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION DAY**” in Fulton County, Georgia.



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Fulton County Board of Commissioners

Commissioner

Attest:

Clerk to the Commission

F U L T O N C O U N T Y