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# Troutman Pepper's Justice Harold Melton to Receive the Prestigious J.W. Fanning Award by Leadership Georgia

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**ATLANTA** – [Justice Harold Melton](#), a partner in Troutman Pepper's Business Litigation Practice Group, will receive the 2020-21 J.W. Fanning Award from [Leadership Georgia](#), one of the nation's oldest statewide leadership organizations. Melton, the former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia, is recognized as a Georgian whose statewide contributions through progressive leadership have resulted in great achievement.

Leadership Georgia noted, "Justice Melton has been a friend to Leadership Georgia and his optimism, accessibility, and desire to continue making Georgia better shows why he's so deserving of this honor."

Justice Melton serves on the boards of Young Life and Atlanta Youth Academies. He is also an active and proud Auburn University alumnus. The university recently renamed its student center after Justice Melton, who as an undergraduate became its first Black president of the Student Government Association.

Justice Melton is an experienced litigator who works with clients involved in complex litigation and appellate and regulatory matters in appellate, state attorneys general, and commercial litigation matters. He served for 16 years as a justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia and three years as Chief Justice. Prior to leading Georgia's judicial branch, Justice Melton served as executive counsel to Governor Sonny Perdue and as an assistant attorney general in the office of the attorney general in the Georgia Department of Law where he also led the Consumer Protection Section for four years.

Leadership Georgia was founded in 1971 and graduated its first class in 1972. Since then, more than 4,000 leaders – from elected officials to business owners to policy makers – have participated in the program. It is an affiliate of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce.

Justice Melton will be recognized during the Leadership Georgia Gala and Awards Presentation on November 6, 2021. The award he will receive is named for J.W. Fanning, who served as Leadership Georgia's longtime advisor and guiding hand.

## About Troutman Pepper

Troutman Pepper is a national law firm with more than 1,200 attorneys strategically located in 23 U.S. cities. The firm's litigation, transactional, and regulatory practices advise a diverse client base, from start-ups to multinational

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