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51st Charter Day and 12th Annual Costen Awards Gala **The ITC is honored to present the Civic and Community Service** **Award to Judge Glenda A. Hatchett as a youth advocate and** **visionary leader**



Atlanta, GA (February 19, 2009) Judge Glenda Hatchett is a youth advocate whose television courtroom tactics on her nationally syndicated show *Judge Hatchett* have produced incredible life changing results in the lives of young people. She will be one of the recipients for the awards given by the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) at the 51st Charter Day and 12th Annual Costen Awards Gala on Friday, April 24, 2009, 6 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta.

Judge Hatchett will be honored for her tireless contributions as a youth advocate and is one of nine recipients to be honored at the “Tribute to Excellence” Costen Awards Dinner celebrating outstanding leaders in the community. Judge Hatchett is not only strong, savvy and a visionary leader but she is also the author of the national bestseller, *Say What You Mean and Mean What You Say* (Harper Collins, 2003) which is based on her extensive professional experiences as a jurist and her own personal experience as a mother of two boys. Judge Hatchett’s most important accomplishment is her ability to have a positive impact on the lives of troubled youth and their families. She urges viewers of the *Judge Hatchet* show to become mentors to at-risk youth in their communities.

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An Atlanta native, Judge Hatchett became Georgia's first African American chief presiding judge of a state court and the department head of one of the largest juvenile court systems in the country. "If anyone told me that I'd be a judge someday, I'd have said they were crazy! However certain people I respect in the community asked me to consider the judgeship. I simply could not turn down an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of wayward children," proclaims Judge Hatchett.

For eight years the innovative Judge Hatchett worked constantly to make a difference in the lives of young people and gained national recognition for her "creative sentencing," which can still be seen today in the form of her "interventions" on her television program *Judge Hatchett*.

This year of many changes some good, some bad, help us celebrate those who bring hope to the community, bring justice to the system, and inspiration to our souls at the 51st Annual Charter Day and 12th James H. Costen "Tribute to Excellence" Awards. Other 2009 honorees include: Mrs. Pearl Hollis (*Travelin' Shoes*), Pastor Donnie McClurkin (Arts and Entertainment), Rev. Aaron L. Parker, Ph.D. (Religion), Senator Kasim Reed (Government), Judge Penny Brown Reynolds, (Emerging Leader) Mrs. Laura Turner Seydel (*TheoEcology* "Green"), Rev. A.C.D. Vaughn (President's Award), and Mr. Willie Watkins (Business).

Every year the ITC celebrates the 1958 founding of the institution with Charter Day, which created one of the most unique --- ecumenical theological institutions in the world, bringing six different denominational seminaries together all housed under one roof. The ITC in Atlanta, Georgia has been training men and women for Christian leadership and service in the church and global community for a half-century.

The purpose of the Charter Day and Costen Awards Ceremony is not only to *give honor to whom honor is due* but also to raise unrestricted funds for the ITC. In addition to corporate sponsorship, the event's Silent Auction of celebrity gifts garner significant contributions along with donations from individuals and various businesses.

The Costen Awards is named after an exceptional visionary leader and the fifth president of ITC, the late Dr. James H. Costen. In 2006 under the current president, Dr. Michael Battle, the President's Award was instituted, and in 2008 the Emerging Leader Award. President Battle stated, "This year we are compelled to add another category, the *TheoEcology* Award, that speaks to our institutional focus on environmental issues and strong advocacy for *green* initiatives on the ITC campus."

The 51st Annual Charter Day and 12th Annual James H. Costen Awards Gala begins with a Silent Auction and Reception at 6 p.m., followed by an awards dinner at 7 p.m., Friday, April 24, 2009, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Atlanta, GA. For additional information, contact the ITC Office of External Affairs at 404-527-7718.

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