

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**TALLEY WELLS NAMED NEXT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF  
GEORGIA APPLESEED CENTER FOR LAW & JUSTICE**

*Veteran legal service and advocacy lawyer brings experience, passion to nonprofit legal group*

**ATLANTA (Oct. 27, 2017)** — Georgia Appleseed Center for Law & Justice has appointed Talley Wells as its next executive director. Wells comes to Georgia Appleseed from Atlanta Legal Aid Society, where he practiced law for 17 years and served as the head of its disability division. Wells is also co-director of the Disability Law Project at University of Georgia’s Institute of Human Development and Disability and serves as an adjunct professor at Georgia State University College of Law.

As executive director, Wells will oversee Georgia Appleseed’s major programmatic areas of focus, which currently include Dismantling the School-to-Prison Pipeline, Justice for Vulnerable Populations, Economic Security through Community Revitalization and Public Safety to Strengthen Communities.

Wells will be only the second executive director of Georgia Appleseed, a nonprofit, nonpartisan, public interest law center founded in 2005 with the mission to increase justice in Georgia through law and policy reform and community engagement. Georgia Appleseed is an independent affiliate of the Appleseed network, which is comprised of 18 Centers in the United States and Mexico.

“As the founding executive director of Georgia Appleseed, I’m thrilled to hand the reins to Talley Wells, who will continue the critical mission of addressing injustices in our state” said Sharon N. Hill, who will remain in her position until January. Wells will join Georgia Appleseed in November to prepare to step into the role Hill has held for 12 years.

Georgia Appleseed underwent a three-year succession planning process, with support from the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, culminating in the hiring of Wells.

“Talley is a wonderful choice for our organization, and we look forward to his leadership as the organization continues to tackle tough, systemic issues at the state level to address injustices and promote social justice,” said John Fleming, Eversheds Sutherland pro bono partner, current board chair of Georgia Appleseed and a member of the hiring committee.

Wells’ background and experience are well suited to leading Georgia Appleseed into the next decade, according to Fleming, who pointed to Wells’ master’s degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and his experience as U.S. District Court Law Clerk immediately after his graduation from Duke University School of Law. Wells has also been awarded the Georgia Bar Association’s Robert Benham Award for Community Service and served as the Chair of the Board for The Center for Working Families. His strong community-focus, education and legal background will fit well into Georgia Appleseed’s existing mission-driven culture.

"Georgia Appleseed has made a significant and lasting difference in our state in education, juvenile justice and many other pressing issues for low income and vulnerable populations. I am honored and thrilled to begin my work with this extraordinary organization," said Wells.

"While Talley has played an integral role in growing Atlanta Legal Aid Society, we're excited for him to bring his enthusiasm and passion to further Georgia Appleseed's mission. And ALAS will continue to have strong partnerships with Georgia Appleseed under Talley's leadership," said Steve Gottlieb, executive director of Atlanta Legal Aid Society.

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**About Georgia Appleseed**

Founded in 2005, Georgia Appleseed Center for Law and Justice is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, public interest law center with the mission to increase justice in Georgia through law and policy reform and community engagement. The organization envisions a Georgia where the voices of poor people, children and marginalized people are heard and where injustices that no one should endure are resolved. Georgia Appleseed is able to address serious issues of public concern by enlisting the statewide pro bono assistance of lawyers and other professionals, with a value of \$500,000+ in services annually. Learn more about the organization and its current projects at: [www.GaAppleseed.org](http://www.GaAppleseed.org).

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