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New Exhibit at the Georgia Archives: From Gavel to Archive: Exploring Georgia's Legal Records

The Georgia Archives exhibit, *From Gavel to Archive: Exploring Georgia's Legal Records*, opened January 6th and will run through April 6, 2024.

Court cases serve as invaluable portals to our past, shedding light on pivotal moments, controversies, and societal shifts. Each case is a chapter in Georgia's rich legal narrative, offering a compelling tableau of the state's past, intricately woven through the annals of court records. Through these historical lenses, visitors can witness the nuanced layers of Georgia's legal heritage, gaining insights into not just the cases themselves but the broader cultural and societal landscapes that shaped them.

This exhibit offers a captivating journey into three iconic Georgia court cases, each unveiling a distinct facet of the state's legal history. Discover the story of Amanda America Dickson, whose heritage intertwined the complexities of enslavement and inheritance. Her battle for her father's estate culminated in a groundbreaking ruling by the Georgia Supreme Court. Learn about the tragic yet transformative Winecoff Hotel Fire of 1946, which acted as a catalyst for nationwide fire safety reforms. Legal proceedings following this catastrophic incident played a pivotal role in shaping subsequent safety standards. And lastly, explore the intriguing trial of Amanda Chitwood Cobb. As the mother of baseball legend Ty Cobb, the murder trial for killing her husband in 1905 became a focal point in local history. Join us in exploring these archival stories, which resonate across time, and reveal the intricate layers of Georgia's legal past.

The exhibit is free and open to the public during our regular research hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 9 am - 12 pm and 1 pm - 4 pm.

The Georgia Archives is a unit of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. The Georgia Archives identifies, collects, manages, preserves, provides access to, and publicizes records and information of Georgia and its people, and assists state and local government agencies with their records management.