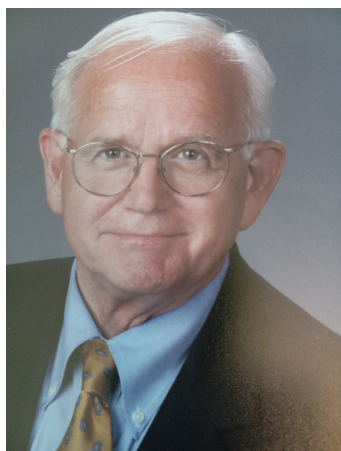


## *Bernard ("Ben") Greer, Jr*



During his 30-plus year career, Ben Greer led a practice that wrapped itself around the globe. When he retired in 2005, he would have been justified in reflecting on what he had accomplished and the many accolades and awards he had received. Instead of dwelling on what he had done, Ben quickly turned his attention to what he would do next. To our great benefit, Ben focused his time and energy on the Atlanta International Arbitration Society. As our founding President, Glenn Hendrix, was developing a plan to transition leadership to others in the arbitration community, the question arose as to who had the stature in the international and local legal communities and ability to lead AtlAS into the future. The unanimous view was that Ben's leadership was needed and he willingly accepted our call. During Ben's time at the helm, AtlAS continued its trajectory of growth. Drawing on his vast experience as an accomplished international lawyer and Secretary General of the International Bar Association, Ben connected AtlAS in new and wonderful ways. As noted by Glenn Hendrix, "Ben came at a time when we needed to continue our momentum and he delivered and energized the AtlAS community in every conceivable way" Under Ben's leadership, AtlAS's educational programs grew in both scope and attendance, AtlAS announced its first AtlAS Fellowship, and it launched the annual AtlAS Lecture.

In addition to founding and leading Alston & Bird's International Practice Group, Ben also served as Chair of Lex Mundi — the world's largest alliance of independent law firms — from 2003 — 2004, and he continues as Chair Emeritus. He is an Honorary Life Member of the International Bar Association and served as its Secretary General from 2000 to 2002.

Ben founded and chaired the Georgia State Bar's International Trade in Legal Services Committee until just this year. Under Ben's leadership, the Georgia Bar adopted the most progressive regulatory regime for foreign lawyer practice in the United States. In a report issued in 2012 (and re-issued in 2014 and 2021), the American Bar Association recognized Ben's contributions and observed that "Georgia has assumed a leadership position in adopting rules that specifically address and regulate some of the various means by which lawyers from foreign countries may seek to perform services in that state." Similarly, in 2015, the Conference of Chief Justices (representing the highest judicial officers of all 50 states) issued a resolution encouraging all states to consider Georgia "as a worthy guide for their own state endeavors to meet the challenges of ever-changing legal markets and increasing cross-border law practices" Ben's work made it possible for non-U.S. advocates and arbitrators to participate in international arbitrations seated in Georgia and is one of the cornerstones of the initiative to promote Atlanta as an arbitral venue.

Ben is a past chair of the Japan America Society of Georgia and currently chairs its Advisory Committee. He is also principal of International Legal Strategies, LLC, and he lectures and writes frequently on international business law topics and the impact of globalization on the structure and regulation of the legal profession. Ben has been honored by Who's Who in America, Who's Who in American Law, Who's Who in the World, and Super Lawyers magazine. Ben has long been active in community affairs in Atlanta and is a Lifetime Trustee of the Atlanta Botanical Garden.

While Ben's tenure as AtlAS's President has passed, he continues to be actively involved in supporting AtlAS and the Atlanta community. His efforts to support Atlanta as an international arbitration center, as well as his warm friendship and continued leadership inures to the benefit of us all. We continue to be better for our association with him.

Prepared by Randall Allen, Alston & Bird