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Biophysical Society

BPS Signs Amicus Brief Opposing Disclaimers on Evolution in Georgia Textbooks

The Biophysical Society signed an Amicus brief opposing the placement of evolution disclaimers in Cobb, County, Georgia textbooks. The brief asserts that there is no valid scientific or pedagogical reason that a disclaimer regarding the "theory" of evolution be placed inside of biology textbooks. It was prepared to assist the U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit, in making a sound decision regarding a lawsuit (Selman v. Cobb County School District) presented by proponents of intelligent design. They seek to overturn the favorable decision in the lawsuit in Cobb County, GA over anti-evolution warning labels.

The brief was submitted on June 10th by the National Center for Science Education and People for the American Way Fifty five other scientific societies also signed the "friend of the court" document. The NCSE is a clearinghouse for information and advice on defending the teaching of evolution in public schools.
The Cobb County disclaimer that is at the heart of this case, warns students:

"This textbook contains material on evolution. Evolution is a theory, not a fact, regarding the origin of living things. This material should be approached with an open mind, studied carefully, and critically considered."

The U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit, will review Judge Cooper's decision within the next few months.

For the text of the NCSE/PFAW amicus brief, as well as seven other amicus briefs in support of the Selman decision, and for background on the Selman case, visit the National Center for Science Education website at: http://www.ncseweb.org/selman/index.html.