

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE WORK OF THE GEORGIA COURTS

1995

JULY 1, 1994 - JUNE 30, 1995

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

1995 ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 1994 - June 30, 1995

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Judicial Council of Georgia

June 1995

Chief Justice Robert Benham <i>Chair</i> Supreme Court Atlanta	Judge N. Kent Lawrence President Council of State Court Judges Athens
Presiding Justice Norman S. Fletcher <i>Vice Chair</i> Supreme Court Atlanta	Judge William F. Lee Jr. Sixth District Administrative Judge Griffin
Judge Gary B. Andrews Court of Appeals Atlanta	Judge Walter J. Matthews Seventh District Administrative Judge Rome
Chief Judge Dorothy T. Beasley Court of Appeals Atlanta	Judge H. Arthur McLane President-elect Council of Superior Court Judges Valdosta
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Judge David L. Cavender First District Administrative Judge Hinesville	Judge Dan F. Pierce President-elect Council of Magistrate Court Judges Monroe
Judge Philip F. Etheridge President Council of Superior Court Judges Atlanta	Judge Floyd E. Propst First Vice President Council of Probate Court Judges Atlanta
Judge Hilton Fuller Fourth District Administrative Judge Decatur	Judge Wayne M. Purdom President Council of Magistrate Court Judges Decatur
Judge Richard S. Gault Ninth District Administrative Judge Cumming	Judge Ronald H. Rentz President Council of Juvenile Court Judges Colquitt
Judge Kathlene F. Gosselin President-elect Council of State Court Judges Gainesville	Judge William M. Towson Eighth District Administrative Judge Dublin
Judge William F. Grant Tenth District Administrative Judge Elberton	Judge E. Mullins Whisnant Third District Administrative Judge Columbus
Judge George J. Hearn III President-elect Council of Juvenile Court Judges Monroe	
Judge Isaac Jenrette Fifth District Administrative Judge Atlanta	

JUDICIAL BRANCH IN REVIEW

Message from the Chief Justice

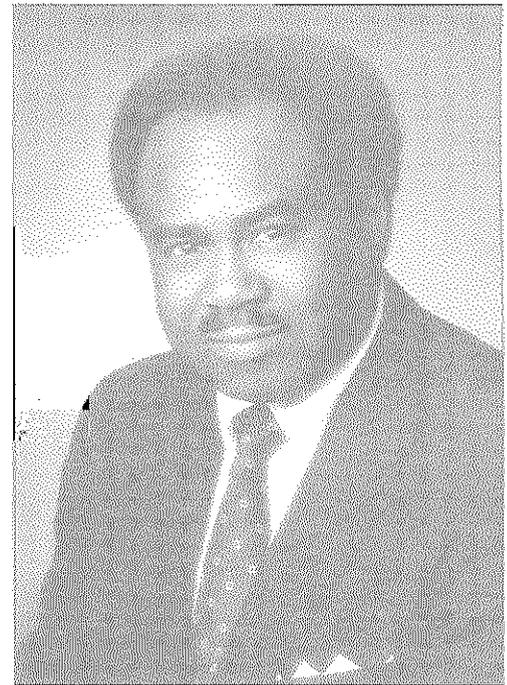
Ceremonies on June 29, 1995, installed Justice Robert Benham as Georgia's 26th chief justice. He is the first African American to head the Supreme Court. Chief Justice Benham made his first State of the Judiciary Address to the Georgia General Assembly on January 11, 1996. His remarks follow.

To Lieutenant Governor Howard, Speaker of the House Murphy, officers and members of the House and the Senate, my colleagues on the Supreme Court, Chief Judge Beasley and my colleagues on the Court of Appeals, members of the judiciary, department heads, visitors and friends, it is indeed a pleasure and a privilege to deliver the State of the Judiciary Address on behalf of the judicial branch of government.

My presence today makes a dozen times that I have attended a State of the Judiciary Address, but it marks the first time I have had the pleasure of delivering the address. As Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court, I would like to thank you for inviting members of the judiciary to appear before a joint session of the House and Senate to inform you as to the state of the judicial branch. I would also like to thank you for extending the invitation to me to deliver the address in 1996, for this year represents an historic occasion for the court and for my family. The Supreme Court of Georgia met in my home of Bartow County in 1846 and this year it is celebrating the court's 150th birthday. The Court will celebrate its birthday with various activities during the month of April. The celebration marks the completion of 150 years of the administration of justice and the beginning of many more years of administering justice. During this sesquicentennial year, this court will hold its proceedings outside of Atlanta, in Louisville, Georgia, where that court will be celebrating its bicentennial. We will continue our tradition of holding court from time to time outside Atlanta and bringing the court to the people as we have done in Talbotton, Savannah, Athens, Cassville, New Echota and Tifton.

This year also represents my family's 150th anniversary as residents of Georgia; therefore, it is indeed an honor to celebrate the court's sesquicentennial along with my family's sesquicentennial. We hope that you will join with us later this year during the celebratory activities.

For the 12 years that I have served on the appellate courts, the chief justice has delivered the State of the Judiciary Address, outlining the accomplishments of the judiciary and pointing out the needs of the various courts. This year will be no exception. To put things in perspective, a short two years ago, then Chief Justice Harold



Chief Justice Robert Benham

Clarke thanked you for the pay raise for judges in his address and pointed out the need for adequate funding for the courts. Last year Chief Justice Willis Hunt, in addition to giving you an update on the judicial branch and some vision of the court's future, asked you to fund additional judges for the superior courts of this state. Where possible you have fulfilled our budgetary requests and you have set in motion steps for the funding of additional judges. In the last year alone, 24 superior court judgeships have been authorized and filled, thereby allowing some relief to our overburdened trial courts. We deeply appreciate your attention to our needs.

Judicial branch in review

To give you some glimpse of the heavy caseloads our various courts handle, in 1994, the last year for which statistics are available, over 310,000 cases were filed in the various superior courts, nearly 700,000 cases were filed in state courts, almost 120,000 cases were filed in juvenile court, nearly 236,000 filed in probate court, and approximately 802,000 cases filed in magistrate courts. That year 3,911 cases were filed in the Court of Appeals, and 1,961 cases were docketed in the Supreme Court. While the figures pertaining to the lower courts include civil and criminal cases, they do not include cases disposed of in the various recorders courts and traffic courts throughout the state. As you can see from these figures, a tremendous amount of litigation takes place in the courts of this state. Therefore, it is imperative that we attract and retain highly qualified individuals to serve as judges on the various courts throughout the state. We have some of the best and brightest judges in this country and we must maintain a high level of competence by providing adequate compensation and also excellent legal training within the state of Georgia.

This session will see several bills introduced concerning the operation of the courts. We feel it would be improper for us to comment on these bills since from time to time some of these matters might come to the courts on a constitutional challenge; however, we do share the concern of the Courts of Appeals as to its tremendous caseload. Having served on that court for almost six years, I am keenly aware of the tremendous burden placed on that court. So I hope you will be able to give the Court of Appeals some assistance in alleviating the heavy burden it already has.

In reviewing the strides of the judicial branch for the past several years, we must begin our focus on the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism. Several of my predecessors in office including Chief Justices Hill, Marshall, Clarke, Weltner and Hunt, but especially Chief Justice Clarke, worked to pave the road for the development of the commission which has become a model for commissions throughout the country. The commission strives to assist the State Bar of Georgia's efforts to maintain a professionalism that can stand against the negative trends of commercialization and loss of community. The commission has effectively served thousands of people since its inception.

In reviewing the strides of the judicial branch, we must also focus on the juvenile court system. The juvenile court system has remained committed to the notion of rehabilitation, while maintaining means of punishment that have grown increasingly cross-jurisdictional in scope. On one hand, the juvenile court system has followed current "get tough" policies. On the other hand, the juvenile courts seek to change lives and protect children who need protection. With your continued

support, the juvenile court will attain its goal of reaching every child in need. We must remain committed to improve the quality of life for our children, but we must also be committed to keep our streets safe at the same time.

Judicial initiatives

In reviewing the achievements of the judicial branch over the past year, I would like to mention several initiatives the judiciary has undertaken about which we are excited and feel will have a favorable impact on the administration of justice. As judges we are most comfortable dealing with purely legal matters; however, from time to time, we find it necessary to deal with some of the root causes of matters that adversely impact the administration of justice and the quality of life. In addition, many matters that were traditionally addressed by the federal government are now being addressed by the state courts because the federal courts are deferring to the state's decision-making process. Some of the new initiatives are as follows:

Child Placement Proceedings Project. This project assesses court proceedings dealing with abuse, neglect, deprivation and foster care cases so that improvement strategies can be developed.

Family Courts Commission. The State Bar has named a commission to consider family court matters including the potential jurisdiction of family courts over domestic relations cases, child custody and support cases, juvenile cases, criminal cases and other matters. I note that legislation will be introduced during this session to authorize pilot court projects in this area.

Commission on Racial and Ethnic Bias. The commission, which completed its report in September 1995, has now been merged with the commission on gender bias to create the Commission on Equality. We thank you for appropriating the money to conduct the study and we appreciate your continued support of our efforts to make justice both color and gender blind.

Committee on Substance Abuse and the Courts. The committee is comprised of judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officers and treatment specialists. Partly funded by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, the work of this committee focuses on case management techniques for drug-related offenses and innovations such as drug courts and alternative sentencing. Currently nine judicial circuits have special programs for drug offenders and 12 other circuits are in the planning stages for their own programs.

Georgia Courts Automation Commission. Presently, the primary focus of this commission is the installation of SUSTAIN software in courts throughout the state, and the coordination of state databases, particularly criminal justice databases. We are making significant strides in this area thanks to the appropriations you provided.

Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution. Beginning in 1993, this court formulated this office to address the need for mediators and arbitrators in offering dispute resolution processes to litigants as an alternative to litigation. By settling disputes prior to or even during the litigation stage, the burden on the judicial system is significantly lessened. The office has served over four million people in 67 counties in Georgia via its programs. We must realize that while the legal forum is available to all citizens it is not a cure-all for all of society's problems. We must continue to

encourage citizens to seek solutions to their problems across the dinner table, across the conference table and across the backyard fence before they resort to the courtroom.

As you might expect there are many other projects being undertaken by the courts, including a [legislatively created] Commission on Family Violence to develop a coordinated response and comprehensive plan to address family violence; a Commission on Evaluation of Disciplinary Enforcement to evaluate the system of disciplining lawyers; the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education which plans and coordinates annual training for superior, state, juvenile, probate, magistrate and municipal court judges throughout the state. We also will be receiving a report from the Olympic Planning Committee on recommendations on how to keep our courts operating during the Olympic games this summer.

There are several other ongoing projects which I do not have time to discuss today, but I will be glad to furnish any information you desire concerning these other commissions and committees.

Funding for legal representation

I would like to reiterate our appreciation for your attention to our past budgetary requests. However, while you have been generous with us in the allocation of funds and the provision for new judges, the administration of justice will be adversely impacted by at least two developments at the national level. In the past you have provided one-third of the funding for the activities of our Resource Center which provides representation in habeas corpus matters. Recently, the two-thirds funding at the federal level was eliminated; therefore, we are apt to see some uncertainty and confusion in this area of the law in the not too distant future. Also, the federal Legal Services Corporation has provided funding for the representation of individuals who could not afford a lawyer. However, there has been a cutback on funding and case involvement at the national level which impacts at the local level. As a result, some citizens will go without adequate legal representation. Because justice should be available to all citizens, despite their income level, the cutback on funding for the Legal Services Corporation will eradicate justice for many. And justice denied to one citizen is justice denied to society as a whole. Any help you can provide in either or both of these areas will be deeply appreciated.

Looking ahead

We must now prepare for the delivery of justice in the 21st century. And if Georgia is to maintain its position of leadership in the southeast and improve its leadership position throughout the country, we must cross new frontiers in the area of law and technology. Just as the business world must change to meet the new demands in the marketplace, the courts too must change to meet new demands in the legal arena. We must prepare to travel on the information highway and make court decisions available on that highway. While we must make adjustments to the ways in which we do business, we must be cautious in our approach and hold onto traditions that have held us in good stead in the past, and we must thoroughly evaluate new methods before embarking on uncharted courses.

These are very exciting times for the courts and we are blessed to have a

tremendous number of able and extremely capable judges throughout this great state. Compared to judges throughout the nation, Georgia's judges are highly educated, motivated and committed to justice for all citizens. They are level-headed, open-minded, even-handed, sure-footed, and firmly anchored in traditional moral values. They are dedicated to their work, collegial in their dealings with their peers and cordial to those who come before the courts. At the trial court level, institutions are being put in place to assure that all citizens are treated fairly before the law. At the appellate-court level, we are seeking to provide the predictability, certainty and stability that is necessary for the courts to operate in a civilized and progressive society. We realize that the system is not perfect and that from time to time some injustices might occur, but we continue to reevaluate our system to identify its shortcomings and correct any deficiencies before they become systemic in nature. We firmly believe that the courts do not belong to the judges or the lawyers, but that the courts belong to the citizens.

With your help, we will continue to provide a high quality of justice at a reasonable price.

We thank you for this opportunity to report on the state of the judiciary and we look forward to working with you in the coming days, months and years.



Fiscal Year 1995 Highlights

July 1994

Fiscal year begins with judicial branch budget of \$68,281,297 in state funds.

August 1994

The State Bar of Georgia Commission on Family Courts holds its first meeting. The commission's goal is to evaluate and improve the delivery of judicial services to families and children in Georgia with respect to family law issues. The commission will review existing family court projects in Georgia and other states.

The Supreme Court establishes the Committee on Substance Abuse and the Courts to serve as the vehicle for follow-up on the recommendations made at the Georgia Conference on Substance Abuse and the Courts.

September 1994

Recognizing his service as first co-chairperson of the Commission on Racial and Ethnic Bias, the Georgia Supreme Court presents U.S. District Court Judge Clarence Cooper with an Amicus Curiae Award. He was succeeded as co-chairperson by Judge John H. Ruffin Jr., Court of Appeals.

The Supreme Court Committee for Gender Equality presents Court of Appeals Judge Edward H. Johnson with a framed certificate commending him for his service as first chairperson of the committee. He was succeeded by Judge Kathlene F. Gosselin, Hall County State Court.

October 1994

The *Final Report on the Georgia Conference on Substance Abuse and the Courts* becomes available. The report on the 1993 conference includes the following recommendations for a Supreme Court commission to pursue: establish drug courts; seek funding for substance abuse treatment; provide training to judges, district attorneys and the defense bar on substance abuse treatment; coordinate existing resources; create community task forces; eliminate mandatory sentencing; and provide a detention center and diversion center for each circuit.

The Georgia Courts Automation Commission begins implementing the SUSTAIN court case management system in the five counties of the Middle Judicial Circuit.

November 1994

The Supreme Court Committee on Substance Abuse and the Courts holds its first meeting and begins developing strategies to address substance-abuse related issues impacting the judicial system.

December 1994

The Judicial Council makes recommendation for creation of 10 additional superior court judgeships to Governor Miller and the General Assembly. The Administrative Office of the Courts presents superior court caseload data for the 46 judicial circuits showing total filings per superior court judge at 1,190 civil cases and 746 criminal cases.

The Commission on Racial and Ethnic Bias completes a judicial attitude survey. Questionnaires were sent to all judges of the superior, state, juvenile and probate courts, chief magistrates and clerks of the superior court. Asked whether they believe racial and ethnic bias exists in the Georgia court system, judges give contrasting responses by the different jurisdictions. While 43 to 51% superior, state and juvenile court judges believe such bias exists, only 19 to 27% of participating probate and magistrate court judges believe so.

Fiscal Year 1994 Highlights

January 1995

Judge Dorothy T. Beasley takes office as the 17th Chief Judge of the Georgia Court of Appeals in ceremonies held on January 5 in the Court of Appeals courtroom. She is the first woman to be elected to serve as chief judge and is the first woman to serve on the Court of Appeals.

Chief Justice Willis B. Hunt Jr. delivers the State of the Judiciary Address to the General Assembly. He discusses the growing workload of the trial and appellate courts and calls for examination of the system of statewide judicial elections. He concludes with a vision for the future of the court system that calls for changes in the appellate system and consolidation of the trial courts.

February 1995

A three-judge panel in Washington D.C. rules that 62 of Georgia's superior court judgeships, 14 of which are vacant, were added without the purpose or effect of abridging minority voting rights under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. This decision allows Governor Miller to appoint 14 superior court judges and clears the way for elections for 48 positions on hold pending resolution of the case.

The Georgia Supreme Court establishes the Commission on Evaluation of Disciplinary Enforcement. The commission will evaluate the system of lawyer regulation in Georgia to determine if improvements or changes are necessary. The commission's final report is expected in March 1996.

March 1995

The Commission on Racial and Ethnic Bias completes a survey of 2,000 attorneys, probing attitudes and perceptions on bias in the Georgia courts. The survey reveals differences in the way minority and non-minority attorneys perceive the court system. Ninety-one percent of minority respondents believe that racial and ethnic bias exists in Georgia's court system; 54% of non-minority respondents agreed.

April 1995

Governor Miller signs into law a bill creating new judgeships in 10 judicial circuits, providing much needed relief to the state's superior courts. Initial term of office for these judgeships will be July 1, 1995, to December 31, 1996.

May 1995

The Child Placement Proceedings Project, under the direction of the Georgia Supreme Court, begins assessing child placement functions in the state's courts. Federal funding enables each state to evaluate and assess court actions involving abuse, neglect, deprivation, foster care and adoption cases.

June 1995

Justice Robert Benham takes office as the 26th Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court in ceremonies held on June 29 in the Supreme Court courtroom. He is the first African American to be elected to serve as chief justice and was the first African American to serve on the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals. Justice Norman Fletcher took office as presiding justice.

The Cobb County Superior Court introduces an on-line computer bulletin board allowing citizens to complete the juror information form and request postponements via computer and phone line.

State Appropriations for the Judicial Branch: Fiscal Years 1994, 1995 and 1996

Budget Unit/Agency	FY 1994 Amended Appropriation	FY 1995 Amended Appropriation	Percent Change FY 94-95	FY 1996 Amended Appropriation	Percent Change FY 95-96
Supreme Court	\$5,201,909	\$5,433,395	4.5%	\$5,570,675	2.5%
Court of Appeals	5,819,886	6,269,416	7.7%	7,104,204	13.3%
Superior Courts (Total)	47,558,332	49,854,885	4.8%	57,553,333	15.4%
Operations	44,268,810	46,339,363	4.7%	53,852,565	16.2%
Council of Superior Court Judges	126,609	135,417	7.0%	394,438	191.3%
Judicial Administrative Districts	1,164,572	1,242,858	6.7%	1,290,967	3.9%
Prosecuting Attorneys' Council	1,840,926	1,969,089	7.0%	2,015,363	2.4%
Sentence Review Panel	157,415	168,158	6.8%	-	-
Council of Juvenile Court Judges	911,803	1,023,530	12.3%	1,077,570	5.3%
Institute of Continuing Judicial Education (Total)	647,450	652,490	0.8%	711,007	9.0%
Operations	509,750	513,260	0.7%	548,459	6.9%
Magistrate Courts Training Council	137,700	139,230	1.1%	148,098	6.4%
Municipal Courts Training Council	-	-	-	14,450	100.0%
Judicial Council	2,389,352	1,624,442	-32.0%	1,741,322	7.2%
Operations	1,269,363	1,084,686	-14.5%	1,200,578	10.7%
Board of Court Reporting	41,689	70,756	69.7%	74,869	5.8%
Case Counting	76,500	76,500	0.0%	76,500	0.0%
Council of Magistrate Court Judges	26,000	26,700	2.7%	25,835	-3.2%
Council of Probate Court Judges	20,000	20,000	0.0%	20,450	2.3%
Council of State Court Judges	12,000	12,000	0.0%	12,050	0.4%
Council of Superior Court Clerks	33,800	33,800	0.0%	31,040	-8.2%
Appellate Resource Center	250,000	300,000	20.0%	300,000	0.0%
Computerized Information Network	660,000	0	-	-	-
Judicial Qualifications Commission	146,228	178,808	22.3%	217,718	21.8%
Indigent Defense Council	1,000,000	2,000,000	100.0%	3,000,000	50.0%
Georgia Courts Automation Commission	0	1,244,331	-	1,344,703	8.1%
Operations	0	588,985	-	660,903	12.2%
Statewide County Computerized Information Network	0	655,346	-	683,800	4.3%
Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution	-	-	-	229,149	100.0%
Judicial Branch Totals	\$63,674,960	\$68,281,297	7.2%	\$78,549,681	15.0%

Appropriations

The total state budget rose by 10.9 percent for fiscal year 1995; appropriations to the judicial branch increased by 7.2 percent. The judicial branch budget includes funds for 14 superior court judgeships and related positions that are now being filled following a favorable ruling in the federal voting-rights litigation. Ten new judgeships were approved by the General Assembly in 1995.

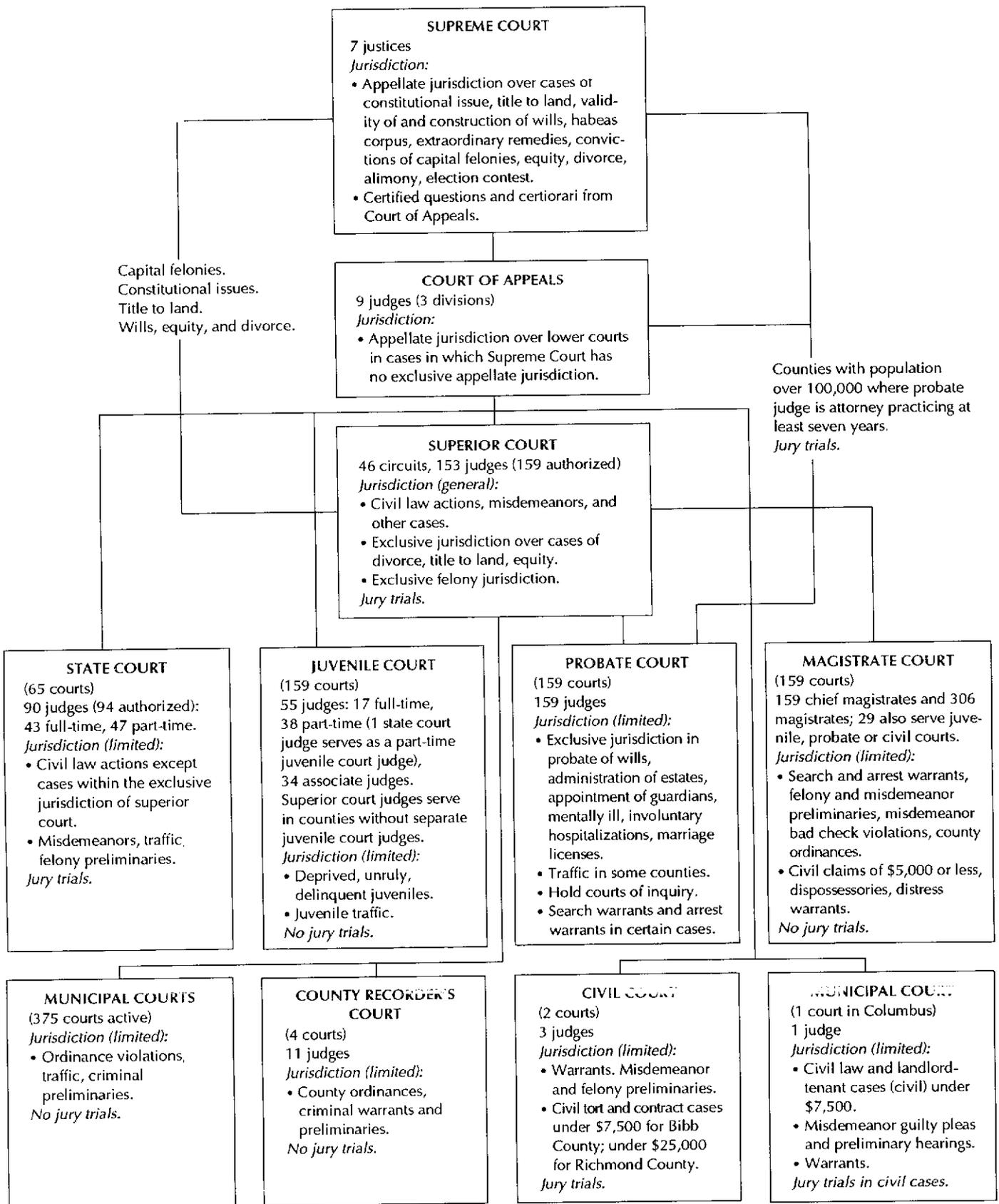
State Judicial Branch Budget Units: Funds Available and Expenditures Fiscal Year 1995

	Supreme Court	Court of Appeals	Superior Courts	Council of Juvenile Court Judges	Institute of Continuing Judicial Education	Judicial Council	Judicial Qualifications Commission	Indigent Defense Council	Georgia Courts Automation Commission	Totals
Funds Available										
General	\$5,433,395	\$6,269,416	\$51,050,860	\$1,023,530	\$652,490	\$1,802,442	\$148,808	\$2,000,000	\$1,244,331	\$69,625,272
Supplemental	0	0	-1,195,975	0	0	-178,000	30,000	0	0	-1,343,975
Total State Funds	5,433,395	6,269,416	49,854,885	1,023,530	652,490	1,624,442	178,808	2,000,000	1,244,331	68,281,297
Federal Funds	31,752	0	1,974,222	181,221	8,006	93,124	0	60,000	108,000	2,456,325
Other Funds	623,513	69,752	2,020,564	0	214,995	117,795	10,030	2,129,155	0	5,185,804
Total Funds Available	\$6,088,660	\$6,339,168	\$53,849,671	\$1,204,751	\$875,491	\$1,835,361	\$188,838	\$4,189,155	\$1,352,331	\$75,923,426
Expenditures										
Personal Services	\$4,668,498	\$5,510,219	\$48,781,803	\$624,741	\$0	\$914,916	\$101,712	\$1,257,483	\$186,157	\$62,045,529
Regular Operating Expenses	491,279	151,457	1,237,733	348,397	193,278	188,035	4,032	2,183,766	6,848	4,804,825
Travel	27,740	14,116	564,636	43,347	0	18,371	3,864	32,801	12,710	717,585
Equipment Purchases	111,815	143,534	25,042	1,994	39,289	18,599	0	140	0	340,413
Computer Charges	124,407	126,249	1,085,314	22,350	15,487	559,847	280	12,604	1,130,700	3,077,238
Real Estate Rentals	322,128	243,133	143,864	41,933	0	31,690	5,206	49,602	2,306	839,862
Telecommunications	38,674	36,472	48,181	15,045	5	18,506	1,573	17,308	3,937	179,701
Per Diem, Fees & Contracts	254,004	22,130	1,698,798	68,543	627,432	84,202	72,170	11,051	8,815	2,847,145
Total Expenditures	\$6,038,545	\$6,247,310	\$53,585,371	\$1,166,350	\$875,491	\$1,834,166	\$188,837	\$3,564,755	\$1,351,473	\$74,852,298

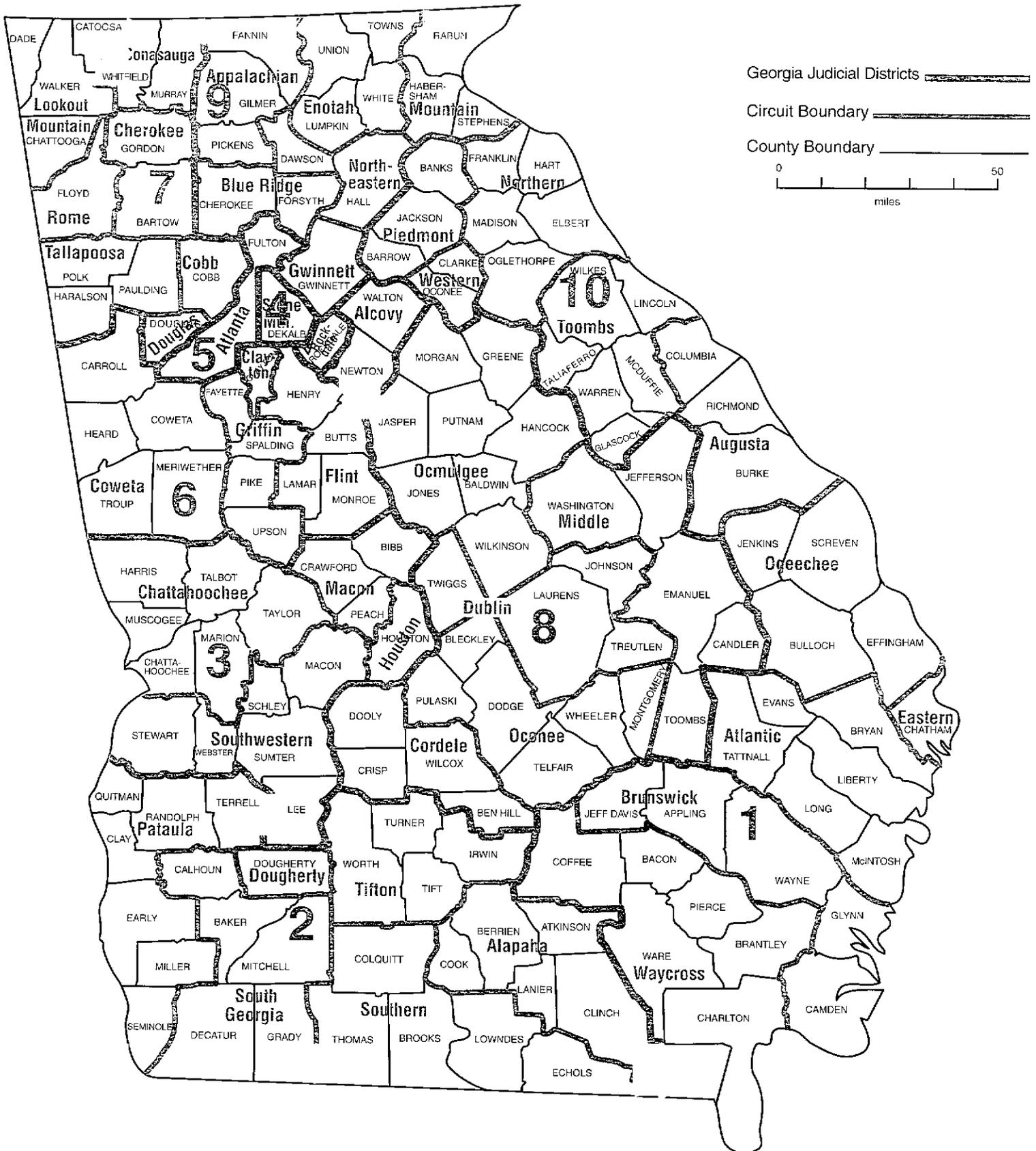
Five-Year Comparison of State Judicial Budget (1992-1996)

Fiscal Year	Total State Appropriation	Percent Change	Judicial Appropriation	Percent Change	Percent of State Budget
1992	\$7,552,871,790	1.2%	\$56,004,791	-0.4%	0.74%
1993	\$8,252,216,454	9.3%	\$60,828,071	8.6%	0.74%
1994	\$9,201,886,925	11.5%	\$63,674,960	4.7%	0.69%
1995	\$10,236,138,444	10.9%	\$68,281,297	7.2%	0.67%
1996	\$10,980,393,127	7.3%	\$78,549,681	15.0%	0.72%

Georgia Court System: June 30, 1995



Georgia's Judicial Districts, Circuits and Counties



Judicial Council of Georgia

THE COURTS

Supreme Court

The Supreme Court has exclusive appellate jurisdiction in the following matters: cases involving the construction of a treaty or of the Georgia or U.S. Constitution; the constitutionality of a law, ordinance or constitutional provision; and election contests. The state constitution gives the Supreme Court jurisdiction of all cases involving title to land, equity, wills, habeas corpus, extraordinary remedies (mandamus, prohibition, quo warranto, etc.), divorce and alimony, all cases certified to it by the Court of Appeals and all cases in which a sentence of death was imposed or could be imposed. Additionally, the Supreme Court may answer any question of law from any state or federal appellate court and may review by certiorari cases in the Court of Appeals which are of great public importance.

Terms of court begin in January, April and September. Oral arguments are heard each month, except August and December. The constitution provides that all cases shall be decided no later than the term following the term to which the case is docketed.

Cases are assigned in rotation to the justices for preparation of opinions and decisions of the whole court. When a justice prepares an opinion, he or she circulates it for study to the other justices and after discussion *en banc* the opinion is adopted or rejected by a majority of the justices. If a justice is unable to serve or disqualifies himself or herself in a particular case, a substitute judge may be designated by the remaining justices to serve.

The seven justices are elected to staggered, six-year terms in statewide, nonpartisan elections. A candidate for judgeship must have been admitted to practice law for at least seven years prior to assuming office. A vacancy on the court is filled by gubernatorial appointment to complete the unexpired term. The justices elect the chief justice and a presiding justice to handle administrative matters for the court. The chief justice presides as chair of the Judicial Council of Georgia.

Each justice has three full-time staff members: two attorneys and one administrative assistant. The attorneys assist the justices in research and the preparation of opinions. They are not permitted to practice law while employed by the court.

The Supreme Court clerk, appointed by the members of the court for a six-year term, is the administrative officer of the court, has charge of the court's records and keeps its minutes. The opinions of the Supreme Court are published by the official reporter who is also appointed by the court.

The Supreme Court has authority to promulgate orders needed to carry out its functions and has rule-making authority for the superior, state, juvenile, probate and magistrate courts. The Administrative Office of the Courts, the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education, the Judicial Council of Georgia, the Office of Bar Admissions, the Office of Dispute Resolution and the State Bar of Georgia assist the Supreme Court in its function and duties. The Supreme Court also supervises the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism.

Supreme Court Caseload: 1993 and 1994

Filed	1993	1994	Disposed	1993	1994
Direct appeals	580	531	By opinion	344 ²	401 ¹⁰
Petitions for certiorari	721	726	Affirmed without opinion (Rule 59)	127 ³	43
Applications for appeal			Allowed withdrawn	29	36
Habeas corpus	122	202	Transferred to the Court of Appeals	128 ⁴	141
Discretionary	249	244 ¹	Appeals dismissed	72	84
Interlocutory	57	51	Petitions for certiorari		
Attorney disciplinarys	140	169	Denied	634 ⁵	609
Original petitions/motions	7	7	Granted	99 ⁶	25 ¹¹
Extraordinary motions	23	16	Other	19	25
Certified questions	3	7	Habeas corpus applications		
Bar admissions	6	5	Denied	93	139
Judicial qualifications	2	3	Granted	1	3
			Other	9	4
Total	1,910	1,961	Discretionary applications		
			Denied	175 ⁷	140 ¹²
			Granted	46	41
			Other	30 ⁸	45
			Interlocutory applications		
			Denied	21	26
			Granted	15	8
			Other	16 ⁹	15
			Extraordinary motions		
			Denied	11	15
			Granted	7	6
			Stricken from docket	1	8
			Bar admissions	5	4
			Judicial qualifications	2	1
			Attorney discipline	47	138 ¹³
			Total	1,931	1,957

¹ Includes 5 applications for Interim Appellate Review.

² In 1993, 425 appeals were disposed of by 344 written opinions.

³ Includes 1 appeal affirmed without opinion, with direction.

⁴ Includes 2 cases remanded and 24 returned to the Court of Appeals.

⁵ Includes 10 writs vacated as improvidently granted.

⁶ Includes 11 writs granted and remanded to the Court of Appeals.

⁷ Includes 2 applications for Interim Appellate Review.

⁸ Includes 16 applications transferred to the Court of Appeals.

⁹ Includes 9 applications transferred to the Court of Appeals.

¹⁰ In 1994, 331 appeals and 70 granted writs of certiorari were disposed of by 355 written opinions.

¹¹ Includes 1 writ granted and remanded to the Court of Appeals.

¹² Includes 3 applications for Interim Appellate Review.

¹³ In 1994, this figure for the first time includes appointments of Special Masters.

The Georgia Court of Appeals was created in 1907 to alleviate the caseload burden of the Georgia Supreme Court. Today the Court of Appeals has become the appellate court with the most signed opinions per judge in the country. It is among the appellate courts with the highest number of cases filed per year, per judge.

The Court of Appeals has constitutional jurisdiction over appeals from superior, state and juvenile courts in all cases where exclusive or general jurisdiction is not reserved to the Supreme Court. These cases include civil claims for damages, child custody cases, workers' compensation and other administrative law cases and all criminal cases other than capital felonies. The court may also certify legal questions to the Supreme Court.

Nine judges serve on panels of three judges each. The chief judge of the court, usually the most senior judge who has not served as chief judge, is elected by the court to a two-year term and is responsible for the administration of the court. On January 5, 1995, in ceremonies held in the Court of Appeals courtroom, Judge Dorothy T. Beasley took office as the 17th Chief Judge of the Georgia Court of Appeals. She is the first woman to be elected to serve as chief judge and the first woman to serve on the Court of Appeals. The chief judge appoints three presiding judges, usually the most senior, to head each panel and assigns judges to the panels each year. The chief judge and the presiding judges form the executive council which decides and/or advises on certain administrative matters.

Panel decisions are final unless a judge dissents. If after a hearing by the full court the judges are equally divided, the case is transferred for decision to the Supreme Court.

Court of Appeals judges are elected to staggered, six-year terms in statewide, nonpartisan elections. A candidate for judgeship must have been admitted to practice law for at least seven years prior to assuming office. In the event of vacancies, the governor appoints successors to complete unexpired terms.

The court has terms beginning in September, January and April. The Georgia Constitution provides that all cases shall be decided no later than the term following the term to which a case is docketed (the "two term" rule) or the case shall be affirmed by operation of law. It is believed that no case has ever been so affirmed.

The Appellate Settlement Conference, which has operated since October 1, 1989, to provide a voluntary settlement conference procedure in civil cases after a notice of appeal is filed in the trial court, will be suspended at the end of fiscal year 1995. The court will continue to use the senior appellate court judges and senior superior court judges to assist, as permitted by OCGA §15-1-9.2 and §15-3-1.

The Court of Appeals has a clerk/court administrator to handle the administrative requirements of the court as well as the court records. During fiscal year 1995, the court hired additional central staff attorneys in an effort to keep pace with the expanding caseload.

Court of Appeals Caseload: 1993 and 1994

Filed	1993	1994	Disposed	1993	1994
Appeals	2,601	2,842	Appeals		
Discretionary applications	479	611	By opinion	2,183	2,315
Interlocutory applications	450	458	By order	512	580
Total	3,530	3,911	Discretionary applications		
			Granted	127	132
			Denied	296	340
			Dismissed	51	64
			Transferred to Supreme Court	0	15
			Withdrawn	1	4
			Changed to Interlocutory	4	0
			Total	479	555
			Interlocutory applications		
			Granted	142	139
			Denied	247	244
			Dismissed	49	37
			Transferred to Supreme Court	1	2
			Withdrawn	0	1
			Total	440	423
			Total	3,614	3,873

The superior court is Georgia's general jurisdiction trial court. It has exclusive, constitutional authority to preside over felony cases and cases regarding title to land, divorce and equity. The exclusive jurisdiction of this court also covers such matters as declaratory judgments, habeas corpus, mandamus, quo warranto and prohibition. The superior court corrects errors made by lower courts by issuing writs of certiorari; for some lower courts, the right to direct review by the superior court applies.

Superior courts are organized into 46 judicial circuits varying in size and population, as well as in the number of judges serving them. Each county has its own superior court, though judges may serve in more than one county. Numbers of superior court judges per circuit range from two judges in each of 16 circuits to 15 judges authorized for the Atlanta Judicial Circuit. A chief judge handles the administrative tasks for each circuit.

The superior courts are also grouped into 10 judicial administrative districts ranging in size from one to 27 counties. A district court administrator and a judge selected as administrative judge serve in each district. Administrative judges have statutory authority to use caseload data and other information for management purposes and to assign superior court judges, with their approval, to serve temporarily in other counties and circuits as needed.

Superior court judges are elected to four-year terms in nonpartisan, circuit-wide races. To qualify as a superior court judge, a candidate must be at least 30 years old, a citizen of Georgia for at least three years, and have practiced law for at least seven years. Superior court judges who have retired from the bench and attained senior status may hear cases in any circuit at the request of a local judge, an administrative judge or the governor.

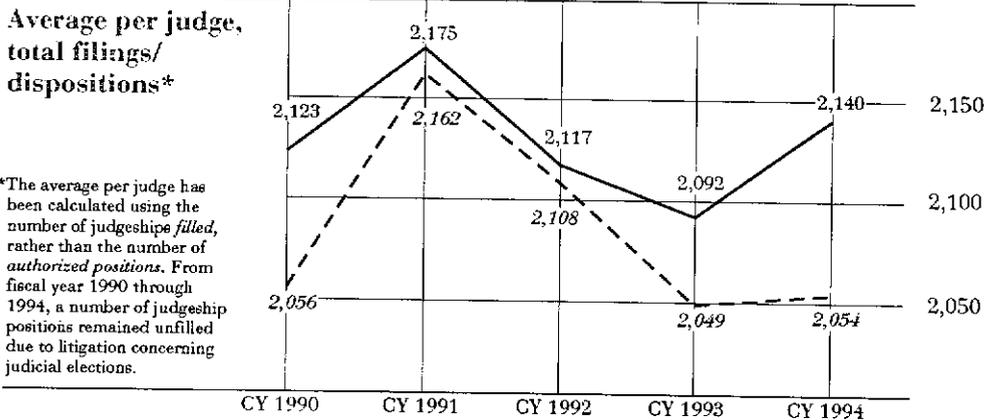
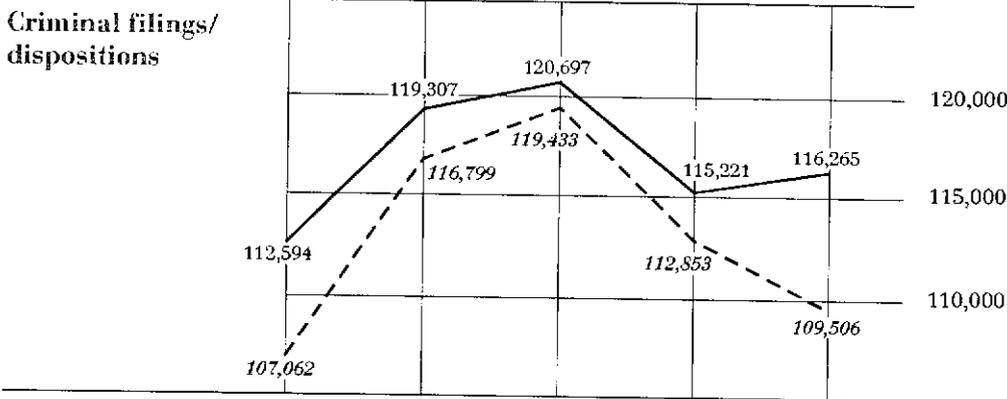
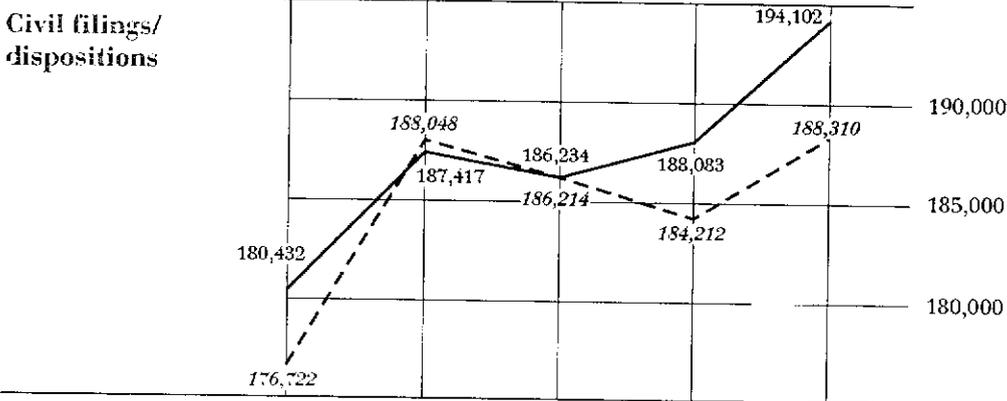
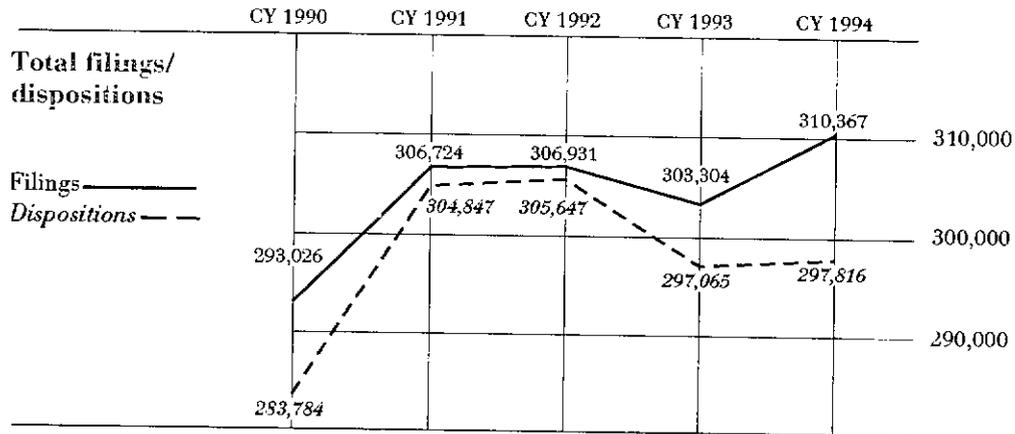
As of June 30, 1995, 153 judges serve in Georgia's 159 superior courts. (The governor is interviewing candidates for six previously authorized judgeships that remain vacant.) The 1995 General Assembly authorized the creation of 10 additional superior court judgeships to be appointed by the governor for the term July 1, 1995, to December 31, 1996.

Graphs on page 19 show total, civil, criminal and average per judge filings and dispositions for calendar years 1990 through 1994. Caseload data for the superior courts for calendar year 1994 by circuit and case type is presented on pages 20 and 21.

About Filing and Disposition Figures

Filing and disposition figures included in this report cannot and should not be considered a complete measurement of judicial workload borne by any given judge in any given court. While more detailed case types and disposition methods may represent more accurately the amount of judicial time required of judges in processing their caseloads, statistics alone cannot describe the relative contributions by various members of the judiciary in the performance of their official duties, nor are they indicative of the effort a judge has put forth or the hours spent in performing the duties of office. Therefore, this report should not be used to evaluate or compare judicial performance.

Superior Court Filing and Disposition Trends, 1990-1994



*The average per judge has been calculated using the number of judgeships filled, rather than the number of authorized positions. From fiscal year 1990 through 1994, a number of judgeship positions remained unfilled due to litigation concerning judicial elections.

Superior Court Caseload, Calendar Year 1994 (docket entries)

Circuit	# of Judges	Total Criminal		Felony		Misdemeanor		Probation Revocation	
		Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed
Alapaha	2	4,184	3,649	1,436	1,129	2,630	2,403	118	117
Alcovy	2	4,831	4,805	1,586	1,515	2,494	2,565	751	725
Appalachian	2	1,372	1,039	479	367	624	407	269	265
Atlanta	12	12,643	11,281	8,991	7,636	225	218	3,427	3,427
Atlantic	3	1,160	1,029	1,000	868	17	18	143	143
Augusta	5	3,577	3,106	2,152	1,746	611	554	814	806
Blue Ridge	3	1,082	1,179	703	795	118	123	261	261
Brunswick	4	2,430	2,334	1,695	1,586	488	501	247	247
Chattahoochee	4	3,212	3,181	2,112	2,075	667	673	433	433
Cherokee	3	2,314	2,300	803	787	736	738	775	775
Clayton	4	3,090	2,940	1,954	1,810	110	104	1,026	1,026
Cobb	7	5,270	4,533	3,867	3,141	140	129	1,263	1,263
Conasauga	3	2,121	2,015	729	643	758	738	634	634
Cordele	2	1,684	1,601	701	654	450	414	533	533
Coweta	3	2,567	2,526	1,891	1,865	252	237	424	424
Dougherty	2	1,938	1,482	1,149	681	285	297	504	504
Douglas	2	2,049	2,224	613	655	852	985	584	584
Dublin	2	1,348	1,353	673	643	468	504	207	206
Eastern	4	3,473	3,398	2,346	2,256	73	88	1,054	1,054
Enotah	2	965	1,009	312	307	487	536	166	166
Flint	2	1,837	1,532	892	657	478	418	467	457
Griffin	3	2,893	2,802	1,414	1,484	1,071	910	408	408
Gwinnett	6	3,046	2,872	2,178	2,006	11	9	857	857
Houston	2	1,211	1,263	729	665	290	412	192	186
Lookout Mountain	4	2,544	2,358	1,013	1,004	996	1,023	535	331
Macon	4	3,352	3,101	1,998	1,815	138	100	1,216	1,186
Middle	2	1,280	1,300	1,175	1,194	7	7	98	99
Mountain	2	1,141	1,261	470	568	302	324	369	369
Northeastern	3	1,807	1,667	1,360	1,168	196	254	251	245
Northern	2	1,802	1,500	863	649	411	323	528	528
Ocmulgee	3	3,622	3,458	1,505	1,432	1,317	1,227	800	799
Oconee	2	1,534	1,397	696	640	554	503	284	254
Ogeechee	2	1,433	1,401	1,100	1,090	9	13	324	298
Pataula	2	1,305	1,263	554	533	504	469	247	261
Piedmont	2	1,668	1,594	624	545	642	648	402	401
Rockdale	2	691	606	461	396	0	0	230	210
Rome	3	2,709	2,761	676	670	1,568	1,646	465	445
South Georgia	2	1,078	1,101	516	515	212	232	350	354
Southern	3	2,742	2,641	1,795	1,687	384	391	563	563
Southwestern	2	2,239	2,167	843	812	653	612	743	743
Stone Mountain	9	6,926	6,676	4,460	4,210	0	0	2,466	2,466
Tallapoosa	3	1,984	2,056	672	663	929	1,010	383	383
Tilton	2	1,183	1,159	466	489	447	427	270	243
Toombs	2	1,596	1,643	412	438	965	986	219	219
Waycross	3	1,616	1,369	1,014	723	111	174	491	472
Western	2	1,716	1,574	1,149	971	78	114	489	489
Total	145	116,265	109,506	64,227	58,183	24,758	24,464	27,280	26,859
Average per Judge*		802	755	443	401	171	169	188	185

*Based on 145 superior court judges

Superior Court Caseload, Calendar Year 1994 (docket entries)

Total Civil		General Civil		Domestic Relations		Total Caseload		Total Open	Circuit
Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Caseload	
1,887	1,709	601	529	1,286	1,180	6,071	5,358	2,037	Alapaha
3,877	3,704	1,218	1,198	2,659	2,506	8,708	8,509	2,737	Alcovy
1,657	1,481	570	484	1,087	997	3,029	2,520	1,423	Appalachian
13,200	10,810	7,162	4,776	6,038	6,034	25,843	22,091	13,753	Atlanta
3,929	3,945	975	978	2,954	2,967	5,089	4,974	1,407	Atlantic
9,489	9,117	2,117	2,038	7,372	7,079	13,066	12,223	7,453	Augusta
2,830	2,738	673	676	2,157	2,062	3,912	3,917	2,061	Blue Ridge
4,373	4,594	1,027	1,206	3,346	3,388	6,803	6,928	1,894	Brunswick
6,042	5,420	2,192	1,706	3,850	3,714	9,254	8,601	5,132	Chattahoochee
3,994	3,941	1,558	1,663	2,436	2,278	6,308	6,241	2,491	Cherokee
4,783	5,178	541	638	4,242	4,540	7,873	8,118	1,785	Clayton
9,586	9,085	1,825	1,858	7,761	7,227	14,856	13,618	5,597	Cobb
4,160	4,253	1,261	1,337	2,899	2,916	6,281	6,268	2,649	Conasauga
2,632	2,531	720	706	1,912	1,825	4,316	4,132	731	Cordele
6,926	6,042	1,491	1,425	5,435	4,617	9,493	8,568	3,619	Coweta
3,606	3,655	629	707	2,977	2,948	5,544	5,137	2,028	Dougherty
2,980	3,096	1,442	1,641	1,538	1,455	5,029	5,320	2,354	Douglas
2,672	2,582	704	631	1,968	1,951	4,020	3,935	1,148	Dublin
5,128	4,850	1,717	1,527	3,411	3,323	8,601	8,248	3,749	Eastern
1,728	1,834	545	631	1,183	1,203	2,693	2,843	494	Enotah
4,568	4,009	1,994	1,684	2,574	2,325	6,405	5,541	4,183	Flint
5,213	5,047	1,562	1,639	3,651	3,408	8,106	7,849	4,236	Griffin
8,939	8,870	3,194	3,151	5,745	5,719	11,985	11,742	3,502	Gwinnett
2,882	2,573	493	498	2,389	2,075	4,093	3,836	2,704	Houston
4,439	4,413	876	884	3,563	3,529	6,983	6,771	2,348	Lookout Mountain
4,353	3,952	1,644	1,456	2,709	2,496	7,705	7,053	4,749	Macon
2,703	2,572	678	609	2,025	1,963	3,983	3,872	1,879	Middle
2,018	2,024	511	531	1,507	1,493	3,159	3,285	594	Mountain
3,431	3,312	964	903	2,467	2,409	5,238	4,979	1,704	Northeastern
2,674	2,608	729	777	1,945	1,831	4,476	4,108	2,623	Northern
4,449	4,368	1,526	1,557	2,923	2,811	8,071	7,826	2,066	Ocmulgee
2,254	2,294	601	618	1,653	1,676	3,788	3,691	798	Oconee
3,819	3,737	886	866	2,933	2,871	5,252	5,138	1,078	Ogeechee
1,963	2,022	481	531	1,482	1,491	3,268	3,285	662	Pataula
2,892	2,780	837	867	2,055	1,913	4,560	4,374	1,693	Piedmont
1,711	1,306	506	488	1,205	818	2,402	1,912	1,190	Rockdale
2,800	2,587	1,032	920	1,768	1,667	5,509	5,348	2,143	Rome
2,624	2,473	608	585	2,016	1,888	3,702	3,574	1,137	South Georgia
6,147	5,684	1,525	1,448	4,622	4,236	8,889	8,325	3,822	Southern
1,772	1,489	700	675	1,072	814	4,011	3,656	1,298	Southwestern
13,460	16,041	1,805	2,570	11,655	13,471	20,386	22,717	4,990	Stone Mountain
3,557	3,772	1,275	1,476	2,282	2,296	5,541	5,828	2,195	Tallapoosa
2,261	2,214	607	624	1,654	1,590	3,444	3,373	1,466	Tifton
1,420	1,376	554	566	866	810	3,016	3,019	990	Toombs
3,671	3,631	1,249	1,251	2,422	2,380	5,287	5,000	2,475	Waycross
2,603	2,591	745	737	1,858	1,854	4,319	4,165	2,010	Western
194,102	188,310	56,550	54,266	137,552	134,044	310,367	297,816	123,077	Total
1,339	1,299	390	374	949	924	2,140	2,054	849	Average per Judge*

A 1970 legislative act established Georgia's state court system by designating certain existing countywide courts of limited jurisdiction as state courts. In the 66 counties where they have been established, state courts may exercise jurisdiction over all misdemeanor violations, including traffic cases, and all civil actions, regardless of the amount claimed, unless the superior court has exclusive jurisdiction.

State courts are authorized to hold hearings on applications for and issuance of search and arrest warrants and to hold preliminary hearings. The Georgia Constitution grants state courts authority to review lower court decisions as provided by statute.

The General Assembly creates state courts by local legislation. The legislature also establishes the number of judges and whether the judges are to be full or part-time. Part-time judges may practice law, except in their own courts.

In fiscal year 1995, 65 state courts operated in 66 of the 159 counties. One state court serves both Cherokee and Forsyth counties. Of the 94 authorized judgeships, 90 are filled; 43 are full-time and 47 are part-time.

State court judges are elected to four-year terms in nonpartisan, countywide elections. Candidates must be at least 25 years old, have been admitted to practice law for at least five years, and have lived in the state for at least three years. The governor fills vacancies by appointment.

*Filings and dispositions are given for those
state courts providing caseload data.*

State Court Caseload, Calendar Year 1994 (number of defendants)

County	Misdemeanor			Filed	Traffic			Filed	Civil			Total		
	Filed	Disposed	Open		Filed	Disposed	Open		Filed	Disposed	Open	Filed	Disposed	Open
Appling	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Baldwin	1,175	1,072	103	4,759	4,687	72	9	6	3	5,943	5,765	178		
Bibb	5,947	5,568	379	4,700	4,470	230	1,322	1,550	856	11,969	11,588	1,465		
Brooks	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		
Bryan	301	133	168	4,266	4,598	313	91	106	113	4,658	4,837	594		
Bulloch	660	630	30	4,000	3,800	200	376	345	31	5,036	4,775	261		
Burke	558	518	40	2,445	2,281	164	188	153	35	3,191	2,952	239		
Candler	124	86	38	2,284	2,093	191	131	84	47	2,539	2,263	276		
Carroll ^a	496	496	0	4,489	4,239	250	520	468	52	5,505	5,203	302		
Chatham	2,602	1,930	951	1,280	1,008	538	2,560	1,974	3,341	6,442	4,912	4,830		
Chattooga	7	5	2	110	85	25	39	28	11	156	118	38		
Cherokee/Forsyth ^b	1,320	1,312	331	4,220	4,128	869	1,589	1,786	1,389	7,129	7,226	2,589		
Clarke	1,358	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Clayton	15,316	15,022	181	14,917	13,973	714	4,428	4,663	548	34,661	33,658	1,443		
Clinch	225	214	11	1,715	1,663	52	14	11	3	1,954	1,888	66		
Cobb	8,158	9,300	N/A	60,111	55,025	N/A	22,488	24,288	N/A	90,757	88,613	N/A		
Coffee	299	178	121	4,184	3,225	959	229	73	156	4,712	3,476	1,236		
Colquitt	876	735	141	1,447	1,287	160	173	77	96	2,496	2,099	397		
Coweta	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	507	828	N/A	10,390	8,824	N/A		
Decatur	602	562	40	2,437	2,209	228	87	45	42	3,126	2,816	310		
DeKalb	7,871	8,448	N/A	3,978	2,469	1,509	55,535	38,320	17,215	67,384	49,237	N/A		
Dougherty	5,012	3,763	1,249	7,624	5,984	1,640	835	626	209	13,471	10,373	3,098		
Early	376	348	28	1,133	1,086	47	40	35	5	1,549	1,469	80		
Effingham	820	664	156	3,554	3,173	381	325	205	120	4,699	4,042	657		
Elbert	686	635	51	1,057	830	227	50	40	10	1,793	1,505	288		
Emanuel	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		
Evans	-	-	-	1,381	1,102	279	37	24	13	1,418	1,126	292		
Fulton	23,198	7,302	6,440	+	+	+	40,021	22,230	N/A	63,219	29,532	N/A		
Glynn	-	-	-	13,501	12,301	1,200	429	274	155	13,930	12,575	1,355		
Grady	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		
Gwinnett	6,873	7,037	4,845	5,588	3,548	2,658	5,600	5,390	3,421	18,061	15,975	10,924		
Habersham	-	-	-	2,993	2,540	154	79	N/A	N/A	3,072	N/A	N/A		
Hall	5,729	5,768	N/A	5,503	5,542	N/A	972	715	N/A	12,204	12,025	N/A		
Houston	1,878	1,803	615	12,488	12,765	1,017	814	769	906	15,180	15,337	2,538		
Jackson	904	869	N/A	12,970	12,167	N/A	137	121	93	14,011	13,157	N/A		
Jeff Davis	350	302	48	632	572	60	46	26	20	1,028	900	128		
Jefferson	415	403	12	1,244	1,187	57	66	49	17	1,725	1,639	86		
Jenkins	171	163	8	1,352	1,325	27	31	23	8	1,554	1,511	43		
Liberty	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		
Long	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		
Lowndes	-	-	-	32,503	31,612	891	546	437	109	33,049	32,049	1,000		
McIntosh	118	162	12	8,398	7,853	823	3	3	0	8,519	8,018	835		
Miller	171	151	20	881	855	26	9	3	6	1,061	1,009	52		
Mitchell	283	236	47	1,318	1,228	90	27	9	18	1,628	1,473	155		
Muscogee	3,691	3,266	425	3,996	3,659	337	1,110	515	N/A	8,797	7,440	N/A		
Pierce	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		
Putnam	144	144	0	1,342	1,342	0	0	0	0	1,486	1,486	0		
Richmond	5,768	5,185	583	24,593	20,404	2,199	1,319	630	689	31,680	26,219	3,471		
Rockdale	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		
Screven	338	320	18	1,743	1,714	29	82	58	24	2,163	2,092	71		
Spalding	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		
Stephens	572	421	151	882	719	163	178	117	61	1,632	1,257	375		
Sumter	739	722	17	1,268	1,268	0	47	15	32	2,054	2,005	49		
Tatt ⁿ all	148	133	15	1,627	1,572	55	84	80	4	1,859	1,785	74		
Thomas	-	-	-	3,585	N/A	500	113	96	17	3,698	N/A	517		
Tift	3,760	2,947	813	7,278	5,858	1,420	113	72	42	11,151	8,877	2,275		
Toombs	506	469	37	1,677	1,590	87	97	70	27	2,280	2,129	151		
Treutlen	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		
Troup	3,801	3,712	89	8,903	8,903	N/A	390	290	100	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Walker	109	101	8	5,378	5,026	352	120	67	53	5,607	5,194	413		
Ware	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	107	160	N/A	4,635	4,024	N/A		

State Court Caseload, Calendar Year 1994 (number of defendants)

County	Misdemeanor			Traffic			Civil			Total		
	Filed	Disposed	Open	Filed	Disposed	Open	Filed	Disposed	Open	Filed	Disposed	Open
Washington	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Wayne	626	588	38	1,484	1,401	83	78	69	9	2,188	2,058	130
Worth	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total	115,081	93,823	18,261	299,218	270,366	21,276	144,191	108,023	30,106	558,449	468,531	43,281

Note: 53 of 65 state courts submitted caseload data as of January 22, 1996.

[*] Caseload data not submitted as of 1/22/96.

[-] Misdemeanor and traffic filings combined.

[+] Traffic filings handled in magistrate court.

[N/A] Data elements not available.

^a Carroll County: misdemeanor and traffic data from 7/1/94 to 6/30/95.

^b Cherokee/Forsyth is a circuit-wide state court. As of 1/22/96, information on Cherokee misdemeanor and traffic cases was not available.

The purpose of Georgia's juvenile courts is to protect the well-being of children, provide guidance and control conducive to child welfare and the best interests of the state, and secure care for children removed from their homes.

The exclusive, original jurisdiction of juvenile courts extends to cases of delinquent and unruly children under the age of 17, and deprived children under the age of 18. Juvenile courts have concurrent jurisdiction with superior courts in cases involving capital felonies, custody and child support cases, and in proceedings to terminate parental rights. However, the superior court now has jurisdiction over juveniles who commit certain violent felonies. In addition, the juvenile court has jurisdiction over minors committing traffic violations or enlisting in the military services, consent to marriage for minors, and cases involving the Interstate Compact on Juveniles. Most cases appealed from the juvenile courts are heard by the Court of Appeals.

There are 55 full- and part-time juvenile court judges. In counties or circuits with no separate juvenile court judge, superior court judges hear juvenile cases. To assist the juvenile or superior court judge with juvenile cases, 34 associate juvenile court judges serve in 39 counties. The qualifications for associate judges appointed after July 1, 1994, are the same as those for juvenile court judges. Associate judges appointed before that date must be admitted to the State Bar or have graduated from law school.

Juvenile court judges serve by appointment of the superior court judges of the circuit for four-year terms. (The juvenile court judge of Floyd County is the only elected juvenile court judge.) Judges must be at least 30 years of age, have practiced law for five years and have lived in Georgia for three years. Full-time judges cannot practice law while holding office.

*Juvenile court filings and dispositions for calendar year 1994
are presented for counties submitting caseload data
to the Administrative Office of the Courts.*

Juvenile Court Caseload, Calendar Year 1994 (number of children)

County	Delinquent			Unruly			Traffic			Deprived			Special Proceedings			Grand Totals		
	Filed	Disposed	Open	Filed	Disposed	Open	Filed	Disposed	Open	Filed	Disposed	Open	Filed	Disposed	Open	Filed	Disposed	Open
Appling	123	98	25	35	30	5	10	10	0	10	5	5	3	3	0	181	146	35
Atkinson	8	8	N/A	14	14	N/A	7	7	N/A	15	15	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Bacon	41	41	4	9	8	1	5	5	0	18	17	4	0	0	0	73	71	9
Baker	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Baldwin	313	240	133	45	40	18	71	61	15	129	119	41	8	8	0	566	468	207
Banks	42	36	13	6	7	0	15	16	2	2	8	1	0	0	0	65	67	16
Barrow	321	315	33	92	91	2	64	62	2	41	17	76	1	0	4	519	485	117
Bartow	580	506	74	276	253	23	261	245	16	247	228	19	91	81	10	1,455	1,313	142
Ben Hill	214	216	20	59	59	3	12	10	3	31	30	8	0	0	0	316	315	34
Berrien	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Bibb	2,137	2,156	200	203	198	13	129	124	9	507	464	78	352	388	182	3,328	3,330	482
Bleckley	65	67	4	4	4	0	2	2	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	75	77	4
Brantley	47	42	9	13	14	0	7	7	0	14	15	2	0	0	0	81	78	11
Brooks	82	73	9	16	11	5	20	19	1	37	35	2	17	16	1	172	154	18
Bryan	132	117	42	64	51	17	41	35	10	36	16	20	0	0	0	273	219	89
Bulloch	219	211	28	83	76	7	62	64	0	23	20	4	1	0	2	388	371	41
Burke	196	105	216	3	2	3	12	3	15	32	29	8	0	0	0	243	139	242
Butts	149	107	42	26	12	14	23	9	14	64	63	1	4	4	N/A	266	195	N/A
Calhoun	13	13	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	15	14	1
Camden	142	121	21	112	101	11	41	36	5	49	43	6	92	90	2	436	391	45
Candler	24	23	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	14	0	0	0	0	37	37	1
Carroll	579	517	62	153	111	42	301	289	12	195	176	19	296	296	0	1,524	1,389	135
Catoosa	196	185	31	123	112	14	71	68	6	54	50	12	1	1	0	445	416	63
Charlton	30	27	3	6	6	0	0	0	0	11	10	1	0	0	0	47	43	4
Chatham	2,462	1,960	502	703	514	189	729	688	41	621	469	152	74	33	41	4,589	3,664	925
Chattahoochee	19	10	12	5	3	3	1	1	0	5	0	5	3	2	4	33	16	24
Chattooga	24	11	13	5	3	2	86	74	12	55	36	19	1	1	0	171	125	46
Cherokee	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Clarke	946	629	327	277	173	104	175	96	79	180	152	38	63	27	36	1,641	1,077	584
Clay	6	3	3	7	7	0	0	0	0	9	9	0	1	1	0	23	20	3
Clayton	2,502	2,019	962	570	491	446	641	524	493	1,080	1,040	369	149	126	90	4,942	4,200	2,360
Clinch	41	41	N/A	7	7	N/A	6	6	N/A	38	38	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cobb	2,996	2,147	849	851	652	199	1,706	1,547	159	1,083	873	210	237	198	39	6,873	5,417	1,456
Coffee	140	95	71	52	56	33	83	45	67	12	2	11	0	0	0	287	198	182
Colquitt	407	292	115	40	37	2	25	25	0	86	72	14	13	6	7	571	432	138
Columbia	422	363	104	166	167	6	96	97	9	19	21	5	7	9	0	710	657	124
Cook	1	1	0	37	37	0	51	48	3	20	3	17	147	122	25	256	211	45
Coweta	742	742	0	200	200	0	205	205	0	287	287	0	21	21	0	1,455	1,455	0
Crawford	25	7	25	2	1	3	4	2	8	15	10	5	0	0	0	46	20	41
Crisp	300	287	31	46	47	0	35	37	0	78	64	18	0	0	0	459	435	49
Dade	37	28	9	16	16	0	14	14	0	33	32	1	0	0	0	100	90	10
Dawson	59	15	44	17	7	10	22	20	2	18	0	18	2	2	0	118	44	74
Decatur	179	166	13	15	14	1	47	47	0	35	30	5	3	2	1	279	259	20
DeKalb	4,660	4,002	1,836	1,606	1,493	602	1,233	N/A	N/A	1,264	N/A	N/A	116	N/A	N/A	8,879	N/A	N/A
Dodge	78	82	4	9	9	2	40	39	1	8	6	3	0	0	0	135	136	10
Dooly	80	56	40	18	10	9	4	4	0	20	15	6	0	0	0	122	85	55
Dougherty	1,230	1,169	61	132	126	6	313	297	16	184	175	9	0	0	0	1,859	1,767	92
Douglas	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Early	163	158	5	2	2	0	6	6	0	4	2	2	0	0	0	175	168	7
Echols	5	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	4	1	0	0	0	10	10	3
Effingham	140	143	3	54	51	3	112	112	0	18	15	5	0	0	0	324	321	11
Elbert	154	152	15	4	6	0	38	42	1	12	14	2	1	1	0	209	215	18
Emanuel	36	32	5	4	4	0	0	0	0	14	13	2	0	0	0	54	49	7
Evans	79	80	11	21	24	1	15	14	3	18	18	4	0	0	0	133	136	19
Fannin	19	22	4	21	16	6	33	31	4	37	44	6	1	0	0	111	113	20
Fayette	313	298	15	238	221	17	390	375	15	175	166	9	65	65	0	1,181	1,125	56
Floyd	638	539	99	357	287	70	311	283	28	292	225	67	92	77	15	1,690	1,411	279
Forsyth	195	194	1	164	163	1	158	153	5	56	53	3	13	13	0	586	576	10
Franklin	60	43	31	6	3	4	24	21	6	32	20	23	0	2	4	122	89	68
Fulton	9,241	9,323	3,713	1,703	1,438	927	1,180	1,344	548	2,067	1,997	707	958	830	518	15,149	14,932	6,413
Gilmer	28	32	8	12	12	7	2	4	1	27	30	4	1	0	3	70	78	23

juvenile Court Caseload, Calendar Year 1994 (number of children)

County	Delinquent			Unruly			Traffic			Deprived			Special Proceedings			Grand Totals		
	Filed	Disposed	Open	Filed	Disposed	Open	Filed	Disposed	Open	Filed	Disposed	Open	Filed	Disposed	Open	Filed	Disposed	Open
Glascock	11	10	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	12	1
Glynn	883	883	N/A	227	227	N/A	188	188	N/A	130	130	N/A	7	7	N/A	1,435	1,435	N/A
Gordon	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Grady	138	129	9	7	7	0	30	30	0	29	27	2	0	0	0	204	193	11
Greene	104	117	1	32	32	0	24	28	0	21	21	0	1	1	0	182	199	1
Gwinnett	2,440	2,012	428	1,033	761	272	2,105	2,001	104	868	740	128	108	92	16	6,554	5,606	948
Habersham	150	151	19	31	31	5	26	28	0	56	50	11	1	0	2	264	260	37
Hall	740	550	190	292	244	48	353	332	21	207	170	37	3	2	1	1,595	1,298	297
Hancock	22	22	0	1	1	0	6	6	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	31	31	0
Haralson	51	167	5	37	83	4	15	40	1	29	81	9	12	21	1	144	392	20
Harris	25	21	31	3	4	6	33	32	11	8	0	16	11	6	10	80	63	74
Hart	75	49	38	9	9	1	14	15	1	17	24	10	0	1	0	115	98	50
Heard	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Henry	347	345	2	157	157	0	65	65	0	106	106	0	7	7	0	682	680	2
Houston	1,793	1,745	48	1,188	1,158	30	303	303	0	661	659	2	3	3	0	3,948	3,868	80
Irwin	43	30	13	11	7	4	20	18	2	15	7	8	4	2	2	93	64	29
Jackson	153	144	35	14	9	5	62	64	7	35	31	17	6	3	6	270	251	70
Jasper	44	32	22	2	2	1	18	19	3	34	27	10	1	1	0	99	81	36
Jeff Davis	87	95	8	36	39	6	29	24	6	12	10	2	0	0	0	164	168	22
Jefferson	61	73	0	12	15	0	4	4	0	76	79	0	4	4	0	157	175	0
Jenkins	29	28	3	18	20	0	9	9	0	18	15	7	0	0	0	74	72	10
Johnson	73	73	5	10	9	1	16	17	0	12	13	0	0	0	0	111	112	6
Jones	75	66	32	19	17	2	35	36	5	33	29	5	6	6	3	168	154	47
Lamar	105	99	26	40	35	10	32	36	2	48	55	1	0	0	0	225	225	39
Lanier	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Laurens	583	459	52	287	253	34	158	86	5	71	32	21	2	2	0	1,101	832	112
Lee	93	86	7	5	5	0	59	58	1	15	15	0	21	20	1	193	184	9
Liberty	555	542	113	258	231	71	103	105	7	172	179	42	0	0	0	1,088	1,057	233
Lincoln	18	20	13	2	2	0	8	8	1	11	12	0	0	0	0	39	42	14
Long	20	21	3	14	10	4	14	14	0	18	19	3	0	0	0	66	64	10
Lowndes	571	N/A	153	128	N/A	40	151	N/A	25	60	60	33	0	0	0	910	N/A	251
Lumpkin	116	113	47	57	45	35	12	14	3	33	26	15	1	1	0	219	199	100
Macon	106	85	21	12	9	3	5	4	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	125	100	25
Madison	59	43	21	3	4	0	48	48	0	38	36	69	0	0	0	148	131	90
Marion	13	5	16	1	0	1	0	0	1	5	0	8	2	0	4	21	5	30
McDuffie	88	84	28	30	29	2	47	43	11	22	21	2	0	0	0	187	177	43
McIntosh	57	53	7	35	31	6	27	26	1	19	18	4	0	0	0	138	128	18
Meriwether	169	160	9	55	54	1	45	44	1	47	44	3	60	51	9	376	353	23
Miller	22	22	N/A	14	14	N/A	15	15	N/A	8	8	N/A	2	2	N/A	61	61	N/A
Mitchell	106	93	13	10	8	2	12	11	1	52	52	0	1	0	1	181	164	17
Monroe	152	134	33	56	51	18	60	52	29	68	37	56	0	0	0	336	274	136
Montgomery	16	7	11	15	16	0	4	4	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	37	28	13
Morgan	77	61	33	9	7	2	44	43	5	26	29	1	2	7	0	158	147	41
Murray	185	350	93	121	222	60	42	92	2	55	111	29	33	53	9	436	828	193
Muscogee	1,518	863	655	766	374	392	347	38	309	512	409	103	832	354	478	3,975	2,038	1,937
Newton	516	331	185	294	172	122	73	39	34	312	197	115	153	75	78	1,348	814	534
Oconee	125	102	39	16	15	4	57	42	20	17	13	22	7	3	9	222	175	94
Oglethorpe	20	17	11	0	0	3	10	11	0	22	23	7	0	0	0	52	51	21
Paulding	220	454	14	96	170	2	54	142	2	21	57	3	11	35	4	402	858	25
Peach	126	109	50	1	1	1	1	1	1	29	13	32	11	8	12	168	132	96
Pickens	70	40	30	38	24	14	11	9	2	40	16	24	0	0	0	159	89	70
Pierce	57	55	8	21	23	1	39	40	4	24	25	3	0	0	0	141	143	16
Pike	46	48	1	25	25	0	19	17	2	34	29	6	0	0	0	124	119	9
Polk	331	434	179	161	236	48	34	58	20	103	220	106	11	12	0	640	960	353
Pulaski	69	64	21	3	3	0	3	3	0	6	6	2	1	0	0	82	76	23
Putnam	53	56	17	14	13	3	6	5	2	41	44	4	0	0	0	114	118	26
Quitman	2	1	1	0	0	0	6	0	6	9	0	9	0	0	0	17	1	16
Rabun	38	38	2	3	3	0	16	16	0	28	9	21	0	0	0	85	66	23
Randolph	90	79	11	4	4	0	16	16	0	14	14	0	0	0	0	124	113	11
Richmond	1,813	1,668	145	296	281	15	108	100	8	387	168	219	182	94	0	2,786	2,311	387
Rockdale	336	282	54	27	25	2	219	192	27	92	76	16	136	125	0	810	700	99

Juvenile Court Caseload, Calendar Year 1994 (number of children)

County	Delinquent			Unruly			Traffic			Deprived			Special Proceedings			Grand Totals		
	Filed	Disposed	Open	Filed	Disposed	Open	Filed	Disposed	Open	Filed	Disposed	Open	Filed	Disposed	Open	Filed	Disposed	Open
Schley	10	9	1	6	6	0	4	3	1	6	6	0	2	1	1	28	25	3
Screven	78	77	6	34	32	3	20	18	2	21	21	3	0	0	0	153	148	14
Seminole	47	38	9	8	3	5	12	8	4	1	0	1	1	0	1	69	49	20
Spalding	612	583	29	149	146	3	111	108	3	542	533	9	2	2	0	1,416	1,372	44
Stephens	101	106	20	16	16	2	22	16	6	50	25	31	0	0	0	189	163	59
Stewart	35	28	7	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	39	32	7
Sumter	385	356	29	121	117	4	28	26	2	65	62	3	5	5	0	604	566	38
Talbot	4	10	15	0	0	0	2	2	1	15	3	22	10	7	5	31	22	43
Taliaferro	12	8	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	8	4
Tattnall	121	106	15	53	47	6	29	25	4	41	37	4	0	0	0	244	215	29
Taylor	15	11	20	1	1	2	7	2	7	6	3	36	1	0	0	30	17	65
Telfair	91	103	4	18	18	0	23	24	0	20	21	0	0	0	0	152	166	4
Terrell	105	104	1	6	6	0	8	8	0	44	44	0	10	10	0	173	172	1
Thomas	306	247	59	77	34	43	67	47	20	84	77	7	5	2	3	539	407	132
Tift	442	386	56	83	71	12	109	100	9	31	5	26	0	0	0	665	562	103
Toombs	118	70	61	6	1	7	7	5	5	35	33	18	44	35	36	210	144	127
Towns	15	16	0	6	6	0	7	7	0	9	7	2	0	0	0	37	36	2
Treutlen	27	28	2	3	3	0	12	8	4	11	14	4	0	0	0	53	53	10
Troup	1,523	1,336	187	276	240	36	209	184	25	364	324	40	37	31	6	2,409	2,115	294
Turner	72	58	14	3	3	0	5	5	0	3	3	0	1	1	1	84	70	15
Twiggs	34	36	7	14	14	0	7	7	0	11	10	4	0	0	0	66	67	11
Union	62	51	18	15	14	3	26	25	2	8	1	20	0	0	0	111	91	43
Upson	312	304	8	55	55	0	40	40	0	92	92	0	0	0	0	499	491	8
Walker	200	213	2	133	147	1	129	136	1	53	52	1	29	28	1	544	576	6
Walton	736	623	113	241	206	35	114	97	17	62	54	8	235	217	18	1,388	1,197	191
Ware	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Warren	9	9	3	1	1	0	7	3	12	6	6	0	0	0	0	23	19	15
Washington	174	167	10	15	16	0	5	5	0	10	11	0	1	1	0	205	200	10
Wayne	182	108	74	22	21	1	57	53	4	28	20	8	0	0	0	289	202	87
Webster	6	6	0	1	1	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	10	10	0
Wheeler	19	21	0	7	7	0	4	4	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	33	35	0
White	86	77	20	35	32	7	27	29	4	19	4	21	0	0	0	167	142	52
Whitfield	370	312	41	265	230	34	399	340	8	203	161	22	287	252	25	1,524	1,295	130
Wilcox	20	15	14	1	1	0	0	0	4	13	2	22	0	0	0	34	18	40
Wilkes	57	58	10	5	5	0	24	21	5	6	6	0	0	0	0	92	90	15
Wilkinson	51	33	37	7	5	4	2	3	0	49	47	3	2	2	0	111	90	44
Worth	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total	56,402	49,904	13,811	16,450	14,231	4,320	15,728	13,328	2,457	16,182	13,297	3,606	5,151	4,020	1,727	109,777	89,089	23,412

Note: 150 of 159 counties submitted caseload data as of January 9, 1996.

[*] Caseload data not submitted.
[N/A] Data elements not available.

County probate courts exercise exclusive, original jurisdiction in the probate of wills, administration of estates, appointment of guardians and involuntary hospitalization of incapacitated adults and other dependent individuals.

When provided by local statute, probate judges serve as election superintendent and appoint persons to fill public offices. All probate court judges administer oaths of office and issue marriage licenses. They may hold habeas corpus hearings or preside over criminal preliminary hearings. In counties where there is no state court, probate courts may also hear traffic cases and violations of state game and fish laws. If there is a demand for a jury trial, these cases are transferred to the superior court.

In counties with population greater than 100,000, where the probate judge has practiced law for at least seven years, a party to a civil case has the right to a jury trial if so asserted by a written demand with the first pleading. Appeals from such civil cases may be to the Supreme Court or Court of Appeals depending on the particular matter.

Most probate court judges are elected to four-year terms in countywide, partisan elections. Fulton, DeKalb and Bartow Counties hold nonpartisan elections. Beginning with the 1996 election, 14 additional counties will hold nonpartisan elections: Banks, Brantley, Butts, Camden, Decatur, Gordon, Harris, Lamar, Laurens, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Pierce, Upson and Wilkes Counties. A candidate for office must be at least 25 years of age, a high school graduate, a U.S. citizen and a county resident for at least two years preceding the election. In counties with population over 100,000, candidates must fulfill additional qualifications concerning age and practice of law.

*Probate court filings and dispositions for fiscal year 1995
are presented for counties submitting caseload data
to the Administrative Office of the Courts.*

Probate Court Criminal Caseload, Fiscal Year 1995 (docket entries)

County	Misdemeanor		Traffic		Total Caseload	
	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed
Atkinson	*	*	*	*	*	*
Bacon ^c	0	0	189	189	189	189
Baker	*	*	*	*	*	*
Banks	94	99	1,405	1,387	1,499	1,486
Barrow	0	0	5,756	5,756	5,756	5,756
Bartow	397	397	6,158	6,158	6,555	6,555
Ben Hill	47	37	888	736	935	773
Berrien	*	*	*	*	*	*
Bleckley ^a	0	0	825	1,110	825	1,110
Brantley	79	79	1,238	1,238	1,317	1,317
Butts ^a	91	103	1,850	1,431	1,941	1,534
Calhoun	*	*	*	*	*	*
Camden	112	130	5,174	6,662	5,286	6,792
Catoosa	*	*	*	*	*	*
Charlton ^d	62	87	1,883	2,201	1,945	2,288
Chattahoochee	*	*	*	*	*	*
Clay ^a	25	24	266	307	291	331
Columbia	*	*	*	*	*	*
Cook	*	*	*	*	*	*
Crawford	138	111	1,968	1,837	2,106	1,948
Crisp	*	*	*	*	*	*
Dade ^b	0	0	1,275	1,461	1,275	1,461
Dawson	96	75	1,326	921	1,422	996
Dodge	*	*	*	*	*	*
Dooly	*	*	*	*	*	*
Douglas	*	*	*	*	*	*
Echols	*	*	*	*	*	*
Fannin	144	144	856	828	1,000	972
Fayette	38	36	2,311	2,240	2,349	2,276
Floyd	0	0	7,010	4,966	7,010	4,966
Franklin	*	*	*	*	*	*
Gilmer	*	*	*	*	*	*
Glascocock	*	*	*	*	*	*
Gordon	68	76	3,949	3,715	4,017	3,791
Grady ^b	21	42	0	0	21	42
Greene	128	121	1,874	1,713	2,002	1,834
Hancock	*	*	*	*	*	*
Haralson	105	85	2,309	2,026	2,414	2,111
Harris ^a	0	0	3,481	3,505	3,481	3,505
Hart	147	150	712	686	859	836
Heard ^d	78	78	766	766	844	844
Henry	95	83	7,497	7,395	7,592	7,478
Irwin	*	*	*	*	*	*
Jasper	154	154	1,314	1,314	1,468	1,468
Johnson	*	*	*	*	*	*
Jones ^a	54	37	2,270	1,437	2,324	1,474
Lamar	*	*	*	*	*	*
Lanier	*	*	*	*	*	*
Laurens	129	116	4,619	4,375	4,748	4,491
Lee	0	0	1,649	1,743	1,649	1,743
Lincoln	*	*	*	*	*	*
Lumpkin	*	*	*	*	*	*
Macon ^a	0	0	1,195	914	1,195	914
Madison	*	*	*	*	*	*
Marion	0	0	933	941	933	941
McDuffie	0	0	2,283	2,124	2,283	2,124
McIntosh ^b	0	0	0	64	0	64
Meriwether ^a	98	85	1,924	1,498	2,022	1,583
Monroe	185	181	13,643	12,971	13,828	13,152
Montgomery	*	*	*	*	*	*
Morgan	0	0	2,571	2,436	2,571	2,436
Murray	*	*	*	*	*	*

Probate Court Criminal Caseload, Fiscal Year 1995 (docket entries)

County	Misdemeanor		Traffic		Total Caseload	
	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed
Newton	*	*	*	*	*	*
Oconee ^a	0	0	2,726	2,726	2,726	2,726
Oglethorpe	6	6	615	615	621	621
Paulding ^b	32	6	1,109	694	1,141	700
Peach ^a	0	0	4,789	4,789	4,789	4,789
Pickens	*	*	*	*	*	*
Pike	*	*	*	*	*	*
Polk	78	74	2,412	2,252	2,490	2,326
Pulaski	0	0	1,254	1,254	1,254	1,254
Quitman	*	*	*	*	*	*
Rabun	*	*	*	*	*	*
Randolph	24	47	3,028	4,630	3,052	4,677
Schley	*	*	*	*	*	*
Seminole	40	36	1,768	1,516	1,808	1,552
Stewart	*	*	*	*	*	*
Talbot	0	0	3,167	3,159	3,167	3,159
Taliaferro	*	*	*	*	*	*
Taylor ^b	0	0	2,357	2,403	2,357	2,403
Telfair ^a	65	52	975	803	1,040	855
Terrell	55	36	2,383	2,283	2,438	2,319
Thomas ^a	17	14	0	0	17	14
Towns	53	35	243	222	296	257
Turner	0	0	5,086	3,834	5,086	3,834
Twiggs ^a	55	55	1,162	1,162	1,217	1,217
Union	126	152	991	1,186	1,117	1,338
Upson	*	*	*	*	*	*
Walton	148	138	4,899	4,447	5,047	4,585
Warren	0	0	917	1,004	917	1,004
Webster	*	*	*	*	*	*
Wheeler ^a	10	10	544	358	554	368
White	0	0	786	553	786	553
Whitfield	48	48	14,259	14,259	14,307	14,307
Wilcox	*	*	*	*	*	*
Wilkes	81	75	983	878	1,064	953
Wilkinson	40	28	457	396	497	424
Total	3,463	3,342	150,277	144,474	153,740	147,816

Note: 40 probate courts with criminal jurisdiction submitted caseload data for 1995.

[*] Caseload data not submitted.

^a Reported three quarters.

^b Reported two quarters.

^c Reported one quarter.

^d Data from calendar year 1994.

Probate Court Civil Caseload, Fiscal Year 1995 (docket entries)

County	No Administration		Probate		Year's		Habeas Corpus	Total Civil	Licenses		
	Administration	Necessary	Common	Solemn	Guardianship	Support			Hospitalization	Marriage	Pistol
Appling	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Atkinson	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Bacon ^c	2	1	0	3	2	0	0	0	8	27	22
Baker	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Baldwin	25	12	3	114	26	5	167	0	352	376	370
Banks	7	0	0	31	2	11	8	0	59	57	110
Barrow	25	2	2	62	82	10	38	0	221	265	355
Bartow	66	10	0	246	86	11	81	0	500	475	932
Ben Hill	14	5	1	49	9	1	15	0	94	216	164
Berrien	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Bibb	84	23	12	451	112	39	27	0	748	1,391	1,036
Bleckley ^a	2	0	4	21	4	2	0	0	33	73	169
Brantley	15	0	2	34	6	4	0	0	61	132	75
Brooks	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Bryan	14	3	0	29	26	4	9	0	85	111	187
Bulloch	23	2	1	90	43	4	43	0	206	341	263
Burke	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Butts	5	1	2	38	6	5	6	0	63	102	115
Calhoun	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Camden	19	1	1	29	16	5	1	1	73	584	150
Candler	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Carroll	55	6	2	192	41	30	1	0	327	810	614
Catoosa	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Charlton ^d	23	1	0	17	13	0	5	0	59	1,113	37
Chatham	160	27	44	540	465	76	128	0	1,440	1,849	1,431
Chattahoochee	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Chattooga ^b	11	2	4	34	9	0	18	0	78	91	58
Cherokee	42	9	13	160	66	30	29	0	349	537	799
Clarke	55	13	10	201	82	11	66	0	438	693	553
Clay ^a	1	0	2	9	0	1	0	2	15	14	24
Clayton	93	15	18	302	359	54	52	0	893	2,380	1,555
Clinch ^b	5	0	0	4	8	0	0	0	17	26	7
Cobb	176	36	34	871	461	66	119	21	1,784	4,441	3,492
Coffee	23	8	3	71	21	3	0	0	129	325	201
Colquitt	18	12	5	97	11	5	21	0	169	358	195
Columbia	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Cook	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Coweta	40	6	5	160	95	18	54	0	378	554	666
Crawford	8	0	0	17	20	2	0	0	47	59	89
Crisp	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Dade ^b	5	0	2	6	11	0	3	0	27	462	20
Dawson	10	4	0	22	7	5	15	0	63	83	145
DeKalb	763	71	235	1,209	1,664	202	721	7	4,872	4,640	4,453
Decatur	35	1	9	117	32	5	29	0	228	234	122
Dodge	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Dooly	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Dougherty	81	8	10	208	95	5	115	0	522	936	812
Douglas	26	5	1	134	81	16	0	0	263	778	686
Early	6	2	2	25	10	1	8	0	54	76	114
Echols	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Effingham ^d	36	4	18	58	132	14	34	0	296	352	407
Elbert	11	3	0	54	16	10	10	0	104	132	145
Emanuel	16	9	1	55	23	7	25	0	136	172	124
Evans	11	2	0	22	9	0	12	0	56	83	79
Fannin	16	2	0	40	21	8	12	0	99	122	218
Fayette	24	2	5	118	74	21	1	1	246	706	758
Floyd	48	6	5	280	72	13	90	0	514	772	821
Forsyth	15	4	2	124	19	4	10	0	178	513	579
Franklin	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Fulton	530	134	172	1,710	1,555	136	27	1	4,265	6,356	3,244
Gilmer	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

Probate Court Civil Caseload, Fiscal Year 1995 (docket entries)

County	No Administration		Probate		Year's		Habeas Corpus	Total Civil	Licenses		
	Administration	Necessary	Common	Solemn	Guardianship	Support Hospitalization			Marriage	Pistol	
Glascok	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Glynn ^b	36	3	4	79	39	36	19	0	216	460	225
Gordon	29	4	3	65	38	3	22	0	164	270	344
Grady ^a	15	7	1	52	33	0	29	0	137	181	122
Greene	11	2	4	26	16	0	21	0	80	67	114
Gwinnett	115	15	20	515	438	114	36	2	1,255	3,667	3,393
Habersham ^b	39	10	3	155	53	5	4	0	269	269	370
Hall	57	11	4	282	64	19	27	0	464	901	867
Hancock	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Haralson	26	3	1	71	40	13	25	0	179	215	240
Harris ^a	11	0	2	67	8	10	0	0	98	176	197
Hart	13	3	0	60	9	8	23	0	116	102	144
Heard ^d	8	3	0	32	15	5	15	0	78	85	111
Henry	41	14	5	157	122	29	29	0	397	590	977
Houston ^b	21	7	1	102	71	9	21	0	232	410	554
Irwin	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Jackson ^a	24	9	1	76	20	15	27	0	172	157	236
Jasper	6	1	0	18	6	9	1	0	41	77	121
Jeff Davis	1	1	0	27	8	0	0	0	37	135	80
Jefferson	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Jenkins	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Johnson	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Jones ^a	15	4	2	45	22	2	13	0	103	117	185
Lamar	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Lanier	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Laurens	33	7	5	105	24	4	44	0	222	364	323
Lee	8	3	1	23	34	2	8	0	79	138	264
Liberty	70	2	0	106	264	6	25	0	473	547	116
Lincoln	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Long	10	1	0	10	13	1	12	0	47	40	47
Lowndes	49	15	5	158	50	16	43	0	336	842	491
Lumpkin	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Macon ^a	7	0	2	23	4	1	6	39	82	72	86
Madison	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Marion	6	0	2	18	3	2	0	0	31	50	39
McDuffie	16	11	0	68	31	1	22	1	150	152	223
McIntosh ^b	6	1	0	10	2	1	9	0	29	27	30
Meriwether ^a	21	3	7	25	21	5	13	0	95	81	147
Miller ^b	0	0	0	12	4	0	0	0	16	24	26
Mitchell ^a	8	3	0	35	15	1	9	0	71	115	98
Monroe	10	0	5	40	26	2	8	0	91	125	260
Montgomery	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Morgan	5	2	0	39	6	13	11	0	76	91	91
Murray	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Muscogee	153	15	9	513	293	89	125	0	1,197	1,993	705
Newton	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Oconee ^a	6	3	2	34	32	0	7	0	84	81	155
Oglethorpe	16	0	0	32	21	3	10	0	82	74	161
Paulding ^b	11	3	0	55	32	4	0	0	105	225	320
Peach ^a	8	0	0	60	7	2	4	0	81	102	113
Pickens	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Pierce	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Pike	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Polk	20	4	1	98	23	3	79	0	228	315	290
Pulaski	2	4	3	26	11	0	0	0	46	89	111
Putnam ^b	3	3	3	19	11	0	4	0	43	52	82
Quitman	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Rabun	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Randolph	11	1	3	23	3	0	4	0	45	62	102
Richmond	130	50	26	422	143	163	137	0	1,071	1,402	1,103
Rockdale	25	5	0	125	129	24	0	0	308	563	628

Probate Court Civil Caseload, Fiscal Year 1995 (docket entries)

County	No		Probate		Year's		Habeas Corpus	Total Civil	Licenses		
	Administration	Necessary	Common	Solemn	Guardianship	Support			Hospitalization	Marriage	Pistol
Schley	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Screven	23	7	0	28	12	6	8	1	85	87	99
Seminole	10	6	0	27	6	0	7	0	56	534	66
Spalding	37	9	4	163	91	27	39	0	370	508	651
Stephens	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Stewart	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Sumter	19	0	3	85	19	7	15	0	148	272	294
Talbot	4	0	0	31	7	1	1	0	44	22	81
Taliaferro	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Tattnall	27	0	0	36	29	3	6	0	101	136	101
Taylor ^a	9	1	1	24	12	1	0	0	48	91	121
Telfair ^a	9	0	0	22	5	0	4	0	40	63	51
Terrell	8	3	2	39	11	0	1	0	64	83	144
Thomas	21	2	5	118	30	7	474	0	657	422	196
Tift	28	3	2	67	26	2	34	0	162	440	390
Toombs ^c	7	4	0	24	9	2	2	0	48	84	57
Towns	7	1	0	31	11	2	1	0	53	41	114
Treutlen	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Troup	60	4	8	169	51	18	52	0	362	514	611
Turner	7	0	0	28	12	2	2	0	51	62	70
Twiggs ^a	6	0	3	19	2	5	49	0	84	46	71
Union	12	2	5	39	24	3	0	0	85	119	159
Upson	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Walker ^a	30	7	9	127	58	13	36	0	280	99	253
Walton	37	17	4	126	36	13	41	2	276	315	457
Ware	21	12	5	93	15	13	31	0	190	374	227
Warren ^a	0	0	1	32	3	3	4	0	43	35	77
Washington ^a	12	3	4	40	16	2	2	0	79	96	129
Wayne	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Webster	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Wheeler ^a	1	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	6	33	12
White	4	2	3	45	8	1	14	0	77	166	109
Whitfield	54	14	2	206	40	13	39	0	368	502	505
Wilcox	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Wilkes	19	0	1	47	24	0	20	0	111	51	73
Wilkinson	18	2	0	34	13	1	19	0	87	65	143
Worth	13	4	1	63	35	3	13	0	132	181	234
Total	4,249	789	818	13,729	8,701	1,612	3,806	78	33,782	54,763	46,182

Note: 114 of 159 probate courts submitted caseload data for 1995.

[*] Caseload data not submitted.

^a Reported three quarters.

^b Reported two quarters.

^c Reported one quarter.

^d Data from calendar year 1994.

Magistrate Courts

Magistrate court jurisdiction encompasses civil claims of \$5,000 or less; distress warrants and dispossessory writs; county ordinance violations; misdemeanor deposit account fraud (bad checks); preliminary hearings; and summonses, arrest warrants and search warrants. A chief magistrate, who may be assisted by one or more magistrates, presides over each of the 159 magistrate courts in the state.

Magistrates may grant bail in cases where the setting of bail is not exclusively reserved to a judge of another court. Magistrates also administer oaths and issue subpoenas, as well as sentence up to 10 days imprisonment for contempt and/or fine up to \$200.

No jury trials are held in magistrate court. If a defendant submits a written request for a jury trial, cases are removed to superior or state court.

The chief magistrate of each county assigns cases, sets court sessions, appoints other magistrates (with the consent of the superior court judges) and resolves disputes among magistrates. The number of magistrates in addition to the chief is usually set by majority vote of the superior court judges.

Chief magistrates are elected in partisan, countywide elections to four-year terms, unless otherwise provided by local legislation. Terms for other magistrate judges run concurrently with that of the chief magistrate who appointed them.

To qualify as a magistrate, an individual must reside in the county for at least one year preceding his or her term of office, be 25 years of age, and have a high school diploma or its equivalent. New magistrates, unless active members of the State Bar, are required to complete an initial 40-hour course for certification. All magistrates must attend annual 20-hour continuing education seminars to maintain certification.

Judges of other limited jurisdiction courts may also serve as magistrates in the same county. At the end of fiscal year 1995, 159 chief magistrates and 306 magistrates served in Georgia; 24 probate judges, two civil court judges and three juvenile court judges or associate judges were among this number.

*Magistrate court filings and dispositions for fiscal year 1995
are presented for counties submitting caseload data
to the Administrative Office of the Courts.*

Magistrate Court Caseload, Fiscal Year 1995 (cases filed)

County	Warrants Issued	Bond & Commitment		Criminal Cases		Civil Claims		Other Civil Cases		Total Warrants & Filings	Total Hearings & Dispositions
		Hearings		Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed		
Appling	814	644	467	244	712	428	167	167	2,160	1,483	
Atkinson ^c	338	28	102	0	215	134	58	0	713	162	
Bacon	413	268	229	229	386	386	374	370	1,402	1,253	
Baker	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Baldwin ^a	1,013	33	0	158	637	637	584	584	2,234	1,412	
Banks	679	189	18	14	202	200	102	100	1,001	503	
Barrow	1,865	905	234	234	566	566	829	829	3,494	2,534	
Bartow ^d	1,445	N/A	1,009	N/A	1,105	N/A	939	N/A	4,498	0	
Ben Hill ^e	1,242	817	458	170	873	735	824	812	3,397	2,534	
Berrien	1,185	0	2	1	538	376	215	114	1,940	491	
Bibb	7,464	4,078	3,349	2,732	4,173	5,368	2,212	1,849	17,198	14,027	
Bleckley	814	161	383	305	281	353	221	268	1,699	1,087	
Braniley ^b	146	93	44	45	116	116	24	24	330	278	
Brooks	569	373	165	152	765	365	375	305	1,874	1,195	
Bryan	857	163	25	24	343	310	159	135	1,384	632	
Bulloch ^b	2,202	144	4	4	582	816	527	505	3,315	1,469	
Burke ^b	608	152	0	0	352	386	212	163	1,172	701	
Butts	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Calhoun	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Camden	1,161	297	1,059	1,053	737	601	470	430	3,427	2,381	
Candler	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Carroll	2,510	872	1,334	1,240	1,537	1,012	1,359	1,342	6,740	4,466	
Catoosa	1,992	669	1,772	761	543	545	610	495	4,917	2,470	
Charlton	570	504	282	234	273	228	151	89	1,276	1,055	
Chatham	10,068	8,291	4,459	5,765	7,867	4,834	10,062	1,185	32,456	20,075	
Chattahoochee	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Chattooga	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Cherokee	5,366	1,827	332	244	1,088	865	1,617	1,187	8,403	4,123	
Clarke	7,550	3,751	4,636	1,579	1,567	1,298	2,372	255	16,125	6,883	
Clay ^b	52	34	0	0	23	24	17	13	92	71	
Clayton	10,760	11,616	1,993	2,184	2,263	1,724	11,791	8,363	26,807	23,887	
Clinch	477	11	88	0	274	274	118	80	957	365	
Cobb ^e	19,030	15,393	6,124	6,124	3,492	2,818	2,523	1,315	31,169	25,650	
Coffee	4,522	637	85	85	1,616	1,616	1,364	278	7,587	2,616	
Colquitt	2,034	151	5	5	1,853	20	574	0	4,466	176	
Columbia	1,841	279	2,225	1,799	934	781	609	276	5,609	3,135	
Cook ^b	536	6	235	2	292	231	146	100	1,209	339	
Coweta	2,768	64	1,112	594	1,305	924	1,400	1,010	6,585	2,592	
Crawford ^d	291	137	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	291	137	
Crisp	1,378	1,117	621	483	717	673	724	649	3,440	2,922	
Dade ^b	294	123	0	0	112	72	14	12	420	207	
Dawson	630	536	33	12	224	359	118	0	1,005	907	
Decatur	1,194	239	N/A	N/A	857	N/A	395	N/A	2,446	239	
DeKalb ^b	12,014	23,738	1,412	1,937	2,838	1,590	25	0	16,289	27,265	
Dodge	1,009	0	304	175	590	383	240	135	2,143	693	
Dooly	465	43	0	0	273	67	139	40	877	150	
Dougherty	4,506	6,313	1,051	984	3,117	2,746	4,391	2,826	13,065	12,869	
Douglas ^c	3,552	123	74	69	616	668	1,454	86	5,696	946	
Early	682	261	0	0	601	601	359	359	1,642	1,221	
Echols	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Effingham	1,192	501	145	145	178	122	217	217	1,732	985	
Elbert	1,314	551	54	89	462	422	295	123	2,125	1,185	
Emanuel	928	510	483	450	1,149	1,081	564	426	3,124	2,467	
Evans ^c	415	107	0	0	216	178	153	134	784	419	
Fannin	579	120	341	129	258	158	89	63	1,267	470	
Fayette	1,413	1,115	532	324	616	570	414	322	2,975	2,331	
Floyd	3,844	2,402	1,564	1,611	3,183	1,873	3,537	1,053	12,128	6,939	
Forsyth ^c	1,849	570	448	448	344	344	338	338	2,979	1,700	
Franklin	801	585	377	337	525	568	310	133	2,013	1,623	
Fulton	11,969	23,273	32,562	22,100	8,241	3,947	42,673	15,820	95,445	65,140	
Gilmer ^c	542	60	200	126	422	344	161	120	1,325	650	

Magistrate Court Caseload, Fiscal Year 1995 (cases filed)

County	Warrants Issued	Bond & Commitment		Criminal Cases		Civil Claims		Other Civil Cases		Total Warrants & Filings	Total Hearings & Dispositions
		Hearings		Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed		
GlascocK	20	2	0	0	50	25	12	5	82	32	
Glynn ^c	2,657	2,533	952	889	1,668	1,668	1,613	1,613	6,890	6,703	
Gordon	2,929	727	979	267	1,368	901	914	38	6,190	1,933	
Grady	1,440	468	222	609	1,340	1,113	564	535	3,566	2,725	
Greene ^f	695	563	68	53	509	423	213	33	1,485	1,072	
Gwinnett	10,708	5,454	1,937	1,166	3,742	3,140	8,527	5,032	24,914	14,792	
Habersham	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Hall	4,711	6,315	2,740	1,978	1,747	1,861	2,121	1,734	11,319	11,888	
Hancock	392	337	27	27	646	632	234	231	1,299	1,227	
Haralson	847	83	2	2	383	273	166	126	1,398	484	
Harris	952	312	170	159	433	412	284	278	1,839	1,161	
Hart	906	864	182	80	449	310	210	172	1,747	1,426	
Heard ^c	321	69	45	36	261	196	60	43	687	344	
Henry	2,167	3,982	777	788	940	1,119	1,088	246	4,972	6,135	
Houston ^c	5,495	3,694	1,032	1,032	1,370	1,270	1,344	1,290	9,241	7,286	
Irwin	332	440	13	13	301	301	221	179	867	933	
Jackson	2,444	409	3	4	629	1,323	735	884	3,811	2,620	
Jasper ^b	141	64	19	19	106	124	85	50	351	257	
Jeff Davis	659	338	353	353	577	584	309	309	1,898	1,584	
Jefferson	1,132	677	285	285	1,107	1,107	615	615	3,139	2,684	
Jenkins	373	45	0	0	566	410	284	238	1,223	693	
Johnson	462	1	36	25	248	218	234	134	980	378	
Jones	635	84	0	0	511	344	202	101	1,348	529	
Lamar ^c	838	472	0	0	382	378	269	222	1,489	1,072	
Lanier ^c	211	16	117	117	185	185	26	24	539	342	
Laurens	3,186	2,391	1,103	1,093	1,193	1,149	1,234	1,231	6,716	5,864	
Lee ^b	334	322	84	84	138	128	116	91	672	625	
Liberty	2,896	1,082	68	67	1,521	1,102	981	664	5,466	2,915	
Lincoln	229	48	35	35	206	206	110	109	580	398	
Long	369	147	194	0	184	177	70	0	817	324	
Lowndes	9,251	3,626	3,522	1,615	2,826	332	2,295	65	17,894	5,638	
Lumpkin ^c	576	524	152	121	203	153	141	102	1,072	900	
Macon ^c	338	69	42	0	300	93	182	50	862	212	
Madison ^c	377	210	353	138	368	334	117	108	1,215	790	
Marion ^c	122	108	0	0	87	67	122	39	331	214	
McDuffie	808	68	447	73	1,073	749	746	750	3,074	1,640	
McIntosh	603	460	97	72	293	235	50	42	1,043	809	
Meriwether	826	24	233	233	754	755	368	368	2,181	1,380	
Miller	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Mitchell	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Monroe	743	316	104	83	755	616	428	346	2,030	1,361	
Montgomery ^b	190	0	75	0	215	200	37	37	517	237	
Morgan	666	356	229	124	397	261	309	159	1,601	900	
Murray ^a	1,030	333	481	10	914	0	652	0	3,077	343	
Muscogee	0	0	0	0	1,058	180	0	0	1,058	180	
Newton	3,521	805	1,720	1,439	1,040	826	1,184	674	7,465	3,744	
Oconee	741	1,013	70	31	267	159	228	170	1,306	1,373	
Oglethorpe	338	267	62	62	315	315	83	83	798	727	
Paulding	1,002	183	365	291	452	363	512	480	2,331	1,317	
Peach ^b	334	228	250	131	301	150	212	41	1,097	550	
Pickens ^c	464	15	232	33	242	233	121	50	1,059	331	
Pierce	1,133	262	26	25	323	267	135	33	1,617	587	
Pike	504	314	48	48	259	249	95	83	906	694	
Polk	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Pulaski	443	237	0	0	294	193	138	67	875	497	
Putnam ^b	524	294	0	0	392	392	216	131	1,132	817	
Quitman	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Rabun ^b	356	6	107	111	131	166	45	53	639	336	
Randolph	303	29	28	29	304	289	69	69	704	416	
Richmond	11,585	1,778	2,184	1,550	4,924	3,953	6,363	4,271	25,056	11,552	
Rockdale	2,490	1,596	1,480	1,073	972	770	1,275	1,265	6,217	4,704	

Magistrate Court Caseload, Fiscal Year 1995 (cases filed)

County	Warrants Issued	Bond & Commitment		Criminal Cases		Civil Claims		Other Civil Cases		Total Warrants & Filings	Total Hearings & Dispositions
		Hearings		Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed		
Schley	75	77	10	3	121	72	44	21	250	173	
Screven	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Seminole	224	71	168	132	236	236	70	70	698	509	
Spalding	5,574	4,062	1,496	1,257	1,599	1,437	3,513	1,579	12,182	8,335	
Stephens	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Stewart	244	94	13	0	78	0	62	10	397	104	
Sumter	2,095	1,017	13	13	2,169	2,027	1,438	1,438	5,715	4,495	
Talbot ^c	141	0	0	0	128	128	12	12	281	140	
Taliaferro	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Tattnall	633	299	553	541	619	619	271	65	2,076	1,524	
Taylor ^d	698	143	43	43	360	360	183	183	1,284	729	
Telfair	626	83	200	214	648	513	340	340	1,814	1,150	
Terrell	515	365	168	143	402	324	255	34	1,340	866	
Thomas	2,839	1,431	1,038	736	3,463	2,881	1,555	60	8,895	5,108	
Tift	2,776	1,012	1,166	0	1,394	1,394	1,297	1,297	6,633	3,703	
Toombs ^c	2,691	129	1,101	1,061	595	271	531	89	4,918	1,550	
Towns	353	18	0	0	61	53	15	11	429	82	
Treutlen	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Troup ^e	2,421	749	592	56	4,436	4,066	3,504	2,148	10,953	7,019	
Turner	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Twiggs	484	179	81	64	285	271	128	123	978	637	
Union	454	70	89	72	180	180	27	24	750	346	
Upson	1,151	536	135	85	974	685	672	167	2,932	1,473	
Walker	1,269	581	186	156	1,174	680	703	350	3,332	1,767	
Walton ^b	1,019	651	622	429	481	493	865	796	2,987	2,369	
Ware	1,997	1,271	2,169	1,501	1,069	900	907	736	6,142	4,408	
Warren	160	7	22	0	437	213	231	113	850	333	
Washington	1,665	266	322	310	1,838	1,871	755	651	4,580	3,098	
Wayne ^c	660	272	498	446	589	597	380	382	2,127	1,697	
Webster	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Wheeler ^c	125	85	3	0	132	20	43	0	303	105	
White	670	847	197	193	279	229	142	110	1,288	1,379	
Whitfield ^c	1,842	52	1,678	1,678	1,573	1,573	1,151	996	6,244	4,299	
Wilcox	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Wilkes	366	170	107	5	570	570	333	333	1,376	1,078	
Wilkinson	460	92	6	5	441	441	190	190	1,097	728	
Worth ^b	521	71	0	0	257	247	99	102	877	420	
Total	266,249	174,634	108,857	81,016	131,856	102,467	158,295	83,692	665,257	441,809	

Note:

140 of 159 magistrate courts submitted caseload data.

[*] Caseload data not submitted.

[N/A] Data elements not provided by court.

^a Reported one quarter.

^b Reported two quarters.

^c Reported three quarters.

^d Data from calendar year 1994.

^e Reported only three quarters of criminal caseload.

^f Reported only three quarters of civil caseload.

^g Reported only two quarters of criminal caseload.

Other Courts

Approximately 400 local courts, along with the two appellate and five classes of trial courts, form the Georgia court system. Special courts and courts serving incorporated municipalities operate under a variety of names with varying jurisdictions.

Originally created by statute or constitutional provision, certain special courts have limited civil and criminal jurisdiction throughout the county. These include the civil courts located in Bibb and Richmond counties and the Municipal Court of Columbus. Special courts authorized to exercise criminal jurisdiction only are the county recorder's courts of Chatham, Columbus-Muscogee, DeKalb and Gwinnett Counties.

Courts of incorporated municipalities try municipal ordinance violations, issue criminal warrants, conduct preliminary hearings, and may have concurrent jurisdiction over shoplifting cases and cases involving possession of one ounce or less of marijuana. Although first established under various names (city courts, mayor's courts, municipal courts, police courts, recorder's courts), these courts were redesignated as municipal courts by the 1983 state constitution. (An exception is the City Court of Atlanta, which retains its original name.)

Qualifications of judges and terms of office in municipal courts are set by local legislation.

JUDICIAL AGENCIES

Judicial Council

The Judicial Council (OCGA §15-5-20) serves as the state-level judicial agency for administering and improving the courts. Created by statute in 1973, the council has also served since 1978 as an administrative arm of the Supreme Court. The council advises the legislature and the governor on the need for additional superior court judgeships by evaluating circuit caseloads, demographics and special circumstances and responds to legislative directives and individual requests for studies. Council projects promote efficiency in the courts.

Twenty-four representatives of the appellate and trial courts make up the Judicial Council. The chief justice and presiding justice of the Supreme Court act as the chairperson and vice chairperson, respectively. The chief judge and another judge of the Court of Appeals; the presidents and presidents-elect of the superior, state, juvenile, probate and magistrate court councils; and the 10 superior court district administrative judges complete council membership.

The full council meets at least twice each year, as it did in December 1994 and June 1995, to consider judgeship requests and other reports, and the council oversees the activities of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and the Board of Court Reporting.

The Judicial Council continued its contract with the 10 judicial administrative districts for district personnel to conduct the annual caseload. The AOC analyzes caseload data and submits results to the council for evaluating requests for additional superior court judgeships.

In considering additional judgeship requests, the Judicial Council seeks a balanced distribution of superior court caseload to promote speedy and fair trials. Council recommendations are based on clear and convincing information showing the need for additional judicial personnel.

The council compares the situation of the requesting circuit in terms of weighted caseload, average filings, jury trials, open caseload, population and days of senior judge assistance, to that of the remaining circuits. In fiscal year 1995, the council recommended to Gov. Miller and the General Assembly the creation of 10 new superior court judgeships. Circuits recommended are listed in the council's order of priority

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Western (3rd judgeship) | 6. Cobb (8th judgeship) |
| 2. Augusta (7th judgeship) | 7. Coweta (5th judgeship) and |
| 3. Alcovy (3rd judgeship) | Northern (3rd judgeship) |
| 4. Ogeechee (3rd judgeship) | 9. Piedmont (3rd judgeship) |
| 5. Conasauga (4th judgeship) | 10. Macon (5th judgeship) |

The 1995 General Assembly approved creation of all 10 judgeships, to be appointed by the governor for the term July 1, 1995, to December 31, 1996. In

1993 and 1994, no new judgeships were created by the General Assembly. In the five years previous, the General Assembly had created five or more judgeships each year from the council's recommended lists.

The council voted down requests to recommend division of the Flint and Griffin Judicial Circuits.

Administrative Office of the Courts

The Administrative Office of the Courts (OCGA §15-5-22) provides fiscal, communications, research and support services to all classes of courts. It acts as liaison to other state and national judicial agencies and staffs the Judicial Council, working closely with its chairperson, the chief justice of the Georgia Supreme Court.

Communications and publications

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) publications provide information to judges, court support personnel and public and private judicial organizations. The *Georgia Courts Journal*, distributed to more than 3,000 local, state and national officials, informs readers of changes in court procedure, judicial personnel appointments and elections, recent legislation, court management activities and other events. Five issues were published during fiscal year 1995.

The *Judicial Legislative Log* is a weekly digest of court-related legislation published during the legislative session and distributed to approximately 1,000 judges, county officers and court administrative personnel.

The *Georgia Courts Directory* contains name, address and telephone information for Georgia county, state and federal judicial branch officials. The AOC produced the directory, distributing 2,800 copies to judicial branch personnel. The directory is available at minimal cost to attorneys and others.

The *1994 Annual Report on the Work of the Georgia Courts* was compiled by the communications and research divisions. The report presents caseload data for all classes of courts as well as narratives of judicial branch agency activities.

Twelve issues of the *Public Relations Digest*, abstracts of news and feature items about the judiciary, were compiled and circulated to members of the Judicial Council to assist them in gauging public opinion about court activities and identifying matters of concern.

Other communications efforts included coordinating media relations and information releases on Judicial Council activities. In addition, the *Final Report on the Georgia Conference on Substance Abuse and the Courts* was published. The 40-page report consists of five sections: conference design, invited speakers, specialized workshops, conference recommendations, and response.

Research and court services

The research and court services division generates statistical information and analysis on the work of the courts to identify needs and propose recommendations for improvement. The AOC performs studies as requested by the judiciary and the

General Assembly and initiates projects to fulfill its legislatively prescribed duty to serve the courts. The research staff provides information to national organizations, other states and the public on topics such as judicial compensation and fringe benefits, court organization and jurisdiction, jury and records management and others.

The research staff supervises yearly collection of caseload and other data from the trial courts. Calendar year 1994 superior court caseload data submitted by district personnel was audited and analyzed in terms of circuit workloads. Information on caseloads in each of the 46 judicial circuits was presented to the Judicial Council for use in making recommendations on the need for additional superior court judgeships. Three circuit-division studies were also completed during fiscal year 1995.

Projections of caseload were made for several local jurisdictions and special compilations of family court caseload with projections to the year 2010 were provided to the State Bar Commission on Family Courts. Caseload information was also provided to the Supreme Court Office of Dispute Resolution and several court administrators to determine if revenues generated by court fees would support new alternative dispute resolution programs funded under OCGA §15-23-1, et seq.

Research was conducted for the Supreme Court regarding the operation of the New Jersey appellate courts. Caseload projections for the Georgia Court of Appeals and comparisons of caseloads with the intermediate appellate courts of other states were prepared for the chief judge.

The calendar year 1994 salary survey was compiled for personnel from all trial courts. Detailed information on salary, staffing and funding is collected in the survey. Superior court clerks, probate judges and magistrates submitted additional information on county retirement and health plans. Magistrate court budgets were also included. Two special compensation reports were compiled: one for the Council of Municipal Court Judges and the second for the Council of State Court Judges. The state court report was used to consider minimum compensation scales for these judges. In several local jurisdictions, job descriptions and compensation information were provided for consideration of the creation of court administrator positions.

In the areas of jury and records management, staff organized a meeting of court administrators and the Secretary of State's Office to discuss ramifications of the motor-voter project on the manner of producing jury lists. Staff also participated in discussions on court records retention with the State Records Committee and worked with the clerk of the Supreme Court and Department of Archives staff to develop comprehensive retention schedules for the court. A memorandum on confidential records was also drafted for a committee of the Georgia Courts Automation Commission.

The research staff provided extensive support to the Supreme Court Commission on Racial and Ethnic Bias. Surveys were conducted regarding attitudes of members of the State Bar and judges, racial and ethnic composition of court staff in the superior and state courts, use of foreign language interpreters and jury box and panel composition. Staff also assisted in drafting and preparing the commission's final report.

The Supreme Court initiated the Child Placement Proceedings Project with assistance of research staff. The assessment required under this federal grant

project was begun with drafting of case file review, court observation, interview and mail survey forms. Data collection for the project was also conducted under the supervision of research staff.

Secretariat, administrative and liaison services

As required by statute, the AOC provides secretariat services to judicial branch agencies and organizations. The AOC also served as liaison for the judicial branch with policy-making groups. Some of these activities are described below.

Judges training councils. Along with the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education, the AOC assisted the Municipal Courts Training Council and the Georgia Magistrate Courts Training Council in planning their continuing education programs and maintaining educational certification records. The AOC also assisted the Municipal Courts Training Council in developing its first benchbook.

Board of Court Reporting. The AOC serves as secretariat to the Board of Court Reporting and assisted the board in making long-range plans for continuing education, administering certification tests, producing rules revisions and implementing a Code of Professional Ethics.

Supreme Court and judicial organizations. The AOC provided assistance to the chief justice of the Supreme Court and other judicial organizations.

Superior Court judges. The Georgia Superior Court Benchbook was extensively revised and edited with assistance from AOC staff.

State Court judges. The AOC provided liaison services to the Council of State Court Judges and assisted in tracking legislation, staff- ing committees and distributing manuals.

Probate Court judges. With the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education, AOC staff assisted the Executive Probate Judges Council in developing policy. Staff also maintained certification records as required by statute. The Council of Probate Court Judges was assisted in distribution of the Uniform Forms, Probate Judges Handbook and supplements; and coordination of the legislative, nominating, vital records, elections, scholarship and other committees.

Magistrate Court judges. The Council of Magistrate Court Judges received assistance in updating the Magistrates Benchbook and coordinating executive, budget and legislative committee activities.

Duties of the Administrative Office of the Courts (OCCA §15-5-24 and Orders of the Supreme Court)

- 1) Consult with and assist judges, administrators, clerks of court and other officers and employees of the court pertaining to matters relating to court administration and provide such services as are requested.
- 2) Examine the administrative and business methods and systems employed in the offices related to and serving the courts and make recommendations for necessary improvement.
- 3) Compile statistical and financial data and other information on the judicial work of the courts and on the work of other offices related to and serving the courts, which shall be provided by the courts.
- 4) Examine the state of the dockets and practices and procedures of the courts and make recommendations for the expedition of litigation.
- 5) Act as fiscal officer and prepare and submit budget estimates of state appropriations necessary for the maintenance and operation of the judicial system.
- 6) Perform such additional duties as may be assigned by the Judicial Council.
- 7) Prepare and publish an annual report on the work of the courts and on the activities of the Administrative Office of the Courts.
- 8) Receive grants from any source, public or private, and expend funds and perform services in accordance with the terms of any grant.
- 9) Prepare, publish and distribute, from time to time, studies and reports relating to the administration of justice, impose reasonable charges for such reports where appropriate on either an individual or subscription basis and retain any proceeds of such charges.
- 10) Provide clerical, technical, research or other assistance to individual courts to enable them more effectively to discharge their duties.
- 11) Enter into contracts as necessary to perform its other duties.

State-Federal Judicial Council. The Georgia State-Federal Judicial Council (comprised of federal district court and appellate judges, Supreme Court justices and judges of the Court of Appeals, superior courts and state courts) received assistance in coordinating its annual meeting. (For more information on the council, see page 60.)

National Association of Women Judges. Staff assistance was provided to the National Association of Women Judges in planning its 1995 conference to be held in Atlanta.

Computer and technical support. The AOC also provided computer expertise and other technical support to judges both through its own staff and through its contract with the Department of Administrative Services.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. The chair of the Judicial Council was represented by the director of the AOC on the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, including service on the Federal Grants Advisory Committee and the Crime Victims Compensation Board.

Georgia Commission on Family Violence. A staff member appointed by the governor served on the Georgia Commission on Family Violence and was elected chairperson for a two-year term. The commission was created in 1992 by Governor Miller and is charged with developing a comprehensive plan to end domestic violence. During fiscal year 1995, the commission worked to establish local family violence task forces and began planning its second statewide annual conference.

Superior Court Clerks Training Council. The AOC assisted the Superior Court Clerks Training Council in planning their continuing education programs.

Law-Related Education Consortium. The AOC participates in the Law-Related Education Consortium, which is composed of criminal justice professionals and educators who promote law-related curriculum in public schools.

Olympic Security Support Group. A staff member worked with the Criminal Justice Subcommittee of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games Security Support Group.

Information Infrastructure Task Force. A staff member served on the Information Infrastructure Task Force of the Government Services Group working on the State Strategic Plan.

Staff support to commissions

Georgia Courts Automation Commission. The AOC provided substantial staff support and direction to the Georgia Courts Automation Commission. Establishing objectives, obtaining funding and providing administrative, clerical and fiscal support are among the functions performed. (For more information on the commission, see page 54.)

Supreme Court Commission on Racial and Ethnic Bias. The AOC provided an assistant executive director and administrative and technical support to the commission. Staff organized public hearings and forums, and conducted interviews and statistical research. (For more information on the commission, see page 67.)

Supreme Court Committee for Gender Equality. The Supreme Court Committee for Gender Equality was established in December 1992 to implement the recommendations of the Georgia Commission on Gender Bias in the Judicial System. The

committee is charged with developing educational material and/or programs on gender equality; developing and participating in programs about gender equality; serving as a resource for the media; advocating legislation and seeking funding; developing a mechanism for handling complaints received about biased behavior; and working with the Judicial Nominating Commission. The committee has 15 members.

During fiscal year 1995, the committee continued to act as a clearinghouse to direct gender-based complaints to the appropriate disciplinary body. An intake questionnaire was developed and adopted. In addition to facilitating the procedure for filing complaints with appropriate agencies, the questionnaire will assist in maintaining records of the nature, frequency and origin of such complaints.

Also during the year, the committee conducted a survey on the appointment of guardians ad litem. The survey, sent to each chief judge of the superior courts, was a response to complaints received by the committee alleging gender-biased behavior and attitudes (against both men and women) among guardians ad litem. The committee concluded from data collected that inconsistencies do exist as to the qualifications and selection of guardians ad litem, and more training programs are needed. The committee plans to address charges of gender-biased behavior among guardians ad litem by incorporating training on gender issues into existing programs.

At the September meeting, the deans of Georgia's law schools discussed how gender fairness is currently addressed in law school curriculum and how the committee can assist with these efforts.

Supreme Court Child Placement Proceedings Project. The AOC provided a project coordinator and staff support to the newly formed Child Placement Proceedings Project. The project, under the direction of an advisory committee appointed by the Georgia Supreme Court, is part of a nationwide effort to assess child placement proceedings in the courts. Federal funding enables each state to evaluate and assess court actions involving abuse, neglect, deprivation, foster care and adoption cases.

Initially, a statewide study of judicial proceedings involving deprived children will be conducted, using surveys, interviews and other techniques. Ten Georgia counties representing the diversity of the juvenile court system will be part of a more complete assessment including court observations, case-file review and interviews with key participants.

The AOC is conducting the assessment, with the assistance of consultants from the National Center for State Courts and the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law. A report is expected in the summer of 1996 which will include the results of the assessment and proposals for improvements.

The Supreme Court appointed an advisory committee to guide the process and make recommendations. Representatives of the judiciary, child welfare agencies and community members interested in the welfare of children in Georgia serve on the committee.

During fiscal year 1995, project staff and committee members attended the Council of Juvenile Court Judges meeting in Savannah and a Regional Conference on the Court Improvement Program in Washington D.C. The conference was

sponsored by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the National Center for State Courts, the ABA Center on Children and the Law and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

Supreme Court Committee on Substance Abuse and the Courts. An executive director was provided to the Committee on Substance Abuse and the Courts, established by the Supreme Court to follow-up on the recommendations made at the Georgia Conference on Substance Abuse and the Courts.

Financial support for the committee comes from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and state funds. The membership, comprised of both court personnel and treatment providers, is designed to address each facet and area in which court systems are impacted by substance abuse cases. The committee has a broad scope for considering the impact of substance abuse and related criminal activity on Georgia's judicial system. Specifically, the committee will:

1. Prioritize the recommendations of the 1993 conference and develop plans for implementation of high-priority items;
2. Study the resources currently available to the courts for treatment of substance-abusing offenders; analyze the strengths of these resources and develop recommendations for filling gaps in available services;
3. Identify the types of treatment-based sentencing approaches that are effective, efficient and consistent with the state's philosophy on the administration of justice; devise/draft protocols for local implementation of these initiatives; and develop an evaluation mechanism for existing and future programs; and
4. Serve as the focal point in the state for identifying federal and independent sector resources (both financial and technical) which may be available for statewide and local implementation of various treatment-based sentencing efforts; assist at the local level in fund acquisition and securing technical assistance needed to implement, evaluate and refine ongoing projects.

During fiscal year 1995, the committee began holding meetings and hosted a forum on the Edward Byrne Memorial Drug Control and System Improvement Grant Program. Co-sponsored by the governor's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, the forum included discussion of program concepts and application procedures.

Fiscal support services

The AOC coordinates fiscal services and annual judicial branch appropriations requests. The fiscal office performs payroll, accounts payable, cash management, purchasing, inventory control and financial reporting functions for 15 judicial branch agencies.

In fiscal year 1995, the AOC managed 64 separate funding sources, including 30 state fund allocations, 10 federal grants and 24 fee or other revenue sources.

The Board of Court Reporting (OCGA §15-14-24) certifies and licenses all court reporters who serve the judicial branch. Court reporters are prohibited from serving without board certification. The board operates under authority of the 1974 Georgia Court Reporting Act to assist the judiciary by encouraging high standards of professionalism among reporting practitioners. The Judicial Council of Georgia appoints board members, governs official court reporting fees through regulation and adjustment of an established fee schedule and reviews the rules of the Board of Court Reporting.

Certification and permits

The state court reporters certification exam is a skills test in one of three methods of takedown: machine shorthand, manual shorthand or closed microphone voice dictation silencer. The board held tests twice during the fiscal year. Fifty-four individuals were certified, and one individual upgraded a certificate.

Certificates are renewed yearly. At the end of the year, 1,097 certified court reporters were officially registered. This is the second decline in two years, bringing the total number of certified reporters down to June 1991 levels. New requirements for mandatory continuing education may be the primary cause of the decline.

Court reporters who are not certified can obtain a temporary permit from the board based on certain skills or a request from a local judge. Board temporary permits are issued for a single testing period and may not be renewed. These reporters may work until the permit expires or they become certified. Ten temporary permits were issued during the year.

Twelve judicial permits were active during the year. Seven were renewed from previous years, and five were issued by the board at the request of a sponsoring judge. Reporters working under judicial temporary permits are restricted to the sponsor's court and may not freelance. These permits may be revoked by the board only with the approval of the issuing judge. By rule, reporters on judicial temporary permits who report more than 100 hours per year must take the board exam until certified, or until the permit is rescinded.

The board also issued 26 certificates to court reporters who met the accreditation requirements of the National Court Reporters Association or the National Stenomask Verbatim Reporters Association.

Court Reporters: 1993, 1994, 1995

	1993	1994	1995
Officially registered	1,186	1,164	1,097
Certificates and permits issued:			
New certificates	70	55	54
Upgraded certificates	13	2	1
Board temporary permits	3	8	10
Judicial temporary permits	11	12	12
National accreditation certificates	16	25	26

Takedown Methods: 1994 and 1995

	1994	1995
Grandfathered	103	93
Machine shorthand	641	584
Stenomask	396	398
Shorthand notes	24	22
Total	1,164	1,097

Formal complaints

The board investigates complaints against court reporters, including fee disputes, and administers disciplinary action when warranted. Of the 13 complaints received during the year, 10 were dismissed or no action was taken. One complaint filed by the board resulted in a misdemeanor prosecution of a reporter practicing without a license. Another resulted in a letter of concern being sent to a reporter alleged to be reporting on a suspended license. One complaint is still active, with a hearing pending. Five of the complaints filed at the board's request were against reporters reporting in a method other than that in which they are certified.

Related activities

Continuing education for court reporters became mandatory January 1, 1994. All reporters are required to earn 10 hours of course credit per calendar year. A 12-month grace period to make up delinquent hours is allowed before license revocation. Numerous training opportunities are available in subjects pertinent to court reporters.

In keeping with its charge to promote professionalism, the board enforces the *Code of Professional Ethics* and *Guidelines for Professional Practice* as part of its rules and issues advisory opinions on matters of ethical concern upon request.

Council of Juvenile Court Judges

(Annual report for fiscal year 1995, as required by OCGA §15-11-4.)

The Council of Juvenile Court Judges (OCGA §15-11-4) is composed of all judges of the courts exercising jurisdiction over juveniles. Council membership for fiscal year 1995 included 55 part- and full-time juvenile court judges, 54 superior court judges exercising juvenile court jurisdiction and 34 associate juvenile court judges.

Council staff provide support to juvenile courts through legal research services, legislative tracking and specialized programs to assist in protecting the interests of children and the state.

Council policies are set by the executive committee comprised of the president, president-elect, secretary, treasurer and immediate past president. Eleven standing committees—benchbook, education/certification, uniform rules, legislative, guardian ad litem, court organization, grants/unruly and delinquent services, indigent defense, information systems, permanency planning and past presidents—make recommendations to the executive committee. Designated judges act as liaisons to the following agencies: Council of Superior Court Judges; Department of Human Resources (Division of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse and Division of Family and Children Services); Department of Children and Youth Services; Department of Education; Criminal Justice Coordinating Council; the Governor's DUI Task Force; and the Georgia Courts Automation Commission.

Juvenile Information Systems

The council, in participation with Canyon Software, Inc. (Phoenix, AZ), developed a case-management information system now used by 20 juvenile courts. JCATS, the Juvenile Courts Activity Tracking System, is available to the Department of Children and Youth Services for use by court service workers.

The Consolidated Case Statistical Database, now under development, will contain detailed case information for approximately 80% of juvenile complaints filed in Georgia.

Purchase of Services Program

The Purchase of Services Program reimburses county governments for community-based services that provide alternatives to institutional treatment. Funds made available through the Purchase of Services Program enhance court services through court-sponsored counseling and tutoring programs, substance abuse programs, drug testing, psychological evaluation, community works and restitution projects, and short-term therapeutic programs.

Status offenders and delinquents who are within the court's jurisdiction, but have not been committed to the Department of Children and Youth Services, are the target group for these services. Services may be purchased for delinquent or status offender juveniles only.

Court officials engage qualified local citizens or agencies to provide services. The juvenile court judge determines which children will be referred for services and which services are appropriate for the individual child. The Purchase of Services Program is funded by a grant from the Children and Youth Coordinating Council and state appropriations.

Permanent Homes for Children in Georgia

Permanent Homes for Children (PHC) staff provide support and technical assistance to juvenile court judges and judicial citizen review panels.

During fiscal year 1995, PHC staff assisted with 157 citizen panels in 56 counties. In these 56 counties, an estimated 11,000 children were in paid foster care or in institutional placements. Case reviews are carried out by citizen review panels once every six months. The goal of panel reviews is to ensure reunification of the child and parents if at all possible. If reunification is not an option, the panels work with the Department of Family and Children Services and other agencies to identify feasible permanency options such as adoption. Approximately 800 citizen volunteers served on panels statewide during the past year. Panel members are appointed by their local juvenile court judge and trained by PHC staff.

New foster care review panels were established in Decatur and Seminole Counties in 1995. Nine PHC field representatives assist local citizen review panels.

The Consolidated Foster Care Child Tracking System provides the ability to track the foster care status of deprivation cases reviewed by Citizen Foster Care Review Panels throughout the state.

Council of Magistrate Court Judges

The Council of Magistrate Court Judges (OCCA §15-10-7), created to further improvement of the magistrate courts and the administration of justice, assists magistrates throughout the state in execution of their duties and promotes and assists in their training.

All chief magistrates and magistrates in Georgia are members of the council. The 28-member executive committee is comprised of six officers, two representatives from each of the ten judicial administrative districts and two members-at-large. The committee carries out the administrative duties of the council.

The council held four meetings during the year. Topics covered included the Judicial Qualifications Commission, domestic violence, attorneys' fees, media access to the courts and computer programs which assist in taking applications for bad check prosecutions and search warrants. Meetings feature a luncheon speaker and forum for judges to discuss common problems and experiences. At the January meeting, the council sponsored a breakfast for legislators.

Legislative efforts resulted in passage of a bill to increase minimum judicial compensation. Unsuccessful legislative efforts focused on bills to increase civil jurisdiction to \$7,500 and to expand criminal trial jurisdiction to include misdemeanor possession of marijuana and shoplifting.

The *Georgia Magistrate Court Newsletter* was published quarterly.

Council of Probate Court Judges

The Council of Probate Court Judges (OCCA §15-9-15), created to further improvement of the probate courts and the administration of justice, is composed of judges and retired judges of the probate courts. The council has developed uniform rules and forms, a probate benchbook and a probate handbook.

The council met four times during fiscal year 1995. Three meetings were held jointly with the County Officers Association of Georgia. Judicial training at each meeting was conducted by the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education. Topics included estate administration, contempt of court issues, judicial disqualification and recusal, the Gender Equality Committee's sexual harassment policy, the Fair Labor Standards Act and a case-law and legislative update.

During the 1995 session of the General Assembly, the council and the County Officers Association of Georgia worked to pass several retirement bills dealing with spousal benefits and options, judges' benefits and contributions, and benefits for the secretary-treasurer of the retirement fund. The bills are still under consideration by the General Assembly. Other proposed legislation would have allowed probate judges to have misdemeanor jurisdiction over less than an ounce of marijuana when connected with a traffic violation. The council also changed the name of its training council from "Executive Probate Judges Council" to "Probate Judges Training Council."

The council also published a newsletter on probate law and other news of interest.

Council of State Court Judges

The Council of State Court Judges (OCGA §15-7-26) was created to further improvement of the state courts, the quality and expertise of judges and the administration of justice.

The council coordinates its activities with other trial court councils. In developing uniform rules in particular, state court judges have worked closely with superior court judges to establish similar practices. In 1995 for the first time, the officers of the Council of State Court Judges met with the officers of the Council of Superior Court Judges to discuss common issues. This may become a recurring event.

During fiscal year 1995, the council continued its educational efforts and increased the activities of the executive and legislative committees. The work of the strategic planning committee strengthened the identity of the state courts as concrete plans were made to achieve common goals. The council's committee system includes standing committees on strategic planning, legislation, educational programs, new judge mentoring and county probation.

Two annual business meetings were held in conjunction with the spring and fall continuing education programs. The council also published a quarterly newsletter.

Council of Superior Court Clerks

The Council of Superior Court Clerks (OCGA §15-6-50.2), composed of 159 superior court clerks, was created by an act of the General Assembly in 1990. The council furthers the improvement of superior court clerks throughout the state in the performance of their statutory duties and promotes and assists in their training.

The council, in partnership with the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education, the Institute for Court Management and the National Association for Court Management (NACM), finalized plans to provide clerks with the first statewide records management phase of the Court Executive Development Program. The training was held in November 1994.

During fiscal year 1995, council officers assisted the Georgia Superior Court Clerk's Cooperative Authority in its efforts to implement new statutory requirements relating to uniformity in recordkeeping within the courts, as well as developing mandatory standards for use in statewide automated indices to real property records.

The Record, a quarterly publication, continues to update clerks on new legislation, records management, technology, business administration, court management, general jurisprudence and other topics of interest to superior court clerks.

In addition, the council provides on-going technical support through its publications, including: the *UCC Update*, a newsletter on changes in the Georgia Uniform Commercial Code; *Intangible Recording Tax Laws in Georgia*, a review of statutes, policies and procedures applicable to collection and distribution of intangible recording tax; and other publications on records management and administrative procedures.

The Council of Superior Court Judges (OCCA §15-6-34) was created in 1985 to further improvement of the superior courts and the administration of justice in Georgia. All superior court judges and retired superior court judges are eligible for council membership.

The council's executive committee is authorized to manage the projects and policies of the council. It is composed of three officers elected by the entire membership, the immediate past president and ten administrative judges who represent the 10 judicial administrative districts. Central office staff assist the officers and executive committee identify and respond to policy issues, coordinate committee activities, develop projects such as updates to the pattern jury instructions, track legislation of interest to superior court judges and provide administrative support to the sentence review panels.

The council holds two business meetings each year in conjunction with its summer and winter continuing education programs. Twenty standing committees study and address matters relating to the purposes and objectives of the council. Some committees provide support to judges on matters including continuing education, courts automation, compensation and retirement and indigent defense. Other committees serve as a liaison with court-related officials, agencies and organizations. Council representatives fill appointed seats on panels such as the Supreme Court Commission on Racial and Ethnic Bias in the Court System and the State Bar Commission on Family Courts.

During fiscal year 1995, the long-range planning committee completed its initial phase of strategic planning and endorsed a mission statement and four strategic directions for the superior courts which were affirmed by the council. These strategic goals include: 1) enhance public support for the superior court; 2) consistent, adequate resources and funding from the state level; 3) a unified trial court system; and 4) more efficient, effective use and selection of juries. Ongoing planning and specific projects and activities are governed by these goals. An example is the *Judges Online* project through which computer equipment and direct connections to the state's Georgia Online Network are provided for all judges.

The council approved an amendment to Superior Court Uniform Rule 6.3, Hearing (Motions in Civil Actions) to require the filing of a separate pleading upon a request for oral argument on a motion for summary judgment. The amendment was approved by the Supreme Court and will take effect November 9, 1995. Consideration of another rule (Rule 39.9, Court Information) which would authorize chief judges to require superior court clerks to provide case management reports led to its tentative approval, pending approval by the Supreme Court.

During the 1995 legislative session, the council initiated a bill to reduce from 65 to 60 the age at which judges can receive full benefits with 16 years' service and to increase retirement benefits for judges serving more than 16 years. The council was successful in implementing several recommended jury standards in such areas as procedures for jury commissioners, jury deliberations and juror questionnaires through the passage of House Bill 704 (Act 497).

Superior court judges' continuing education seminars were held in July 1994 and January 1995. One hundred and fifty judges attended the summer program and 124 participated in the winter program. Superior court judges served as faculty for these and other seminars conducted by the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education.

Sentence Review

Sentence review panels evaluate convicted offenders' sentences to assure that a given sentence is not excessive in relation to other sentences for similar crimes throughout the state. In comparing sentences, the panel considers the nature of the crime and the defendant's prior criminal record. Each sentence review panel is composed of three superior court judges. Panel members, including a substitute, are appointed and chairpersons are designated by the council president for three-month terms.

Review is available to a defendant whose sentence(s) total 12 or more years and were set by a superior court judge. Exceptions include sentences set in misdemeanor cases, murder cases where a life sentence has been applied and cases involving a serious violent felony defined in OCGA §17-10-6.1 (a) (effective January 1, 1995). The panel may reduce or suspend sentences, but is prohibited from increasing punishments.

Review is initiated upon application of a defendant. Defendants must apply within 30 days of the date sentenced by the superior court judge, or after remittitur from the Court of Appeals or Supreme Court affirming the conviction of the sentencing court, whichever occurs last. Panel actions are not reviewable and orders are binding on the defendant and the superior court that imposed the sentence.

The panel affirmed 859 cases and reduced 57 cases in fiscal year 1995, a total caseload of 916. The reduction rate for the year was 6.2 percent.

Sentence Review Panel Caseload Summary			
10-Year Comparison of Cases Reviewed			
	Cases Affirmed	Cases Reduced	Percent Reduced
1986	1,769	67	4.5%
1987	2,485	63	2.5%
1988	2,273	87	3.7%
1989	1,889	74	3.8%
1990	2,804	72	2.5%
1991	2,790	113	3.9%
1992	2,557	57	2.2%
1993	2,362	46	1.9%
1994	1,627	45	2.7%
1995	859	57	6.2%

————— **Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution** —————

The Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution (Georgia Court and Bar Rules-Alternative Dispute Resolution Rules II) is the policy-making body appointed by the Georgia Supreme Court to oversee the development of court-annexed and court-referred alternative dispute resolution (ADR) programs in Georgia. The commission, comprised of judges, lawyers and nonlawyer members, meets on a regular basis.

The Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution was created in 1993 to staff the Joint Commission on Alternative Dispute Resolution and implement its policies. The responsibilities of the Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution include the following:

1) to serve as a resource for ADR education and research; 2) to provide technical assistance to new and existing court-annexed or court-referred programs at no charge; 3) to provide training to neutrals in courts throughout the state at no charge; 4) to implement the commission's policies regarding qualification of neutrals and quality of programs; 5) to maintain the registry of neutrals; and 6) to collect statistics from court-annexed or court-referred programs and monitor their effectiveness. Supreme Court rules make it possible for every trial court in Georgia to employ ADR processes if it wishes to do so. On the other hand, no court is required to employ ADR processes.

The commission and the Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution have worked closely with many court programs, providing partial funding and, in many cases, technical assistance. Grants to local ADR programs have been made possible by funding from the Georgia Bar Foundation.

ADR court-annexed services are available in 60 counties. Permanent funding for ADR programs was legislated in April 1993 through a filing fee surcharge of up to \$5.00 in participating counties (OCGA §15-23-1-13).

Georgia Courts Automation Commission

GCAC, the Georgia Courts Automation Commission (OCGA §15-5-80), provides automation products and services to all levels of courts within the state. The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) provides project direction, staff support and fiscal coordination for the commission. Additional staff support is provided by the Computer Services Division of the Department of Administrative Services (DOAS).

A primary duty of the commission is to define, implement and administer a statewide automation system for the collection, entry, storage, processing, retrieval and intrastate distribution of court-related information. The commission's strategic planning efforts focus on incorporating local courts into the statewide automation network, and coordinating applications of court automation technology with other state agencies to eliminate duplication of effort and reduce cost. Advisory services are offered to local county governments to assist in auto-mating their court procedures and operations.

The 1994 General Assembly for the first time approved state appropriations for GCAC, to support additional staff and to implement the SUSTAIN automated case-management software system in a limited number of counties. GCAC continued to hold monthly meetings with its advisory council of state agency representatives during the year to provide policy guidance on all individual projects.

Automated case management in the superior courts

The SUSTAIN court case management software system, purchased by the commission in 1993, is installed in seventeen of Georgia's superior courts. The Douglas Judicial Circuit was the first single court site to install and use the system. The Middle Judicial Circuit (Candler, Emanuel, Jefferson, Toombs and Washington

counties) was the first multi-county judicial circuit to install the system. Eleven other superior courts now have this software installed. Installation is currently in progress in all five counties of the Northern Judicial Circuit (Elbert, Franklin, Hart, Madison and Oglethorpe) and also in Catoosa, Floyd and Mitchell Counties.

Criminal case disposition reporting

The Washington County Superior Court was the first SUSTAIN site to report automated criminal case dispositions electronically to the Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC). Data extracted from the SUSTAIN system is forwarded electronically using the existing Statewide Computerized Information Network to the GCIC database. Electronic data transmission will reduce or eliminate the need for local counties to submit data in paper form, and will improve the timeliness, accuracy and completeness of information.

Automated case management in other courts

The SUSTAIN system was installed and became operational in the Douglas County Magistrate Court in late 1993 and early 1994. Magistrates in the Crisp, Pike, Spalding and Upson County courts have requested installation and training on the SUSTAIN system.

The Floyd County Juvenile Court is operational on the SUSTAIN system and is currently converting output forms and reports required by the juvenile courts. The juvenile configuration will soon be released for use by other juvenile courts in the state.

The City of Alpharetta has successfully implemented the SUSTAIN court case management system in their municipal court. This court is available to demonstrate SUSTAIN to other municipal courts.

Acquisition of SUSTAIN companion products for prosecutors

Using funding obtained from the governor's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, the commission purchased the newly released SUSTAIN Persons Manager software. Prosecutors will be able to use the SUSTAIN database as an offender-based system. Initial sites targeted for installation and testing of this new offender tracking software product are the DA's offices in the Conasauga, Middle and Northern Judicial Circuits.

Help-Desk services for local county users

GCAC began operation of its SUSTAIN Help-Desk service during this period. The Help Desk is accessible by local county SUSTAIN users via a toll-free 800 number. This service provides access to personnel at the state level, who are familiar with the SUSTAIN software, the hardware used for its operation and the network software system in local counties. Additionally, the Help Desk can provide assistance with questions on personal computer hardware failure and repair, as well as support for personal computer software other than SUSTAIN, via an agreement with DOAS Computer Services Division.

Additional automation activity

Georgia Jury, a jury-management software system that includes jury-selection,

check-writing and summons-producing capabilities, has been provided to almost one-third of the superior courts in Georgia and is now operational in approximately 50 courts. The software is available through DOAS.

Automated legal research at the personal computer level is provided to the Georgia judiciary via a contract between the Code Revision Commission of Georgia and The Michie Company of Charlottesville, Virginia. The Michie Company offers Georgia Law On Disc to judicial branch subscribers at no cost in most cases. Georgia Law On Disc contains the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (OCCA), the rules of court, and decisions of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals. The number of judicial branch subscribers exceeded 500 during the year. Requests for this compact disc product are reviewed and processed by GCAC and forwarded to The Michie Company for delivery.

With the cooperation of the Department of Public Safety and the Council of Magistrate Court Judges, the Uniform Traffic Citation software and the Magistrate Court Fee and Fine Accounting software were merged to form a new Traffic Court Management Software System for the municipal courts. The product was pilot-tested in the municipal court of Lake City in Clayton County. It is now available to any municipal court that handles traffic cases.

Use of the automated Uniform Traffic Citation expanded into additional counties during the year. This software system assists local counties with tracking and reporting of traffic offense data to the Georgia Department of Public Safety, virtually eliminating the delay between conviction and reporting. The software system, developed by DOAS, has been provided to approximately 50 county court sites and is operational in 40 of these sites.

Georgia Indigent Defense Council

The Georgia Indigent Defense Act (Title 17, Chapter 12, Article 2) provides a program of legal representation for indigent defendants. The act also creates the Georgia Indigent Defense Council (GIDC), composed of 15 members appointed by the Supreme Court, including one lawyer from each of the 10 judicial administrative districts, three lay members from the state at large and two county commission representatives.

The council's four statutory purposes and duties are:

- 1) to administer funds provided by the state and federal government to support local indigent defense programs;
- 2) to recommend uniform guidelines for local programs;
- 3) to provide local programs and attorneys who represent indigent defendants with technical and research assistance, clinical and training programs and other administrative services; and
- 4) to prepare budget reports and management information required for implementation of the Georgia Indigent Defense Act.

The council monitors implementation of Supreme Court guidelines for operation of local indigent programs. Guidelines cover appointment of counsel on a

timely basis; eligibility determinations and criteria to qualify indigents; standards for operation of public defender offices, panel attorney programs and hiring of contract defenders; appointed attorney fees; procedures to insure the independence of court-appointed counsel; roles and responsibilities of local indigent defense governing committees; and the mechanism for distribution of state-appropriated funds.

During fiscal year 1995, monetary assistance was provided to 111 counties for operation of their indigent defense programs. These grants, totaling more than two million dollars, were funded from state appropriations, the Georgia Bar Foundation and the Sheriff's and Clerk's Trust Account Program.

The council provides significant in-kind assistance to local programs:

The *Multicounty Public Defenders Office (MPD)* is a statewide trial resource center for attorneys handling death penalty cases. MPD assists lawyers by providing consultation on pretrial motions, trial strategy, expert witnesses, motions for funds and attorney fees. MPD also provides direct representation in some instances, particularly when a circuit or county does not have qualified lawyers available to defend capital cases. Between July 1, 1994, and December 31, 1995, MPD attorneys participated as active consultants in 95 death penalty cases in 54 Georgia counties. The MPD office provided copies of form motions, research assistance and advice in 19 additional cases. MPD staff attorneys also provided direct representation in 13 death penalty cases in nine counties.

The *Indigent Defense Resource Center* provides research assistance to attorneys across the state and offers CLE (continuing legal education)-accredited seminars to lawyers.

The *Mental Health Advocacy Division* provides services to attorneys representing clients in three specific areas: assistance with direct representation of insanity acquitees who are incarcerated indefinitely in state mental hospitals; training seminars for defense attorneys who represent mentally ill clients; and on-going support and consultation for attorneys who represent clients confined to mental hospitals.

Georgia Magistrate Courts Training Council

(Annual Report for calendar year 1995, as required by OCGA §15-10-134.)

The Georgia Magistrate Courts Training Council (OCGA §15-10-132) supervises continuing judicial education requirements for magistrate court judges and prescribes minimum standards for curricula and criteria for magistrate training. The council approves instructor qualifications and issues training certification to chief magistrates and magistrates who satisfactorily comply with established programs.

Nonlawyer magistrates who are newly elected or appointed must attend the first scheduled certification course after assuming office and successfully complete 40 hours of training. To maintain certified status, all magistrates (including those who

Georgia Magistrate Courts Training Council: 1995 Seminars

Seminar	Location	Attendees	Notes:
40-Hour Certification	Athens	47	460 magistrates were certified by training through 1996.
Judging and Humanities	Athens	8	
Judicial Use of Computers	Athens	14	2 magistrates completed their training in 1995 for a delinquency for 1994 as ordered by the Judicial Qualifications Commission.
Bench Skills	Pine Mountain	32	
Judicial Use of Computers	Athens	14	Additional attendees included magistrates who attended more than one program, judges of other courts such as state and municipal courts and two trainers.
Mediation Fundamentals	Jekyll Island	30	
20-Hour Recertification	Savannah	141	5 magistrates became certified by attending training at the National Judicial Council, Harvard Law School or by teaching other magistrates.
40-Hour Certification	Athens	27	
Advance Mediation	Athens	15	5 magistrates became certified by attending training at the National Judicial Council, Harvard Law School or by teaching other magistrates.
20-Hour Recertification	Atlanta	104	
Constitutional Criminal Procedure	Unicoi	46	5 magistrates became certified by attending training at the National Judicial Council, Harvard Law School or by teaching other magistrates.
Judicial Ethics	Unicoi	40	
Total		518	

are members of the State Bar of Georgia) must fulfill an annual 20-hour recertification training requirement. In 1995, the recertification program included a new series of topics on professionalism: sexual harassment, gender bias, fairness and consistency in setting bonds, disciplinary procedures, personal conduct and a Judicial Qualifications Commission update.

In calendar year 1995, the training council sponsored two 40-hour seminars covering civil and criminal matters. Magistrates needing recertification training may attend part of a 40-hour program to fulfill the 20-hour requirement. Two 20-hour recertification programs were held. In addition, six specialty courses were offered. The council also sponsored training for magistrate court clerks and secretaries.

The training council now allows recertification credit to be earned by attending programs other than the traditional 20-hour programs and has dropped its requirement for a traditional course at least every other year.

In conjunction with the Council of Magistrate Court Judges, the council continued its mentor judges program. The Institute of Continuing Judicial Education assigns new judges to mentor judges. No more than two judges are assigned to each mentor.

The following publications were distributed: the *Magistrates Benchbook* (to new magistrates) or its update (to sitting magistrates), the *Georgia Magistrate Court Handbook* by Judge Wayne M. Purdom and the *Magistrate Court Guide* by Judge Johnny W. Warren. In addition, magistrates were given a choice of receiving either the *Georgia Law Enforcement Handbook* published by the Harrison Company or the Michie Company's *Georgia Criminal and Traffic Law Manual*. The council also provides a revised version of the Fee and Fine Accounting System to judges requesting it.

Georgia Municipal Courts Training Council

(Annual Report for calendar year 1995, as required by OCGA §36-32-24)

The Georgia Municipal Courts Training Council (OCGA §36-32-22) prescribes minimum requirements for curricula and criteria for training of municipal court judges and supervises completion of the continuing education requirements. The council sets minimum qualifications for instructors, approves schools, keeps training records, and issues certificates of course completion.

Newly appointed or elected judges must attend a 20-hour certification course within twelve months of assuming office. All other municipal court judges must attend 12 hours of instruction annually to maintain their certification. All pro hac vice or pro tem appointees also must be certified.

With the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education (ICJE), the training council offered two initial and six recertification courses. The initial certification course includes the following topic areas: serious traffic offenses, caseload management and court administration, judicial ethics and discipline, professionalism, local ordinance adjudication, and criminal law and procedure.

In calendar year 1995, the recertification courses focused on traffic case adjudication and criminal procedure. Course offerings also included constitutional criminal procedure, bench skills, computer applications for the courts, judicial ethics and a judging and humanities specialty course. There were 31 new judges certified in 1995 and 312 judges were recertified.

Courses sponsored by the training council are usually creditable as mandatory continuing legal education hours for part-time judges who practice law. Municipal

Georgia Municipal Courts Training Council: 1995 Seminars

Seminar	Location	Attendees	Notes:
20-Hour Certification	Athens	30	In addition, 6 judges attended the American Bar Association-sponsored Traffic Seminar; 1 judge attended a Traffic Court Proceedings Course sponsored by the National Judicial College; 6 judges attended the probate court judges Traffic Seminar; and 19 attended the Judicial Ethics Course for magistrates.
Judging and Humanities	Athens	14	
Judicial Use of Computers	Athens	22	
Judicial Ethics	Unicoi	21	
Constitutional Criminal Procedure	Unicoi	17	
Recertification Traffic Focus	Savannah	169	
20-Hour Certification	Athens	55	
Judicial Use of Computers	Athens	16	Some judges attend more than one seminar, and municipal court judges may attend other ICJE-sponsored seminars for judges of other trial courts or national judicial educational programs relevant to their duties as municipal court judges. Therefore, total numbers certified do not match attendees.
Total		344	

10 judges were required to attend calendar year 1995 training courses to complete their 1994 training requirements.

court judges have the option of attending nationally sponsored judicial training such as the annual ABA traffic seminar, National Judicial College courses, and those of the Institute for Court Management. Other ICJE training is creditable if the subject matter is relevant to the duties of a municipal court judge.

In June, the Judicial Qualifications Commission issued Opinion 196 requiring resignation of mayors serving as municipal court judges within twelve months of the issuance of the opinion. As of late summer 1995 all mayors known to have been serving as municipal court judges had resigned from these positions.

As educational tools to further improve the operation of the municipal courts, the training council established a benchbook committee in 1994, funded adaptation of the magistrates fee and fine accounting automation package for municipal courts, and provided each judge with a copy of the *Georgia Law Enforcement Handbook* published by Harrison Company. The benchbook has been completed for distribution in early 1996.

————— Georgia State-Federal Judicial Council —————

The State-Federal Judicial Council (Supreme Court Order, Nov. 9, 1990) was most recently established to foster a cooperative relationship between the state and federal judiciaries of Georgia. Council membership includes all federal judges in Georgia, justices of the Georgia Supreme Court, judges of the Georgia Court of Appeals and judges of the superior and state courts.

The executive committee is comprised of the chief judge of the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals; three U.S. District Court judges named by the chief judge of the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals; one U.S. Bankruptcy Court judge named by the chief judge of the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals; the chief justice of the Georgia Supreme Court; the chief judge of the Georgia Court of Appeals; five superior court judges named by the chief justice of the Supreme Court; the president of the Council of Superior Court Judges; and the president-elect and immediate past-president of the State Bar of Georgia.

The June 1995 annual meeting, planned by the executive committee, featured a program entitled "Is Federalism Gone with the Wind?: Federal Court Jurisdiction at the End of the Century." The meeting was held in conjunction with the State Bar of Georgia annual meeting. Members of the bar were invited to attend, and the program was approved for judicial and legal continuing education credits.

————— Institute of Continuing Judicial Education —————

More than 3,200 judges, court officials and judicial personnel attended programs delivered by the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education (Supreme Court Order, Jan. 26, 1979) in fiscal year 1995. This record number placed the Institute (ICJE) among the top continuing judicial education agencies in the country.

As an administrative arm of the Supreme Court, the institute has had responsibility for the training of all judicial personnel since 1981. The various courts and judges' councils have since adopted training standards for their members. Supreme Court justices and Court of Appeals judges must complete a minimum of 12 hours of instruction each year, with at least two hours devoted to legal or judicial ethics.

Superior court judges are required to attend judicial education programs totaling at least 12 hours per year, including two hours of judicial ethics every two years. Rule 43 of the Uniform Rules for the State Courts mandates that state court judges attend continuing legal and/or judicial education courses totaling 24 hours every two years. The total must include two ethics hours.

As prescribed by the Executive Probate Judges Council, probate court judges must complete training for new judges and 12 hours of continuing education annually. Magistrate court judges fulfill an initial 40-hour training requirement (attorney magistrates are exempt) and annually attend 20-hours of recertification training. Superior court clerks complete 40 hours in basic certification and 15 hours in yearly recertification training courses.

Municipal court judges complete an annual 12-hour certification course. New judges must fulfill a 20-hour training requirement.

Seminars

In fiscal year 1995, the institute offered programs for judges of the superior, state, juvenile, probate, magistrate and municipal courts. In addition, training was provided for clerks of court, judges' secretaries, juvenile court probation officers, court administrators and administrative law judges. For more information, please refer to the chart on page 62.

Other ICJE initiatives during fiscal year 1995 included the following:

- Faculty training and course development were undertaken in two new areas: cultural diversity awareness and family violence issues.
- A two-part appellate opinions course was designed for law clerks and appellate court judges. The first part explored contemporary standards for better opinion drafting, and the second covered policies on publishing appellate opinions.
- Other faculty training and course development efforts targeted the recertification course for municipal court judges and magistrates, training faculty in the use of modern instructional technologies.
- Mentoring sessions were initiated for new superior and magistrate court judges.
- The *Municipal Court Judges Benchbook* was in progress, with completion expected in early 1996.
- Computer training for judges focused on legal research (Georgia Law on Disc) and word processing.
- Software assistance programs became available to magistrates issuing search warrants and handling bad checks. Training and software distribution is underway.
- Judges and Humanities Studies continued in 1995. Materials used included *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Measure for Measure*, *Trifles* and the Anglo-American history of bills of rights in various state and national constitutions.

Administration

The ICJE fiscal year 1995 original operating budget of \$991,860 was initially allocated as follows: \$20,000 for nationally based travel of superior court judges; \$311,730 for administration and training of magistrate court judges and staff; \$86,250 for administration and training of municipal court judges and staff; \$513,260 for general administration and recurring product operations of ICJE;

Institute of Continuing Judicial Education: Fiscal Year 1995 Instructional Activities

Date	Program	Location	Attendees	Date	Program	Location	Attendees
July 14-15	Municipal court judges 12-hour recertification	Gwinnett	60	March 13-14	Municipal court judges specialty course: judging and humanities	Athens	14
July 20-22	Magistrates 20-hour recertification	Gwinnett	77	March 13-17	Anti-Defamation League— faculty training	Athens	21
July 24-27	Superior court judges summer seminar	St. Simons	150	March 15-17	Magistrate court clerks and secretaries seminar	Macon	149
July 26-29	Probate court clerks seminar	Helen	47	March 22-24	Magistrate court judges specialty course: Judicial use of computers	Athens	15
August 8-10	Municipal court judges 12-hour recertification	Savannah	92	March 29-31	Workers' compensation administrative law judges annual seminar	St. Simons	25
August 10-12	Magistrates 20-hour recertification	Macon	98	April 5-7	Judicial secretaries annual seminar	Lawrenceville	73
Sept. 11-16	Magistrates 40-hour certification	Athens	43	April 13-14	Municipal court judges specialty course: Judicial use of computers	Athens	20
Sept. 14-16	Municipal 20-hour certification	Athens	35	April 18-20	Superior court clerks spring seminar	Jekyll Island	162
Sept. 21-23	Georgia Association of Independent Juvenile Courts Personnel fall seminar	Savannah	98	April 19-21	Probate court judges spring seminar	Athens	178
Sept. 22	Magistrates—mentor development	Forsyth	22	May 5	Appellate law clerks— opinion drafting	Atlanta	68
Sept. 26-27	Municipal court judges specialty courses: Constitutional criminal procedure; Judicial ethics	Helen	24	May 8-10	Municipal court judges specialty courses: Constitutional criminal procedure, Judicial ethics	Helen	21
Sept. 28-30	Magistrate court judges specialty course: Basic mediation	Gainesville	32	May 10-12	Magistrate court judges specialty course: Bench skills	Pine Mountain	33
Oct. 4-5	Municipal court judges 12-hour recertification	Athens	67	May 10-12	Faculty training and course development: Domestic violence curricula review	Athens	24
Oct. 5-6	Administrative law judges, Georgia executive branch agencies annual seminar	Athens	55	May 12	Appellate law clerks— opinion publishing	Atlanta	68
Oct. 11-14	Administrative law judges, Georgia Dept. of Labor annual seminar	Athens	32	May 15-17	Juvenile court judges spring seminar	St. Simons	96
Oct. 17-18	Municipal court judges specialty course: Judicial use of computers	Athens	25	May 19	Superior court judges— mentor training	Forsyth	12
Oct. 19-21	State court judges fall seminar	Amicalola Falls	64	May 22-24	Juvenile court clerks annual seminar	Jekyll Island	41
Oct. 26-28	Magistrate court judges specialty course: Bench skills	Chattanooga	19	May 24-26	State court judges spring seminar	Jekyll Island	61
Nov. 7-9	Juvenile court judges fall seminar	Columbus	98	May 24-26	Juvenile court probation officers faculty development	Jekyll Island	127
Nov. 9-11	Municipal court judges specialty course: Judging and humanities	Athens	15	June 7-9	Probate court clerks summer seminar	Jekyll Island	75
Nov. 16-18	Probate court judges fall seminar	Savannah	92	June 7-9	Magistrate court judges specialty course: Judicial use of computers	Athens	15
Nov. 16-18	Superior court clerks fall seminar	Savannah	126	June 12-15	Probate court judges summer seminar	Jekyll Island	58
Nov. 30-Dec. 2	Magistrate court judges specialty course: Constitutional criminal procedure	Savannah	27	June 12-15	Superior court clerks summer seminar	Jekyll Island	30
Jan. 6-7	New judge orientation—state court	Athens	20	June 20-23	Magistrate court judges specialty course: Basic mediation	Jekyll Island	35
Jan. 10	Probate court judges winter seminar	Atlanta	38				
Jan. 10	Superior court clerks winter seminar	Atlanta	24				
Jan. 17-20	Superior court judges winter seminar	Athens	125				
Jan. 17-20	Court administrators seminar	Athens	17				
Feb. 5-10	Juvenile court probation officers 40-hour basic training	Savannah	20				
Feb. 8-10	Municipal court judges 20-hour certification	Athens	30				
Feb. 12-17	Magistrates 40-hour certification	Athens	47				
Feb. 23-24	Magistrate and municipal court judges faculty development	Lake Lanier Islands	40				
March 12-14	Magistrate court judges specialty course: Judging and humanities	Athens	12				

and \$60,620 for on-site services, mandatory continuing legal education fees and special projects. Of 46 applications for financial aid to attend national courses, 38 were approved.

The ICJE board of trustees is made up of representatives of client groups of state courts and judicial organizations. The board includes one Court of Appeals judge; two members of the Council of Superior Court Judges; a representative from the councils of state, juvenile, probate and magistrate court judges; one representative from the Superior Court Clerk's Association; one member of the State Bar of Georgia; one member of the Judicial Council; and ex officio members, including the immediate past chairpersons of both the ICJE and the Institute of Continuing Legal Education boards of trustees, and the deans of Georgia's four accredited law schools. A liaison member representing the Supreme Court and an advisory member also serve on the board.

Judicial Administrative Districts

Regional court administration for the superior courts is organized through the Judicial Administration Act of 1976. Ten judicial administrative districts (OCCA §15-5-2, 3, 4) are served by an administrative judge selected by the superior court judges and senior judges of that district. Each district employs a district court administrator.

District court administrators function as liaisons between superior courts and local government officials, court personnel and the criminal justice system. Assistance is given to chief judges in preparing, presenting and managing local court budgets. District court administrators screen and interview applicants for trial court administrator, law clerk, court reporter and other court support positions.

District staff assist chief judges and clerks in jury management projects, including automated jury selection, revision of jury boxes and orientation sessions for jury commissioners.

Assistance is provided in the following areas: grant applications and grant management; space and facilities management; courthouse renovation; arbitration; mediation; video arraignment; court delay reduction; alternative sentencing/jail overcrowding problems; records retention and management; and indigent defense programs. In fiscal year 1995, district court administrators worked with Department of Administrative Services computer operations staff to develop applications for use by superior court clerks in accessing state motor voter records for jury list revision. District court administrators also conducted site evaluations of each superior court judges' office as part of a plan to provide the Georgia On-Line Network to the judges.

District court administrators continued to work with committees of the Council of Superior Court Judges, the Judicial Council of Georgia, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and other local, state and national organizations.

Judicial Nominating Commission

The Judicial Nominating Commission (Executive Order, June 25, 1973) solicits nominations of qualified individuals to fill vacant or newly created judgeships. The governor selects new judges from a list of candidates prepared by the commission.

Qualifications for all judges are specified either in the state constitution or by statute. Nominations for judicial office are sought from leaders of the civic and legal communities. Commission members evaluate candidates based on a standard questionnaire and a legal article or brief submitted by each candidate. The commission also interviews attorneys familiar with candidates and candidates themselves.

The commission held 17 meetings in fiscal year 1995 to consider candidates for one vacancy on the Supreme Court, 17 superior court vacancies in the Flint (1), Eastern (3), Lookout Mountain (1), Ocmulgee (1), Augusta (1), Macon (1), Atlantic (1), Griffin (1), Atlanta (5), Pataula (1) and Dougherty (1) Circuits, and two state court vacancies in Fulton and Chatham Counties.

Since 1973, the commission has acted on a total of 255 judgeships, including 17 Supreme Court vacancies, 16 Court of Appeals vacancies, 150 superior court seats, 62 state court posts, two municipal court judgeships and three civil court vacancies.

The nine-member commission includes the president of the State Bar of Georgia and the state attorney general as ex-officio members. Three other members, who must be members of the State Bar, are appointed by the governor. The four remaining positions must be filled by nonlawyers—two appointed by the governor, one by the lieutenant governor and one by the speaker of the House of Representatives. Appointed members serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority.

Judicial Qualifications Commission

The Judicial Qualifications Commission (JQC) responds to inquiries from judges regarding appropriate judicial conduct, directs investigations into complaints involving members of the state judiciary and holds hearings on allegations of judicial misconduct. Its powers derive from the Georgia Constitution (Art. VI, §VII, ¶6).

Grievances against judges are usually initiated by a written, verified complaint to the commission. Alleged misconduct or protests must be based on one of the seven canons of the Code of Judicial Conduct. Grounds for action include: 1) willful misconduct in office, 2) willful and persistent failure to perform duties, 3) habitual intemperance, 4) conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice which brings the judicial office into disrepute, and 5) disability which seriously interferes with the performance of judicial duties and which is or is likely to become permanent.

During fiscal year 1995, the commission held 11 meetings. Formal charges were filed and formal hearings conducted in cases against two judges. One case was disposed of by removal from office after findings and recommendations were

submitted to the Supreme Court and upheld. Findings and recommendations have been submitted involving five complaints against another judge, but these dockets remain open, pending a final decision by the Supreme Court. Two judges elected to voluntarily resign rather than respond to formal charges proposed by the commission.

At the beginning of the year, 14 complaints were pending from fiscal year 1994. During fiscal year 1995, the commission received and acted upon 131 new matters, including 120 complaints and 11 requests for opinion. At year end, 11 complaints (including the five in the matter now before the Supreme Court) and one request for opinion remained pending.

The 133 judges named in the 120 new complaints (one complaint involving training requirements named 14 municipal court judges) included 34 superior court judges; five senior judges; 16 state court judges; 10 probate court judges; 37 magistrate judges; five juvenile court judges; 24 municipal court judges; one city court judge; and one pro tempore judge.

Including carryovers from fiscal year 1994, the commission handled 133 complaints as follows: 29 dismissed as appropriate for appeal as a matter of law, unsupported or without merit; 61 dismissed after minimal investigation; three judges resigned (one under three separate complaints); one judge was removed; three judges were privately reprimanded; 23 judges were admonished or cautioned by letter to avoid recurrence of the action giving rise to complaint; and one complaint was withdrawn.

Ten requests for advisory opinions were disposed of as follows: four formal opinions were issued; the commission declined to give an opinion in three cases; and three informal opinions were issued.

In one formal proceeding, the Supreme Court approved the commission's recommendation that the judge be removed from office. The judge later filed a pro se petition for Writ of Certiorari in the U.S. Supreme Court, which is currently pending. The commission will file a brief opposing this petition.

In the second formal proceeding, following a six-day hearing, the commission filed findings and recommendations that the judge be removed from office. The judge filed a petition to reject these findings; the matter is pending.

Known sources of complaints for the fiscal year included: 96 litigants or their relatives, 10 judges, two auxiliary judicial personnel, four attorneys, four anonymous, 19 nonlitigants (one docket included 15 nonlitigant complainants against the judge), and 12 others.

In addition to the complaints filed and disposed of during fiscal year 1995, the commission processed approximately 690 requests for complaint forms, handled numerous telephone inquiries from both judges and the public and conferred privately with several judges about instances of conduct not warranting disciplinary action. In addition, some 87 complaints filed on outdated forms, State Bar grievance forms or by letters were returned to complainants because they involved matters over which the commission has no jurisdiction. Various members also participated in seminars on judicial ethics and the role of the commission in governing judicial conduct.

The seven-member commission operates under established procedural rules. All proceedings—including complaints, conferences, communications and

decisions—are confidential, with the exception of notice of formal hearings, formal hearings, reports recommending discipline and decisions after a hearing in which a judge was found not guilty of misconduct.

Members of the commission include two judges of courts of record appointed by the Supreme Court, three attorneys named by the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia and two citizens selected by the governor. A director, investigator and secretary serve as staff.

Synopses of fiscal year 1995 JQC opinions follow:

Opinion 198. A chief magistrate sitting by designation in another court is disqualified from hearing a case involving an associate magistrate whom such magistrate appointed even after orally offering recusal with disclosures to all parties. If the 3E disqualification is to be waived, the remittal procedures outlined in Canon 3F should be followed.

Opinion 199. Under the circumstances described in the request, it is not inappropriate for the wife of the senior partner of a part-time juvenile court judge to serve as director of a local Court Appointed Special Advocates program (“CASA”), but great care must be exercised to assure full compliance with Canon 2

Opinion 200. The practice of law by senior judges should not be condoned, and if senior judges desire to engage in the practice of law, such judges should comply with USCR 18.8 and declare themselves ineligible to serve as judges.

Revised Opinion 201. Judicial participation in the formulation, distribution and/or dissemination of family violence protocols for use by judges is inappropriate. However, participation in certain limited aspects of the work of Family Violence Task Forces is permissible provided such service does not cast doubt on the capacity of judges to impartially decide issues coming before them. The commission further suggests that the proper judicial use of such materials as the Model Judicial Protocol for Family Violence Incidents proposed by the Georgia Commission on Family Violence is for *education* and not prejudice.

— Supreme Court Commission on Racial and Ethnic Bias —

The Supreme Court Commission on Racial and Ethnic Bias in the Court System (Supreme Court Order, Feb. 1, 1993) was created to: 1) determine how the public and the courts perceive treatment of minorities and ethnic groups; 2) examine courtroom treatment and determine the extent to which minorities and ethnic groups use the court system voluntarily; 3) study court administrative policies and review selection and employment processes for judicial and nonjudicial positions; 4) investigate the impact of bias in both criminal and civil justice processes; and 5) review other appropriate areas.

After holding public hearings around the state, the commission held several forums and interviews with minority organizations and selected judicial and legal organizations. The commission also pursued a series of research studies. These studies included an attitude survey of the judges of the different levels of trial courts and a statewide sample of 2000 attorneys with litigation practices.

An employment survey of all level of courts including the appellate courts was conducted to determine the number of racial and ethnic minority judges and other court personnel by the class of court and type of position. A foreign language and interpreter survey was sent to the counties with the largest proportion of Hispanic and Asian populations to address the concerns of the ethnic communities in the state. This survey provided information such as the languages for which interpretation services are most frequently requested, the qualifications of the interpreters used and the availability of such services.

Jury system studies were also completed to address issues concerning the percentage of minorities in the jury boxes, the show-up rate, actual service on a jury and juror attitudes. The commission also contracted a study on juvenile court processes with Georgia State University.

During the year, the commission's committees continued their investigations and prepared draft recommendations for consideration by the full commission membership. These recommendations, when completed, are expected to be issued in a report to the Supreme Court in September 1995.

COURT OF APPEALS

Judge John H. Ruffin Jr., appointed August 24, 1994 - Dec. 31, 1996.

SUPERIOR COURTS

Atlanta Judicial Circuit

Judge Alice Bonner, appointed Sept. 16, 1994 - Dec. 31, 1996.

Judge Gail T. Joyner, appointed May 31, 1995 - Dec. 31, 1996.

Judge Alford J. Dempsey Jr., appointed May 31, 1995 - Dec. 31, 1996.

Judge Stephanie B. Manis, appointed May 31, 1995 - Dec. 31, 1996.

Judge Bensonetta Tipton-Lane, appointed May 31, 1995 - Dec. 31, 1996.

Atlantic Judicial Circuit

Judge Albert "Ronnie" Rahn III, elected Jan. 1, 1995 - Dec. 31, 1998.

Augusta Judicial Circuit

Judge Carl C. Brown Jr., appointed Dec. 5, 1994 - Dec. 31, 1996.

Cobb Judicial Circuit

Judge James Bodiford, elected Jan. 1, 1995 - Dec. 31, 1998.

Dougherty Judicial Circuit

Judge Herbert E. Phipps, appointed June 30, 1995 - Dec. 31, 1996.

Eastern Judicial Circuit

Judge Penny Haas Freeseemann, appointed May 18, 1995 - Dec. 31, 1996.

Judge John E. Morse Jr., appointed May 18, 1995 - Dec. 31, 1996.

Judge James F. Bass Jr., appointed May 18, 1995 - Dec. 31, 1996.

Flint Judicial Circuit

Judge Arch Walker McGarity, appointed June 29, 1995 - Dec. 31, 1996.

Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit

Judge William Ralph Hill Jr., appointed Feb. 1, 1995 - Dec. 31, 1996.

Macon Judicial Circuit

Judge Martha Currie Christian, appointed August 24, 1994 - Dec. 31, 1996.

Southern Judicial Circuit

Judge Harry Jay Altman II, appointed August 8, 1994 - Dec. 31, 1996.

Judge Frank D. Horkan, elected Jan. 1, 1995 - Dec. 31, 1998.

STATE COURTS

Baldwin County

Judge Dorsey T. Yawn, elected Jan. 1, 1995 - Dec. 31, 1998.

Chatham County

Chief Judge H. Greg Fowler, appointed May 18, 1995 - Dec. 31, 1996.

Judge Ronald Ginsberg, appointed May 18, 1995 - Dec. 31, 1996.

Colquitt County

Judge Lester M. Castellow, appointed July 13, 1994 - Dec. 31, 1996.

Fulton County

Judge Cynthia D. Wright, appointed Jan. 4, 1995 - Dec. 31, 1996.

Judge John J. Goger, appointed May 31, 1995 - Dec. 31, 1996.

Jeff Davis County

Judge Ken W. Smith, elected Jan. 1, 1995 - Dec. 31, 1998.

Tattall County

Judge Bruce Dubberly, elected Jan. 1, 1995 - Dec. 31, 1998.

JUVENILE COURTS

DeKalb County

Judge Robin S. Nash, appointed March 1, 1995 - Feb. 28, 1999.

PROBATE COURTS

Cook County

Judge Louise Cowart, appointed Feb. 24, 1995 - Dec. 31, 1996.

CHIEF MAGISTRATES

Baldwin County

Judge Shane Geeter, appointed Jan. 1, 1995 - Dec. 31, 1996.

Cook County

Judge Louise Cowart, appointed Feb. 24, 1995 - Dec. 31, 1996.

Decatur County

Judge Saralyn Swicord, appointed Sept. 1, 1994 - Dec. 31, 1996.

Hart County

Judge Jack Gurley, appointed April 25, 1995 - Dec. 29, 1995.

Lanier County

Judge Charles Shaw, appointed Sept. 1, 1994 - Dec. 31, 1996.

Madison County

Judge Harry F. Rice, elected Jan. 1, 1995 - Dec. 31, 1999.

Peach County

Judge Laurens Lee, appointed April 19, 1995 - Dec. 31, 1996.

Sumter County

Judge Thomas R. McFarland, appointed Jan. 1, 1995 - Dec. 31, 1996.