



A Publication of the
Judicial Council of Georgia

National Interpreter Seminar Held in Georgia

On April 8-9, 2006, Presiding Justice Carol W. Hunstein, Supreme Court of Georgia,

welcomed a nation-wide contingent of court interpreters to a two-day Skill Building Workshop at the Cobb Galleria Centre in Atlanta.



Presiding Justice Carol W. Hunstein welcomed participants at the meeting.

Justice Hunstein, chair of the Georgia Commission on Interpreters, reminded those in attendance of the vital role each plays in ensuring all non-English speakers in the judicial system receive adequate due process.

Attendees included court interpreters from Florida, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Wisconsin, and Virginia.

Instructors for the seminar included Ms. Joelle Haspil, who currently works as a freelance interpreter and consultant, instructor, test administrator, and test rater for the Supreme Court of Florida; Ms. Christine Helmricks, current President of the National Association of Judicial Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT); Ms. Donna Whitman, a member of the Arizona Supreme Court Commission for

Court Interpreter Certification and Funding; Ms. Joyce Garcia, a faculty member of the Advisory Board for the Translation Studies Certificate Program, Pima Community College, Tucson, Arizona; and Mr. Jeck Nevarrete, Cultures and Language Associate Professor at Bellevue University, Bellevue, Nebraska. All of the workshop's instructors are federally-certified by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts.



Interpreters during a seminar.

Community College, Tucson, Arizona; and Mr. Jeck Nevarrete, Cultures and Language Associate Professor at Bellevue University, Bellevue, Nebraska. All of the workshop's instructors are federally-certified by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts.

continued pg 4

Probate Judge of the Year for 2005

The Council of Probate Court Judges has named Judge Walter J. Clarke, II, Gwinnett County Probate Court, as Probate Judge of the Year for 2005. Judge Clarke was presented with the award at a ceremony on Wednesday, March 22, 2006, during the Council's annual awards banquet at their spring meeting in Athens.



Judge Walter J. Clarke, II, accepts the 2005 Probate Judge of the Year Award.

INSIDE

- People, Places & Events pg 2
- Court of Appeals Hits the Road pg 3
- Spotlight: AOC Regulatory Section pg 4
- 2006 Legislative Session pg 5
- Judges to "Keep Time" pg 6
- Directory Corrections pg 7
- Supreme Court History pg 8

People, Places and Events ...

In Memoriam

* **Senior Judge Joel J. Fryer** long-time judge in the Atlanta Judicial Circuit died on February 27, 2006, of pancreatic cancer. Judge Fryer was first appointed to the bench of the State Court of Fulton County by Gov. Jimmy Carter in 1971. In 1974 he was appointed to the superior court bench. Judge Fryer, who took senior status in 1996, received his BBA and LLB degrees from the University of Georgia; he served in the US Army Judge Advocate Corps, 1951-1953.

* **Judge Terry K. Floyd** of St. Marys died on December 12, 2005. Judge Floyd had served as a part-time juvenile court judge in the Brunswick Judicial Circuit since 1986.

Appointment

* **Judge George C. Turner, Jr.**, has been appointed full-time juvenile court judge in the Brunswick

Judicial Circuit. Judge Turner has served as an assistant DA in the Brunswick Circuit since 1995.

Honors

* **Judge Cynthia D. Wright**, Atlanta Judicial Circuit, has been named one of the nation's top 500 judges by Lawdragon Magazine (www.lawdragon.com). Lawdragon polled thousands of lawyers and academics to compile its list from federal and state judges at every level throughout the U.S.



Transitions

* **Mr. Hulett H. "Bucky" Askew** has resigned as Director of the Supreme Court Office of Bar Admissions to begin work in May at the American Bar Association as a

legal education consultant. **Ms. Sarah Evans "Sally" Lockwood** will be the new Director of Bar Admissions. Ms. Lockwood has been Executive Director of the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism since 1999.

On the Move

* The **Coweta County Justice Center** in Newnan opened for business in April. The new Justice Center is located at 72 Greenville Street, Newnan, GA 30263.

* **Mr. Cheston Roney**, Circuit Court Administrator for the Tifton Judicial Circuit, has accepted a position as Trial Court Administrator for the **Paulding Judicial Circuit**, effective May 1, 2006.

GCCA Award Nominations

* The **Georgia Council of Court Administrators** is accepting nominations for its **Program of the Year Award**. To nominate a court program, contact Ms. Marla Moore, AOC Senior Associate Director for Court Services, at 404-656-6447. The deadline for nominations is September 1, 2006.

Save the Date

* The Judicial Council of Georgia will meet on **June 6, 2006**, in **Savannah** at the Hilton Savannah Hotel. For more information about the meeting, call Ms. Terry Cobb at 404-656-5171. ☪

NCSC President Visits AOC



Ms. Mary McQueen, a Georgia native and President of the National Center for State Courts, visited the Administrative Office of the Courts on March 8, 2006.

Ms. McQueen (left) confers with Ms. Cynthia Clanton, AOC General Counsel, regarding a diversity training seminar for agency employees. ☪

Court of Appeals Hits the Road

The Court of Appeals of Georgia doesn't get out much.

Its twelve judges, who hear cases in three-judge panels, can normally be found in their sixth-floor courtroom of the State Judicial Building. While the state's Supreme Court once rode a circuit, logging over 1,000 miles a year on horseback, the Court of Appeals has always had a permanent home in Atlanta since its inception in 1906. The Court shared a courtroom in the State Capitol Building with the Supreme Court of Georgia until its present location was completed in 1956.

Court on the Move

For it's 100th anniversary, the Court is hitting the road.

With trips to Mercer University and John Marshall School of Law in October 2005 and trips to Augusta, Savannah, and Georgia State University

this year, the Court of Appeals has already logged more miles in six months than it might in ten years.

"In the past, the Court has traveled to other venues about once every one or two years," said Mr. William L. Martin, III, Clerk and Court Administrator of the Court of Appeals.



Presiding Judge J.D. Smith considers an argument.



The Court of Appeals of Georgia.

More Visits Scheduled

One more visit has been planned for the current April term of court. On May 23, the Court will visit the new Jackson County Courthouse in Jefferson, Georgia.

In the fall, the Court will hear oral arguments at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Fort Valley State University in Fort Valley, Gordon Lee High School in Chickamauga, and in Jesup, Georgia.

Logistical Issues

Trying to accommodate three judges on a bench meant only for one has been one of the logistical problems the Court has encountered on the road. "We're using trial courtrooms, and a trial court bench

isn't set up for three judges," Mr. Martin said. Martin must also time arguments manually on the road instead of relying on the lights and clock that are features of the courtroom in Atlanta. Recording the arguments, if an expanded panel hearing is needed to review a case, has also been an issue.

A Year-long Celebration

Centennial activities are planned throughout the year including producing a documentary, preparing a history of the court, and hosting a reception at the Georgia Aquarium in October.

For more information on the Court of Appeals of Georgia, including

its history, biographies of the judges, the court's calendar, and other important information, visit www.gaappeals.us ☞



Clerk of Court William L. Martin, III, brings the court to order.

Divisions of the Court of Appeals

DIVISION 1

Presiding Judge Gary B. Andrews
Judge Anne Elizabeth Barnes
Judge Debra Bernes

DIVISION 2

Presiding Judge Edward H. Johnson
Judge M. Yvette Miller
Judge John J. Ellington

DIVISION 3

Presiding Judge G. Alan Blackburn
Judge Charles B. Mikell, Jr.
Judge A. Harris Adams

DIVISION 4

Chief Judge John H. Ruffin, Jr.
Presiding Judge J.D. Smith
Judge Herbert E. Phipps

Spotlight: AOC Regulatory Section

Commission on Interpreters

Train the Trainer

On February 13-14, 2006, the Georgia Commission on Interpreters sponsored its “Train the Trainer” class. “Train the Trainer” was established to select instructors from among the certified interpreters in Georgia.

The class was taught by Ms. Joelle Haspil, a federally-certified interpreter in Spanish and Haitian Creole. Fourteen participants attended the class, four of whom were selected to team-teach with Ms. Haspil in orientation seminars for interpreters throughout the year. The four selected were: Mr. Carlos Jiminez of Canton, Ms. Adria

Davenport of Atlanta, Ms. Katherine Murillo-Brueck of Buford, and Ms. Linda Eberenez of Athens.



Ms. Joelle Haspil and Mr. Carlos Jiminez were instructors at the court interpreter orientation in Macon, GA.

Orientation

In the past, the certification process for an interpreter could take as little as three weeks or as many as three months, depending on when an orientation class was taken and when a written exam was offered. For 2006, the Commission on Interpreters has scheduled a two-day orientation class to be held immediately prior to its written exam.

“This change was instituted to expedite the certification process,” said Ms. Lisa Durden, Assistant Director for Regulatory Services.

The first orientation and exam program of 2006 was held February

15-17 at the Administrative Office of the Court's Macon Office. Thirty-four participants attended the orientation and 53 candidates took the exam.

Each year, approximately 60 people are registered as court interpreters and five are certified in Georgia.

Scholarships

Scholarship funds have been made available for training court interpreters in Georgia for 2006. These funds are being furnished through a collaborative effort between the District Court Administrators in Georgia and the Administrative Office of the Courts. Please refer to our website (<http://www.georgia-courts.org/agencies/interpreters/scholarship.html>) for further information concerning the scholarship program. ♠

Court Interpreter Orientation and Written Exam Dates

(Orientation will be on Days 1 & 2; the Written Exam will be on Day 3)

Dates: May 17 - 19, 2006

Location: Dalton, Georgia

Deadline: April 21st

Dates: November 11-17, 2006

Location: Valdosta, GA

Deadline: October 20th

Dates: August 16-18, 2006

Location: Swainsboro, Georgia

Deadline: July 21st

Oral Certification Exam
(all languages):

Dates: June 29 - 30, 2006*

Location: Atlanta, Georgia

**additional dates may be added, if necessary.*

Interpreter Seminar cont.

The two-day seminar was sponsored by the Georgia Commission on Interpreters, through a grant from the Georgia Bar Foundation, and the Consortium for State Court Interpreter Certification.

Contact Ms. Sharon Reiss at 404-463-6478 for additional information. ♠

2006 Legislative Session: Judicial Scorecard

Before leaving town last month the General Assembly authorized superior court judgeships in the **Blue Ridge, Coweta, Houston, and Paulding** Judicial Circuits. Other circuits were not as fortunate and will have to wait until the 2007 legislative session to try for additional judge-power.

Under the provisions of **HB 1073**, Governor Purdue will appoint the new judges for terms beginning January 1, 2007 and ending December 31, 2008. Successors will be chosen in the November 2008 General Elections.

A proposed split of the Alcovy Judicial Circuit (**HB 1255**, Walton Judicial Circuit), though recommended by the Judicial Council of

Georgia, did not gain legislative authorization. Local bills creating new state court judgeships in **Gwinnett** and **Henry** counties were successful.

Appropriations Shortfall

The Administrative Office of the Courts faces a reduction in force in July 2006 due to a \$1,000,000 cut to the agency's FY07 budget. Although more severe cuts were proposed by the Senate budget writers, the agency retained its functions and duties. Satellite offices established in Buford and Statesboro will close as a result of the budget ax and other cost-reduction measures are expected.



For more detailed information contact the AOC Legislative and Government Affairs Division at 404-656-5171. ☎

AOC Teams with Dress for Success

Collaboration between the Atlanta *Dress for Success* program and the AOC has brought Ms. Cheryl Flowers, a *Dress for Success* program participant, to work at the agency. Ms. Flowers is training with the County and Municipal Probation Advisory Council (CMPAC) as a volunteer.

The mission of *Dress for Success* is to advance low-income women's economic and social development and to encourage self-sufficiency through career development and employment retention. *Dress for Success* responds to the needs of local communities by providing programs that help economically disad-

vantaged women acquire jobs, retain their new positions, and succeed in the mainstream workplace.



Ms. Cheryl Flowers (left) works with Ms. Ashley Garner of the CMPAC.

Dress for Success, a not-for-profit organization, offers services to help women enter the workforce and succeed. Each participant is provided appropriate business attire and

ongoing mentoring support to build a successful career.

For information on the AOC's involvement with *Dress for Success*, contact Ms. Cynthia Clanton, AOC General Counsel, at 404-656-5171. ☎

Dress for Success

Atlanta Apparel Mart

250 Spring Street, Suite 12W361

404-589-1177/F 589-1187

atlanta@dressforsuccess.org

<http://www.dressforsuccess.org>

**Judicial Council of Georgia
Workload Assessment Committee**

Chief Judge Joe C. Bishop, Chair
Superior Court, Pataula Judicial Circuit

Judge Melinda Anderson
Magistrate Court of Liberty County

Judge Cynthia J. Becker
*Superior Court
Mountain Judicial Circuit*

Chief Judge William T. Boyett
*Superior Court,
Conasauga Judicial Circuit*

Judge Tammy S. Brown
Probate Court of Barrow County

Chief Judge William H. Craig
Superior Court, Flint Judicial Circuit

Chief Judge Doris L. Downs
Superior Court, Atlanta Judicial Circuit

Judge Cliff L. Jolliff
*Juvenile Courts
Northeastern Judicial Circuit*

Judge David M. Pierce
Municipal Court of Perry

Judge Toby Batson Prodgers
State Court of Cobb County

Chief Judge Hugh W. Stone
Superior Courts, Enotah Judicial Circuit

Judge William M. Towson
Senior Judge, Superior Courts of Georgia

Ms. Joanne P. Caldwell
Clerk of Superior Court, Rockdale County

Ms. Connie H. Cheatham
Clerk of Superior Court, McDuffie County

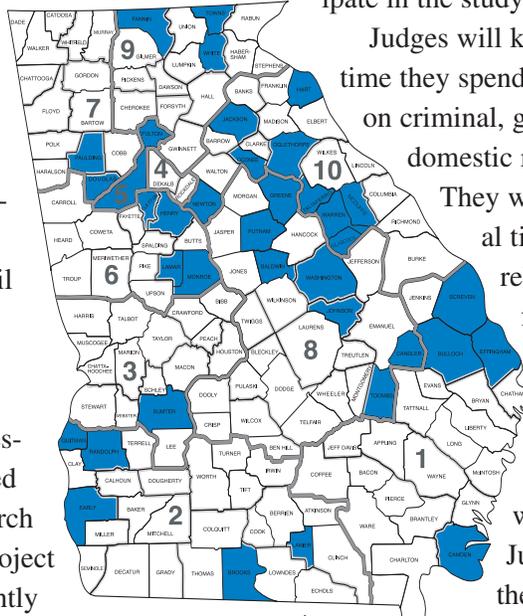
Mr. John E. Cowart
District Court Administrator, District 2

Ms. Jody Overcash
District Court Administrator, District 7

Judges to “Keep Time”

Superior Court judges around the state will soon be seen scribbling in private diaries—time-keeping logs of workday activities—as part of a statewide project launched on April 17, 2006 under the direction of the Judicial Council Workload Assessment Committee.

Training sessions, conducted by AOC Research staff, for the project were held recently in Tifton, Macon, Albany, Statesboro and Atlanta. Judge Joe Bishop, chair of the Workload Assessment



Counties participating in the Superior Court Workload Assessment.

Committee, says he is satisfied that the project is off to an auspicious beginning, “I appreciate the effort of each judge who has agreed to participate in the study.”

Judges will keep track of the time they spend in the courtroom on criminal, general civil and domestic relations cases.

They will also record actual time spent on case-related matters away from the bench such as legal research and opinion-writing.

Judge Bishop will report to the Judicial Council at the June, 2006 meeting in Savannah on the progress of the study.

For more information contact Ms. Yolanda Lewis at 404-656-5412. ☞

Cognition Issues in the Court Conference to be Held in Atlanta

The Georgia Commission on Access and Fairness in the Courts in collaboration with the State ADA Coordinator’s Office will host a conference on Cognition Issues in the Courts at the State Bar Office in Atlanta on May 16 & 17.

Practitioners from around the country along with judges, attorneys, service providers, and disability advocates will discuss how to best provide court accommodations for persons with cognitive disabilities.

This event is a working conference in which a white paper will be generated describing the issues faced by many court officials as well as some proposed solutions. The finished document will be distributed to conference attendees and court officials.

The conference is free and CLE units will be available for Georgia licensed attorneys.

Contact Ms. Stephanie Chambliss at (404) 463-3927 for registration information. ☞

Courts Directory Corrections

SUPERIOR COURT

Cordele Circuit

Judge Robert W. Chasteen
FAX 229-426-5733

MAGISTRATE COURT

Fulton County

Judge Jean Kutner
jeannekutner@comcast.net

Judge Kimberly Warden
Suite G47 Charles L. Carnes Bldg.
160 Pryor Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-730-5396/F 730-5417

JUVENILE COURT

Appalachian

Delete: Judge Ronald J. Armstrong

SENIOR

Magistrate

Add: Judge Herschel Hamlen, Jr.
32 Waddell Street, 3rd Floor
Marietta, GA 30090-9656
770-528-8924/F 528-8947

MUNICIPAL

Albany, Dawson, Sylvester, Warwick

Judge Willie C. Weaver, Sr.
911 Pine Avenue
PO Box 646
Albany, GA 31702-0646

Alpharetta

Add: Judge Jim Matoney
12624 Broadwell Road
Alpharetta, GA 30004
678-297-6250/F 297-6251

Delete: Judge Scott N.G. Childress

Berkley Lake, Norcross

Add: Judge Jan McKinney
280 Constitution Boulevard
Lawrenceville, GA 30005
770-963-8607/F 962-2159

Decatur

Add: Judge Berry Anderson
556 N. McDonough St., Suite 1200
Decatur, GA 30030
404-964-3443
berry.anderson@earthlink.net

Judge Lindsay R.M. Jones
239 Sterling Street
Decatur, GA 30030
404-915-6260

Judge Andrew T. Rogers
104 Cambridge Avenue
Decatur, GA 30030
404-373-4200/F 373-4147

Delete: Judge Viviane Ernestes

Duluth

Chief Judge Charles L. Barrett, III
3276 Buford Highway
Duluth, GA 30096
678-512-3733/F 770-814-3005
cbarrett@duluthpd.com

Forest Park

Add: Judge Michael Baird
9109 Thornton Boulevard
Jonesboro, GA 30236
770-478-0661

Judge Bobby J. Simmons
1065 Marie Street
Forest Park, GA 30297-3851
404-363-4439/F 363-4381

Delete: Judge J. Clayton Davis;
Judge T. Michael Martin

Grovetown

Add: Judge John Flythe
411 Telfair Street
PO Box 2292
Augusta, GA 30901
706-724-5001/F 724-0067

Delete: Judge John Markwalter

Lakeland

Add: Judge John W. Strickland, Jr.
110 Church Street
PO Box 38
Lakeland, GA 31635
229-482-2100/F 482-9303

Delete: Judge Hughie Fuller

Lumpkin

Judge Henry Williams
hwilliams@mccallphillips.com

Morrow

Add: Judge John Clayton Davis
2670 Emerald Drive
Jonesboro, GA 30236
770-715-5912/F 957-3257

Nashville

Add: Chief Judge Paul W. Hamilton
PO Box 605
Nashville, GA 31639-0605
229-686-3000/F 686-2989

Delete: Judge Reese Franklin

Newton

Add: Judge Richard L. Waters, Jr.
PO Box 188
Camilla, GA 31730
229-336-3962/F 336-9163
rwatersjr@hotmail.com

Delete: Judge James R. Thurman; Judge
Robert C. Richardson, Jr.;

Patterson

Add: Judge Jim McGee
PO Box 679
Waycross, GA 31502
912-285-0355/F 285-4729

Delete: Judge Stephen E. Tillman

COURT CLERKS/ ADMINISTRATORS

Juvenile Courts

Paulding County

Angela R. Norris
1387 Industrial Blvd., N., Suite 103
Dallas, GA 30132
770-443-7532/F 443-2029

It's Directory Update Time Again!

*Soon you'll be receiving an
Address Verification Postcard in the
mail. Please review your informa-
tion carefully and return the
postage-paid card by June 23.*

Thanks!

A History of the Supreme Court of Georgia, 1946-1996

Former Chief Justice Harold N. Hill, Jr. has chronicled a half century of the Supreme Court of Georgia from an insider's point of view.

Justice Hill served on the high court for more than eleven years, 1975-1986; he says the inspiration for beginning the project was the Court's 150th birthday celebration in 1996. While his history is "unauthorized," readers will enjoy the authenticity of his voice and the skill with which he handles the material.



Former Chief Justice Harold N. Hill, Jr., was honored with a portrait that now hangs in the Supreme Court Courtroom in Atlanta.

In 1946 Chief Justice Reason Bell of Webster County presided over a Supreme Court made up of white males. By 1996 when Robert

Benham of Cartersville served as the court's first African-American Chief Justice, the Supreme Court of Georgia and the world had changed dramatically.

Justice Hill touches on both the personal and scholarly sides

of many of the justices and their rulings, as well as, state politics, the legal community and more. ♪

*Copies of
A History of the
Supreme Court of
Georgia, 1946-1996
are \$15.00 and can
be obtained by
contacting the author
at his home address:
455 Forest Valley
Road, Atlanta,
Georgia 30342,
telephone
404-255-2927.*

Ashley G. Stollar

Billie Bolton

COURTS JOURNAL STAFF

Director

DAVID L. RATLEY

Chief Justice

LEAH WARD SEARS

PERMIT #1880
ATLANTA, GA
PAID
U.S. POSTAGE
STANDARD
RESORT

Georgia Courts Journal
Administrative Office of the Courts
244 Washington Street, S.W., Suite 300
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900

