



Georgia courts Journal

A Publication of the Judicial Council of Georgia

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People & Placespg 2

Judges Sworn-in
by Gov. Perduepg 3

Judge Phipps
Honoredpg 4

Appellate Courts
Welcome Lawyers . . .pg 5

Juvenile Courtpg 6

Directory
Correctionspg 8

Fulton County I-CAN! Program

Story on Page 1

Fulton County Court Project Provides Free Bilingual Help for Family Legal Issues

The Fulton County Superior Court Family Court Division has developed an internet court document creation system. "I-CAN!," financed through grant funds from the Administrative Office of the Courts, is an interactive, web-based system for self-represented litigants. I-CAN! modules cre-

ate properly formatted pleadings and provide litigants with information on the how-to steps to pursue a legal action.

I-CAN! was originally developed by the Legal Aid Society of Orange County (California) and has been tailored for use in Georgia.

I-CAN!

Users answer a series of questions which are incorporated into court filings for

- child support;
- visitation and custody;
- divorce;
- annulments;
- income deduction;
- name changes;
- legitimation; or
- answers to domestic legal action and file counterclaims.

I-CAN! also completes forms necessary for temporary protective orders in cases of domestic violence and stalking. The program is available in English and Spanish; the finished legal forms are produced in English.

On-site Law Information Center

The Fulton County Superior Court's Law Information Center is available to assist I-CAN! clients with non-legal, family law related questions or certain legal questions. An on-site attorney consults with clients who qualify for a free 30-minute session. Contact the Fulton Law Information Center at 404-335-2789.

Find more information about I-CAN! at www.fultonfamilydivision.com ☞



English (left) and Spanish (right) versions of I-CAN!



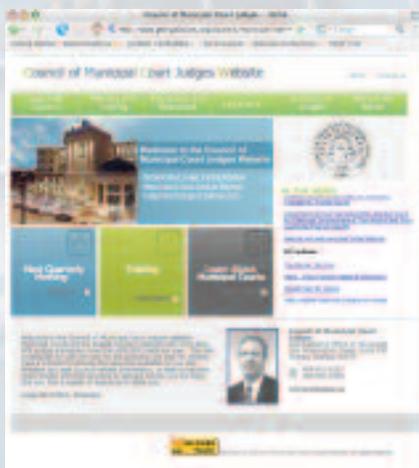
Council of Municipal Court Judges New Website Up & Running

The Council of Municipal Court Judges website has been redesigned.

The site, which went live in October 2007, is a tool for judges and the public.

Judges can access training information, change of address forms, meeting dates, publications, and staff contact information.

The "Learn about Municipal Courts" tab provides help to citizens using the municipal courts. A directory of judges and other information is available through the site. ☞



<http://www.georgiacourts.org/councils/municipal/index.html>

People, Places, & Events

In Memoriam

☛ **Retired Judge T.N. Holcombe, Jr.** of Valdosta died September 12, 2007. Judge Holcombe served as Probate Judge of Lowndes County from 1949 until his retirement in 1991. He succeeded his father who held the post from 1915 until 1949.

☛ **Senior Judge Joseph Gaines** of Athens died September 22, 2007. Judge Gaines was appointed to the bench of the Western Judicial Circuit in 1976. In 2002, he assumed senior status.

Transitions

☛ **Judge Stephanie Manis**, Atlanta Judicial Circuit, retired October 31, 2007. Judge Manis was appointed to the bench in May, 1995 after many years as a Deputy Attorney General for the State of Georgia. She has taken senior status.

☛ **Mr. Fred Roney**, Sixth Judicial District Court Administrator, has announced his retirement effective January 31, 2007. Mr. Roney, a graduate of Auburn University, Georgia State University, and the Woodrow Wilson School of Law, began his career with the courts in 1977.



Mr. Fred Roney

Honors

☛ On October 3, 2007, **Chief Judge Karlton Van Banke**, Juvenile Court, Clayton Judicial Circuit, was presented the **Scales of Justice Award** by the National Association of Legal Professionals. The award is given to those who improve access to justice, improve the quality of legal services, promote the legal profession and support the community. Judge Banke served as Clayton County's first full-time referee to the juvenile court from 1989 until his appointment in 1995 as juvenile court judge.

☛ **Chief Judge Edward E. Carriere, Jr.**, State Court of DeKalb County, received the **Ogden Doremus Award** presented by the Council of State Court Judges on October 18, 2007, in Jekyll Island, Georgia. Judge Carriere has served on the DeKalb County bench since his appointment in 1998; he is a past president of the Council of State Court Judges.



Judge Carriere (left) received the Ogden Doremus Award from Judge Brenda H. Cole, Fulton County, and Judge Donny Peppers, Walker County.

☛ In a ceremony held October 26, 2007, at the Fulton County Government Center, a portrait of **Judge Thelma Wyatt Cummings Moore**, commemorating her 30 years of judicial work, was unveiled. The portrait, commissioned by distinguished members of Atlanta's legal and civic communities, will hang in Courtroom 4E of the Justice Center Tower.



The portrait of Judge Moore.

Judge Moore began her judicial career in 1977 as a judge of the Municipal and City Courts of Atlanta. She served on the Fulton State Court bench prior to her 1990 appointment to the Superior Court bench of the Atlanta Judicial Circuit.

☛ **Mr. Joseph Mulholland**, District Attorney, South Georgia Judicial Circuit, and **Mr. Will Simmons**, Superior Court Administrator, Clayton County, were among the state's rising leaders identified by the October 2007 issue of *Georgia Trend Magazine*, "40 Under 40."

Appointments

☛ On November 9, 2007, Gov. Sonny Perdue appointed **George Grant Brantley** as Senior Superior Court Judge. Judge Brantley was elected to the Superior Court bench of Cobb County in 1980 and served until 1992.

continued pg 7

Judges Sworn-in

Perdue administers oath of office to Superior, State Judges

In a ceremony held on December 10, 2007, in the House Chambers of the State Capitol, two new superior court judges and one state court judge took the oath of office from Governor Sonny Perdue. These seats were created by the Georgia General Assembly during its 2007 term; appointments were announced by Gov. Perdue on October 9, 2007.

- **Cobb Judicial Circuit — Judge Tain Kell, Sr.**, of Marietta, a graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law, practiced law at the Marietta firm of Brock, Clay, Calhoun and Rogers, prior to his appointment to the superior court bench.

- **Dublin Judicial Circuit — Judge Donald W. Gillis** of Dublin becomes the third superior court judge for the Dublin Circuit. He has served as the judge of the State Court of Treutlen

County since 1999. Judge Gillis earned his law degree from Mercer University.

- **State Court of Richmond County — Judge Patricia W. Booker** of Augusta becomes the fourth judge on the Richmond County State Court bench. She was formerly associated with Kilpatrick Stockton LLP and is a graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law.

Other Appointments:

- **Cordele Judicial Circuit — Judge T. Harry Hurt** of Cordele, a Mercer University law school graduate, was appointed to serve the superior court of the Cordele Judicial Circuit. Will be sworn-in on January 7, 2008.

- **Enotah Judicial Circuit — Judge Murphy C. Miller** of Young Harris will join the superior court bench for the Enotah Judicial Circuit. Judge Miller, currently serving as Enotah Circuit Public Defender, is a graduate of Woodrow Wilson College of Law. Will be sworn-in on January 7, 2008.

- **Gwinnett Judicial Circuit — Judge Warren P. Davis** of Norcross will join the superior court bench after serving 23 years as Chief Magistrate for Gwinnett County.

Judge Davis, a graduate of Columbia Southern School of Law, fills a position created by the Georgia General Assembly during its 2007 term. Will be sworn-in on January 8, 2008.

- **Macon Judicial Circuit — Judge Edgar “Ed” W. Ennis, Jr.** of Macon has been appointed to fill the vacant seat created by the retirement of Chief Judge

G. Bryant Culpepper. Judge Ennis, a partner in the Macon firm of Constangy, Brooks & Smith, previously served as US Attorney for the Middle District of Georgia. He earned his law degree from the University of Georgia School of Law. Will be sworn-in on January 8, 2008.

- **State Court of Clarke County — Judge Ethelyn N. Simpson** of Athens has been named as the second judge on the Clarke County State Court bench. Judge Simpson, a University of Georgia School of Law graduate, has served as a magistrate judge in Clarke County since 2006. Will be sworn-in on January 7, 2008. ☞



Judge Tain Kell

Judge Donald Gillis

Judge Patricia W. Booker

Judge Herbert Phipps Honored

On September 7, 2007, Judge Herbert Phipps, Court of Appeals of Georgia, was inducted into the Society of Benchers at Case Western Reserve University School of Law. The Society is the Cleveland, Ohio law school's "Hall of Fame." Judge Phipps, a 1971 graduate of the law school, was one of eight new inductees.



Judge Herbert Phipps was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 1999.

The Society of Benchers was established in 1962 to recognize graduates of the Case Western Reserve University School of Law who have especially distinguished themselves in their profession and their communities and have thereby brought honor to the law school. Each year the society chooses new members on the basis of their extraordinary dedication to community welfare and enduring commitment to the highest principles of the legal profession. Since its founding, the Society of Benchers has become one of the law school's most revered societies, and has inducted over 300 distinguished graduates. ❧

AOC Grant News

The Appalachian and Douglas Judicial Circuits will be expanding their Family Drug Treatment Court Services over the next three years with help from a \$1.5 million grant from the US Department of Health and Human Services. Ms. Eden Freeman, AOC Program Manager, stated that the award will be made to the Judicial Council of Georgia for disbursement to the court sites.

The grant award reflects judicial concern about the escalating abuse of methamphetamine throughout the state and its devastating impact on children who are increasingly subjected to parental abuse and neglect at home. Family Drug Treatment

Courts combine the resources of the courts, child protection services and drug treatment programs to give families an opportunity to recover from addiction and remain together.

Judge Peggy Walker, Douglas County Juvenile Court, Chief Judge Brenda Weaver, Appalachian Judicial Circuit, and Judge John Worcester-Holland, Juvenile Courts of the Appalachian Circuit will oversee the grant programs locally.

For more information on AOC grant projects and assistance for applying, contact Ms. Eden Freeman, Program Manager, AOC Grants and Project Management, at freemane@gaaoc.us or 404-463-0043. ❧

AOC Hires Budget Officer

Ms. Vonnetta Pryor joined the staff of the AOC on October 1, 2007 as Chief Budget Officer for the agency. A graduate of Tuskegee University, Ms. Pryor earned her MBA at Troy State University in Montgomery; since 2002 she served as Budget Director for the Georgia Department of Economic Development. Her duties at the AOC will include oversight of the annual budget document submitted to the Governor and General Assembly; she will also be responsible for the agency's internal financial controls and reports.

In welcoming Ms. Pryor to the AOC management team Mr. David L. Ratley, AOC Director,



Mr. David L. Ratley, AOC Director, (left) welcomes Ms. Vonnetta Pryor to the AOC.

stated that he believes "her years of experience as an agency budget liaison to the Georgia General Assembly will prove invaluable to the Judicial Branch, enabling us to strengthen our ongoing relationships with legislative leaders." ❧

Appellate Courts Welcome Lawyers



Sixty-five attorneys were admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of Georgia, Court of Appeals of Georgia, and the US District Court in a ceremony held at the State Judicial Building on November 8, 2007. Justice P. Harris Hines, Supreme Court of Georgia (left) and Judge William S. Duffey, Jr., US District Court, Northern District (right), addressed the assembly as other judges of the Georgia appellate courts looked on.

Justice Hines urged those participating in the admissions ceremony to be aware of the responsibilities of the legal profession, "Our advice should be carefully thought out, our words temperately uttered, and our conduct should at all times be prudent." ❧

"Justice for the Day" Program

On November 7, 2007, fifteen students from local

Atlanta schools participated in the "Justice for the Day" program at the Supreme Court of Georgia.

Students were given the opportunity to meet the many people who contribute to the daily operations of the state's highest court — from law clerks, administrative assistants,

computer technicians to justices of the court. Chief Justice Leah Ward



Chief Justice Sears (center) poses with students from KIPP WAYS Academy and Atlanta Youth Academy in her chambers.

Sears and Justice Harold Melton spoke with the group about how the court works.

The Supreme Court of Georgia hosts more than 30 tour group annually, including, elementary and high school students, college groups, and delegations from foreign nations. To arrange a visit to the Supreme Court, contact Ms. Jane Hansen, Public Information Officer, at 404-651-9385. ❧

— CORRECTION — Please Note

The correct dates of the 2008 Drug Court Conference are June 17 - 19, 2008 at the Wyndham in Peachtree City.

Two young men (right) try on robes during their visit to the Supreme Court of Georgia.



New Judicial Education Course on Managing Juvenile Sex Offender Cases

The Institute of Continuing Judicial Education (ICJE) of Georgia will launch a new curriculum on managing the cases of juvenile sex offenders. The first program will be presented at the Juvenile Court Judges Spring Conference in Jekyll Island in May 2008.

Funded as a collaborative venture involving the State Justice Institute, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and the Center for Effective Public Policy. The

Georgia program received \$21,000 from the State Justice Institute, ICJE contributed \$27,000.

New Opportunity

“Managing Juvenile Sex Offense Cases: Keys to Informed Decision-Making” provides juvenile and family court judges the opportunity to gain practical information to enhance day-to-day decision-making in these types of cases. The curriculum, developed by a judge and experts in the field of

juvenile sex offender management, was tested in 2006 to pilot audiences.

The ICJE bears primary responsibility for professional training and continuing education of elected officials, court support personnel and volunteers of the State's judicial branch.

For more information, contact Ms. Sherry Carson, ICJE Program Manager, at 706-542-7403 or sherry@icje.law.uga.edu ☞

From the Commission on Interpreters

The Supreme Court Commission on Interpreters has made available “Instructions for Using Non-Licensed Interpreters,” to guide court personnel in determining the qualifications of non-licensed interpreters. Suggested questions for screening applicants and the Court Interpreter’s Oath are included. All interpreters who are licensed with the Commission, either certified or regis-

tered, are issued identification cards annually to verify their license status.

“Instructions for Using Non-Licensed Interpreters” are available on the web at www.georgiacourts.org/agencies/interpreters

For more information about the Commission on Interpreters, contact Ms. Katherine Cadena, Program Manager, at 404-657-4219 or coi@gaaoc.us ☞

Available Languages

Languages in Georgia which have certified interpreters include:

- Arabic,
- Bosnian,
- Cantonese,
- Farsi,
- French,
- German,
- Japanese,
- Korean,
- Mandarin,
- Polish,
- Portuguese,
- Romanian,
- Russian,
- Spanish,
- Vietnamese

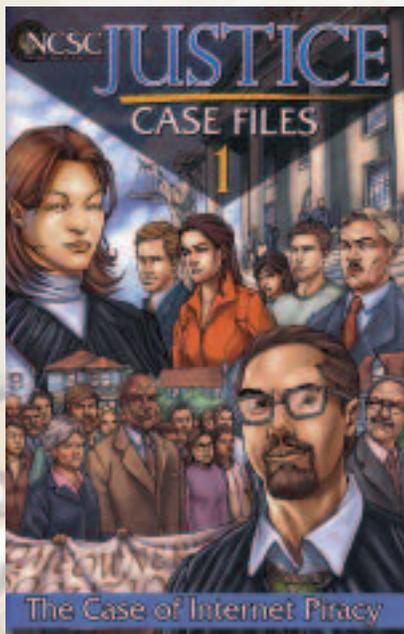
“Your Guide to the Georgia Courts” Brochure is Available!

Call 404-656-6783 today for copies.

National Center for State Courts Offers Educational Publications

Justice Case Files

The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) has developed a series of graphic novels to help improve the public's awareness and knowledge about the



courts. The stories told in the *Justice Case Files* aim to inform citizens about how judges make decisions, how courts work, and the important role courts play in a democratic society. The story lines were developed by judges and other legal professionals.

Justice Case Files: The Case of Internet Piracy tells the story of a young woman charged with theft for downloading music; her grandmother's house is part of an eminent domain dispute.

The 24-page graphic novel is available for purchase from the NCSC and can be customized with a court or state seal. For more information, contact Lorri Montgomery, NCSC, at 757-259-1525; order copies by contacting Mr. Greg Chadwell at Layne Morgan Media, at 417-887-1233.

"Free to be Fair" Poster Series

The "Free to be Fair" poster series was developed by the National Center for State Courts to educate the public about the courts and to



promote a positive image of the justice system. A supply of these posters is available at no charge from the Judicial Council of Georgia at 404-656-5171. ✍

People, Places, & Events cont.

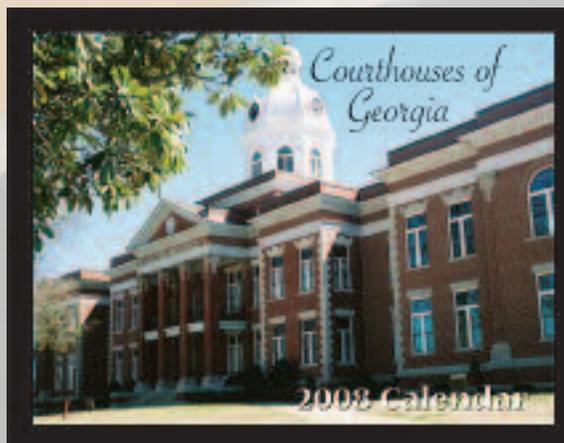
♣ The Judicial Nominating Commission has forwarded candidate shortlists to Gov. Sonny Perdue to fill superior court judgeships in the Atlanta and Augusta Judicial Circuits.

♣ On November 27, 2007, Gov. Sonny Perdue appointed Mr. Robert S. Highsmith, Jr. of Atlanta to the Judicial Nominating Commission. ✍

2008 Courthouses of Georgia Calendar Now Available!

Order your calendar today!

Copies are \$10 and can be ordered at www.georgiacourts.org or by contacting Ashley Stollar at stollara@gaaoc.us



Courts Directory Corrections

Check here for recent changes to the 2007-2008 Georgia Courts Directory.

Superior Courts

Augusta Circuit

Delete: Judge Neal W. Dickert

Flint Circuit

Judge Brian Amero

bamero@co.henry.ga.us

Macon Circuit

Delete: Chief Judge G. Bryant

Culpepper

Senior Judges

Judge F. Marion Cummings

770-720-6553

Add: Judge G. Grant Brantley

1463 Winterfield Court, NW

Kennesaw, GA 30152

404-402-1298

grantbrantley@comcast.net

State Courts

Richmond County

Chief Judge Gayle Hamrick

Judge Richard Slaby

Judge David D. Watkins

520 Greene Street

Augusta, GA 30901

Add: Judge Patricia W. Booker

520 Greene Street

Augusta, GA 30901

Juvenile Courts

Alapaha Circuit

Judge C. Joseph Steedley

Homerville, GA 31634

Magistrate Courts

Catoosa County

Add: Judge Christopher James Lyons

877 LaFayette Street

Ringgold, GA 30736

706-935-3114/F 965-6500

Cobb County

Add: Judge Clarence O. Taylor, IV

89 Debonaire Drive

Marietta, GA 30064

770-429-1484

Delete: Judge Susan Hope

Cook County

Name change from Judge Lori

Shierling to Lori D. Taylor

DeKalb County

Judge James E. Spence, Jr.

125 Clairemont Avenue, Suite 420

Decatur, GA 30030-2536

404-377-3638/F 3377-3533

jspence@wmdlegal.com

Fulton County

Judge Sally Cobb Cannon

sallycobbannon@bellsouth.net

Municipal Courts

Grantville

Judge Joseph A. Wyant

72 Greenville Street, Suite 1200

Newnan, GA 30263

770-254-2610

Jesup

Judge Joseph Phelps

1355 West Orange

Jesup, GA 31545

912-427-1300

Johns Creek

Chief Judge Donald Schaefer

Suite 1065

315 W. Ponce de Leon Avenue

Decatur, GA 30030

404-658-6919/F 658-7125

starschaefer@aol.com

Judge Edward Scott Carter

3508 Broad Street

Chamblee, GA 30341

678-467-4153

scottc44@juno.com

Judge Michael Penn

11625 Rainwater Drive, Suite 350

Alpharetta, GA 30004

770-500-3000/F 500-3001

Plains

Judge William D. NeSmith, III

PO Box 1043

Americus, GA 31709

229-924-1900/F 928-1250

Rincon

Delete: Judge Tom Edenfield

Add: Judge Grady K. Reddick

125 E. Ogeechee Street

PO Box 1923

Sylvania, GA 30467

912-564-7821/F 564-7844

gkreddick@alltel.net

Superior Court Clerks

Washington County

Joy H. Conner

132 W. Haynes Street

PO Box 231

Sandersville, GA 31082-0231

Court Administrators

Municipal Court of Marietta

Pamela G. Allen

240 Lemon Street

Marietta, GA 30060

770-794-5407/F 794-5424

pallen@mariettaga.gov

Official Court Reporters

Delete: Natalie S. Camp

Carolyn B. Templeton

770-387-5130

Add: Kathy Wiggins

1401 Crystal Hills Drive

Athens, GA 30603

706-319-7987 ☎

Did You Know?

Georgia's Municipal Courts...

- 400 courts with 385 judges (80 serve multiple courts)
- 72 serve as magistrate judges • 14 serve as probate judges
 - 30 serve as juvenile judges

Source: Municipal Courts Judges Bulletin, Fall 2007

Courthouse Spotlight



Greene County

County Seat: Greensboro

Built: 1849

Judicial Circuit: Ocmulgee

Georgia
courts
Journal

Administrative Office of the Courts
244 Washington Street, SW, Suite 300
Atlanta, GA 30334