

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA

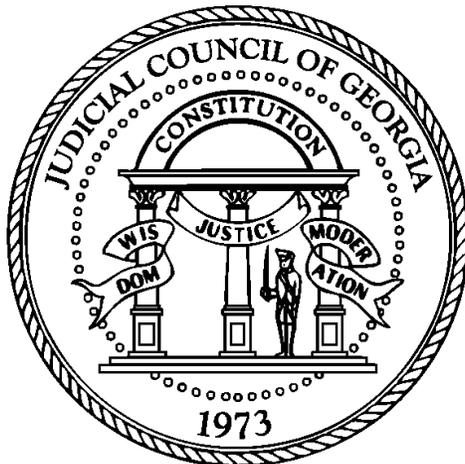
General Session

Tuesday, August 29, 2006

Wyndham Vinings Hotel

9:00 a.m.

Overlook A & B



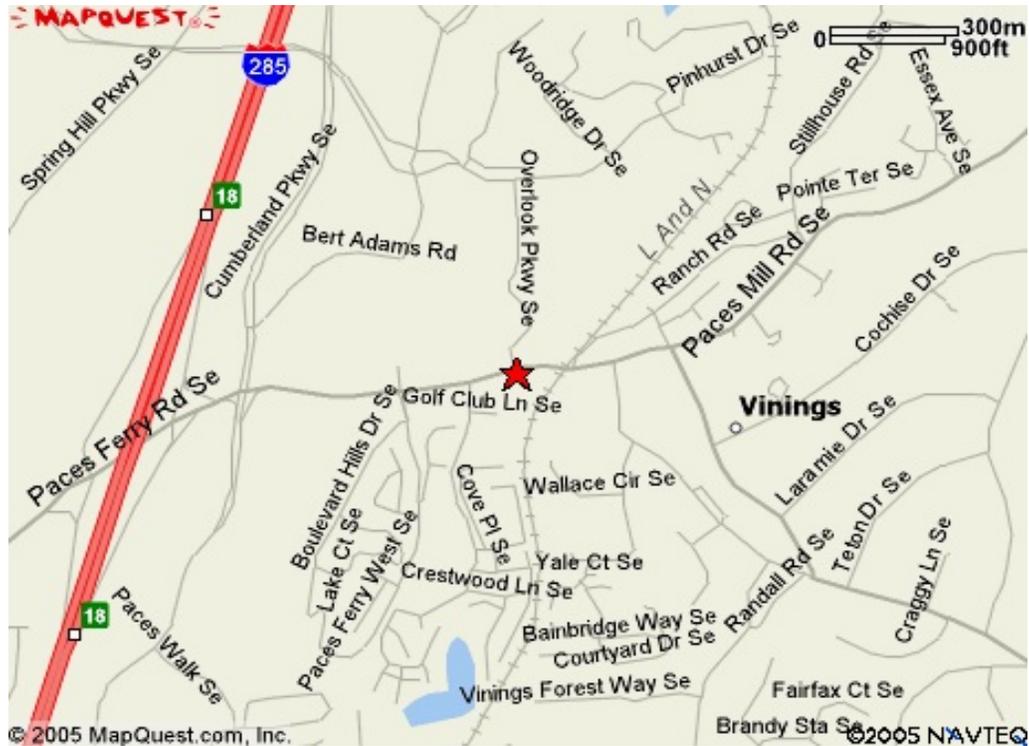
Luncheon

12 Noon

Fireplace Lounge

*2857 Paces Ferry Road
Atlanta, GA 30339*

Driving Directions to the Wyndham Vinings Hotel
2857 Paces Ferry Road
Atlanta, GA 30339
770-432-5555



Traveling South on I-75

Take I-285 Westbound (Birmingham) and travel 1.5 miles to Paces Ferry Road (Exit 18). Turn left onto Paces Ferry Road and travel ½ mile; hotel is on the left.

Traveling South on I-85

Take I-285 Westbound and continue past the I-75 interchange. Exit at Paces Ferry Road (Exit 18). Turn left onto Paces Ferry Road and travel ½ mile; hotel is on the left.

Traveling North on I-75

Travel toward Atlanta and take I-285 Westbound, then continue on I-285 Northbound pass the I-20 interchange proceeding to Paces Ferry Road (Exit 18). The exit ramp will have 3 or 4 different turn lanes. Turn right onto Paces Ferry Road East, crossing Cumberland Parkway then crossing Boulevard Hills, hotel is on the left.

Traveling North on I-85

Take I-285 North, pass the I-20 interchange and proceed to Paces Ferry Road (Exit 18). The exit ramp will have 3 or 4 different turn lanes. Turn right onto Paces Ferry Road East, crossing Cumberland Parkway then crossing Boulevard Hills, hotel is on the left.

Whether traveling I-20 Eastbound OR traveling I-20 Westbound

Take Exit 51B (285 North) and proceed to Paces Ferry Road (Exit 18). The exit ramp will have 3 or 4 different turn lanes. Turn right onto Paces Ferry Road East, crossing Cumberland Parkway then crossing Boulevard Hills, hotel is on the left.

Judicial Council of Georgia
Wyndham Vinings Hotel
2857 Paces Ferry Road
Atlanta, GA 30339

Tuesday, August 29, 2006
9:00 a.m.

Continental Breakfast will be served beginning at 8:00 a.m.

1. **Introductions and Preliminary Remarks**
(Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears, Est. Time—5 Min.)
2. **Approval of June 6, 2006 Minutes** Tab 1
(Chief Justice Sears, Est. Time—3 Min.)
3. **Consideration by the Judicial Council of Requests for Additional Superior Court Judgeships & Recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governor** Tab 2
(Mr. Ratley, Dr. Arnold, Ms. Lewis, Est. Time—30 Min.)
pages 1-137
 - A. **Table of Contents** Page 1
 - B. **Memorandum Describing Judgeship Materials** Page 2
 - C. **Judicial Council Policy for Judgeship & Circuit Boundary Studies** Page 6
 - D. **Trial Court Caseload Report**
 - 1) State Court Page 13
 - 2) Juvenile Court Page 15
 - 3) Probate Court Page 20
 - 4) Magistrate Court Page 30
 - E. **Charts**
 - 1) Judgeship Case Weight Needed to Qualify Page 36
 - 2) Number of Judges & Details of the Circuit & Per Judge Weights Page 37
 - 3) Superior Court Time Line Page 40
 - 4) Circuits, Personnel, & Weighted Caseload Page 41
 - 5) CY2005 Criminal Filings by Rank & 5-year Percentage Change Page 42
 - 6) CY2005 Circuit & Civil Filings by Rank & 5-year Percentage Change Page 43
 - 7) Population Page 44
 - 8) 4-Factor Chart Page 45
 - 9) Sample Ballots (Qualifying) Page 46
 - 10) Sample Ballot (Ranking) Page 47
 - F. **Letters of Request and Comments from Invited Respondents** Page 48
 - 1) Atlanta Judicial Circuit (20th Judge) Page 49
 - 2) Atlantic Judicial Circuit (5th Judge) Page 56
 - 3) Brunswick Judicial Circuit (5th Judge) Page 63

- 4) Cordele Judicial Circuit (3rd Judge) Page 69
- 5) Gwinnett Judicial Circuit (10th Judge) Page 75
- 6) Mountain Judicial Circuit (3rd Judge) Page 79
- 7) Piedmont Judicial Circuit (4th Judge) Page 86
- 8) Waycross Judicial Circuit (4th Judge) Page 95

G. Carryover Circuit Requests and Comments

- 1) Alapaha Judicial Circuit (3rd Judge) No Materials
- 2) Cobb Judicial Circuit (10th Judge) No Materials
- 3) Dublin Judicial Circuit (3rd Judge) Page 100
- 4) Enotah Judicial Circuit (3rd Judge) Page 105
- 5) Southern Judicial Circuit (6th Judge) Page 133

4. Vote on New Judgeship Requests by Written Ballot
(Est. Time—5 Min.)

5. Report from AOC Director
(Mr. Ratley, Est. Time—10 Min.)

6. Rank Judgeship Recommendations [Including all carryover requests]
(Est. Time—5 Min.)

* * * * * **15 Minute Break** * * * * *

7. Budget Matters Tab 3
(Judge Carriere & Mr. Harris, Est. Time—15 Min.)
FY 2007 Amended Budget
FY 2008 General Appropriations & Enhancements

8. Reports from Judicial Agencies

- a) Committee on Domestic Violence Tab 4
- b) Georgia Commission on Access and Fairness in the Courts Tab 5
- c) Georgia Courts Automation Commission Tab 6
(Judge Pape, Est. Time—15 Min.)
- d) Records Retention Committee
(Judge Whittemore/Dr. Arnold, Est. Time—5 Min.)
- e) Workload Assessment Committee
(Judge Bishop/Dr. Arnold, Est. Time—5 Min.)

9. **Reports from Appellate Courts and Trial Court Councils**

- a) Supreme Court
(Chief Justice Sears, Est. Time—5 Min.)
- b) Court of Appeals
(Chief Judge Ruffin, Est. Time—5 Min.)
- c) Council of Superior Court Judges
(Judge Boyett, Est. Time—5 Min.)
- d) Council of State Court Judges
(Judge Studdard, Est. Time—5 Min.)
- e) Council of Juvenile Court Judges
(Judge Andrews, Est. Time—5 Min.)
- f) Council of Probate Court Judges
(Judge Cason, Est. Time—5 Min.)
- g) Council of Magistrate Court Judges
(Judge Bobbitt, Est. Time—5 Min.)
- h) Council of Municipal Court Judges
(Judge Cielinski, Est. Time—5 Min.)

10. **Old/New Business**
(Chief Justice Sears, Est. Time—15 Min.)

Date and Place of Next Regular Council Meeting

Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Place: Wyndham Vinings Hotel

11. **Concluding Remarks and Adjournment**
(Chief Justice Sears, Est. Time—5 Min.)

* * * * *

GROUP PHOTOGRAPH — POOLSIDE

12 Noon — Lunch Served in the Fireplace Lounge

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA

Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears
Chairperson
Supreme Court of Georgia
507 State Judicial Building
Atlanta, GA 30334
404-656-3474/FAX 657-6997

Presiding Justice Carol W. Hunstein
Vice Chairperson
Supreme Court of Georgia
501 State Judicial Building
Atlanta, GA 30334
404-656-3475/FAX 657-9586

Judge Stephen H. Andrews
Juvenile Court of the
Southern Judicial Circuit
P. O. Box 6443
Thomasville, GA 31758
229-226-5308/FAX 228-9108

Judge A. Quillian Baldwin, Jr.
Superior Courts
Coweta Judicial Circuit
100 Ridley Avenue
P. O. Box 1364
LaGrange, GA 30241
706-883-1633/FAX 883-1639

Judge Anne Elizabeth Barnes
Court of Appeals of Georgia
334 State Judicial Building
Atlanta, GA 30334
404-656-3454/FAX 463-8303

Judge David E. Barrett
Superior Courts
Enotah Judicial Circuit
59 South Main Street, Suite K
Cleveland, GA 30528-4501
706-865-6135/FAX 865-2682

Judge Thomas C. Bobbitt, III
Magistrate Court of Laurens County
308 Roosevelt Street
P. O. Box 1676
Dublin, GA 31040-1676
478-272-5010/FAX 275-0035

Judge William T. Boyett
Superior Courts
Conasauga Judicial Circuit
P. O. Box 2582
Dalton, GA 30722-2582
706-278-3340/FAX 275-7567

Judge Betty B. Cason
Probate Court of Carroll County
Carroll County Courthouse, Room 204
Carrollton, GA 30117
770-830-5840/FAX 830-5995

Judge Walter J. Clarke, II
Probate Court of Gwinnett County
Gwinnett Justice &
Administration Center
75 Langley Drive
Lawrenceville, GA 30045-6900
770-822-8250/FAX 822-8267

Judge Brenda H. Cole
State Court of Fulton County
T3905 Justice Center Tower
185 Central Avenue, S. W.
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-730-4311/FAX 730-8182

Judge Doris L. Downs
Superior Court
Atlanta Judicial Circuit
T-7955 Justice Center Tower
185 Central Avenue, S. W.
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-730-4991/FAX 335-2828

Judge Gail C. Flake
Superior Court
Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit
Judicial Tower, Suite 6240
556 N. McDonough Street
Decatur, GA 30030
404-371-2909/FAX 371-2788

Judge Shepherd Lee Howell
Superior Courts
Cherokee Judicial Circuit
135 W. Cherokee Avenue, Suite 322
Cartersville, GA 30120
770-387-5124/FAX 606-2397

Judge Ronnie Joe Lane
Superior Courts
Pataula Judicial Circuit
P. O. Box 636
Donaldsonville, GA 39845-0636
229-524-2149/FAX 524-8818

Judge Arch McGarity
Superior Court
Flint Judicial Circuit
Henry County Courthouse
McDonough, GA 30253-3293
770-954-2118/FAX 954-2947

Judge John M. Ott
Superior Courts
Alcovy Judicial Circuit
Walton County Government Building
303 South Hammond Drive, Suite 221
Monroe, GA 30655
770-267-1339/FAX 266-1630

Judge F. Gates Peed
Superior Courts
Ogeechee Judicial Circuit
P. O. Box 967
Statesboro, GA 30459
912-764-6095/FAX 489-3148

Chief Judge John H. Ruffin, Jr.
Court of Appeals of Georgia
334 State Judicial Building
Atlanta, GA 30334
404-656-3458/FAX 651-8139

Judge J. Stanley Smith
Superior Courts
Dublin Judicial Circuit
P. O. Box 2069
Dublin, GA 31040-2069
478-272-4131\FAX 272-1639

Judge R. Rucker Smith
Superior Court
Southwestern Judicial Circuit
P. O. Box 784
Americus, GA 31709-0784
229-928-4555/FAX 928-4552

Judge Ben Studdard, III
State Court of Henry County
40 Atlanta Street, Suite 200
McDonough, GA 30253
770-898-7612/FAX 898-7616

Judge Velma Tilley
Juvenile Court of Bartow County
Cherokee Judicial Circuit
135 W. Cherokee Avenue, Suite 333
Cartersville, GA 30120-3181
770-387-5039/AX 387-5044

Judge Kimberly Warden
Magistrate Court of Fulton County
T1605 Justice Center Tower
185 Central Avenue
Atlanta, GA 30303
770-656-2382/FAX 893-2616

Judicial Council of Georgia

Wyndham Vinings Hotel
Atlanta, GA

August 29, 2006

NEW MEMBERS WHO HAVE JOINED THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL SINCE JUNE 6, 2006

1. Judge Ronnie Joe Lane, Administrative Judge, 2nd Judicial Administrative District
2. Chief Judge R. Rucker Smith, Administrative Judge, 3rd Judicial Administrative District
3. Judge A. Quillian Baldwin, Jr., Administrative Judge, 6th Judicial Administrative District
4. Chief Judge Shepard Lee Howell, Administrative Judge, 7th Judicial Administrative District
5. Judge Stan Smith, Administrative Judge, 8th Judicial Administrative District
6. Judge David E. Barrett, Administrative Judge, 9th Judicial Administrative District
7. Judge Kimberly Warden, President-Elect, Council of Magistrate Court Judges

Judicial Council of Georgia
June 6, 2006
Savannah, Georgia

Members Present:

Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears
Presiding Justice Carol W. Hunstein
Judge Melinda Anderson
Judge Stephen H. Andrews
Judge Anne Elizabeth Barnes
Judge Thomas C. Bobbitt, III
Judge William T. Boyett
Judge Betty B. Cason
Judge A. Wallace Cato
Judge Walter J. "Jim" Clarke
Judge Brenda H. Cole
Judge William H. Craig
Judge Gail C. Flake
Judge Arch McGarity
Judge George F. Nunn, Jr.
Judge F. Gates Peed
Chief Judge John H. Ruffin, Jr.
Judge Hugh W. Stone
Judge Ben Studdard, III
Judge Velma Tilley
Judge Phillip R. West
Judge Jon B. Wood

Judge Lawton Stephens for Judge Ott
Judge Melvin Westmoreland for Judge Downs

Members Absent:

Judge Doris L. Downs
Judge John M. Ott

Staff Present:

Mr. David L. Ratley
Dr. Greg Arnold
Mr. Jorge Basto
Ms. Billie Bolton
Mr. Byron Branch

Mr. Bob Bray
Ms. Terry Cobb
Ms. Cynthia H. Clanton
Mr. Vince Harris
Ms. Marla Moore
Ms. Debra Nesbit
Mr. George Nolan
Mr. Kevin Tolmich

Guests Present:

Mr. Doug Ashworth, State Bar of Georgia
Judge Quillian Baldwin, Coweta Judicial Circuit
Judge David Barrett, Enotah Judicial Circuit
Judge Ed Carriere, State Court of DeKalb County
Judge Michael Cielinski, Municipal Court of Columbus
Mr. Jay Cook, State Bar of Georgia
Mr. John Cowart, Second District Court Administrator
Ms. Judith Cramer, Fifth District Court Administrator
Mr. Danny DeLoach, First District Court Administrator
Mr. Steve Ferrell, Ninth District Court Administrator
Mr. Tripp Fitzner, Eighth District Court Administrator
Judge Stephen Goss, Dougherty Judicial Circuit
Mr. Tom Gunnels, Tenth District Court Administrator
Ms. Lorraine Hoffmann-Polk, Council of Superior Court Judges
Judge Shepherd Howell, Cherokee Judicial Circuit
Mr. Greg Jones, Third District Court Administrator
Judge George Kreeger, Cobb Judicial Circuit
Judge Ronnie Joe Lane, Pataula Judicial Circuit
Ms. Sandy S. Lee, Council of Superior Court Judges
Ms. Cathy McCumber, Fourth District Court Administrator
Mr. Nolan Martin, Georgia Public Defender Standards Council
Mr. Tom Merriam, Council of Superior Court Judges
Ms. Tia Milton, Supreme Court of Georgia
Ms. Jody Overcash, Seventh District Court Administrator
Judge Tim Pape, Floyd County Juvenile Court
Judge Donny Peppers, State Court of Walker County
Ms. Tina Petrig, Office of Dispute Resolution
Mr. Richard Reaves, Institute of Continuing Judicial Education
Mr. Fred Roney, Sixth District Court Administrator
Judge Rucker Smith, Southwestern Judicial Circuit
Judge Stan Smith, Dublin Judicial Circuit
Ms. Nicky Davenport Weston, ODR
Judge Barrett Whittemore, Whitfield County Magistrate Court

Call to Order

Chief Justice Sears convened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. She introduced new members of the Council and asked them to stand: Judge Arch McGarity, President-elect, Council of Superior Court Judges, Judge Brenda Cole, President-elect, Council of State Court Judges, Judge Walter J. Clarke, President-elect, Council of Probate Court Judges and Judge Velma Tilley, President-elect, Council of Juvenile Court Judges.

Judges substituting for absent members were also recognized: Judge Mel Westmoreland attending for Judge Downs and Judge Lawton Stephens attending for Judge Ott. Following these preliminaries, remaining Council members introduced themselves as did those seated in the audience.

Chief Justice Sears also welcomed newly-elected administrative judges seated in the audience: Judges David Barrett, Quillian Baldwin, Shepherd Howell, Ronnie Joe Lane, Rucker Smith and Stan Smith. These judges will take seats on the Judicial Council at the August 2006 meeting. She noted the presence of security officers from the Chatham County Sheriff's Department and expressed appreciation to Danny DeLoach for making these arrangements. She also recognized the Georgia Council of Court Administrators who sponsored the Monday evening reception for judges and guests.

Chief Justice Sears introduced Mr. Jay Cook, president of the State Bar of Georgia. Mr. Cook expressed his appreciation to the Chief Justice for granting him time to address the Council. He reported that the State Bar is launching two projects in support of the judiciary: 1) hire a public information officer to convey a positive message about the work of the courts and 2) produce a video promoting the importance of jury service. Mr. Cook believes it is increasingly important for the bar to speak out in support of the

judiciary to improve communication with voters and the public at large. A revision of the pattern jury charges is also planned. Four focus groups will be convened to determine how legal language might be simplified so that the charges are more readily understood by citizen jurors. Judge Frank Mills and Judge David Barrett are working on this project.

Approval of Minutes

Turning to the minutes of the Council meeting held on December 7, 2005, Chief Justice Sears asked if there were any corrections or additions. Judge Cato moved approval. Judge Boyett seconded. The motion carried.

Status of 2006 Judgeship Requests

Mr. Ratley reported that six circuits have requested new judgeships as follows: Atlanta, 20th; Atlantic, 5th; Brunswick, 5th; Cordele, 3rd; Gwinnett, 10th; Mountain, 3rd. Requests from Dublin, 3rd; Enotah, 3rd; and Southern, 6th carry over from 2005. Mr. Ratley noted that approval of the earlier Gwinnett Circuit request has expired and the request was renewed.

Committee Reports

Nominating Committee. Judge Cason reported for committee chair Judge Ott who could not be present. Judge Downs also serves on the nominating committee. Nominees for vacancies on the Board of Court Reporting are as follows: Judge Anne Workman; Ms. Vickie Wiechee, freelance voicewriter, Bonaire; Ms. Vickey Riggins, McDonough; Mr. Richard T. Kent, attorney, Moultrie. Judge Cason moved adoption of the committee recommendations. Judge Craig seconded. The motion carried.

Standing Committee on Policy. Ms. Nesbit reported on measures officially supported by the Judicial Council that were successful: HB 1195 concerning mandatory

filing of case disposition forms; and a jury committee bill, HB 1417, authorizing the AOC to receive the motor-voter list directly from the Department of Driver Services to assist jury commissioners. She expressed appreciation to the Council members for their support of these initiatives.

Workload Assessment Committee. Dr. Arnold reported for Judge Bishop, chair of the committee. The committee's time and motion study got underway in late March and continues through late August. Twenty-five circuits out of 49 are participating; 61 superior court judges are keeping track of actual time spent on six specific case types. The recordkeeping includes identifying time spent on drug court cases, pro se litigants and cases with multiple defendants. Dr. Arnold stated that time sheets are being submitted to the AOC research staff and preliminary findings will be presented to the committee in late summer.

Records Retention Committee. Judge Whittemore reported that work on records retention matters has been ongoing for many years and expressed appreciation to the AOC research staff, Judge Wallace Cato, and other committee members. The committee's recent efforts have focused on standardized handling of evidence, including a timeline for disposal. He referred Council members to proposed Uniform Rules found in the agenda materials. The committee has drafted one rule for handling evidence in criminal cases and a separate rule for all other types of evidence.

Judge Whittemore stated that he will be meeting with clerks of court later in June to develop legislative provisions that may be needed once the rules go into effect. Adoption of the rules by each class of court must be accomplished first, however, followed by submission to the Supreme Court for approval. The committee's intention is

for each class of court to use the draft rules as a basic document which can be adapted to include provisions that may be specific to that court. He stressed that courts may add certain provisions, but not deduct from the procedures outlined in the committee draft. The committee has been careful to recognize that counties have limited resources for storing and preserving evidence. He urged adoption of the draft rules.

Judge Cato moved adoption of the proposed rules as presented. Judge Stone seconded. The motion carried.

Drug Court Committee. Judge Kreeger referred Council members to the written summary of drug court-related activities outlining distribution of the \$500,000 appropriation from the General Assembly. The '07 appropriation of \$1,000,000 will fund drug courts for adults and juveniles as well as DUI courts. The Drug Court Conference held in May in Peachtree City attracted 250 participants. Judge Kreeger noted that the drug court movement is growing in Georgia and across the US. The committee will meet for strategic planning in August.

Georgia Courts Automation Commission. Written report provided.

Legislative Update

Ms. Nesbit distributed a summary of local bills and general bills affecting the courts which were passed during the 2006 session. She noted that a great deal of work went into SB 382 which amends the recently adopted Child Support Guidelines. Judge Louisa Abbott and Judge Quillian Baldwin worked on the legislation and will make a presentation regarding changes at the superior court judges meeting in July. The Child Support Guidelines Commission will continue to study any recommendations for further changes. Passage of SB 244 creating a Retirement System for Magistrates was a

significant accomplishment after many years of effort. HB 1073 creating five new Superior Court Judgeships was also successful. These judges will be appointed by the Governor for terms beginning January 1, 2007. HB 1288 provides for training and continuing education for municipal court clerks.

SB 44 expands oversight of the County and Municipal Probation Advisory Council to include probation departments handling city and county misdemeanor probationers. The bill, which impacts the AOC staffing of the Advisory Council, adds an undetermined number of probation departments to those already regulated. Ms. Nesbit stated that the AOC has identified 315 courts that may have programs to be regulated by the council and, accordingly, has prepared a budget request to increase staff support.

SB 462 implementing a fee to fund local courthouse security systems did not gain approval despite the hard work of Judge Bo Wood, Judge Sammy Ozburn and others. This measure was opposed by the governor. Another measure allocating funds to be administered by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for county sheriffs departments to develop court security plans was successful. Ms. Nesbit noted that the bill requires that such plans be submitted to the chief judge of the circuit for approval.

Report from AOC Director

Mr. Ratley expressed his appreciation to the judges, Council members and Chief Justice for their support of the AOC budget request during the legislative session. While the AOC budgets for FY06 and 07 were decreased, more drastic cuts were averted with the help of many who contacted their legislators on behalf of the agency and its work.

Mr. Ratley reviewed ongoing AOC IT initiatives that provide direct services to local courts. These include: continuing expansion of the Sustain over Citrex environment;

development of an IT business continuity/disaster recovery plan to insure that, in the event of a catastrophe, AOC customers do not lose technology services; third party assessment of the TIPS program by the North Highland Group and a planned evaluation of the CITREX configuration.

Mr. Ratley stated that work continues on e-filing initiatives in Washington County, the test sight for e-filing of child support cases; he anticipates rollout of this system in the near future. When completed, e-filing capabilities will be expanded to Bibb and Walker counties.

An ongoing study of fee-collection practices in the state has focused on the revenue shortfall at the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council. Mr. Ratley noted that the study may also affect the AOC as the auditors look more closely at regulation of private probation companies and the possible impact of including regulation of governmental probation services under the Probation Advisory Council.

Budget Matters

Judge Carriere began by stating that a concerted effort will be made to send out budget information well in advance of future Council meetings. He apologized that notices regarding a meeting prior to today's session did not reach members of the committee. A briefing for the budget committee will be held later this summer.

Reviewing the budget notebook contents, Judge Carriere stated that his report would focus on the AOC budget cuts totaling \$1.2 million which require Judicial Council approval. The specific cuts to AOC divisions, detailed in the budget narrative and displayed on the shaded areas of the spreadsheets, were necessitated by reductions to the agency budget requests for FY 06 and 07. He noted that while some staff reductions

have been made through attrition, elimination of positions was unavoidable. No changes were made in technology staffing per the Legislature's directive, however, reduction of staff positions for the Administrative Division was necessary. Certain AOC fiscal positions were transferred to the GPDSC and four positions were eliminated in the court business and process training section.

Justice Hunstein asked if the Governor's Office had indicated specific programs or positions to be eliminated. Judge Carriere stated that a document detailing specific cuts had been circulated prior to the legislative session; however, the governor's message to the judicial branch had essentially been to reduce redundancy.

Justice Sears noted that every effort had been made to explain to the Governor that while the Legislature might cut funding at his direction or otherwise, the judicial branch staff would determine the specific areas to cut. She had argued that the issue was one of separation of powers and in the end this argument prevailed. A great deal of effort was expended working with OPB staff and the House and Senate budget committees during the session. She stated that in the future, a greater judicial presence in negotiating budget matters is needed. Increasing consultations between judges and legislative committees and subcommittees will be a priority for the upcoming legislative session.

Mr. Ratley noted that agency spending reductions began prior to the end of FY 06; subsequently these cuts were rolled over into the '07 budget. Every effort was made to cut agency expenditures, reducing travel, per diem and other expenses, without cutting services. In FY '07, the state court judges council will pay for certain services provided by the AOC out of its state funds. One position in research has been eliminated, and three other positions will not be filled until later in FY07.

Judge Stephens moved to adopt the budget reductions as presented. Judge Cole seconded. The motion carried.

As mentioned earlier by Ms. Nesbit, Judge Carriere noted the FY 07 supplemental funding request of \$111,106 to enable the agency to handle additional responsibilities regarding regulation of probation companies.

Reports from Appellate Courts and Trial Court Councils

Supreme Court. No report.

Court of Appeals. Chief Judge Ruffin reported that at present a number of Court of Appeals judges are temporarily housed downtown in the Equitable Building. Later this summer their clerk's office and staff will move to renovated space in the Health Building, freeing up space on the third floor of the Judicial Building. The court is also working to remedy building security issues identified in a recent needs assessment conducted by the US Marshal's office. As part of the Court's Centennial Year celebrations, oral arguments have been held off-site in Augusta, Savannah, Jackson County and at Mercer, John Marshall and Georgia State law schools. Other planned activities include: a panel discussion on judicial independence, production of a video presentation on the court's history, a high school moot court competition and finally their Centennial Banquet to be held at the Georgia Aquarium in October.

Superior Courts. Judge Boyett stated that the superior court judges are seeking pay increases for judicial secretaries as well as additional state-funded law clerk positions. Changes to the compensation for senior judge services have been implemented such that per diem expenses are no longer reimbursed. Although the General Assembly reduced funding for such assistance, Judge Boyett noted that use of senior judges is

essential to smooth operation of the superior courts. The State Bar has greatly assisted their lobbying efforts at the General Assembly and superior court judges will continue to have a strong presence during the legislative session. He introduced Ms. Lorraine Hoffman-Polk, a graduate of Cornell University and Emory Law School, who is now General Counsel for the Council of Superior Court Judges.

State Courts. Judge Studdard expressed gratitude to Mr. Stephan Frank who has recently returned from active duty in Iraq. Mr. Frank will be assuming the position of court administrator for Forsyth County and Mr. Bob Bray of the AOC will become executive director of the Council of State Court Judges. At their strategic planning session in March the state court judges discussed the need for joint training sessions with other classes of court. ICJE has agreed to assist with this effort. The group also plans community outreach efforts to educate citizens about the function of the judicial branch.

Juvenile Courts. Judge Andrews reported that although authorization for the Juvenile Court Code Revision Committee was not renewed by the General Assembly, the juvenile court judges will keep the effort going in a less formal context. The council continues to participate in an agency alliance group that includes the Children and Youth Coordinating Council and the State Department of Education. Judge Andrews expressed his appreciation to Chief Justice Sears and Presiding Justice Hunstein for their leadership in supporting judicial independence in the face of unprincipled attacks against the judiciary.

Probate Courts. Judge Cason stated that improving communication within the probate judges' council is a priority since many judges do not know about services provided through the AOC to assist probate courts. The council is engaged in

establishing mental health courts and addressing the needs of individuals whose cognitive disabilities may impair their ability to successfully navigate the court process. She noted that for the first time the General Assembly established 18 as the age of consent to marriage in Georgia. A 16 or 17 year old does need parental consent prior to marriage. In the past here in Georgia marriage licenses were issued to girls as young as 12 and 13. The probate judges are working to comply with new federal guidelines on sale of firearms.

Magistrate Courts. Judge Anderson expressed their excitement over gaining state retirement benefits for magistrates. She noted that the council has worked on this issue for 17 years; with the assistance of a lobbyist the bill passed at the close of the session. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2006, their budget includes funds to hire an Executive Director for the council. In the area of training, they have developed a Boot Camp for newly-elected magistrates to assist them in learning the administrative duties of office. She expressed appreciation to the AOC in staffing their council.

Municipal Courts. Judge Cilienski reported that the council's president, Judge Edwards, has now become a state court judge for Lowndes County. He stated that the municipal court judges are working with George Nolan on technology planning.

Other Reports

Transition into Law Practice. Mr. Doug Ashworth of the State Bar called attention to the material provided on the lawyer mentoring program that has been operating for approximately one year. For 2006, 697 beginning lawyers will be placed with mentors and will also attend CLE classes in their practice area. Mentors for new lawyers are appointed by the Supreme Court and trained by the State Bar. Lawyers entering firms are usually assigned a mentor in-house. To date 792 experienced lawyers

have been appointed as mentors. He asked the council members, as leaders of the Judicial Branch, to support and encourage the young lawyers in their circuits. The State Bar website provides more details on the mentoring program and a complete listing of participants by circuit or by last name.

Georgia Council of Court Administrators. Mr. DeLoach, current president of GCCA, presented information on the council's launch of a two-year certificate program that provides professional training and expertise for court personnel. The program involves a partnership with the University of Michigan and ICJE.

Old/New Business

The Chief Justice asked for any old or new business to be considered.

Judge Cato moved that the Judicial Council go on record recommending that the 2007 session of the legislature grant the members of the state paid judiciary a long overdue pay increase of 20%. This is a top priority to the judiciary and should be communicated to the Governor and the Legislature by an appropriate resolution.

Judge West seconded. No discussion. The motion carried.

Adjournment

Chief Justice Sears presented certificates of appreciation to judges whose terms of service on the Council were ending: Judges Cato, Craig, Nunn, Wood, West, Stone and Anderson. She announced that the next meeting of the Council would take place on August 20, 2006 at the Wyndham Vinings Hotel.

Respectfully submitted:

Billie Bolton, Assistant Director

The above and fore-going minutes were approved at the meeting held on _____ day of _____, 200_.

Table of Contents

Memorandum: Explanation of the Judgeship Process	2
Judicial Council Policy for Judgeship & Circuit Boundary Studies	6
Trial Court Caseload Reports:	
State Court	13
Juvenile Court.....	15
Probate Court	20
Magistrate Court	30
Charts:	
Judgeship Case Weight Needed to Qualify	36
Number of Judges and Details for Circuit Weights	37
Superior Court Circuit Timeline	40
Circuit, Personnel, & Weighted Caseload	41
CY 2005 Criminal Filings by Rank and 5 Year Percentage	42
CY 2005 Civil Filings by Rank and 5 Year Percentage	43
Population	44
4 Factor Chart	45
Sample Ballot (Qualifying).....	46
Sample Ballot (Ranking)	47
Letters of Request and Comments	48
Atlanta Judicial Circuit	49
Atlantic Judicial Circuit	56
Brunswick Judicial Circuit.....	63
Cordele Judicial Circuit	69
Gwinnett Judicial Circuit	75
Mountain Judicial Circuit	79
Piedmont Judicial Circuit.....	86
Waycross Judicial Circuit	95
Carryover Request and Comments:	
Dublin Judicial Circuit.....	100
Enotah Judicial Circuit.....	105
Southern Judicial Circuit.....	133

Judicial Council of Georgia
Administrative Office of the Courts

David L. Ratley
Director

M E M O R A N D U M

To: All Judicial Council Members

From: Research Staff

Date: August 10, 2006

Re: Explanation of Judgeship Processes and Procedures

On August 29, 2006 the Judicial Council of Georgia will meet. This year at the request of Chief Judge Joe C. Bishop, Chair of the Judicial Workload Assessment Committee, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Research staff has provided a copy of the newly published Judicial Workload Assessment Guide (JWAG) to each of you. This Guide has been developed as a comprehensive handbook to provide detailed information concerning the judgeship process. The Guide is an essential tool, particularly for first time members of the Judicial Council, to understanding this process and includes policy details, caseload analysis, and information concerning circuit qualification.

Processes:

The data in the Agenda in the Judgeship *Super Table* for calendar year 2005 were collected in a number of different ways. The General Civil and the Domestic Relations data were downloaded from the Georgia Superior Court Clerks Cooperative Authority in early June of 2006. The data was sent to the Superior Court Clerks of each county and were verified by the clerk and reviewed by the District Court Administrators. Any changes in the data were finalized prior to presentation to the Judicial Council.

The criminal data was collected from a variety of sources. The number of Unified Appeal filings was reported to Research of the AOC by the District Attorney of each circuit. The felony and misdemeanor filings were reported by the Superior Court Clerks to Research, mostly in summary form. In addition, criminal cases were counted from printouts sent to Research by the Clerks. Finally, the Research staff counted the filings and defendants from bound dockets in the Clerk's Offices. The Chief Probation Officers reported the number of probation revocation petitions filed in the superior courts. In many instances, private probation providers reported the number of misdemeanor revocation petitions filed in the superior courts still handling misdemeanors.

Specific Processes for Completion of the Judgeship Chart

All caseload data was entered into a secure computer program. The data on the Judgeship *Super Table* are computer generated. All data was verified independently by Research staff. All corrections to the data must be in writing and will be held in the files for two years.

Letters of support are sent, primarily, to the Chairperson of the Judicial Council and are forwarded to the Director of the AOC. Copies are submitted to Research staff for compiling reports and introductory comments.

Contents of the Agenda

Agenda Item Number 3 (*Located Behind Tab 2*)

Consideration by the Judicial Council of Requests for Additional Superior Court Judgeships & Recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governor

- A. **Page 2 Title: Memorandum Describing Judgeship Materials**
- B. **Page 6, Title: Judicial Council Policy for Judgeship & Circuit Boundary Studies - Description:** *Official policy of the Judicial Council governing the methodology applied in judgeship assessment process. These policies have been in place since 1973 and are revised by the Judicial Council when circumstances require. al information to the reader.*
- C. **Title: Trial Court Caseload Report:** *A review of caseload data reports for all trial courts including State, Juvenile, Magistrate and Probate Court. The caseload data is footnoted to provide addition*
 - State Court (Page 13)**
 - Juvenile Court (Page 15)**
 - Probate Court (Page 20)**
 - Magistrate Court (Page 30)**
- D. **CHARTS**
 - Page 36, Title: Judgeship Case Weight Needed to Qualify - Description:** *The current case weights were approved by the Council on June 8, 2005. Each circuit must have a weight equal to or greater than that presented on this table for the number of judges currently authorized. For example: a circuit with 5 judges would need to have a weight of at least 6.60.*
 - Page 37, Title: Number of Judges and Details of the Circuit and Per Judge Weights - Description:** *This table displays the weight needed to qualify for a recommendation for an additional judge by circuit and per judge. Each value is paired with the actual weight generated from the calendar year 2005 data.*

Page 40, Title: Superior Court Circuit Timeline – Description: *Displays the detailed history of newly created judgeships and new circuits by year. This timeline assists Council members by displaying the information concerning the active judge vs. authorized positions.*

Page 41, Title: Circuits, Personnel, & Weighted Caseload - Description: *Shows number current judgeships and presents the circuit weighted caseload computed from caseload data collected by or reported to the AOC from calendar year 2005. Circuits requesting judgeship studies for presentation to the General Assembly in 2006 are highlighted in yellow. In order to “qualify” for a recommendation, one of two conditions must be met. The first condition requires a circuit to have a weight that is equal to or greater than the weight currently approved by the Judicial Council. For example, if a circuit has three (3) judges it must have a weight equal to or greater than 4.02. When this first condition is met the circuit is said to “qualify” and is eligible for recommendation to the General Assembly upon a simple majority of the votes cast by the Judicial Council. Second, if a circuit does not “qualify,” using the same definition presented in the first condition, it must receive a two-thirds majority of the votes cast by the Judicial Council to be recommended to the General Assembly.*

Page 42, Title: CY 2005 Criminal Filings by Rank & 5-year Percentage Change - Description: *Caseload figures in this table are ranked from high to low and permit the reader to determine the position of the requesting circuit for that value. Each case type defined by the Judicial Council is displayed. The increase or decrease in the case types are shown as percentages compared with the data from calendar year 2000.*

Page 43, Title: CY 2005 Circuit & Civil Filings by Rank & 5-year Percentage Change - Description: *These caseload figures are ranked from high to low and permit the reader to determine the relative position of the requesting circuit for that value. Each case type, as defined by the Judicial Council, is displayed. The increase or decrease in the number of cases for each case type is shown as percentages base on comparison with the data from calendar year 2000.*

Page 44, Title: Population- Description: *This data reflects the 2005 population estimate released on July 1, 2006 by the U.S. Census and the 2010 projections published by the Office of Planning and Budget.*

Page 45, Title: 4 Factor Chart - Description: *This chart is **not an official part** of the studies conducted by the Judicial Council associated with Requests for Additional Superior Court Judgeships. It was developed to highlight the objective criteria used during the formal Judicial Council Deliberations: see paragraphs 2 and 3 on Page 2 of the Judicial Council Policy presented earlier in this*

memorandum. The purpose of the chart is to aid Judicial Council members in their personal deliberations regarding how they will vote. Since, the case count methodology was revised, the factors with ranking and the sum of the ranks, have been limited to the numerical values for criminal, general civil, and domestic relations cases along with the estimated and projected population. As in the past, the general meaning of the Weighted Caseload in Minutes per Judge will be explained during the staff presentation to the Judicial Council.

E. Page 46, Sample Ballot (Qualifying)

F. Page 47, Sample Ballot (Ranking)

F. Page 48, Title: Letters of Request and Comments from Invited Respondents
-Description: *These letters are from circuits requesting new judgeships recommendations sent to the Judicial Council during the calendar year 2006. Letters received in the AOC, up to the time of the actual meeting, will be provided to Judicial Council members as supplemental items on the morning of the meeting.*

Page 49: Atlanta Judicial Circuit (20th Judge)

Page 56: Atlantic Judicial Circuit (5th Judge)

Page 63: Brunswick Judicial Circuit (5th Judge)

Page 69: Cordele Judicial Circuit (3rd Judge)

Page 75: Gwinnett Judicial Circuit (10th Judge)

Page 79: Mountain Judicial Circuit (3rd Judge)

Page 86: Piedmont Judicial Circuit (4th Judge)

Page 95: Waycross Judicial Circuit (4th Judge)

F. Title: Carryover Circuit Requests and Comments - Description: *Judicial Council policy allows a circuit that has been recommended for an additional judgeship to the General Assembly to be presented for three (3) years. This means that the circuit does not have to re-qualify for a recommendation unless the caseload decreases by more than 10%.*

Alapaha Judicial Circuit (3rd Judge)

Cobb Judicial Circuit (10th Judge)

Page 100: Dublin Judicial Circuit (3rd Judge)

Page 105: Enotah Judicial Circuit (3rd Judge)

Page 133: Southern Judicial Circuit (6th Judge)

Judicial Council Policy for Judgeship and Circuit Boundary Studies*

Initiation

Recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly for judicial personnel allocations for the superior courts shall be made annually prior to the beginning of the regular session of the General Assembly. Studies by the Administrative Office of the Courts of the need for judgeships or of the need for changes in circuit boundaries may be authorized by the Judicial Council upon the request of the governor, members of the General Assembly, or by a judge of the county or counties affected. Such requests shall be submitted in writing by June 1, prior to the session of the General Assembly during which the judgeship or change in circuit boundaries is sought. Any request received after June 1 shall not be considered until the following year year. Any judge who intends to make a request for a study must notify the Judicial Council of any special circumstances or data of the courts involved in the request by June 1 so that these special circumstances may be investigated during the studies conducted by the Administrative Office of the Courts. (Rev. 12/07/2005)

Purpose

The Judicial Council seeks to achieve a balanced and equitable distribution of case load among the judges of the state to promote speedy and just dispositions of citizens' cases. The Judicial Council recognizes that the addition of a judgeship is a matter of great gravity and substantial expense to the counties and the state and should be approached through careful inquiry and deliberate study before action is taken. (10/27/1981)

Policy Statements

The Judicial Council will recommend the creation of additional judgeships or changes in circuit boundaries based only upon needs demonstrated through comparative “objective” studies. The Judicial Council will not recommend the addition of a judgeship not requested by the circuit under study unless there is clear and convincing evidence that an additional judgeship is needed. (10/27/1981)

As a matter of policy, the Judicial Council recommends that no new part-time judgeship be created. Because of the advantages of multi-judge circuits, the Judicial Council generally will not recommend the creation of additional circuits. (10/27/1981)

* Reprinted and reformatted from the original published in Georgia Courts Journal.

Judgeships

1. Part-time judgeships

As a general rule, part-time judgeships are not an effective method of handling judicial workload. The disadvantages of part-time judgeships are many; a few specific ones are:

a. The cost of training a part-time judge is the same as that of training a full-time judge, but the benefits to the state or local government of training a part-time judge are only a fraction of those realized by training a full-time judge, since a part-time judge will hear only a fraction of the cases heard by a full-time judge receiving the same training. Additionally, part-time judges are generally not paid for the time they spend in continuing education. This creates a financial disincentive for part-time judges to attend continuing education, whom might ordinarily spend time practicing law or conducting law or conducting other business. (10/27/1981)

b. Conflicts of interest often arise in professional relationships for part-time judges. It is often difficult for other attorneys to litigate against an attorney and have to appear before the same attorney, sitting as judge, the next day. Additionally, cases in which part-time judges are disqualified usually arise in their own court, thus eliminating a large potential portion of their law practice. (10/27/1981)

2. Promotion of Multi-Judge Circuits

Multi-judge courts are more effective organizations for administrative purposes. Some specific advantages of multi-judge courts are:

a. Accommodation of judicial absences. Multi-judge circuits allow better management in the absence of a judge from the circuit due to illness, disqualification, vacation, and the demands of other responsibilities such as continuing legal education. (10/27/1981)

b. More efficient use of jurors. Better use of jury manpower can be effected when two judges hold court simultaneously in the same county. One judge in a multi-judge circuit may use the other judge's excess jurors for a trial of a second case rather than excusing them at an added expense to the county. Present courtroom space in most counties may not permit two trials simultaneously; but such a practice, if implemented, may justify the building of a second smaller courtroom by the county affected, or the making of other arrangements. (10/27/1981)

c. Accommodation of problems of impartiality or disqualification. A larger circuit with additional judges may permit hometown cases where acquaintances are involved to be considered by an out-of-town judge without the appearance that the local judge is avoiding responsibility. (10/27/1981)

d. Improves court administration. Multi-judge circuits tend to promote impartiality and uniformity of administrative practices and procedures by making court administration something more than the extension of a single judge's personality. Multi-judge circuits also permit economies in the deployment of auxiliary court personnel. (10/27/1981)

e. Expedites handling of cases. Probably most important of all, under the arithmetic of calendar management, the judges of a multi-judge court can handle substantially more cases than an equal number of judges operating in separate courts. Besides the advantage of improved efficiency to be realized through the use of multi-judge circuits, there are also a number of other reasons as to why this approach should be taken. Under the existing law, a new judgeship may be created without the addition of another elected district attorney, although an assistant district attorney is added. However, when the circuit is divided and a new circuit thereby created, another elected district attorney is needed. A second reason supporting the use of multi-judge circuits is that upon division of an existing circuit into two new ones, one new circuit may grow disproportionately to the other, or population or other factors suggesting division may diminish, thus negating the factors which initially led to the division and compounding future problems of adjustment. (10/27/1981)

Methodology

1. Criteria for Superior Court Judgeship Requests

In establishing the need for additional superior court judgeships, the Judicial Council will consider weighted caseloads per judge for each circuit. If the per judge weighted caseload meets the threshold standards established by the Council for consideration of an additional judgeship, additional criteria will be considered. The threshold standard is a value set by the Judicial Council in open session. (06/08/2005)

Additional criteria considered may include, but are not limited to, the following and are not necessarily in the order of importance as listed below:

- a. Filings per judge
- b. Growth rate of filings per judge
- c. Open cases per judge
- d. Case backlog per judge
- e. Population served per judge
- f. Population growth
- g. Number and types of supporting courts

- h. Availability and use of senior judge assistance
 - i. Number of resident attorneys per judge
 - j. Responses to letters to legislators, county commissioners, presidents of local bar associations, district attorneys, and clerks of superior court asking for their input.
- (8/25/2000)

2. Criteria for Studying Requests to Alter Circuit Boundaries

The criteria used by the Judicial Council in reviewing proposals to alter circuit boundaries will include the following criteria:

a. Weighted Caseload per Judge - After the proposed change in circuit boundaries, caseload should be more evenly distributed. In addition, a proposed circuit's workload should not vary significantly from the statewide average weighted caseload per judge. (10/27/1981)

b. Caseload Growth Trends - Caseload growth trends should be examined so that an imbalance in growth rates when a circuit boundary is changed will not necessitate a reallocation of manpower or alteration of circuit boundaries again in the near future. Such continual shifts in circuit boundaries or manpower could be very unsettling and, thereby, significantly reduce judicial efficiency. If a reliable caseload projection method is available, this technique will be used to determine future case filings; if one is not available, caseload growth rates, increases in the number of attorneys per capita and population projections will be analyzed. The population per judge should be evenly divided among the geographical areas affected by the proposed circuit boundary change if a recommendation is to be made. Secondly, population projections should be examined to insure that disparate population growth rates will not create a great imbalance in the population to be served by each judge within a short period of time from the date of the alteration of the circuit boundaries. Lastly, the population per judge of the altered circuit should not be substantially different from the statewide average population per judge. (10/27/1981)

c. Changes in Judicial Travel Time - Travel time diminish total judicial time available for case processing; therefore, travel time should not be significantly increased for judges in circuits affected by a change in circuit boundaries before such a change should be recommended. Terms of court in and the number of times each county was visited on case-related business by the judges should be determined and these trips should be translated into travel time by using official distances between courthouses and road conditions determined by the Georgia Department of Public Safety. (10/27/1981)

d. Projected Changes in Cost to State and Local Government - Cost savings or additional expenditures required of local and state governing authorities should be determined. Changes in cost for personnel, facilities, and travel should be considered. A

recommendation for change should not be made unless additional expenditures required are minimal or balanced by equivalent cost savings. (10/27/1981)

e. Characteristics of populace in areas of circuits sought to be separated, such as rural or urban. (12/11/1981)

f. Operational policies of circuit as presently constituted as might involve inattention to smaller counties in circuit. (12/11/1981)

g. Whether creation of new circuit would obviate necessity of one or two additional judges in parent circuit. (12/11/1981)

h. Travel and other expenses incident to serving smaller counties. (12/11/1981)

i. Alleviation of case assignment problems in larger counties of circuit. (12/11/1981)

j. Population growth of counties of circuit which would reflect need for new circuit. (12/11/1981)

k. Comparison population per judge in new circuit with standards approved by Judicial Council in recent years. (12/11/1981)

l. The Judicial Council will presume that a multi-judge circuit is preferred over a single-judge circuit. (12/11/1981)

m. If a county is to be split off from the circuit of which it is a part, the possibilities of adding that county to another circuit should be exhausted prior to the council's recommending a single-judge circuit. (12/11/1981)

Judicial Council Deliberations

1. Testimony

Judges, legislators, and others deemed appropriate by the chair shall be invited to make written remarks or present data regarding the need for judgeships or to alter circuit boundaries. Any special circumstance or data of a circuit for which a request is to be made must be brought to the attention of the Judicial Council by a judge of the requesting circuit by June 1 of the year prior to the year of the legislative session during which the judgeship or change in circuit boundaries will be considered. The written testimony of the judges, legislators and other persons shall be reviewed and considered by the Judicial Council in their deliberations regarding judicial manpower. Oral arguments will not be made. (6/6/1984)

2. Final Deliberations

After all written presentations, the Judicial Council and key Administrative Office of the Courts staff, in open session, will discuss the merits of each request. (6/6/1984)

3. Staff Presentations

The Administrative Office of the Courts will present data evaluating the need to add judgeships or to alter circuit boundaries based on council approved criteria and will make staff recommendations. (10/27/1981)

4. Vote

After final deliberations, the Council will, in open session, approve or disapprove recommended changes in judicial manpower allocations. Votes on such motions shall be by secret written ballot. A two-thirds vote of the council membership present at the session will be required to override an unfavorable recommendation based on the criteria contained in these by-laws (policy). After determining those circuits in which the council recommends an additional judgeship, the council will rank the recommendations based on need. Any ranking ballot that does not rank each and every judgeship recommendation presented on the secret ballot shall not be counted. (12/07/2005)

5. Length of Recommendations

Upon a recommendation of an additional judgeship or to alter circuit boundaries for a judicial circuit by the council, the recommendation shall remain approved by the council for a period of three years, unless the caseload of that circuit changes by plus or minus ten percent. (Rev. 12/13/1996)

6. Disqualifications

Any council member in a circuit or county affected by a council recommendation shall be eligible to vote by secret ballot on motions affecting that circuit, but shall not be present or participate in the council's final deliberations regarding his or her circuit. (Rev. 6/6/1984)

Dissemination of Recommendations

1. Study of the Need for Additional Superior Court Judgeships

The Administrative Office of the Courts shall prepare a report, including data required by the council for their deliberations and council policy statement, on the

Judicial Council's recommendations as to the need for additional superior court judgeships. Such report shall be distributed to the governor, members of the judiciary and special judiciary committees of the Senate and House, all superior court judges and other interested parties approved by the director of the Administrative Office of the Courts. Additionally, the Administrative Office of the Courts shall prepare and distribute a press release summarizing the council's recommendations. (10/27/1981)

2. Special Studies of Judicial Manpower. Including Alteration of Circuit Boundaries

a. The Administrative Office of the Courts shall prepare reports on the Judicial Council's recommendations for special studies, including reports on requests to alter circuit boundaries and for judgeships of courts other than the superior court and shall distribute them to the requestor, and, in the discretion of the director, to other interested parties. (10/27/1981)

b. In preparing special reports, written remarks of judges, legislators, and others deemed appropriate by the chairperson shall be solicited by the Administrative Office of the Courts and considered by the Judicial Council. (12/11/1986)

Printed April 30, 2006

State Court Caseload Report

Calendar Year 2005

County	Serious Traffic			Non-Traffic Misdemeanors			Probation Revocation			Other Traffic			Landlord/Tenant Disp.			Other Civil			County Totals			
	Open	Filed	Disposed	Open	Filed	Disposed	Open	Filed	Disposed	Open	Filed	Disposed	Open	Filed	Disposed	Open	Filed	Disposed	Open	Filed	Disposed	
Aapling	0	0	0	0	144	0	0	0	0	133	0	0	0	0	69	0	0	0	0	348	0	0
Bacon	0	67	37	0	78	157	0	6	6	780	619	1	1	0	20	21	0	0	7	962	840	
Baldwin	14	6	311	720	1,759	1,631	0	0	0	3,036	3,163	3	1	0	444	197	95	1,181	5,989	5,180	5,989	
Bibb	317	360	369	2,022	2,137	2,238	0	331	2,235	9,834	9,376	121	35	55	3,157	2,230	2,017	7,852	15,027	14,386	15,027	
Brooks	0	34	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	3,021	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,165	0	0	
Bryan	0	167	239	0	182	242	0	0	0	150	200	0	0	0	114	52	0	0	623	733	733	
Bulloch	0	0	0	0	681	0	0	0	0	9,536	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10,532	0	0	
Burke	0	90	0	0	413	0	0	41	0	961	0	0	1	0	209	0	0	0	1,715	0	0	
Candler	413	926	1,193	20	83	85	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	16	39	23	453	1,048	1,301	1,048	
Carroll	68	347	332	1,084	950	952	142	1,285	455	1,677	4,427	0	0	861	1,263	845	3,832	9,037	7,111	9,037		
Charlton	17	103	280	90	270	143	7	6	21	935	2,550	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,049	3,689	2,884	3,689	
Chatham	2,723	2,080	2,306	2,123	828	2,100	1,533	1,074	789	242	291	347	72	247	264	2,522	3,455	3,475	9,215	7,975	9,281	
Chattahoochee	112	114	51	942	1,542	1,054	0	0	0	951	1,454	1	1	1	131	123	66	2,137	3,234	2,202	3,234	
Clarke	0	686	289	0	1,156	908	0	0	0	12,889	10,628	0	0	0	2,273	1,264	0	16,964	13,109	13,109	13,109	
Clayton	164	177	283	1,378	1,836	1,970	241	902	879	0	0	4	5	6	759	949	885	2,546	3,869	3,983	3,869	
Cochran	0	1,148	1,152	0	8,553	8,637	0	3,190	0	25,118	24,986	0	14	17	7,634	6,275	0	45,657	41,047	41,047	41,047	
Cobb	0	37	35	5	252	248	0	0	2	1,173	1,164	0	0	0	16	11	11	7	1,478	1,468	1,468	
Coffee	0	3,854	0	0	6,317	6,302	0	6,726	0	115,763	128,448	0	16,966	15,389	0	18,111	22,258	0	169,737	172,397	172,397	
Colquitt	25	185	185	96	488	626	10	105	96	180	1,872	1,086	0	3	175	209	188	486	2,872	3,059	2,872	
Coweta	195	234	311	1,549	2,200	2,122	379	524	363	4,253	9,818	0	16	5	363	1,224	561	6,739	13,972	12,880	13,972	
Decatur	33	155	145	105	265	254	0	37	37	942	2,239	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,080	2,686	2,543	2,686	
DeKalb	5,038	2,939	2,654	3,391	9,203	9,264	0	2,374	0	2,374	0	0	0	0	88,818	33,480	24,908	148,065	67,217	56,733	67,217	
Dougherty	52	150	151	443	2,595	1,753	0	711	4,492	6,232	4,621	8	6	99	1,085	1,242	5,087	10,771	8,384	10,771	8,384	
Douglas	274	1,752	1,349	739	960	939	1,302	870	828	3,491	8,121	4	6	574	853	833	6,384	12,561	11,081	12,561	11,081	
Early	0	81	57	9	149	127	0	2	2	67	1,990	0	0	0	6	54	32	82	2,407	2,208	2,407	
Efingham	3	16	32	71	1,253	1,390	33	40	116	413	5,000	4,446	0	3	24	288	27	644	6,020	6,020	6,020	
Elbert	1	0	0	1,136	762	823	0	0	0	2	12	1	1	1	0	0	0	1,140	775	832	775	
Emanuel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,141	0	0	0	0	0	65	0	3,141	65	65	
Evans	0	77	65	0	140	163	0	0	0	0	773	1,355	0	0	49	90	0	0	1,039	1,039	1,039	
Fayette	109	182	180	726	1,359	1,373	48	676	661	1,776	4,404	4,076	3	15	1,024	954	769	3,686	7,560	7,071	7,560	
Forsyth	795	721	920	1,348	1,328	1,369	29	1	53	3,601	3,598	3,473	61	7	0	9,668	1,447	15,502	7,102	6,815	7,102	
Fulton	0	0	0	0	10,121	0	0	750	0	0	55,301	0	0	0	47,050	0	0	0	159,968	0	0	
Glynn	0	0	0	3,410	11,399	7,899	51	309	258	0	0	0	10	10	329	530	201	3,780	12,248	8,458	12,248	
Grady	0	268	214	0	2,572	2,425	0	0	0	2,305	2,211	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,145	4,850	4,850	4,850	
Gwinnett	4,060	6,630	8,287	40	47	71	110	1,895	1,867	0	0	8	80	83	6,865	16,947	15,804	11,053	25,609	26,112	25,609	
Habersham	14	159	124	85	842	731	0	25	25	91	2,935	2,477	14	9	2	53	241	267	4,211	3,567	4,211	
Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8,774	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9,774	0	0	
Henry	1,737	762	452	733	1,185	740	0	480	480	3,420	19,037	18,858	1	4	3	880	1,857	6,771	23,325	21,516	23,325	
Houston	483	515	360	128	2,218	2,301	0	468	468	0	0	0	0	4	3	696	1,062	1,307	4,285	3,653	4,285	
Jackson	0	162	0	0	588	0	0	0	0	0	1,737	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,487	0	0	
Jeff Davis	23	350	200	5	105	92	8	40	36	4	747	675	0	0	13	79	26	53	1,321	1,029	1,321	
Jefferson	27	6	6	273	849	734	0	0	0	106	1,818	1,650	0	0	18	30	30	424	2,703	2,420	2,703	
Jenkins	13	87	73	23	146	139	0	3	3	156	2,041	2,041	1	5	5	37	37	208	2,394	2,298	2,394	
Liberty	261	324	238	1,239	451	377	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	61	355	271	1,561	1,230	886	1,230	886	
Long	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,554	1,958	1,903	9	4	4	20	12	26	3,683	1,974	1,923	3,683
Lowndes	181	836	658	614	3,075	2,476	102	578	472	2,315	15,989	16,401	0	0	997	1,038	1,191	4,209	24,228	21,188	24,228	
McIntosh	433	524	462	0	0	0	1	22	5	5,154	3,867	0	0	19	20	21	5,607	4,737	4,345	5,607	4,345	
Miller	4	20	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	968	881	0	0	0	18	9	4	1,036	899	1,036	
Mitchell	0	0	0	0	437	0	0	0	0	0	1,700	0	0	0	114	0	0	0	2,255	0	0	
Muscogee	0	0	0	686	4,035	3,349	0	0	0	301	2,072	1,771	0	0	0	0	0	887	6,107	5,120	6,107	
Pierce	10	76	66	53	171	118	0	62	62	155	904	749	0	0	28	59	31	246	1,272	1,026	1,272	
Pulaski	210	458	667	58	514	325	0	0	0	2,094	2,132	0	0	0	0	0	0	268	3,066	3,224	3,066	
Richmond	520	891	1,082	6,848	4,058	4,114	0	0	0	20,859	27,165	25,855	3	0	5,304	2,263	1,631	33,332	34,377	32,782	34,377	
Rockdale	208	734	742	467	1,053	968	8	196	174	2,437	8,861	8,238	6	10	9	771	1,257	3,887	12,111	11,404	12,111	
Screven	0	0	0	105	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,308	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,612	1,504	1,612	

State Court Caseload Report

Calendar Year 2005

County	Serious Traffic			Non-Traffic Misdemeanors			Probation Revocation			Other Traffic			Landlord/Tenant Disp.			Other Civil			County Totals				
	Open	Filed	Disposed	Open	Filings	Disposed	Open	Filings	Disposed	Open	Filings	Disposed	Open	Filings	Disposed	Open	Filings	Disposed	Open	Filings	Disposed	County	
Spalding	0	358	227	0	2,164	1,978	0	1,813	0	4,521	4,841	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9,441	8,787
Stephens	17	75	26	120	763	662	0	21	72	1,389	1,204	0	0	0	0	191	320	237	400	2,568	2,140	Stephens	
Sumter	0	122	80	732	997	976	0	0	0	2,630	2,389	0	0	0	0	72	269	138	804	4,018	3,583	Sumter	
Tattnall	0	174	259	0	557	733	0	0	0	1,919	2,208	0	4	4	0	105	106	106	0	2,759	3,310	Tattnall	
Thomas	264	280	285	1,012	2,071	1,371	0	90	90	4,512	4,228	1	2	1	137	337	236	2,314	7,262	6,191	Thomas		
Tift	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,905	15,741	11,746	0	10	9	14	198	120	4,009	15,949	11,875	Tift	
Toombs	60	164	5	61	612	2,506	0	0	182	2,475	460	0	3	0	14	161	162	287	3,415	3,133	Toombs		
Treutlen	0	0	0	0	152	0	0	0	0	4,446	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	0	0	4,635	0	Treutlen	
Troup	15	265	269	705	1,327	1,426	0	0	3,027	6,367	5,416	0	0	0	633	533	605	4,380	8,482	7,716	Troup		
Turner	6	29	20	0	0	0	0	0	817	4,781	3,690	0	0	0	1	14	0	824	4,824	3,710	Turner		
Walker	163	380	140	1,655	929	442	0	0	3,282	4,498	642	0	0	0	351	116	58	5,451	5,853	1,282	Walker		
Ware	10	178	183	84	842	602	0	614	181	2,103	2,849	0	0	0	56	167	138	331	3,904	4,786	Ware		
Washington	685	1,788	1,880	860	527	503	0	0	370	328	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	1,926	2,643	2,364	Washington		
Wayne	84	75	127	700	596	1,069	0	0	595	2,145	2,385	0	0	0	385	130	143	1,764	2,946	3,724	Wayne		
Worth	57	44	1	270	393	268	16	0	147	2,550	268	0	0	0	127	94	46	617	3,061	583	Worth		
Totals	19,908	34,160	30,710	38,646	104,012	87,514	4,020	26,377	14,110	77,359	471,424	362,532	66,138	96,787	40,921	106,697	138,649	84,050	315,768	873,021	619,877	Totals	

Juvenile Court Caseload
(filings only)
Calendar Year 2005

<i>County</i>	<i>Delinquent</i>	<i>Unruly</i>	<i>Termination of Parental Rights</i>	<i>Deprived</i>	<i>Traffic</i>	<i>Special Proceedings</i>	<i>Total Filings</i>
Appling	101	44	0	80	9	0	234
Atkinson	23	16	0	19	12	0	70
Bacon	32	19	3	23	8	0	85
Baker	7	5	0	6	1	0	19
Baldwin	321	50	0	173	103	21	668
Banks	58	16	15	46	22	25	182
Barrow	371	137	24	331	67	22	952
Bartow	549	304	36	759	202	28	1,878
Ben Hill	301	60	0	26	17	7	411
Berrien	115	43	0	52	12	0	222
Bibb	2,350	497	58	1,969	167	40	5,081
Bleckley	52	36	0	24	6	0	118
Brantley	0	130	0	0	0	0	130
Brooks	91	70	4	54	9	19	247
Bryan	157	38	0	7	95	0	297
Bulloch	156	33	0	0	95	0	284
Burke	269	152	1	23	23	0	468
Butts	302	63	15	361	49	8	798
Calhoun	50	3	0	1	2	0	56
Camden	281	104	8	41	26	39	499
Candler	14	38	1	39	3	1	96
Carroll	809	279	21	443	151	23	1,726
Catoosa	409	171	11	170	181	56	998
Charlton	61	24	0	40	12	0	137
Chatham	2,656	547	27	665	636	145	4,676
Chattahoochee	10	4	0	3	10	5	32
Chattooga	79	35	4	66	47	39	270
Cherokee	695	312	23	463	444	66	2,003
Clarke	737	497	41	375	166	58	1,874
Clay	16	0	3	15	7	1	42
Clayton	3,452	494	34	1,101	289	238	5,608

<i>County</i>	<i>Delinquent</i>	<i>Unruly</i>	<i>Termination of Parental Rights</i>	<i>Deprived</i>	<i>Traffic</i>	<i>Special Proceedings</i>	<i>Total Filings</i>
Clinch	52	21	2	7	2	43	127
Cobb	4,113	894	117	1,351	1,410	105	7,990
Coffee	0	552	0	0	0	0	552
Colquitt	277	81	21	153	68	5	605
Columbia	616	506	0	29	270	57	1,478
Cook	224	46	11	65	83	6	435
Coweta	610	143	32	427	214	10	1,436
Crawford	8	0	5	161	25	0	199
Crisp	259	111	3	176	29	20	598
Dade	55	25	2	40	35	2	159
Dawson	124	58	0	48	79	4	313
Decatur	219	13	5	89	43	3	372
DeKalb	8,362	1,676	118	2,142	933	646	13,877
Dodge	39	29	0	16	18	8	110
Dooly	54	33	0	52	15	0	154
Dougherty	1,091	246	15	184	107	54	1,697
Douglas	1,290	617	39	449	132	53	2,580
Early	158	17	1	11	10	3	200
Echols	11	6	3	8	11	0	39
Effingham	120	36	3	26	146	28	359
Elbert	235	0	0	46	34	2	317
Emanuel	63	20	0	33	1	0	117
Evans	70	43	7	37	5	6	168
Fannin	66	68	0	91	36	10	271
Fayette	773	280	3	482	480	6	2,024
Floyd	865	558	35	915	308	158	2,839
Forsyth	783	105	15	140	247	21	1,311
Franklin	0	0	0	0	0	269	269
Fulton	5,751	1,126	175	3,193	835	638	11,718
Gilmer	112	64	2	53	31	0	262
Glascocock	11	12	3	6	4	0	36
Glynn	698	168	7	203	307	73	1,456
Gordon	302	214	17	504	151	0	1,188
Grady	153	8	1	102	21	88	373
Greene	122	57	2	38	42	0	261

<i>County</i>	<i>Delinquent</i>	<i>Unruly</i>	<i>Termination of Parental Rights</i>	<i>Deprived</i>	<i>Traffic</i>	<i>Special Proceedings</i>	<i>Total Filings</i>
Gwinnett	5,538	1,470	80	2,630	1,384	201	11,303
Habersham	259	82	4	58	26	0	429
Hall	1,028	252	29	467	403	13	2,192
Hancock	17	12	2	31	0	1	63
Haralson	163	215	9	124	61	4	576
Harris	148	65	0	88	47	4	352
Hart	171	4	0	92	0	0	267
Heard	0	138	0	0	0	0	138
Henry	1,799	488	46	483	433	12	3,261
Houston	2,291	1,388	0	1,114	332	15	5,140
Irwin	23	4	0	30	18	1	76
Jackson	341	65	12	134	64	113	729
Jasper	91	33	0	21	10	5	160
Jeff Davis	131	46	3	54	33	3	270
Jenkins	48	21	3	20	9	1	102
Johnson	29	31	8	33	13	24	138
Jones	111	29	15	70	44	47	316
Lamar	163	30	14	180	12	25	424
Lanier	44	10	0	47	10	0	111
Laurens	321	280	20	295	171	4	1,091
Lee	149	19	7	34	69	16	294
Liberty	500	321	0	119	225	179	1,344
Lincoln	26	13	1	24	39	14	117
Long	0	196	0	0	0	0	196
Lowndes	122	933	26	226	191	522	2,020
Lumpkin	64	106	13	74	21	50	328
Macon	119	13	1	17	8	12	170
Madison	102	49	0	35	22	2	210
Marion	70	0	0	7	8	0	85
McDuffie	114	50	1	140	47	0	352
McIntosh	45	24	0	86	11	104	270
Meriwether	215	27	13	42	24	140	461
Miller	29	20	0	22	16	3	90
Mitchell	196	106	5	83	41	7	438
Monroe	186	166	3	109	33	2	499

<i>County</i>	<i>Delinquent</i>	<i>Unruly</i>	<i>Termination of Parental Rights</i>	<i>Deprived</i>	<i>Traffic</i>	<i>Special Proceedings</i>	<i>Total Filings</i>
Montgomery	35	5	3	13	1	10	67
Morgan	105	20	5	18	53	3	204
Murray	254	124	36	336	125	116	991
Muscogee	2,479	909	0	1,048	226	124	4,786
Newton	1,190	326	11	257	128	115	2,027
Oconee	160	153	1	84	176	13	587
Oglethorpe	57	44	1	37	13	0	152
Paulding	818	273	12	590	167	9	1,869
Peach	82	13	8	29	44	113	289
Pickens	171	108	12	132	64	28	515
Pierce	90	52	0	14	22	0	178
Pike	79	9	9	79	31	73	280
Polk	234	108	13	390	77	17	839
Pulaski	29	4	0	25	4	7	69
Putnam	115	49	11	49	20	0	244
Quitman	8	5	0	9	0	0	22
Rabun	28	13	3	104	24	0	172
Randolph	82	6	0	12	13	0	113
Richmond	1,177	197	0	153	369	0	1,896
Rockdale	465	68	27	182	126	24	892
Schley	21	11	1	4	5	5	47
Screven	108	70	0	0	30	0	208
Seminole	116	19	3	115	18	0	271
Spalding	488	81	23	811	58	5	1,466
Stephens	357	80	5	59	25	0	526
Stewart	26	7	0	2	14	8	57
Sumter	450	127	10	61	50	68	766
Talbot	24	0	1	5	15	0	45
Taliaferro	6	4	1	11	10	0	32
Tattnall	309	0	2	31	28	1	371
Taylor	27	10	18	39	11	1	106
Telfair	57	10	0	18	13	2	100
Terrell	61	21	9	29	19	32	171
Thomas	328	40	9	126	134	3	640
Tift	365	74	0	87	155	0	681

<i>County</i>	<i>Delinquent</i>	<i>Unruly</i>	<i>Termination of Parental Rights</i>	<i>Deprived</i>	<i>Traffic</i>	<i>Special Proceedings</i>	<i>Total Filings</i>
Toombs	237	13	6	122	17	3	398
Towns	5	6	2	31	4	0	48
Treutlen	0	74	0	0	0	0	74
Troup	826	185	0	354	148	19	1,532
Turner	31	18	0	9	21	2	81
Twiggs	153	0	0	17	0	0	170
Union	52	20	3	36	24	3	138
Upson	249	27	12	83	64	0	435
Walker	333	205	10	228	139	12	927
Walton	665	287	8	203	141	84	1,388
Ware	543	132	8	131	37	5	856
Warren	52	56	1	33	6	1	149
Washington	178	161	0	53	39	5	436
Wayne	263	104	0	51	47	0	465
Webster	9	2	0	2	2	6	21
Wheeler	17	11	0	11	1	4	44
White	101	62	3	132	25	6	329
Whitfield	912	350	32	543	402	509	2,748
Wilcox	68	15	1	15	3	0	102
Wilkes	22	5	0	86	15	1	129
Wilkinson	51	39	8	50	5	0	153
Worth	138	52	0	42	58	0	290
Grand Totals	72,169	23,624	1,616	32,832	16,294	6,120	152,655

Probate Court Civil Caseload for Calendar Year 2005

County	Letters of Administration	Will Probate	No Admin	Year's Support	Guardianship	Petitions	Custodial	Citations	Misc	Inventories	Mental Health	Habeas Corpus	Total Dockets	Licenses	
														Marriage	Firearms
Appling	20	27	1	2	37	0	0	0	8	12	8	2	117	174	218
Atkinson ¹	0	3	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	16	11
Bacon	6	30	0	4	25	2	0	0	7	9	4	0	87	98	100
Baker ³	0	9	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	20	24	30
Baldwin	52	92	4	13	96	8	0	0	49	122	160	0	596	364	401
Banks	12	34	0	5	55	1	0	2	5	23	11	0	148	106	205
Barrow	28	124	9	6	135	0	0	2	34	85	17	3	443	479	544
Bartow	103	163	4	18	126	10	0	0	46	2	67	0	539	831	948
Ben Hill	24	42	2	0	25	2	0	0	21	8	7	0	131	202	128
Berrien	22	49	0	2	15	0	6	2	1	0	8	0	105	177	191
Bibb	131	461	12	66	174	31	9	25	405	566	34	0	1,914	1,341	813
Bleckley	3	36	4	0	6	0	0	0	6	1	5	0	61	83	178
Brantley	24	34	0	12	30	2	0	0	6	4	0	0	112	139	159
Brooks	16	48	4	3	21	3	0	0	36	19	15	3	168	128	90
Bryan	39	52	1	9	94	2	3	0	12	5	9	0	226	182	292
Bulloch	40	146	9	4	106	8	0	0	150	39	60	0	562	548	316
Burke	22	50	4	9	5	0	0	1	1	11	0	0	103	173	188
Butts	10	38	1	6	32	1	0	0	13	14	6	0	121	147	238
Calhoun	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Camden	38	141	11	4	57	14	0	0	97	78	0	1	441	1,126	412
Candler	18	28	1	6	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	64	111	61
Carroll	90	262	7	17	235	22	0	3	130	144	55	0	965	751	952
Catoosa	37	106	7	4	41	0	0	0	27	0	0	0	222	1,744	561
Charlton	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Chatham	713	1,465	112	264	1,770	47	8	1,574	1,442	236	39	0	7,670	2,478	1,234
Chattahoochee	3	6	1	1	22	1	6	0	0	7	0	0	47	99	46
Chattooga	52	51	0	6	20	0	0	0	2	9	21	77	238	234	318
Cherokee	132	349	10	23	179	13	0	0	685	405	85	0	1,881	1,080	1,085
Clarke	56	292	5	19	87	6	0	0	105	36	31	0	637	1,049	517
Clay	4	12	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	12	0	0	34	21	43
Clayton	143	305	22	57	297	16	0	125	483	710	95	0	2,253	1,543	1,729
Clinch	6	18	0	2	2	0	0	0	22	14	0	0	64	68	41
Cobb	325	1,105	39	50	296	34	0	0	399	282	157	0	2,687	5,526	3,270

Probate Court Civil Caseload for Calendar Year 2005

County	Letters of Administration	Will Probate	No Admin	Year's Support	Guardianship	Petitions	Custodial	Citations	Misc	Inventories	Mental Health	Habeas Corpus	Total Dockets	Licenses	
														Marriage	Firearms
Coffee	40	83	5	2	58	2	0	0	60	38	21	0	309	419	314
Colquitt	41	104	18	6	66	4	0	0	39	109	36	0	423	359	252
Columbia ³	25	105	6	45	63	5	0	0	11	13	0	0	273	516	567
Cook	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Coweta	67	261	15	27	161	18	0	5	113	291	25	0	983	812	988
Crawford	18	29	1	6	11	9	0	0	0	3	12	2	91	109	110
Crisp	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Dade	12	31	1	0	23	0	0	0	19	8	5	0	99	330	162
Dawson	14	40	3	4	27	3	0	0	16	1	0	0	108	130	266
Decatur	40	72	2	4	26	6	0	0	12	48	30	7	247	229	204
Dekalb	1,107	1,932	161	284	1,507	86	6	47	10,832	2,412	519	0	18,893	4,744	3,605
Dodge	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Dooley ³	7	22	7	6	5	0	0	0	1	5	3	0	56	61	62
Dougherty	131	235	4	15	267	20	0	8	109	100	215	0	1,104	841	581
Douglas	67	219	17	18	181	3	0	0	14	292	0	0	811	1,046	1,053
Early	7	25	4	2	19	2	0	0	13	1	12	20	105	108	117
Echols	0	2	1	0	11	0	0	0	6	0	2	0	22	77	40
Effingham	38	118	3	38	112	27	0	0	57	103	0	0	496	355	418
Elbert	18	58	4	12	38	2	0	1	14	10	22	0	179	169	183
Emanuel	21	67	9	2	23	4	0	0	73	20	29	0	248	222	249
Evans	12	29	1	1	12	3	0	4	18	9	4	0	93	102	125
Fannin	24	62	3	4	31	1	0	0	0	21	13	0	159	170	386
Fayette	42	196	5	24	114	10	0	0	44	210	14	0	659	710	987
Floyd ²	44	136	5	74	44	11	0	0	93	38	33	0	478	251	283
Forsyth	48	241	6	10	153	10	0	20	30	112	31	0	661	902	1,112
Franklin	37	69	2	6	55	0	0	0	35	10	0	0	214	113	209
Fulton	1,141	1,676	105	97	1,329	71	4	40	7,618	1,624	115	0	13,820	5,079	3,872
Gilmer	8	71	2	4	19	2	0	0	14	4	0	1	125	246	351
Glascocock	5	8	0	0	10	0	0	0	1	3	2	0	29	19	33
Glynn	84	300	1	57	83	14	4	0	189	100	63	0	895	1,075	582
Gordon	38	103	13	4	44	0	0	0	13	20	6	0	241	490	380
Grady	35	79	5	1	19	4	0	0	34	20	35	0	232	220	148
Greene	19	56	4	1	31	1	0	0	10	11	6	0	139	121	116
Gwinnett	281	783	22	84	1,225	87	1	89	1,010	1,230	193	0	5,005	6,119	4,472
Habersham	35	119	4	8	35	3	0	0	18	18	19	0	259	293	337
Hall	76	369	10	29	204	22	0	0	110	214	50	0	1,084	1,178	987

Probate Court Civil Caseload for Calendar Year 2005

County	Letters of Administration	Will Probate	No Admin	Year's Support	Guardianship	Petitions	Custodial	Citations	Misc	Inventories	Mental Health	Habeas Corpus	Total Dockets	Licenses	
														Marriage	Firearms
Hancock	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Haralson	38	94	1	9	55	5	0	0	36	21	32	0	291	234	346
Harris	16	74	4	7	38	2	0	0	30	0	9	0	180	220	277
Hart	17	80	4	7	32	5	0	16	43	30	21	0	255	159	291
Heard	10	28	2	8	17	0	0	0	1	16	11	5	98	97	139
Henry	80	270	11	43	499	11	12	5	117	718	39	0	1,805	1,406	1,548
Houston	83	248	8	19	158	23	7	13	334	320	79	0	1,292	989	1,013
Irwin	1	7	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	77	120
Jackson	45	103	7	14	118	14	0	0	24	56	28	0	409	378	556
Jasper	12	34	1	9	29	2	0	0	8	6	12	0	113	90	193
Jeff Davis	21	28	2	2	19	3	0	5	12	17	0	0	109	144	101
Jefferson ³	7	34	7	3	18	1	1	0	24	3	10	0	108	107	78
Jenkins	3	32	3	4	25	1	0	0	1	22	0	0	91	76	105
Johnson	7	27	0	1	17	5	0	0	1	0	5	1	64	47	95
Jones	23	69	0	10	57	0	0	0	82	45	10	0	296	163	270
Lamar	22	51	1	1	36	9	0	0	11	16	20	0	167	134	133
Lanier	3	13	4	0	22	2	0	0	6	5	2	0	57	107	80
Laurens	43	92	9	2	38	0	0	0	0	0	28	0	212	381	343
Lee	13	32	0	1	42	0	0	0	6	0	3	2	99	174	257
Liberty	119	136	6	15	383	5	1	2	6	120	21	0	814	644	247
Lincoln	9	23	1	2	16	0	0	0	5	1	5	0	62	42	69
Long	8	17	0	1	31	0	0	0	5	9	6	0	77	62	52
Lowndes	125	214	11	28	110	19	0	0	41	48	63	0	659	1,462	443
Lumpkin	24	53	1	2	66	3	0	0	53	23	18	0	243	264	287
Macon	7	20	0	2	3	1	0	3	12	3	6	0	57	83	101
Madison	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Marion	5	16	1	3	6	1	0	0	3	21	6	0	62	68	105
McDuffie	26	63	2	5	66	2	0	0	26	14	10	0	214	211	220
McIntosh	16	33	1	6	10	4	8	6	76	8	16	10	194	74	99
Meriwether	22	71	4	5	43	5	0	0	37	27	21	0	235	163	264
Miller	2	19	0	0	5	0	0	0	9	4	11	0	50	85	48
Mitchell	22	54	2	4	26	4	0	0	33	7	13	4	169	175	131
Monroe	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Montgomery	7	19	2	0	7	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	40	63	87
Morgan	8	44	7	6	46	1	0	0	15	4	5	0	136	116	103
Murray	34	70	2	3	29	1	0	0	16	0	0	0	155	456	383

Probate Court Civil Caseload for Calendar Year 2005

County	Letters of Administration	Will Probate	No Admin	Year's Support	Guardianship	Petitions	Custodial	Citations	Misc	Inventories	Mental Health	Habeas Corpus	Total Dockets	Licenses	
														Marriage	Firearms
Muscogee	169	512	5	72	101	37	0	0	90	114	180	0	1,280	1,552	872
Newton	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Oconee	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Oglethorpe	13	43	0	0	32	0	0	1	4	62	7	0	162	80	265
Paulding	61	170	17	12	96	10	2	1	68	131	31	0	599	863	997
Peach	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Pickens ¹	5	19	1	1	11	1	1	0	0	0	5	0	44	58	60
Pierce	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Pike	17	39	0	11	28	0	0	0	0	5	6	0	106	148	262
Polk	60	128	2	6	69	3	0	0	72	20	36	0	396	335	333
Pulaski	13	25	6	1	13	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	71	56	87
Putnam	24	62	1	8	44	4	2	1	25	82	46	0	299	154	288
Quitman	0	5	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	9	13	24
Rabun	12	62	5	3	35	4	0	3	39	77	23	1	264	131	265
Randolph	7	20	1	0	13	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	47	63	76
Richmond	220	425	32	146	149	25	0	38	192	258	87	0	1,572	1,554	907
Rockdale	72	196	8	24	198	0	0	0	178	0	4	0	680	674	780
Schley ³	8	13	0	0	9	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	33	23	17
Screven	27	41	4	6	29	4	9	0	3	15	5	0	143	119	92
Seminole	9	40	8	2	0	1	0	0	0	8	0	0	68	148	102
Spalding	67	162	4	30	104	14	0	0	85	78	25	0	569	510	607
Stephens	29	101	5	6	25	3	0	0	44	18	23	0	254	209	295
Stewart	4	12	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	21	29	59
Sumter	26	89	14	5	37	2	0	2	26	26	14	0	241	263	242
Talbot	14	19	1	0	6	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	45	39	65
Taliaferro	3	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	13	4	21
Tattnall	25	65	2	5	33	6	0	0	30	10	15	0	191	173	152
Taylor ³	14	22	0	1	12	0	4	0	3	2	23	0	81	46	87
Telfair	15	33	1	2	16	1	0	7	14	7	4	0	100	119	107
Terrell	15	19	1	0	4	0	2	0	5	2	10	4	62	68	115
Thomas	38	117	3	6	30	8	0	0	47	35	474	0	758	523	250
Tift	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Toombs	32	64	8	1	44	6	0	0	11	33	40	0	239	299	260
Towns	18	41	1	5	18	3	0	0	28	2	5	0	121	61	146
Treutlen	5	10	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	31	59	44
Troup	49	196	19	30	96	17	0	2	50	56	93	0	608	541	520

Probate Court Civil Caseload for Calendar Year 2005

County	Letters of Administration	Will Probate	No Admin	Year's Support	Guardianship	Petitions	Custodial	Citations	Misc	Inventories	Mental Health	Habeas Corpus	Total Dockets	Licenses	
														Marriage	Firearms
Turner	3	18	1	0	5	1	0	0	14	30	19	0	91	64	58
Twiggs	17	22	1	3	16	0	0	0	6	3	3	6	77	61	119
Union	16	65	1	1	34	3	0	0	23	20	0	5	168	167	328
Upson	83	127	9	8	27	6	0	0	14	14	16	0	304	225	207
Walker	60	179	8	7	87	5	0	0	33	72	28	0	479	281	481
Walton	53	195	12	17	146	13	0	12	35	49	44	7	583	468	799
Ware	22	97	12	9	55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	195	459	301
Warren	20	22	1	0	7	1	3	0	0	7	2	2	65	29	51
Washington	15	55	1	1	21	1	0	7	9	0	17	0	127	171	196
Wayne	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Webster ²	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	8	15
Wheeler	11	19	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	36	47	21
White	23	63	9	4	27	11	0	0	1	8	19	0	165	321	222
Whitfield	91	207	6	0	64	10	0	0	141	112	35	0	666	410	553
Wilcox	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Wilkes	17	43	1	4	39	2	0	0	51	17	14	0	188	70	116
Wilkinson	13	23	1	1	21	0	0	0	1	7	12	0	79	51	95
Worth	17	81	2	2	70	0	0	2	37	19	6	0	236	173	237
Totals	8,161	19,421	1,046	2,152	13,962	992	99	2,074	27,295	12,923	4,309	165	92,599	69,527	59,650

This report contains only the courts who have reported at least one quarter.

* ¹ One quarter reported *² Two quarters reported *³ Three quarters reported

Probate Court Criminal Caseload for Calendar Year 2005

County	MISDEMEANOR						TRAFFIC						Total	
	Disposed by:						Disposed by:							
	Filed	Guilty Plea	Cash Bond	Non- Trial	Acquitted	Convicted	Filed	Guilty Plea	Non- Trial	Cash Bond	Acquitted	Convicted	Filed	Disposed
Appling	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Atkinson 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	304	0	340	5	0	0	304	345
Bacon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baker 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	226	11	500	16	0	0	226	527
Baldwin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Banks	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,496	1,345	1,473	220	5	12	3,496	3,055
Barrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,344	3,919	0	386	9	168	3,344	4,482
Bartow	392	271	20	35	0	0	7,958	6,878	405	279	0	1	8,340	7,889
Ben Hill	33	24	5	1	0	0	1,288	928	246	18	0	0	1,321	1,122
Berrien	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bibb	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bleckley	323	0	0	0	0	0	629	350	263	0	12	0	952	625
Brantley	124	31	18	25	0	0	1,615	494	539	140	0	0	1,739	1,247
Brooks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bryan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bulloch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burke	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Butts	234	46	93	66	0	0	4,281	930	2,864	547	0	0	4,515	4,446
Calhoun	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	0	0
Camden	296	30	31	39	0	0	5,579	362	3,713	215	0	0	5,866	4,390
Candler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carroll	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Catoosa	12	3	0	4	0	0	8,380	2,948	3,379	1,480	0	0	8,392	7,814
Charlton	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	0	0
Chatham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chattahooche	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,272	641	5,149	72	17	14	5,272	5,893
Chattooga	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cherokee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clarke	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clay	30	0	27	3	0	0	480	40	389	16	0	0	510	475
Clayton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clinch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cobb	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Probate Court Criminal Caseload for Calendar Year 2005

County	MISDEMEANOR						TRAFFIC						Total	
	Disposed by:						Disposed by:							
	Filed	Guilty	Cash	Non-			Filed	Guilty	Non-	Cash	Bench Trial		Filed	Disposed
		Plea	Bond	Trial	Acquitted	Convicted		Plea	Trial	Bond	Acquitted	Convicted		
Coffee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colquitt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Columbia 3	15	8	8	1	0	0	2,025	3,116	2,181	442	18	110	2,040	5,882
Cook	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	0	0
Coweta	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crawford	85	51	2	9	0	0	1,191	817	105	103	0	1	1,276	1,088
Crisp	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	0	0
Dade	24	12	9	3	0	5	3,148	1,093	807	382	3	11	3,172	2,325
Dawson	84	16	35	24	0	0	2,233	1,183	821	90	0	4	2,317	2,173
Decatur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dekalb	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dodge	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	0	0
Dooly 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	6,593	5,765	294	97	54	35	6,593	6,245
Dougherty	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Douglas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Early	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Echols	95	28	24	3	0	0	1,178	401	468	56	0	0	1,273	980
Effingham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Elbert	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Emanuel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Evans	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fannin	58	47	0	6	0	0	1,126	834	0	64	1	4	1,194	956
Fayette	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Floyd 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	402	2,685	47	0	0	0	3,134
Forsyth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Franklin	340	12	274	7	0	0	2,798	88	2,195	81	0	0	3,138	2,657
Fulton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gilmer	110	49	6	4	0	0	2,451	1,954	52	29	0	0	2,561	2,094
Glascocock	4	1	3	0	0	0	315	64	274	30	0	0	319	372
Glynn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gordon	485	178	21	64	0	0	8,295	6,556	513	136	6	13	8,760	7,487
Grady	4	2	0	2	0	0	34	32	0	0	0	0	38	36
Greene	45	7	18	5	0	0	3,088	179	1,799	70	0	0	3,131	2,078
Gwinnett	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Habersham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Probate Court Criminal Caseload for Calendar Year 2005

County	MISDEMEANOR						TRAFFIC						Total		
	Disposed by:						Disposed by:								
	Filed	Guilty Plea	Cash Bond	Non- Trial	Acquitted	Convicted	Filed	Guilty Plea	Non- Trial	Cash Bond	Acquitted	Convicted	Filed	Disposed	
Hancock	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	0	0
Haralson	4	0	0	1	0	0	2,199	91	1,458	156	31	26	2,203	1,763	
Harris	126	119	0	4	2	1	2,407	2,309	30	127	25	16	2,533	2,633	
Hart	93	13	94	1	0	0	1,245	400	846	56	0	0	1,338	1,410	
Heard	3	2	0	0	0	0	1,362	266	643	38	36	46	1,365	1,031	
Henry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	0	0	0	0	19	
Houston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Irwin	27	23	0	0	0	0	1,134	993	2	37	0	0	1,161	1,055	
Jackson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Jasper	160	12	140	8	7	0	763	104	636	23	13	0	923	943	
Jeff Davis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Jefferson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Jenkins	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Johnson	8	8	36	0	1	0	1,618	137	1,467	28	8	17	1,626	1,702	
Jones	116	40	63	43	0	1	2,182	429	1,418	277	0	3	2,298	2,274	
Lamar	367	273	58	10	3	18	2,402	646	1,769	37	5	35	2,769	2,854	
Lanier	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,061	434	1,059	120	12	0	2,061	1,625	
Laurens	0	0	0	0	0	0	10,621	5,447	25	476	0	0	10,621	5,948	
Lee	194	42	19	33	3	18	1,931	1,055	424	157	16	44	2,125	1,811	
Liberty	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Lincoln	19	1	0	0	0	0	806	716	16	54	0	0	825	787	
Long	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Lowndes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Lumpkin	75	39	2	4	0	0	1,719	1,127	66	69	1	2	1,794	1,310	
Macon	3	3	0	0	0	0	846	723	0	1	0	0	849	727	
Madison	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	0	0	
Marion	13	8	3	0	0	0	1,049	885	63	44	0	0	1,062	1,003	
McDuffie	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,285	1,759	2,118	229	8	25	4,285	4,139	
McIntosh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Meriwether	83	50	9	14	0	1	1,877	1,291	330	114	0	4	1,960	1,813	
Miller	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Mitchell	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Monroe	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	0	0	
Montgomery	1	1	0	0	0	0	364	328	0	27	0	0	365	356	
Morgan	147	84	0	9	4	1	5,292	1,132	3,723	121	11	0	5,439	5,085	
Murray	1,333	1,302	166	8	0	0	3,076	2,571	175	60	0	0	4,409	4,282	

Probate Court Criminal Caseload for Calendar Year 2005

County	MISDEMEANOR						TRAFFIC						Total	
	Disposed by:						Disposed by:							
	Filed	Guilty Plea	Cash Bond	Non- Trial	Acquitted	Convicted	Filed	Guilty Plea	Non- Trial	Cash Bond	Acquitted	Convicted	Filed	Disposed
Muscogee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newton	120	104	2	14	14	104	3,775	3,546	141	88	88	155	3,895	4,256
Oconee	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	0	0
Oglethorpe	37	12	11	2	0	1	1,346	409	754	56	4	12	1,383	1,261
Paulding	0	0	0	0	0	0	10,951	5,285	3,444	1,523	8	367	10,951	10,627
Peach	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	0	0
Pickens 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	944	120	551	86	0	2	944	759
Pierce	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	0	0
Pike	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,527	1,226	630	192	0	10	1,527	2,058
Polk	73	37	0	0	1	1	3,972	2,684	0	124	39	14	4,045	2,880
Pulaski	303	263	11	29	0	0	584	523	19	42	0	0	887	887
Putnam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Quitman	0	0	0	0	0	0	381	612	7	54	0	0	381	673
Rabun	40	23	4	2	0	1	723	308	316	46	0	7	763	707
Randolph	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,515	1,448	1,448	67	67	1,448	1,515	4,478
Richmond	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rockdale	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Schley 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	328	2	83	0	0	2	328	87
Screven	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Seminole	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,024	62	906	27	9	20	1,024	1,024
Spalding	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stephens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stewart	31	21	6	2	0	0	2,155	1,679	494	45	0	0	2,186	2,147
Sumter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Talbot	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,411	258	2,075	79	0	0	2,411	2,412
Taliaferro	41	22	10	8	0	1	5,475	3,373	1,811	285	1	6	5,516	5,517
Tattnall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Taylor 3	14	7	0	3	0	4	1,242	1,204	7	76	0	16	1,256	1,317
Telfair	49	9	9	7	0	0	979	362	458	217	0	0	1,028	1,062
Terrell	23	18	6	0	0	0	2,194	886	1,155	27	0	0	2,217	2,092
Thomas	36	27	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	30
Tift	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	0	0
Toombs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Towns	63	64	3	4	0	0	577	353	42	21	0	0	640	487
Treutlen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Troup	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Probate Court Criminal Caseload for Calendar Year 2005

County	MISDEMEANOR						TRAFFIC						Total	
	Disposed by:						Disposed by:							
	Filed	Guilty Plea	Cash Bond	Non- Trial	Acquitted	Convicted	Filed	Guilty Plea	Non- Trial	Cash Bond	Acquitted	Convicted	Filed	Disposed
Turner	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Twigg	137	89	2	9	0	0	994	816	3	63	0	0	1,131	982
Union	193	79	57	9	0	1	1,350	645	301	61	0	18	1,543	1,171
Upson	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,845	519	3,068	245	0	2	3,845	3,834
Walker	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Walton	404	193	60	159	1	23	4,812	2,462	1,578	455	13	81	5,016	5,025
Ware	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warren	0	0	4	0	0	0	1,910	473	1,413	84	4	0	1,910	1,978
Washington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wayne	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	0	0
Webster ²	15	11	4	3	2	13	486	230	124	51	0	0	501	438
Wheeler	28	9	5	3	0	0	736	493	114	17	0	0	764	641
White	0	0	0	0	0	0	897	584	5	47	0	0	897	638
Whitfield	197	78	11	13	0	0	7,950	5,162	508	217	0	0	8,147	5,989
Wilcox	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	0	0
Wilkes	33	9	30	2	0	1	1,119	434	650	68	1	8	1,152	1,203
Wilkinson	28	5	12	9	3	2	821	138	303	274	0	11	849	757
Worth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	7,390	3,914	1,431	717	41	197	193,387	100,149	70,149	11,909	525	2,770	200,777	191,802

This report contains only the courts who have reported at least one quarter.

* ¹ One quarter reported * ² Two quarters reported * ³ Three quarters reported

Magistrate Court Civil Caseload for Calendar Year 2005

County	Claims			Dispossessories and Distress Warrants			Garnishments			Foreclosures and Attachment			Filings
	Disposed by:			Disposed by:			Disposed by:			Disposed by:			
	Filed	Non-Trial	Trial	Filed	Non-Trial	Trial	Filed	Non-Trial	Trial	Filed	Non-Trial	Trial	
Appling	901	817	84	96	64	32	53	53	0	40	35	5	1,058
Atkinson	277	125	12	49	20	2	57	37	0	3	0	0	357
Bacon	439	394	45	82	58	24	158	158	0	12	11	1	667
Baker ³	97	69	1	18	1	0	4	1	0	1	0	0	103
Baldwin	2,200	1,625	252	633	425	188	1,209	0	2	44	27	13	3,878
Banks	214	176	8	137	125	11	51	50	1	10	8	2	400
Barrow	945	766	179	1,282	1,241	41	215	203	12	155	151	4	2,556
Bartow	1,884	438	99	2,133	1,590	342	415	31	5	83	52	2	3,972
Ben Hill	907	854	56	405	175	35	503	462	8	22	15	2	1,607
Berrien	524	237	65	159	72	18	185	51	0	6	2	2	787
Bibb	3,924	5,501	339	3,795	4,507	456	2,631	2,446	21	159	70	20	11,221
Bleckley	602	571	31	54	51	3	36	36	0	20	19	1	709
Brantley	357	180	45	113	56	45	41	19	0	20	6	8	474
Brooks	574	551	23	123	116	7	73	73	0	6	6	0	769
Bryan ³	229	143	86	155	114	41	44	44	0	7	5	2	394
Bulloch	1,253	1,090	163	1,855	1,575	280	520	509	11	50	40	10	3,398
Burke ³	618	88	0	250	12	0	124	56	0	47	2	0	801
Butts	514	221	80	434	225	137	145	29	0	137	128	0	1,021
Calhoun	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Camden	763	626	137	817	712	105	262	256	6	78	73	5	1,815
Candler ³	316	71	33	76	57	1	100	0	0	23	0	0	496
Carroll	2,510	2,043	467	1,900	1,296	604	523	516	7	88	62	26	4,417
Catoosa	730	244	59	1,202	884	176	143	143	0	37	37	0	1,794
Charlton	205	201	7	73	68	3	90	90	0	49	17	0	412
Chatham	5,708	7,538	862	7,969	6,222	1,262	1,629	1,862	10	68	54	6	13,627
Chattahoochee	33	15	0	36	28	6	8	0	0	85	85	0	154
Chattooga	413	131	34	248	174	68	93	42	1	4	0	1	684
Cherokee	1,950	117	635	2,825	1,213	664	277	61	4	57	8	12	3,497
Clarke	3,705	1,314	665	2,264	1,117	592	855	500	16	251	83	115	5,928
Clay	44	33	9	16	17	4	7	4	0	3	3	0	71
Clayton	4,235	1,798	278	17,425	12,307	252	405	274	0	260	77	7	17,207
Clinch	213	165	53	35	17	18	75	75	0	16	16	0	321
Cobb	5,698	2,775	66	5,772	3,720	4	1,099	0	0	5,023	4,923	0	15,540
Coffee ³	1,909	1,330	91	365	312	26	705	585	0	39	21	3	2,965
Colquitt	1,890	20	222	593	5	78	558	0	35	93	8	83	2,546
Columbia	1,234	473	359	952	871	59	283	157	3	99	3	4	2,487
Cook ²	340	137	19	101	41	7	57	2	1	9	2	3	447
Coweta	2,833	2,356	340	2,942	3,205	429	715	379	6	141	149	6	6,894
Crawford ³	248	103	32	67	44	6	13	7	3	8	3	1	313
Crisp	1,086	617	158	612	475	36	453	313	12	109	84	7	2,123
Dade	197	108	38	53	17	10	18	12	0	37	0	1	269
Dawson	376	113	124	271	127	55	27	4	0	11	4	1	541
Decatur	925	828	97	343	338	4	554	552	2	38	38	0	1,855
Dekalb	8,207	3,229	1,683	1,738	0	0	1	0	0	5,608	0	0	13,816
Dodge	677	177	57	85	0	33	239	146	0	38	0	0	954
Dooley	553	195	4	68	17	2	247	44	1	6	2	1	823
Dougherty	4,430	2,640	752	5,819	3,326	1,443	1,931	1,629	22	354	247	44	10,041
Douglas	1,873	1,482	140	4,138	3,914	100	230	142	0	137	182	1	6,154
Early	409	343	66	101	88	13	83	83	0	19	17	2	599
Echols	39	6	3	15	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	43
Effingham	583	333	132	294	223	71	54	0	0	26	21	5	886
Elbert	608	451	44	237	89	16	202	58	0	108	59	3	1,007
Emanuel	831	0	17	274	103	107	377	0	0	36	0	36	1,347
Evans	340	305	35	97	71	26	254	196	1	24	16	8	689
Fannin	497	434	63	126	92	34	35	31	4	19	19	0	643
Fayette	772	611	111	1,133	957	141	218	189	0	215	186	0	2,162
Floyd	1,325	1,068	91	2,255	2,175	91	434	1,321	15	70	58	3	4,004
Forsyth	1,026	112	474	864	239	431	288	276	241	9	12	0	1,562
Franklin	454	205	2	151	95	21	132	14	0	4	3	0	685
Fulton ²	5,366	0	2,871	24,474	0	8,361	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,366
Gilmer	626	364	66	223	113	71	141	77	1	1	1	0	881
Glascock	56	37	16	18	10	8	2	2	0	2	2	0	70
Glynn ³	2,741	1,130	1,611	2,900	1,983	717	1,161	1,025	4	106	78	28	5,991
Gordon	858	281	111	883	371	255	323	158	4	44	30	4	1,596
Grady	1,176	848	104	259	181	23	281	242	2	45	29	2	1,683
Greene	369	140	117	164	107	49	209	192	9	8	6	2	693

Magistrate Court Civil Caseload for Calendar Year 2005

County	Claims			Dispossessories and Distress			Garnishments			Forclosures and Attachment			Filings
	Disposed by:			Disposed by:			Disposed by:			Disposed by:			
	Filed	Non-Trial	Trial	Filed	Non-Trial	Trial	Filed	Non-Trial	Trial	Filed	Non-Trial	Trial	
Gwinnett	10,263	3,938	5,749	20,024	14,133	4,082	3,838	2,512	31	3,300	3,262	94	31,534
Habersham	576	96	48	235	27	37	186	11	2	12	1	0	801
Hall	2,602	1,983	1,048	2,797	2,564	703	707	207	19	286	289	25	6,159
Hancock	446	330	61	24	22	2	139	139	0	12	11	1	619
Haralson	516	160	117	395	104	149	87	54	19	8	6	0	715
Harris	336	158	110	119	82	39	89	18	0	7	6	1	514
Hart	769	594	106	231	214	17	118	118	0	27	25	2	1,128
Heard	220	167	65	131	60	73	23	32	0	8	5	2	311
Henry	2,455	1,821	206	4,190	1,791	112	330	35	1	298	0	0	4,874
Houston	2,533	1,882	490	2,094	1,842	375	864	793	3	234	250	17	5,473
Irwin	281	250	31	98	97	1	74	72	2	12	12	0	464
Jackson	813	1,029	197	701	789	21	180	157	1	494	291	163	2,276
Jasper	481	308	34	143	72	44	121	33	0	27	10	7	701
Jeff Davis	643	582	111	142	120	28	186	186	0	12	10	2	961
Jefferson	695	644	51	128	128	0	207	207	0	53	53	0	1,083
Jenkins	256	232	24	37	34	3	107	107	0	8	8	0	405
Johnson	270	230	33	73	34	5	73	10	0	14	3	1	391
Jones	650	391	159	242	159	47	99	85	0	3	3	0	911
Lamar	429	77	11	270	0	0	122	0	0	19	0	0	570
Lanier	257	89	14	115	44	2	35	18	1	5	0	0	341
Laurens	1,668	1,379	289	823	671	152	687	666	21	86	53	33	3,112
Lee	690	731	71	432	240	90	199	108	0	27	21	3	1,156
Liberty	1,151	803	209	999	421	94	359	61	2	182	130	35	2,113
Lincoln	136	129	7	31	26	3	18	21	0	1	49	1	181
Long	412	0	0	150	0	0	26	0	0	12	0	0	450
Lowndes	3,128	1,964	299	2,640	1,049	164	1,344	1,274	12	341	341	0	5,862
Lumpkin	565	270	226	246	226	171	76	45	0	17	15	14	884
Macon	640	879	57	259	375	18	189	544	0	34	53	1	1,238
Madison	528	292	177	280	127	133	65	60	3	20	18	1	740
Marion	196	94	13	61	31	5	74	14	0	8	3	1	309
McDuffie	578	158	83	401	176	21	163	175	59	0	0	0	917
McIntosh	272	178	42	145	57	52	65	33	0	15	5	6	409
Meriwether	609	454	82	287	210	70	132	128	4	77	66	5	N/R
Miller	184	108	35	48	20	1	26	15	0	10	3	2	240
Mitchell	1,176	230	72	422	6	17	610	2	1	44	0	1	1,836
Monroe	634	288	110	189	179	18	158	154	4	36	36	0	1,007
Montgomery	327	26	0	72	6	0	54	5	0	8	0	0	395
Morgan	450	276	64	190	132	55	248	110	0	31	18	5	861
Murray	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Muscogee 3	1,289	277	146	212	45	21	551	20	0	164	0	0	2,049
Newton	1,959	1,902	110	2,524	3,290	192	497	329	2	61	51	5	5,807
Oconee	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Oglethorpe	304	235	29	93	66	27	28	27	1	87	85	2	485
Paulding	1,197	1,066	53	1,517	1,299	49	83	45	0	46	65	1	2,625
Peach	920	518	208	433	235	149	266	54	6	208	54	1	1,629
Pickens	441	197	44	337	183	19	85	8	0	11	2	2	720
Pierce	425	24	10	163	33	10	77	7	0	35	1	1	570
Pike 1	78	11	3	38	6	7	9	1	0	3	0	1	96
Polk	1,347	258	125	722	152	88	154	0	3	100	18	19	1,753
Pulaski	267	148	6	72	44	1	92	44	1	4	3	0	407
Putnam	902	408	124	206	96	26	328	62	0	18	2	0	1,344
Quitman	32	24	0	9	9	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	44
Rabun	381	162	105	71	27	37	116	44	0	3	0	1	527
Randolph	246	187	14	67	66	1	65	65	0	3	2	1	380
Richmond	5,951	4,598	1,188	5,838	4,171	674	1,444	917	11	322	0	0	11,888
Rockdale	1,964	1,515	479	2,701	2,157	918	314	284	17	40	61	46	4,475
Schley	229	180	18	19	13	6	45	13	1	5	5	0	292
Screven	484	212	49	159	73	35	118	77	0	28	14	1	703
Seminole	221	109	112	43	23	21	35	35	0	0	0	0	279
Spalding	1,447	1,900	514	3,063	3,125	479	377	368	8	186	98	32	5,135
Stephens 1	111	0	0	77	0	0	40	0	0	0	0	0	151
Stewart	126	116	5	29	14	3	14	7	1	1	1	0	155
Sumter	2,315	3,040	98	702	611	38	698	357	0	145	112	5	3,769
Talbot	123	115	8	21	21	0	17	17	0	6	6	0	167
Taliaferro	65	43	4	18	12	0	4	3	0	1	1	0	82
Tattnell	531	497	34	53	17	42	61	45	16	49	28	21	658

Magistrate Court Civil Caseload for Calendar Year 2005

County	Claims			Dispossessories and Distress Warrants			Garnishments			Foreclosures and Attachment			Filings
	Disposed by:			Disposed by:			Disposed by:			Disposed by:			
	Filed	Non-Trial	Trial	Filed	Non-Trial	Trial	Filed	Non-Trial	Trial	Filed	Non-Trial	Trial	
Taylor ³	142	126	16	49	46	3	56	55	1	1	1	0	245
Telfair	553	421	34	78	46	2	234	192	0	27	16	1	860
Terrell	368	0	0	142	0	0	85	0	0	24	0	0	477
Thomas	2,326	1,689	229	761	0	114	943	0	3	10	0	2	3,279
Tift	1,449	1,294	155	1,021	898	123	780	777	3	93	12	81	3,220
Toombs	1,244	406	24	551	267	8	580	247	1	68	28	5	2,159
Towns	89	36	19	49	20	9	14	5	0	1	1	0	124
Treutlen ³	243	14	0	31	1	0	38	1	0	11	0	0	293
Troup	2,543	1,772	273	2,578	1,798	150	873	385	11	219	195	13	5,433
Turner	251	163	40	98	98	0	100	82	0	15	9	0	464
Twiggs	246	66	23	65	29	9	28	7	0	13	5	2	316
Union	241	12	2	96	3	2	76	6	0	3	1	0	323
Upson	715	444	61	402	349	37	287	63	0	23	20	1	1,374
Walker	261	0	0	996	0	0	181	0	0	0	0	0	442
Walton	1,211	1,029	182	1,807	1,635	172	339	336	3	123	119	4	3,308
Ware	985	889	96	738	671	67	375	422	3	76	66	10	2,107
Warren	145	80	7	78	0	0	52	0	0	4	1	1	201
Washington	996	709	27	152	89	3	381	43	1	75	38	26	1,541
Wayne	778	278	210	359	87	100	299	85	1	38	15	0	1,202
Webster ³	172	98	3	11	11	1	7	4	0	2	1	1	192
Wheeler	192	103	6	41	19	0	98	44	0	9	3	0	318
White	414	373	34	336	315	23	66	68	0	41	35	8	836
Whitfield	2,410	2,323	387	1,702	1,370	332	1,730	1,716	14	0	0	0	5,510
Wilcox	355	235	10	31	12	3	91	43	0	6	0	1	464
Wilkes	363	222	51	41	39	0	103	51	0	7	7	0	512
Wilkinson	296	277	19	57	51	6	91	91	0	8	6	2	446
Worth ¹	240	0	0	60	0	0	32	0	0	8	0	0	280
Totals	169,254	105,414	30,818	176,427	107,760	28,955	47,793	31,679	763	22,548	13,539	1,212	346,327

* This Report contains only the courts who have reported at least one quarter.

¹ First quarters reported ² Second quarters reported ³ Third quarter reported

* N/R - Not Reported

Magistrate Court Criminal Caseload for Calendar Year 2005

County	Warrants Issued				Hearings				Misdemeanors			Ordinance Violations			Criminal & Civil	
	Felony Arrest	Misdemeanor Arrest	Good Behavior	Search Warrant	Warrant Application	First Appearance	Commitment Hearing	Good Behavior	Filed	Disposed by:		Filed	Disposed by:		Warrants and Filings	Hearings and Dispositions
										Non-Trial	Trial		Non-Trial	Trial		
Appling	441	326	15	34	272	416	37	0	596	123	473	0	0	0	1,412	1,321
Atkinson	235	132	0	16	25	267	0	0	326	1	132	0	0	0	709	618
Bacon	390	377	9	26	207	547	1	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	802	764
Baker 3	27	49	0	10	4	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	85	23
Baldwin	1,438	1,447	0	29	0	0	53	0	2,110	0	53	0	0	0	5,024	2,163
Banks	354	549	0	13	8	132	92	0	0	0	0	4	3	1	920	236
Barrow	1,910	2,202	0	80	119	2,502	310	0	553	477	76	268	15	253	5,013	3,752
Bartow	2,990	4,547	0	178	308	4,464	576	0	613	0	1	696	14	391	9,024	6,657
Ben Hill	1,015	497	0	31	40	594	0	0	841	0	0	0	0	0	2,384	1,475
Berrien	476	305	3	33	21	224	0	2	0	0	0	27	2	60	844	274
Bibb	2,760	2,716	3	213	306	4,121	1,314	2	2,117	1,228	0	0	0	0	7,809	7,860
Bleckley	338	198	0	23	21	229	24	0	240	124	116	2	1	1	801	516
Brantley	831	409	12	14	46	225	257	7	204	13	57	227	34	160	1,697	966
Brooks	339	385	0	17	582	594	3	0	0	0	0	6	0	6	747	1,185
Bryan 3	268	282	39	8	78	289	0	3	0	0	0	18	2	16	615	388
Bulloch	1,664	2,323	24	50	151	498	0	23	672	672	0	166	5	161	4,899	1,510
Burke 3	635	611	0	42	112	479	41	0	370	151	28	249	81	6	1,907	1,251
Butts	619	622	7	31	69	763	27	7	39	35	4	177	117	52	1,495	1,082
Calhoun	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Camden	1,057	1,489	1	57	27	1,803	168	3	1,203	769	434	206	70	136	4,013	3,410
Candler 3	202	234	3	5	181	85	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	444	269
Carroll	1,778	1,616	10	149	609	3,370	506	269	828	745	83	233	156	77	4,614	5,815
Catoosa	1,410	2,564	25	27	4,101	2,570	257	0	530	363	103	514	285	115	5,070	7,972
Charlton	546	306	0	26	19	771	0	0	141	118	0	9	6	0	1,028	940
Chatham	381	910	1,137	0	920	1	300	1,178	765	945	43	0	0	0	3,193	3,164
Chattahoochee	32	84	1	2	31	42	42	1	11	0	11	15	0	15	145	142
Chattooga	504	859	31	3	254	404	491	31	466	169	88	0	0	0	1,863	1,646
Cherokee	3,064	2,852	0	541	337	4,777	1,776	0	594	95	0	672	296	376	7,723	8,156
Clarke	2,453	4,388	22	229	463	3,607	404	14	649	401	3	0	0	0	7,741	5,137
Clay	96	53	0	4	0	82	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	153	86
Clayton	4,856	12,172	0	227	1,605	8,125	1,485	0	0	0	0	981	780	84	18,236	12,196
Clinch	234	104	1	16	118	181	0	1	146	109	0	0	0	0	501	446
Cobb	12,760	17,143	0	657	2,082	12,795	5,987	0	683	0	0	4,036	2,686	407	35,279	25,583
Coffee 3	346	127	0	17	0	0	28	0	292	339	0	2	2	0	784	322
Colquitt	1,062	1,239	2	58	0	472	65	59	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,361	596
Columbia	1,186	947	5	80	186	370	0	89	453	232	40	966	81	1,101	3,637	2,064
Cook 2	225	445	0	17	55	670	0	0	445	0	0	5	0	0	1,137	1,175
Coweta	3,103	1,855	2	114	341	4,260	368	2	1,277	773	78	623	408	135	6,974	6,871
Crawford 3	117	57	15	3	80	89	1	10	53	29	0	0	0	0	245	233
Crisp	807	736	7	30	2	927	0	5	657	435	44	19	10	6	2,256	1,610
Dade	280	309	12	22	72	543	543	16	276	146	49	50	29	0	949	1,500
Dawson	554	836	0	15	88	220	67	0	0	0	0	34	5	31	1,439	409
Decatur	632	678	5	32	0	785	5	5	134	134	0	218	213	5	1,699	1,147
Dekalb	10,903	14,669	0	683	4,291	6,432	31,124	0	386	0	249	550	0	129	27,191	42,783
Dodge	440	303	0	10	138	0	0	0	508	104	275	129	51	144	1,390	775
Dooly	240	81	0	9	18	257	1	0	269	79	0	0	0	0	599	545
Dougherty	1,460	3,837	19	165	343	6,295	313	18	2,151	2,236	0	32	14	14	7,664	9,152
Douglas	3,260	3,390	0	92	84	7,601	771	0	0	0	0	191	154	18	6,933	8,647
Early	336	486	0	13	1	642	1	0	0	0	0	21	13	8	856	665
Echols	73	35	0	13	0	16	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	122	17
Effingham	912	1,201	0	40	199	450	0	100	1,201	0	0	254	101	94	3,608	2,204
Elbert	731	975	0	115	63	571	0	0	0	0	0	16	7	7	1,837	650
Emanuel	403	273	0	9	73	31	0	0	360	0	0	0	0	0	1,045	464
Evans	272	241	10	11	193	141	0	10	112	70	29	115	83	32	761	571

Magistrate Court Criminal Caseload for Calendar Year 2005

County	Warrants Issued				Hearings				Misdemeanors			Ordinance Violations			Criminal & Civil	
	Felony Arrest	Misdemeanor Arrest	Good Behavior	Search Warrant	Warrant Application	First Appearance	Commitment Hearing	Good Behavior	Disposed by:			Disposed by:			Warrants and Filings	Hearings and Dispositions
									Filed	Non-Trial	Trial	Filed	Non-Trial	Trial		
Fannin	417	254	0	26	123	199	0	0	348	327	21	18	6	12	1,063	688
Fayette	999	1,117	0	69	182	1,657	179	0	348	209	0	0	0	0	2,533	2,366
Floyd	844	1,206	0	150	1,023	4,048	150	73	1,841	1,227	114	2,864	2,661	338	6,905	9,999
Forsyth	2,403	1,493	1	160	493	1,497	475	1	391	340	345	523	428	466	4,971	3,380
Franklin	417	244	0	12	23	535	1	0	364	0	0	42	11	0	1,079	965
Fulton	9,218	2,998	0	495	12,504	12,080	0	0	0	0	0	13,729	0	8,715	26,440	38,313
Gilmer	680	537	0	43	127	512	1	0	402	219	0	2	2	0	1,664	1,044
Glascocock	85	43	5	5	10	128	1	5	10	8	2	17	15	2	165	171
Glynn	2,645	4,252	466	167	2,494	4,224	1,842	500	2,071	1,061	186	2,458	118	2,340	12,059	13,589
Gordon	1,507	1,271	0	60	121	967	33	0	428	449	77	313	224	41	3,579	1,862
Grady	481	680	0	62	84	504	0	0	143	162	7	81	52	17	1,447	812
Greene	454	380	12	24	67	0	453	0	20	0	1	3	3	0	893	543
Gwinnett	9,686	9,379	0	586	1,871	7,444	12,350	0	891	226	128	0	0	0	20,542	22,556
Habersham	1,050	696	0	0	286	917	69	0	826	0	152	27	0	0	2,899	2,125
Hall	2,490	2,719	16	173	643	10,435	1,947	16	401	139	19	746	343	203	6,545	14,188
Hancock	20	44	0	0	35	34	13	0	54	8	46	0	0	0	118	136
Haralson	653	583	11	128	205	451	107	11	310	87	36	107	22	83	1,992	1,191
Harris	187	402	16	6	119	230	221	16	0	0	0	3	3	0	614	589
Hart	645	209	0	82	185	732	227	0	273	234	40	64	56	8	1,273	1,481
Heard	325	378	3	25	51	214	18	2	45	43	0	29	26	9	805	359
Henry	1,878	1,991	0	112	3,056	2,798	624	395	407	468	0	552	449	98	4,940	7,832
Houston	2,505	3,823	0	202	495	6,262	480	0	798	833	37	96	65	40	7,424	8,131
Irwin	160	149	0	13	28	285	4	0	2	2	0	17	17	0	341	336
Jackson	1,880	1,477	0	77	88	2,360	600	0	0	0	0	142	126	58	3,576	3,190
Jasper	208	279	0	21	54	269	0	0	92	65	8	91	28	44	691	506
Jeff Davis	431	163	16	16	197	532	33	16	516	73	487	0	0	0	1,142	1,294
Jefferson	539	462	0	25	86	365	0	0	311	0	311	125	0	125	1,462	887
Jenkins	140	132	0	11	61	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	283	80
Johnson	242	182	47	4	58	46	1	7	79	34	0	3	2	0	557	194
Jones	365	542	8	15	140	104	31	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	930	283
Lamar	397	230	0	43	104	532	24	0	154	0	0	0	0	0	824	814
Lanier	285	171	0	18	33	407	0	0	219	0	24	10	6	0	703	669
Laurens	292	314	0	16	391	606	0	0	1,042	658	384	373	205	168	2,037	2,412
Lee	581	390	26	23	94	431	82	22	1,351	954	15	499	426	156	2,870	2,479
Liberty	1,373	1,547	14	51	360	1,749	0	18	0	0	0	42	25	13	3,027	2,169
Lincoln	127	110	0	0	15	158	0	0	5	0	0	15	0	0	257	193
Long	257	106	0	9	6	240	0	0	112	0	0	2	0	0	486	360
Lowndes	3,078	4,292	0	163	20	5,292	202	0	1,640	11	34	96	2	94	9,269	7,250
Lumpkin	366	537	0	47	81	805	176	2	49	23	12	27	18	5	1,026	1,141
Macon	216	415	11	6	8	213	0	0	0	0	0	17	15	6	665	238
Madison	728	731	0	30	130	1,207	454	0	194	99	56	80	28	44	1,763	2,065
Marion	110	78	0	4	25	38	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	194	65
McDuffie	476	386	0	14	79	3	0	0	293	101	0	13	10	2	1,182	388
McIntosh	338	254	0	13	52	426	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	605	478
Meriwether	481	318	19	18	19	49	9	11	223	63	29	37	21	16	N/R	N/R
Miller	184	181	0	9	5	103	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	374	108
Mitchell	381	771	0	45	55	343	1	0	541	372	0	36	30	6	1,774	976
Monroe	664	593	37	50	273	674	170	16	0	0	0	84	62	22	1,428	1,217
Montgomery	229	61	0	10	87	1	0	0	125	0	0	5	0	0	430	218
Morgan	351	450	15	9	87	427	595	15	290	175	8	117	84	30	1,232	1,531
Murray	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Muscogee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newton	2,137	2,667	0	81	467	1,374	215	0	1,338	826	58	601	542	66	6,824	3,995
Oconee	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Oglethorpe	220	250	8	7	73	394	51	6	10	4	17	184	58	105	679	218
Paulding	1,625	1,921	0	59	126	447	124	0	182	151	0	629	436	4	4,416	3,308
Peach	668	523	13	41	105	598	110	16	355	178	188	31	5	29	1,631	1,215

Magistrate Court Criminal Caseload for Calendar Year 2005

County	Warrants Issued				Hearings				Misdemeanors			Ordinance Violations			Criminal & Civil	
	Felony	Misdemeanor	Good	Search	Warrant	First	Commitment	Good	Filed	Disposed by:		Filed	Disposed by:		Warrants and Filings	Hearings and Dispositions
	Arrest	Arrest	Behavior	Warrant	Application	Appearance	Hearing	Behavior		Non-Trial	Trial		Non-Trial	Trial		
Pickens	611	924	0	67	73	545	0	0	548	0	0	16	1	0	2,166	1,162
Pierce	365	195	1	7	210	350	2	1	334	45	31	247	41	139	1,149	1,144
Pike 1	40	31	9	2	18	56	12	8	13	9	0	22	6	0	117	129
Polk	1,179	902	152	105	406	1,616	117	92	579	97	5	243	62	14	3,160	3,053
Pulaski	230	104	0	11	34	216	0	0	175	0	0	2	0	0	522	427
Putnam	373	665	0	5	91	222	6	0	0	0	0	20	11	9	1,063	339
Quitman	37	5	0	5	11	9	6	3	107	107	0	0	0	0	154	136
Rabun	0	0	70	17	214	563	53	70	162	0	96	80	2	68	329	1,142
Randolph	493	314	0	5	208	205	0	0	99	26	0	0	0	0	911	512
Richmond	4,424	9,521	0	62	1,134	1,903	438	0	112	97	3	4,541	4,033	374	18,660	8,128
Rockdale	1,675	2,156	15	62	407	1,982	700	52	532	448	236	392	279	63	4,832	4,065
Schley	27	74	0	1	7	101	36	0	0	0	0	8	3	5	110	152
Screven	333	271	10	7	70	241	0	10	227	1	0	70	46	2	918	618
Seminole	0	0	0	0	0	301	0	0	0	0	0	13	13	0	13	314
Spalding	2,879	4,080	26	173	160	4,354	2,846	60	989	394	508	422	26	395	8,569	8,831
Stephens 1	242	453	0	13	58	66	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	708	143
Stewart	62	110	1	2	8	81	1	0	87	6	1	37	36	2	299	214
Sumter	972	1,498	0	32	0	2,344	0	0	0	0	0	90	63	26	2,592	2,434
Talbot	8	18	0	0	11	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	22
Taliaferro	53	12	0	0	9	42	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	66	52
Tattnell	657	677	0	12	67	759	0	0	317	0	0	0	0	0	1,663	1,143
Taylor 3	87	143	56	12	42	43	19	56	0	0	0	0	0	0	298	160
Telfair	479	116	7	18	117	297	7	7	333	0	1	0	0	0	953	761
Terrell	246	206	0	10	0	376	0	0	168	0	0	0	0	0	630	544
Thomas	1,106	1,674	0	52	190	1,520	0	0	1,787	728	243	17	10	6	4,636	3,514
Tift	1,374	1,412	0	45	321	1,400	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,831	1,731
Toombs	251	375	0	3	290	0	118	0	915	483	64	0	0	0	1,544	1,323
Towns	224	181	0	11	22	220	106	0	70	26	0	0	0	0	486	418
Treutlen 3	43	120	17	0	0	0	0	3	64	0	0	0	0	0	244	67
Troup	1,812	1,438	0	55	363	1,984	818	0	359	32	0	74	25	59	3,738	3,598
Turner	305	272	0	35	14	137	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	612	151
Twiggs	266	322	9	21	149	335	17	9	94	28	3	68	30	20	780	672
Union	368	482	0	33	24	518	108	0	166	0	6	96	7	0	1,145	912
Upson	738	292	0	69	103	613	195	0	509	340	0	342	189	56	1,950	1,763
Walker	771	916	2	52	161	926	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,741	1,087
Walton	1,826	2,042	90	76	278	1,498	603	26	645	554	51	164	151	36	4,843	3,214
Ware	1,507	1,473	104	70	493	2,065	218	94	1,289	1,098	6	60	41	19	4,503	4,219
Warren	15	144	0	3	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	163	20
Washington	928	1,043	0	18	115	540	12	0	174	109	59	0	0	0	2,163	841
Wayne	715	685	0	23	363	142	0	0	732	144	0	25	10	10	2,180	1,262
Webster 3	12	20	2	0	9	0	0	2	513	426	21	1	0	1	548	525
Wheeler	160	114	0	4	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	281	20
White	392	528	9	39	172	570	271	52	252	109	1	19	4	0	1,239	1,336
Whitfield	1,528	2,035	11	77	550	2,752	105	11	1,406	1,316	90	288	208	80	5,345	5,112
Wilcox	147	87	1	8	45	198	0	1	137	0	1	0	0	0	380	381
Wilkes	121	83	0	9	3	113	1	0	0	0	0	33	32	1	246	150
Wilkinson	197	148	0	8	55	85	0	0	32	37	4	0	0	0	385	172
Worth 1	46	124	2	6	15	13	3	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	179	34
Totals	163,087	189,337	2,758	9,219	54,073	194,426	76,363	3,582	56,694	27,607	6,743	44,077	17,685	18,792	464,076	428,867

* This Report

¹ One quarter reported ² Two quarters reported ³ Three quarters reported

Judgeship Table
Judgeship Case Weight Needed to Qualify

Number of Judges	Value to Qualify
2	2.700
3	4.020
4	5.320
5	6.600
6	7.860
7	9.100
8	10.320
9	11.520
10	12.700
11	13.860
12	15.000
13	16.120
14	17.220
15	18.300
16	19.360
17	20.400
18	21.420
19	22.420
20	23.400
21	24.360
22	25.300
23	26.220
24	27.120
25	28.000

Judgeship Table
Number of Judges and
Details of the Circuit and Per Judge Weights

Circuit	Number of Judges	Circuit		Per Judge	
		Weight		Weight	
		To Qualify	Actual 2005	To Qualify	Actual 2005
Alapaha	2	2.70	2.67	1.35	1.335
Bell-Forsyth	2	2.70	2.31	1.35	1.155
Blue Ridge	2	2.70	3.72	1.35	1.860
Cordele	2	2.70	2.98	1.35	1.490
Dublin	2	2.70	3.49	1.35	1.745
Enotah	2	2.70	3.21	1.35	1.605
Houston	2	2.70	4.14	1.35	2.070
Middle	2	2.70	2.04	1.35	1.020
Mountain	2	2.70	2.62	1.35	1.310
Oconee	2	2.70	2.77	1.35	1.385
Pataula	2	2.70	2.34	1.35	1.170
Paulding	2	2.70	3.03	1.35	1.515
Rockdale	2	2.70	1.81	1.35	0.905
South Georgia	2	2.70	2.15	1.35	1.075
Tallapoosa	2	2.70	3.14	1.35	1.570
Tifton	2	2.70	3.53	1.35	1.765
Toombs	2	2.70	2.35	1.35	1.175
Towaliga	2	2.70	2.84	1.35	1.420
Appalachian	3	4.02	3.39	1.34	1.130
Dougherty	3	4.02	3.55	1.34	1.183
Douglas	3	4.02	4.41	1.34	1.470
Flint	3	4.02	3.65	1.34	1.217
Northern	3	4.02	4.25	1.34	1.417
Ogeechee	3	4.02	3.50	1.34	1.167
Piedmont	3	4.02	3.83	1.34	1.277
Southwestern	3	4.02	2.80	1.34	0.933
Waycross	3	4.02	3.68	1.34	1.227
Western	3	4.02	3.88	1.34	1.293
Alcovy	4	5.32	6.09	1.33	1.523
Atlantic	4	5.32	3.88	1.33	0.970
Brunswick	4	5.32	5.46	1.33	1.365
Cherokee	4	5.32	5.19	1.33	1.298
Clayton	4	5.32	4.62	1.33	1.155
Conasauga	4	5.32	5.45	1.33	1.363
Griffin	4	5.32	4.82	1.33	1.205
Lookout Mountain	4	5.32	4.66	1.33	1.165
Northeastern	4	5.32	5.20	1.33	1.300
Rome	4	5.32	4.98	1.33	1.245
Coweta	5	6.60	6.83	1.32	1.366
Macon	5	6.60	2.94	1.32	0.588
Ocmulgee	5	6.60	6.25	1.32	1.250
Southern	5	6.60	7.21	1.32	1.442
Chattahoochee	6	7.86	5.71	1.31	0.952
Eastern	6	7.86	5.67	1.31	0.945
Augusta	8	10.32	6.99	1.29	0.874
Cobb	9	11.52	12.51	1.28	1.390
Gwinnett	9	11.52	12.36	1.28	1.373
Stone Mountain	10	12.70	11.79	1.27	1.179
Atlanta	19	22.42	21.25	1.18	1.118

Color Code:

	New Judgeship Request
	Carryover
	Qualified but Not Requested

Table:
Number of Judges, Circuit Weight Details, and Per Judge Weight Details

Circuit	Number of Judges	Circuit			Per Judge		
		Weight To Qualify	Actual # 2005 Weight	Difference	Weight To Qualify	Actual 2005 Weight	Difference
Alapaha	2	2.70	2.67	-0.03	1.35	1.333	-0.017
Alcovy	4	5.32	6.09	0.77	1.33	1.521	0.191
Appalachian	3	2.70	3.39	0.69	0.90	1.130	0.230
Atlanta	19	22.42	21.25	-1.17	1.18	1.119	-0.061
Atlantic	4	5.32	3.88	-1.44	1.33	0.971	-0.359
Augusta	8	10.32	6.99	-3.33	1.29	0.874	-0.416
Bell-Forsyth	2	2.70	2.31	-0.39	1.35	1.157	-0.193
Blue Ridge	2	2.70	3.72	1.02	1.35	1.859	0.509
Brunswick	4	5.32	5.46	0.14	1.33	1.365	0.035
Chattahoochee	6	6.60	5.71	-0.89	1.10	0.951	-0.149
Cherokee	4	4.02	5.19	1.17	1.01	1.297	0.292
Clayton	4	5.32	4.62	-0.70	1.33	1.155	-0.175
Cobb	9	11.52	12.51	0.99	1.28	1.390	0.110
Conasauga	4	5.32	5.45	0.13	1.33	1.361	0.031
Cordele	2	2.70	2.98	0.28	1.35	1.490	0.140
Coweta	5	6.60	6.83	0.23	1.32	1.366	0.046
Dougherty	3	4.02	3.55	-0.47	1.34	1.182	-0.158
Douglas	3	4.02	4.41	0.39	1.34	1.469	0.129
Dublin	2	2.70	3.49	0.79	1.35	1.747	0.397
Eastern	6	6.60	5.67	-0.93	1.10	0.945	-0.155
Enotah	2	2.70	3.21	0.51	1.35	1.605	0.255
Flint	3	2.70	3.65	0.95	0.90	1.217	0.317
Griffin	4	5.32	4.93	-0.39	1.33	1.232	-0.098

Circuit	Number of Judges	Circuit			Per Judge		
		Weight To Qualify	Actual # 2005 Weight	Difference	Weight To Qualify	Actual 2005 Weight	Difference
Gwinnett	9	11.52	12.36	0.84	1.28	1.374	0.094
Houston	2	2.70	4.14	1.44	1.35	2.072	0.722
Lookout Mountain	4	5.32	4.66	-0.66	1.33	1.164	-0.166
Macon	5	6.60	2.94	-3.66	1.32	0.587	-0.733
Middle	2	2.70	2.04	-0.66	1.35	1.019	-0.331
Mountain	2	2.70	2.62	-0.08	1.35	1.311	-0.039
Northeastern	4	5.32	5.20	-0.12	1.33	1.300	-0.030
Northern	3	4.02	4.25	0.23	1.34	1.415	0.075
Ocmulgee	5	6.60	6.25	-0.35	1.32	1.250	-0.070
Oconee	2	2.70	2.77	0.07	1.35	1.386	0.036
Ogeechee	3	4.02	3.50	-0.52	1.34	1.168	-0.172
Pataula	2	2.70	2.34	-0.36	1.35	1.170	-0.180
Paulding	2	2.70	3.03	0.33	1.35	1.517	0.167
Piedmont	3	4.02	3.83	-0.19	1.34	1.278	-0.062
Rockdale	2	2.70	1.81	-0.89	1.35	0.907	-0.443
Rome	4	5.32	4.98	-0.34	1.33	1.245	-0.085
South Georgia	2	2.70	2.15	-0.55	1.35	1.077	-0.273
Southern	5	6.60	7.21	0.61	1.32	1.442	0.122
Southwestern	3	4.02	2.80	-1.22	1.34	0.934	-0.406
Stone Mountain	10	12.70	11.79	-0.91	1.27	1.179	-0.091
Tallapoosa	2	2.70	3.14	0.44	1.35	1.568	0.218
Tifton	2	2.70	3.53	0.83	1.35	1.765	0.415
Toombs	2	2.70	2.35	-0.35	1.35	1.177	-0.173
Towaliga	2	2.70	2.84	0.14	1.35	1.420	0.070
Waycross	3	4.02	3.68	-0.34	1.34	1.227	-0.113
Western	3	4.02	3.88	-0.14	1.34	1.292	-0.048

Superior Court Circuit Judgeship Timeline: 1990 - 2006

Circuit	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Alapaha	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Alcovy (created 1972)	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4
Appalachian (created 1983)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3
Atlanta	14	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	17	17	18	18	19	19	19	19	19
Atlantic	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Augusta	6	6	6	6	6	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	8	8	8	8	8
Bell-Forsyth (created 1998)									1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Blue Ridge	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Brunswick	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Chattahoochee	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Cherokee	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4
Clayton	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Cobb	7	7	7	7	7	8	8	8	8	8	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
Conasauga	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Cordele	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Coweta	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Dougherty	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Douglas (created 1983)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Dublin	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Eastern	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Enotah (created 1992)			2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Flint	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3
Griffin	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Gwinnett	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	7	7	7	7	8	8	8	8	9
Houston (created 1971)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Lookout Mountain	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Macon	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Middle	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Mountain	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Northeastern	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Northern	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Ocmulgee	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Oconee	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Ogeechee	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Pataula	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Paulding (created 2002)													2	2	2	2	2
Piedmont	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Rockdale (created 1983)	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Rome	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4
South Georgia	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Southern	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5
Southwestern	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Stone Mountain	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Tallapoosa	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	3	2	2	2	2
Tifton	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Toombs	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Towaliga (created 1999)										1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Waycross	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Western	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Total	148	153	159	159	159	169	169	169	175	176	183	184	189	188	188	188	193

2005 Circuits, Personnel, and Weighted Caseload

Circuit	Counties	Superior Court Judge Positions (Current)	State Court Judge Positions (Current)	Juvenile Court Judges and Associate Judges	Probate Court Judges hearing traffic cases	CY05 Weighted Caseload
Alapaha	5	2	1	2	4	2.67
Alcovy	2	4	0	3	2	6.09
Appalachian	3	3	0	4	3	3.39
Atlanta	1	19	10	8	0	21.25
Atlantic	6	4	6	3	0	3.88
Augusta	3	8	4	4	1	6.99
Bell-Forsyth	1	2	2	2	0	2.31
Blue Ridge	1	2	2	2	0	3.72
Brunswick	5	4	4	6	1	5.46
Chattahoochee	6	6	2	3	5	5.71
Cherokee	2	4	0	2	2	5.19
Clayton	1	4	4	3	0	4.62
Cobb	1	9	11	4	0	12.51
Conasauga	2	4	0	2	2	5.45
Cordele	4	2	0	1	4	2.98
Coweta	5	5	4	4	2	6.83
Dougherty	1	3	1	2	0	3.55
Douglas	1	3	1	3	0	4.41
Dublin	4	2	1	2	3	3.50
Eastern	1	6	3	3	0	5.67
Enotah	4	2	0	2	4	3.21
Flint	1	3	3	3	0	3.65
Griffin	4	4	2	3	2	4.93
Gwinnett	1	9	6	6	0	12.36
Houston	1	2	1	2	0	4.14
Lookout Mountain	4	4	2	4	2	4.66
Macon	3	5	1	3	2	2.94
Middle	5	2	5	2	0	2.04
Mountain	3	2	2	1	1	2.62
Northeastern	2	4	2	2	1	5.20
Northern	5	3	1	2	4	4.25
Ocmulgee	8	5	2	1	6	6.25
Oconee	6	2	0	2	6	2.77
Ogeechee	4	3	4	0	0	3.50
Pataula	7	2	2	2	5	2.34
Paulding	1	2	0	2	1	3.03
Piedmont	3	3	1	1	2	3.83
Rockdale	1	2	1	1	0	1.81
Rome	1	4	0	2	1	4.98
South Georgia	5	2	3	2	2	2.15
Southern	5	5	4	6	1	7.21
Southwestern	6	3	1	1	5	2.80
Stone Mountain	1	10	7	6	0	11.79
Tallapoosa	2	2	0	3	2	3.14
Tifton	4	2	3	1	1	3.53
Toombs	6	2	0	1	6	2.35
Towaliga	3	2	0	1	3	2.84
Waycross	6	3	5	2	1	3.68
Western	2	3	1	3	1	3.88
Totals:	159	193	115	130	88	

CY05 Criminal Filings by Rank and Five-Year Percentage Change Per Judge

Circuit	Total Criminal Filings	Rank	% Change CY00 - CY05	Unified Appeals	Felony Defendants	Misdemeanor Defendants	Probation Revocations
Alapaha	1,231	5	-31%	0.00	318	765	148
Alcovy	1,050	13	0%	0.00	447	270	334
Appalachian	913	18	-2%	0.00	345	307	261
Atlanta	1,140	9	-1%	0.42	880	0	259
Atlantic	427	48	94%	0.25	339	3	85
Augusta	651	39	11%	0.00	388	94	169
Bell-Forsyth	572	42	44%	0.50	373	15	184
Blue Ridge	1,058	12	41%	0.50	573	69	416
Brunswick	615	40	-8%	0.50	492	54	68
Chattahoochee	393	49	-10%	0.00	216	64	112
Cherokee	1,123	10	21%	0.50	374	227	522
Clayton	778	27	15%	0.00	556	14	208
Cobb	1,487	2	73%	0.00	845	0	642
Conasauga	1,682	1	172%	0.00	790	570	322
Cordele	988	15	60%	0.00	414	215	360
Coweta	848	21	39%	0.20	618	44	186
Dougherty	1,248	4	29%	0.00	530	443	275
Douglas	707	31	-40%	1.33	481	77	148
Dublin	1,159	7	85%	0.00	734	262	163
Eastern	731	29	13%	0.00	437	9	285
Enotah	1,000	14	24%	0.00	529	288	184
Flint	658	38	25%	0.00	483	25	150
Griffin	768	28	19%	0.00	547	136	85
Gwinnett	884	20	67%	0.22	645	35	204
Houston	1,408	3	61%	1.00	748	244	415
Lookout Mountain	795	24	9%	0.00	399	213	184
Macon	678	34	-11%	0.20	373	45	260
Middle	573	41	0%	0.00	459	7	108
Mountain	796	23	29%	0.00	383	129	285
Northeastern	1,172	6	60%	0.25	771	175	226
Northern	690	32	37%	0.00	386	87	218
Ocmulgee	983	16	6%	0.00	413	315	256
Oconee	848	22	11%	0.00	499	225	125
Ogeechee	555	44	4%	0.00	420	1	135
Pataula	719	30	3%	0.00	387	202	131
Paulding	659	37	12%	0.00	327	249	84
Piedmont	965	17	57%	1.67	472	402	90
Rockdale	555	45	-15%	0.50	401	15	140
Rome	1,115	11	11%	0.00	445	379	292
South Georgia	513	46	-3%	0.00	362	38	114
Southern	677	35	-17%	0.00	550	15	111
Southwestern	666	36	-23%	0.00	361	162	143
Stone Mountain	786	25	11%	0.00	583	0	203
Tallapoosa	898	19	34%	0.50	471	271	156
Tifton	474	47	27%	1.00	292	23	159
Toombs	559	43	-20%	0.00	293	174	92
Towaliga	682	33	21%	0.00	381	249	53
Waycross	779	26	35%	1.33	561	32	185
Western	1,140	8	123%	0.33	742	64	334
Mean:	853			0.23	486	157	209

CY05 Civil Filings by Rank and Five-Year Percentage Change Per Judge

Circuit	Total Circuit Filings (Criminal + Civil)	Rank	% Change CY00 - CY05	Total Civil Filings	Rank	% Change CY00 - CY05	General Civil	Domestic Relations
Alapaha	2,385	14	-20%	1,154	31	-3%	378	776
Alcovy	2,769	3	3%	1,719	5	5%	823	896
Appalachian	1,812	36	-6%	899	44	-10%	410	489
Atlanta	1,948	34	-3%	808	47	-6%	212	596
Atlantic	1,400	47	17%	973	41	0%	307	665
Augusta	1,611	44	-3%	960	42	-11%	245	715
Bell-Forsyth	2,009	31	74%	1,437	13	90%	544	894
Blue Ridge	3,397	2	69%	2,339	2	86%	694	1,645
Brunswick	1,928	35	11%	1,313	23	23%	502	811
Chattahoochee	1,711	39	-17%	1,318	22	-18%	472	846
Cherokee	2,405	11	0%	1,282	25	-13%	662	621
Clayton	2,131	25	18%	1,353	20	20%	188	1,166
Cobb	2,654	5	29%	1,167	29	-3%	239	928
Conasauga	2,728	4	58%	1,046	36	-6%	467	580
Cordele	2,317	17	28%	1,329	21	11%	543	787
Coweta	2,377	15	24%	1,529	9	17%	504	1,025
Dougherty	2,290	18	43%	1,041	37	63%	323	719
Douglas	2,395	12	5%	1,688	7	55%	923	765
Dublin	2,629	6	23%	1,471	10	-3%	495	976
Eastern	1,687	41	-4%	955	43	-14%	324	631
Enotah	2,390	13	27%	1,390	15	29%	690	700
Flint	2,038	30	0%	1,379	16	-9%	663	716
Griffin	2,122	27	17%	1,354	19	16%	573	781
Gwinnett	2,518	9	11%	1,634	8	-7%	434	1,200
Houston	3,841	1	59%	2,433	1	58%	648	1,785
Lookout Mountain	2,185	22	12%	1,390	14	14%	426	964
Macon	1,039	49	-43%	360	49	-66%	175	185
Middle	1,458	46	-11%	885	45	-16%	285	600
Mountain	1,951	33	18%	1,155	30	12%	581	574
Northeastern	2,258	20	38%	1,086	33	20%	454	633
Northern	2,127	26	31%	1,437	12	28%	523	914
Ocmulgee	1,973	32	10%	989	40	14%	444	546
Oconee	2,090	28	4%	1,242	28	0%	468	774
Ogeechee	1,689	40	-14%	1,134	32	-21%	386	748
Pataula	1,748	38	2%	1,029	38	1%	478	551
Paulding	2,542	8	58%	1,883	4	84%	1,202	682
Piedmont	2,272	19	31%	1,307	24	17%	612	695
Rockdale	1,612	43	-8%	1,057	35	-4%	247	810
Rome	2,374	16	12%	1,258	26	13%	511	747
South Georgia	1,541	45	-22%	1,028	39	-29%	437	592
Southern	2,046	29	-17%	1,369	17	-16%	511	858
Southwestern	1,376	48	-43%	710	48	-54%	384	326
Stone Mountain	2,150	23	9%	1,364	18	7%	372	992
Tallapoosa	2,610	7	50%	1,712	6	60%	1,159	554
Tifton	2,516	10	30%	2,042	3	31%	883	1,159
Toombs	1,812	37	-2%	1,253	27	9%	428	825
Towaliga	2,135	24	28%	1,453	11	31%	553	901
Waycross	1,664	42	-1%	884	46	-20%	430	454
Western	2,207	21	49%	1,067	34	10%	485	582
Mean:	2,140			1,287			504	783

Population

CY05 U.S. Census
Population Per Superior
Court Judge

2010 GA O.P.B. Projected
Population for Superior
Court Judge

Circuit	Rank	Rank
Alapaha	27,827	45
Alcovy	40,590	25
Appalachian	25,888	46
Atlanta	48,191	13
Atlantic	35,725	35
Augusta	40,360	27
Bell-Forsyth	70,197	4
Blue Ridge	92,106	1
Brunswick	44,265	16
Chattahoochee	41,762	22
Cherokee	34,877	37
Clayton	66,992	6
Cobb	73,758	3
Conasauga	32,925	39
Cordele	29,902	43
Coweta	62,327	8
Dougherty	31,627	40
Douglas	37,587	32
Dublin	36,743	33
Eastern	39,735	28
Enotah	39,238	30
Flint	55,949	10
Griffin	52,336	11
Gwinnett	80,697	2
Houston	63,082	7
Lookout Mountain	41,828	21
Macon	38,517	31
Middle	48,374	12
Mountain	40,375	26
Northeastern	46,376	14
Northern	35,774	34
Ocmulgee	31,603	41
Oconee	35,136	36
Ogeechee	44,179	17
Pataula	25,620	47
Paulding	56,206	9
Piedmont	42,767	19
Rockdale	39,273	29
Rome	23,550	49
South Georgia	43,501	18
Southern	41,178	23
Southwestern	29,683	44
Stone Mountain	67,796	5
Tallapoosa	34,409	38
Tifton	41,178	24
Toombs	25,520	48
Towaliga	30,604	42
Waycross	42,648	20
Western	44,729	15
Mean:	43,990	47,271

**2006 Circuit Judgeship Requests
by Rank, Weighted Caseload, and Population Per Judge**

Judicial Circuit	Final Rank on Factors 1-4 2006	Current Superior Court Judgeships	Previous Year Rank of Priority	Factor 1		Factor 2					Factor 3				Factor 4				Total of Ranks	Judicial Circuit	
				Weight in Minutes Per Judge	Rank	Felony	Rank	Misdem	Rank	Probation Revocation	Rank	General Civil	Rank	Domestic Relations	Rank	2005 Population Per Superior Court Judge	Rank	2010 Population Per Superior Court Judge			Rank
ALAPAHA	12	2	10	97,426.81	10	318	13	765	1	148	9	378	10	776	7	27,827	13	26,026	13	76	ALAPAHA
ATLANTA	9	19	N/A	101,204.81	8	880	1	0	12	259	4	212	13	596	11	48,191	3	43,178	8	60	ATLANTA
ATLANTIC	13	4	N/A	70,926.36	13	339	12	3	11	85	12	307	11	665	10	35,725	11	35,731	11	91	ATLANTIC
BRUNSWICK	6	4	N/A	99,757.86	9	492	8	54	7	68	13	502	6	811	5	44,265	4	44,725	4	56	BRUNSWICK
COBB	2	9	6	125,758.76	2	845	2	0	12	642	1	239	12	928	3	73,758	2	86,209	2	36	COBB
CORDELE	7	2	N/A	108,865.15	6	414	10	215	5	360	2	543	4	787	6	29,902	12	30,519	12	57	CORDELE
DUBLIN	4	2	5	127,715.86	1	734	3	262	4	163	8	495	7	976	2	36,743	10	37,295	10	45	DUBLIN
ENOTAH	3	2	9	117,263.17	4	529	7	288	3	184	7	690	1	700	8	39,238	9	44,433	5	44	ENOTAH
GWINNETT	1	9	8	124,274.56	3	645	4	35	8	204	5	434	8	1200	1	80,697	1	91,218	1	31	GWINNETT
MOUNTAIN	9	2	N/A	95,829.28	11	383	11	129	6	285	3	581	3	574	12	40,375	8	44,285	6	60	MOUNTAIN
PIEDMONT	5	3	N/A	111,792.75	5	472	9	402	2	90	11	612	2	695	9	42,767	5	47,244	3	46	PIEDMONT
SOUTHERN	8	5	7	105,367.41	7	550	6	15	10	111	10	511	5	858	4	41,178	7	40,103	9	58	SOUTHERN
WAYCROSS	11	3	N/A	89,678.46	12	561	5	32	9	185	6	430	9	454	13	42,648	6	43,369	7	67	WAYCROSS

VOTE ON JUDGESHIP REQUESTS

AUGUST 29, 2006

CIRCUIT REQUESTING

APPROVE

YES

NO

1. ATLANTA (20TH Judge)

2. ATLANTIC (5TH Judge)

3. BRUNSWICK (5TH Judge)

4. CORDELE (3RD Judge)

5. GWINNETT (10TH Judge)

6. MOUNTAIN (3RD Judge)

7. PIEDMONT (4TH Judge)

8. WAYCROSS (4TH Judge)

Policy Change:

Current Judicial Council Policy requires that each member of the Council fill-in all ballots COMPLETELY. This rule extends to voting on judgeship requests and ranking priority. All unranked and/or partially completed ballots will be removed from voting consideration.

SAMPLE BALLOT

PRIORITY RANKING OF JUDGESHIP REQUESTS

AUGUST 29, 2006

(1 = HIGHEST; 12 = LOWEST)

<u>CIRCUIT REQUESTING</u>	<u>RANK</u>
1. ALAPAHA (3 rd Judge)	_____
2. ATLANTA (20 th Judge)	_____
3. ATLANTIC (5 th Judge)	_____
4. BRUNSWICK (5 th Judge)	_____
5. COBB (10 th Judge)	_____
6. CORDELE (3 rd Judge)	_____
7. DUBLIN (3 rd Judge)	_____
8. ENOTAH (3 rd Judge)	_____
9. GWINNETT (10 th Judge)	_____
10. MOUNTAIN (3 rd Judge)	_____
11. PIEDMONT (4 th Judge)	_____
12. SOUTHERN (6 th Judge)	_____
13. WAYCROSS (4 th Judge)	_____

Policy Change:

Current Judicial Council Policy requires that each member of the Council fill-in all ballots COMPLETELY. This rule extends to voting on judgeship requests and ranking priority. All unranked and/or partially completed ballots will be removed from voting consideration.

SAMPLE BALLOT

Judicial Council of Georgia
Administrative Office of the Courts

David L. Ratley
Director

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Each Member of the Judicial Council

Via: Marla S. Moore
Senior Associate Director for Court Services

From: Gregory W. Arnold
Senior Assistant Director

Date: August 10, 2006

RE: Summary of New Judgeship Requests and Status of Carryover
Recommendations

New Judgeship Requests

1. Atlanta for 20th Judgeship
2. Atlantic for 5th Judgeship
3. Brunswick for 5th Judgeship
4. Cordele for 3rd Judgeship
5. Gwinnett for 10th Judgeship
6. Mountain for 3rd Judgeship
7. Piedmont for 4th Judgeship
8. Waycross for 4th Judgeship

Carry Over Circuits with Previous Year's Rank

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Circuit</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Judgeship</u>
5	Dublin	2004	3 rd
6	Cobb	2004	10 th
7	Southern	2004	6 th
9	Enotah	2005	3 rd
10	Alapaha	2005	3 rd

New Judgeships Approved by the General Assembly in 2006: effective 01/01/2007

1. Blue Ridge 3rd Judgeship
2. Coweta 6th Judgeship
3. Houston 3rd Judgeship
4. Paulding 3rd Judgeship

ATLANTA JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SUMMARY

Original Request and Comment Letters Atlanta Judicial Circuit 20th Judgeship Request

Date of Letter	Authored by	Content
May 2, 2006	The Honorable Bob Holmes State Representative, District 61	Request for study to assess the need for an additional judgeship
August 7, 2006	Richard B. Herzog, President Atlanta Bar Association	Submission of the June 22, 2006 resolution in support of a 20th judgeship from the Atlanta Bar Association Board of Directors originally approved
August 7, 2006	Dr. Pamela L. Tremayne, Esq. Georgia Association of Women Lawyers	Support addition of at least one judge



House of Representatives

BOB HOLMES
REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 61
P.O. BOX 110009
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30311
(404) 755-9528 (H)
(404) 696-6196 (O)
(404) 696-4905 (FAX)
E-MAIL: Carglor9@cs.com

COVERDELL LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 409A
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334
(404) 656-0116
(404) 651-8086 (FAX)
(404) 656-0250 (FAX)

STANDING
COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
BANKS & BANKING
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

May 2, 2006

Mr. David L. Ratley
244 Washington St., SW, Suite 300
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900



Dear Mr. Ratley:

I am writing to you as Chair of the Atlanta-Fulton County Delegation of the Georgia House of Representatives to request that you examine the need for additional judgeship in the Fulton County Judicial Circuit.

Many thanks for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Bob Holmes

BH:pj

Richard B. Herzog, Jr.
President



David N. Schaeffer
Secretary

W. Ray Persons
First Vice President/President-Elect

Jacquelyn N. Saylor
Treasurer

Shayna M. Steinfeld
Second Vice President

ATLANTA BAR ASSOCIATION

400 International Tower
229 Peachtree Street NE
Atlanta, GA 30303-1601
Telephone (404) 521-0781
Fax (404) 522-0269
www.atlantabar.org

Elizabeth A. Price
Immediate Past President

Diane O'Steen
Executive Director

Matthew W. Nichols
Legal Counsel

August 7, 2006

David L. Ratley, Director
Judicial Council of Georgia
Administrative Office of the Courts
244 Washington Street, S. W., Suite 300
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900

Re: Resolution of the Atlanta Bar Association Supporting a Study to Determine the Need for Additional Superior Court Judgeship for the Atlanta Judicial Circuit.

Dear Mr. Ratley:

Enclosed is a copy of the Resolution mentioned above which was approved by the Board of Directors of the Atlanta Bar Association on June 22, 2006.

Please distribute this to the Judicial Council for consideration at their next meeting to determine whether or not to recommend the additional judgeship for the Fulton County Superior Court to the General Assembly and the Governor.

If you need additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Richard B. Herzog
President

Enclosure

Please contact me at:
Richard B. Herzog, Esq.
Nelson, Mullins, Riley & Scarborough, LLP
999 Peachtree Street N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30309
(404) 817-6000
richard.herzog@nelsonmullins.com



RESOLUTION OF THE ATLANTA BAR ASSOCIATION
SUPPORTING A STUDY TO DETERMINE THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL SUPERIOR
COURT JUDGESHIP
FOR THE ATLANTA JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

WHEREAS, the Judicial Council's objective is to achieve and to maintain a reasonable, balanced and equitable distribution of judicial services among the judicial circuits in the State; and

WHEREAS, since the 2000 census, Georgia has experienced the fourth fastest rate of population growth in the United States¹; and

WHEREAS, the population of the Atlanta metropolitan area grew by ten and eight-tenths (10.8%) per cent since the 2000 census, ranking Atlanta the ninth most populous metropolitan area in the United States;² and

WHEREAS, approximately ten percent of all Georgians reside in the Atlanta Judicial Circuit; and

WHEREAS, all three branches of Georgia state government are headquartered in the Atlanta Judicial Circuit; and

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta, one of America's most dynamic urban centers and a national hub for commerce, job growth, transportation, education and culture, lies in the heart of the Atlanta Judicial Circuit; and

WHEREAS, all Georgians' shared interests in prosperity, wellbeing, and stable and effective self-government under the rule of law are advanced by protecting the safety and personal security of persons who live, work or visit in the City of Atlanta and the Atlanta Judicial Circuit; and

WHEREAS, the safety and personal security of people who live, work, or visit in the City of Atlanta depend upon an adequately resourced and well-administered criminal justice system, including a sufficient complement of superior court judges; and

WHEREAS, the volume of criminal filings in the Atlanta Judicial District reflects the sad realities that persons in the City of Atlanta experience some of the highest urban crime rates in the nation,³ including a property crime rate more than twice as high as the statewide Georgia rate,⁴ a violent crime rate more than four times higher than the statewide Georgia rate,⁵ and an overall crime rate of 11,355.2 per 100,000 population as compared to 4,507 per 100,000 statewide in Georgia;⁶ and

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 Statistical Abstract of the United States, Table No. 18([www.census.gov/compendia/statab/population/estimates and projections/metropolitan areas/cities](http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/population/estimates%20and%20projections/metropolitan%20areas/cities)).

² *Id.*, No. 26.

³ U.S. Census Bureau, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 2004-'05, No. 292.

⁴ *Id.*, compare No. 291 (attached as Exhibit 4) with No. 292.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

RESOLUTION OF THE ATLANTA BAR ASSOCIATION
SUPPORTING A STUDY TO DETERMINE THE NEED FOR
ADDITIONAL SUPERIOR COURT JUDGESHIP
FOR THE ATLANTA JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

WHEREAS, because of the concentration of state government and the dynamic business and commercial activity in the Atlanta Judicial Circuit, our superior courts attract a high volume of civil filings whose complexity imposes an uncommon demand on the judicial resources of our Circuit that cannot be appropriately evaluated through rote comparison of the number of civil filings; and

WHEREAS, the combination of rapid population growth, elevated crime rates and the resultant volume of criminal filings, and the high volume of complex civil filings impose extraordinary pressure on the Atlanta Judicial Circuit's judicial resources to administer both criminal and civil justice in a fair, effective and timely manner; and

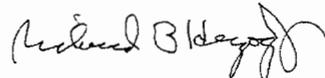
WHEREAS, this challenge has been exacerbated by the events of March 11, 2005, when a member of the Superior Court for the Atlanta Judicial Circuit and two justice system colleagues were shot to death at our courthouse during the routine conduct of judicial business, because the important work of improving Fulton County courthouse security has diverted judicial resources from the already growing and overwhelming press of court business; and

WHEREAS, a principled analysis of relative need, taking into account all of the foregoing data and considerations, is likely to lead to the conclusions that the people who live, work and visit in the Atlanta Judicial Circuit are being underserved and that a reasonable, balanced and equitable distribution of judicial resources requires the addition of a judge or judges to the superior court bench in the Atlanta Judicial Circuit;

NOW THEREFORE, be it hereby known that the Atlanta Bar Association fully and strongly endorses Chief Judge Downs' request for a study to determine the need for an additional judgeship (or judgeships) in the Atlanta Judicial Circuit.

Resolved this 22nd day of June, 2006.

ATLANTA BAR ASSOCIATION



Richard B. Herzog, President

LAW OFFICES OF
PAMELA L. TREMAYNE
 THE HURT BUILDING-SUITE 730
 50 HURT PLAZA
 ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30308
 (404) 523-2800
 FACSIMILE (404) 523-2806



PAMELA L. TREMAYNE, J.D., PH.D.
 ADAM L. KATZ, J.D.

August 7, 2006

SENT VIA FACSIMILE ONLY
 TO: (404) 463-0860]

Dr. Greg Arnold
 Judicial Council

Re: Atlanta Judicial Circuit, Superior Court and
 an additional judicial position

Dear Dr. Arnold:

Today I spoke with Mr. David Ratley who asked me to respond to you regarding an additional position on the Fulton Superior Court bench. On behalf of the Georgia Association of Women Lawyers (GAWL) and their Judicial Nominations Committee, I am authorized to state that we do support the addition of at least one judge to the Fulton Superior Court.

Although the Fulton judges work very hard, given the population of the county and the growing complexity of the cases brought to the court, the case loads are higher than desirable and resolving cases can take more time than necessary. The end result can be a delay of justice. Adding at least one judge would not only benefit the people of Fulton County but would also further the reputation of Georgia as an efficient and just state.

If our GAWL Committee, or I, can be of assistance to the Council, please do not hesitate to let me know. We meet on August 9 and expect to have another meeting in a few weeks to consider openings in several other counties.

Very truly yours,

Pamela L. Tremayne
 Pamela L. Tremayne
 Judicial Nominations Committee
 Member

cc: Jessica Harper, Esq.
 Annette Idalski, Esq.

ATLANTIC JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SUMMARY

Original Request and Comment Letters Atlantic Judicial Circuit 5th Judgeship Request

Date of Letter	Authored by	Content
May 30, 2006	Chief Judge David L. Cavender Atlantic Judicial Circuit	Request for study to determine whether the circuit qualifies for a 5 th judgeship
August 4, 2006	Tom Durden, District Attorney Atlantic Judicial Circuit	Letter of support for a 5 th judgeship
August 4, 2006	The Honorable Joseph W. Brown Liberty County Board of Commissioners	Letter of Support for a 5 th judgeship



State of Georgia
Superior Courts
of the
Atlantic Judicial Circuit

David L. Cavender
Judge

May 30, 2006

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 713
Milledgeville, Georgia 31313
Telephone:
(912) 368-2250

Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears
Chair, Judicial Council of Georgia
Administrative Office of the Courts
244 Washington Street, S.W., Suite 300
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900



Dear Justice Sears:

In response to your letter dated April 19, 2006, I request that a study be done to determine whether the Atlantic Judicial Circuit qualifies for a 5th judgeship.

With kind regards, I am

Very truly yours,

David L. Cavender

David L. Cavender

DLC:ggm



TOM DURDEN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

ATLANTIC JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
945 E.G. MILES PARKWAY
HINESVILLE, GEORGIA 31313
912/877-5126

TELEPHONE (912) 876-4151

FAX (912) 876-4305

JOHN E. SMILEY

DIRECTOR

CHILD SUPPORT DIVISION

JIM GRAY

STEVE RUSH

INVESTIGATORS

LEWIS M. GROOVER, JR.
CHIEF ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

H. PRESLEY SMITH

JOE G. SKEENS

MARK A. HENDRIX

MELISSA L. POOLE

SANDRA DUTTON

CRIS SCHNEIDER

ANGEL BLAIR

ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEYS

August 4, 2006

DIXIE COLEMAN
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

MARY LOU POOLE
VICTIM/WITNESS COORDINATOR



Mr. David L. Ratley
Director
Judicial Council of Georgia
Administrative Office of the Courts
Suite 300
244 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-5900
VIA www.georgiacourts.org

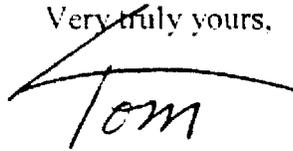
Dear David:

I am writing in support of Chief Judge David L. Cavender's request for the study of the 5th superior court judgeship in the Atlantic Judicial Circuit. As you may know, we have experienced exponential growth in population in our six county Circuit over the past several years. This increase has brought about an increase in the work loads of the court system. While I am much more familiar with the criminal division of our court system we often receive a glimpse of an increase in the civil side due to our involvement in condemnation and forfeitures.

I started working with the District Attorneys Office March 1, 1984, became Chief Assistant in December 1984, and became District Attorney on January 1, 1999. Over these years I have seen our office grow from three assistant district attorney's to a total now, including one child support attorney and one juvenile prosecutor, to ten lawyers in our office. This increase has been accompanied by a significant increase in support staff, all which with underscores the greatly increased criminal workload of our Superior Courts. It has been a number of years since we have increased the number of judges, and faced with not only a steady but a steadily increasing growth in workload, I feel comfortable in saying that the study would show that an additional court position would be in order for the Atlantic Judicial Circuit.

If you have any further questions, or if I can provide more specific information to aid the Council, please give me or my administrative assistant, Dixie Coleman a call.

With kindest regards.
Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke above the letters.

Tom Durden
District Attorney

cc. Joey Brown, County Administrator
Greg Arnold

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS LIBERTY COUNTY

JOHN D. M'IVER
CHAIRMAN
MARION STEVENS, SR.
DISTRICT 1
DONALD L. LOVETTE
DISTRICT 2
CONNIE THRIFT
DISTRICT 3

P.O. BOX 829
HINESVILLE, GEORGIA 31310
(912) 876-2164



PAT BOWEN
DISTRICT 4
KENNY FUSSELL
DISTRICT 5
EDDIE J. WALDEN
DISTRICT 6
JOSEPH W. BROWN
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

August 4, 2006

Mr. David L. Ratley
Judicial Council of Georgia
Administrative Office of the Courts
Suite 300
244 Washington Street S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900



Dear Mr. Ratley:

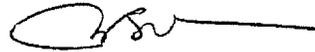
On behalf of the Liberty County Board of Commissioners, please let this letter serve as indication of support for the study to consider a 5th Superior Court Judgeship for our circuit.

Liberty County, the largest county in population within the Atlantic Circuit, has experienced a tremendous explosion in caseload within the past few years. Most of the increase can be directly attributed to troop strength growth at Fort Stewart. Within the last six months alone, the number of assigned active duty personnel has increased by approximately 4,000 people. This figure does not reflect dependants or other contract employees that are present due to construction activity currently underway on post. Projections indicate that within the next 3-5 years Fort Stewart can expect to see an additional 5,000 to 7,000 active duty soldiers. Unfortunately this growth, along with general population increases due to the coastal nature of the County, signals the need to plan now for an additional judgeship.

In 2002 the citizens of Liberty County approved, via Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax, the construction of a new Justice Center. This Center will include expanded court facilities to handle the increases taking place, as well as, those anticipated for the future. In this same SPLOST, the County recently completed an expansion to its jail facility by creating 120 additional bed spaces. Unfortunately, we realize that, given current projections, we will probably have to begin planning for the second expansion within the next two years.

David, I appreciate the Council's efforts in undertaking this study at Judge Cavender's request. As you know, growth brings with it many challenges including the need to ensure that the judicial function operates effectively and efficiently. Please know that we stand ready to assist you in any way possible during this study.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JWB', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Joseph W. Brown
County Administrator

BRUNSWICK CIRCUIT

SUMMARY

Original Request and Comment Letters Brunswick Judicial Circuit 5th Judgeship Request

Date of Letter	Authored by	Content
May 1, 2006	Chief Judge James R. Tuten, Jr. Brunswick Judicial Circuit	Request for study to assess the need for an additional judgeship
July 10, 2006	Mr. Luther M. Smart County Manager Board of Commissioners of Appling County	Letter opposing the addition of a 5 th judgeship based on coordination with the Appling County Clerk of Superior Court Office and the Appling county Sheriff's Office.
August 7, 2006	The Honorable Don Hogan Chairperson, Glynn County Board of Commissioners	Letter submitted that states the Commissioners "are in full accord with Judge Tuten's request to add a fifth Superior Court Judge..."



JUDGE JAMES R. TUTEN, JR.
SUPERIOR COURTS OF GEORGIA
BRUNSWICK JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

POST OFFICE BOX 1473
BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA 31521

GLYNN COUNTY COURTHOUSE
BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA 31520
May 1, 2006

TELEPHONE (912) 554-7372
FAX (912) 264-8145

Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears
Chair, Judicial Council of Georgia
Suite 300
244 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900



Dear Chief Justice Sears:

This request is in response to your recent notification that the Council has authorized the Administrative Office of the Courts to accept requests for studies to determine the need for additional judgeships in the Georgia Superior Courts.

As Chief Judge of the Superior Courts of the Brunswick Judicial Circuit, and on behalf of the other active Judges of the circuit, I hereby submit our formal request that the Administrative Office of the Courts conduct a study to determine the need for an additional judgeship for this circuit.

A study several years ago determined that the caseload of the circuit fell only slightly short of warranting an additional judgeship at that time. We feel the additional judgeship is fully warranted by the current caseload.

Sincerely yours,

James R. Tuten, Jr.

JRT, JR/cf

cc: David L. Ratley, Director
Administrative Office of the
Courts

Appling County Board of Commissioners

69 TIPPINS STREET, SUITE 201 • BAXLEY, GEORGIA 31513

PHONE: (912) 367-8100 • FAX: (912) 367-8161

H. VIRGIL CARTER, CHAIRMAN
LUTHER M. SMART, COUNTY MANAGER
CHRISSE HARRIS, COUNTY CLERK

SARAH BOATRIGHT, DISTRICT I
THEODORE WILKERSON, DISTRICT II
JOHN E. TILLMAN, DISTRICT III
RONNIE RENTZ, DISTRICT IV
H. MIKE DYAL, DISTRICT V

July 10, 2006



Judicial Council of Georgia
Administrative Office of the Courts
244 Washington Street, S.W.; Suite 300
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-5900

Dear Mr. Ratley:

The Appling County Board of Commissioners does not support the addition of a 5th Superior Court Judge in the Brunswick Judicial Circuit at this time. The Board made this decision based on coordination with the Appling County Clerk of Superior Court Office and the Appling County Sheriff's Office.

Should you have questions please feel free to contact this office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luther M. Smart". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Luther M. Smart
County Manager

cc: Mr. Floyd Hunter, Clerk of Superior Court
Sheriff Benny DeLoach, Appling County Sheriff's Office

GLYNN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

HISTORIC GLYNN COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 701 "G" STREET, BRUNSWICK, GA 31520 912/554-7400 FAX 912/554-7598



August 7, 2006



CARL JOHNSON, DISTRICT 1
ULRICH KELLER, DISTRICT 2
TONY THAW, DISTRICT 3
HOWARD LYNN, DISTRICT 4
JEROME CLARK, DISTRICT 5
DON HOGAN, AT-LARGE POST 1
CAP FENDIG, AT-LARGE POST 2

Mr. David L. Ratley
Director
Judicial Council of Georgia
Administrative Office of the Courts
244 Washington Street, S. W., Suite 300
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900

Dear Mr. Ratley:

I want you to know that we are in full accord with Judge Tuten's request to add a fifth Superior Court Judge to our Brunswick Judicial Circuit. We are also extremely gratified that the Judge has taken the action and requested this study. We strive for a good working relationship between the Commission and the Judiciary and fully understand the difficult task they have in conducting their responsibilities.

While we fully understand that the decision to add another Judge to the circuit will be based upon the caseload and other relevant data we are very confident that the data will support a favorable decision.

The County has funds to expand our existing detention center. Our daily inmate jail capacity is about 400. The Sheriff is now from time to time boarding out prisoners to other jails in the area at the average cost of about \$40 a day per inmate. We hired the consulting firm, Carter Goble Lee to conduct a study to review our jail situation, converse with the members of the Judiciary and make recommendations to us about how we should proceed. As you might imagine the cost of incarcerating and processing inmates through the system is very expensive.

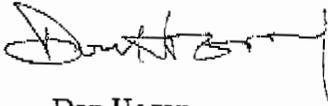
The consultant's have given us a draft report that has some valuable information. The conclusions of the report are still being reviewed. While the focus of this study will be largely on the methods and procedures for holding inmates and how much jail space we need to add to our system we believe the Judges need additional assistance. The added Judgeship will assist them toward processing the growing number of cases they must handle each year.

Mr. David L. Ratley
Page 2
August 7, 2006

We appreciate the Council reviewing this situation and any further information or material you need please feel free to contact us.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Don Hogan
Chairman

DH:jc

Copy: Superior Court Judge James R. Tuten
Senator Jeff Chapman
Representative Jerry Keen
Representative Roger Lane
Representative Cecily Hill

CORDELE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SUMMARY

Original Request and Comment Letters Cordele Judicial Circuit 3rd Judgeship Request

Date of Letter	Authored by	Content
May 11, 2006	Chief Judge John C. Pridgen Cordele Judicial Circuit	Request for study to assess the need for an additional judgeship
June 8, 2006	Mr. G. Russell Wright President, Cordele Circuit Bar Association	Letter of support for additional judgeship
July 25, 2006	The Honorable Johnny Floyd State Representative, District 147	Letter of support for additional judgeship

SUPERIOR COURTS
CORDELE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
BEN HILL, CRISP, DOOLY & WILCOX COUNTIES

CHIEF JUDGE JOHN C. PRIDGEN

P. O. Box 5025
CORDELE, GA 31010
PHONE 229-276-2619
FAX 229-276-2629



JUDGE ROBERT W. CHASTEEN, JR.

P. O. Box 448
FITZGERALD, GA 31750
PHONE 229-426-5139
FAX 229-426-5733

May 11, 2006

Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears
Chair, Judicial Council of Georgia
Administrative Office of the Courts
Suite 300
244 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900



Dear Justice Sears:

In response to your letter dated April 19, 2006, please accept this request that the Cordele Judicial Circuit be considered for an additional superior court judgeship. The two superior court judges of the Cordele Judicial Circuit serve four counties. While our caseload average per judge has consistently been above the state average, our need for an additional judge is exacerbated by several additional factors.

First, in a rural circuit both judges devote significant amounts of time to travel. Both judges routinely travel between 60 and 100 miles per day to hold court.

We have two 1300-bed prisons in the circuit. The number of habeas corpus hearings and other matters related to these prisons significantly affect the workload of the judges.

We also have no state courts in the circuit. Therefore, the superior court judges handle all misdemeanors as well as appeals and jury trial requests from municipal, magistrate and probate courts within the circuit.

Please submit this request to the Judicial Council for their careful consideration.

Yours very truly,


John C. Pridgen

JCP/ccs

cc: David L. Ratley ✓
Judge Robert W. Chasteen, Jr.

Wright & Pack, P.C.

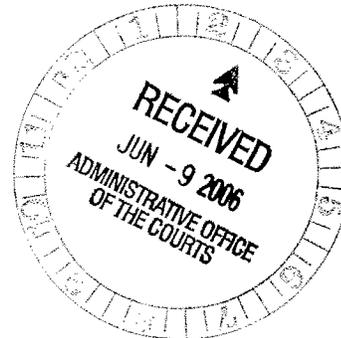
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
P.O. BOX 938
110 EAST 13TH AVENUE
CORDELE, GEORGIA 31015
229/273-1861
FAX 229/276-1704
E-mail: attorney@sowega.net

G. RUSSELL WRIGHT
KRISTEN W. PACK

GEORGE P. WRIGHT
(1910-1994)

June 8, 2006

David L. Ratley
Administrative Office of the Courts
Judicial Council of Georgia
244 Washington Street S.W.
Suite 300
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900



Dear Mr. Ratley:

I am in receipt of your letter of May 26th, 2006, letter (copy enclosed) in regard to conducting a study as to the need of a third superior court judgeship in the Cordele Judicial Circuit. I am the president of the Cordele Circuit Bar Association and have practiced law in this circuit for the past twenty-five years. During that time I have seen the responsibilities of the courts in the Cordele Judicial Circuit grow to the point that I feel that a third superior court judge is definitely needed.

The Cordele Judicial Circuit covers an extremely large geographical area; it is approximately seventy miles from the Dooly County Justice Center to the Ben Hill County Court House. A third superior court judge would reduce the amount of travel time of our judges and allow each judge to spend more time on the bench in the County in which he or she actually resides.

The circuit also has two branches of the state prison system with a correctional institution in Wilcox County and another in Dooly County. This has increased the court's case load with the filing of numerous habeas corpus petitions by the inmates of these institutions. This in turn has increased the burden on our superior court judges to hear these proceedings.

Our circuit does not have a state court in any of its four counties. Any case in which a jury trial is demanded in the probate courts or the various municipal courts must be sent to superior court for disposition. It is not unusual for half of our superior court criminal calendars to be composed of misdemeanor cases which were brought up from one of the lower courts. This greatly hampers our ability to conduct criminal court and to deal with the more serious criminal cases that come before the court. The establishment of the public defender system has also resulted in more aggressive criminal defense which also translates into additional time which is needed to be allocated to each individual case.

Page 2
June 8, 2006

My practice is composed primarily of criminal defense and I will tell you quite frankly that it is extremely difficult to schedule hearings with our current judges unless it is scheduled far in the future. At times it is practically impossible to schedule a hearing even during the three month period from the time a case is arraigned until it is called for its first trial term. It is not unusual for our judges to commence hearing cases at nine in the morning and still be in the court room at seven or eight o'clock in the evening.

Chief Judge John C. Pridgen and Superior Court Judge Bobby Chasteen are excellent jurists. However, I do not believe that they can physically carry the case loads have been placed upon them in the past few years without the addition of the third judgeship.

I would appreciate it very much if you would convey these opinions to the judicial council. In the event that you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

Sincerely



G. Russell Wright

GRW/mn



House of Representatives

JOHNNY FLOYD
REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 147
POST OFFICE BOX 5260
CORDELE, GEORGIA 31010
(229) 273-5312 (O)
(229) 273-1760 (H)
(229) 273-6622 (FAX)

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 501
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334
(404) 656-0177

STANDING
COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS
BANKS & BANKING
TRANSPORTATION

July 25, 2006

David L. Ratley
Judicial Council of Georgia
Administrative Office of The Courts
Suite 300 244 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900



Dear David,

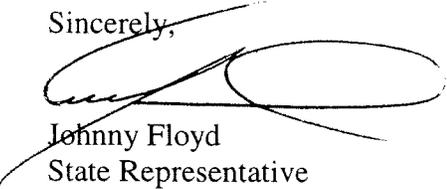
Judge John Pridgen, our Chief Judge of the Cordele Judicial Circuit, has requested that we increase our judicial circuit to three Judges.

The Cordele Judicial Circuit is made up of four counties with two Judges. These two Judges also function in a capacity that normally a State Court would handle but this Circuit does not have a State Court Judge.

I believe your case study will reveal a need for a third Judge to the Cordele Judicial Circuit.

Your help with this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,


Johnny Floyd
State Representative
District 147

GWINNETT JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SUMMARY

Original Request and Comment Letters Dublin Judicial Circuit Carryover - 3rd Judgeship Request

Date of Letter	Authored by	Content
April 25, 2006	Chief Judge H. Gibbs Flanders, Jr. Dublin Judicial Circuit	Carryover status expires in 2006. Letter submitted regarding a renewal for study to assess the need for an additional judgeship due to significant increase in the number of criminal cases.
May 31, 2006	The Honorable DuBose Porter Representative, District 143	Letter of support for additional judgeship



THE SUPERIOR COURT
 GWINNETT JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
 75 LANGLEY DRIVE
 LAWRENCEVILLE, GEORGIA 30045-6900



CHAMBERS OF K. DAWSON JACKSON, CHIEF JUDGE

May 24, 2006

(770) 822-8619

Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears
 Chairman, Judicial Council of Georgia
 c/o Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts
 Suite 550, 244 Washington Street, SW
 Atlanta, Georgia 30334-5900

SUBJECT: Request for Study to Determine the Need for an Additional Judge

Dear Chief Justice Sears:

On behalf of the Superior Court Judges of the Gwinnett Judicial Circuit, I hereby request that the Judicial Council of Georgia approve a study by the Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts to determine the need for an additional judgeship for Gwinnett County Superior Court. The Circuit presently has nine Superior Court judges. Based upon the 2004 case count conducted by the Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts, the Court's required judicial resources factor is 10.7, indicating a need of at least ten superior court judges. The preliminary assessment of 2005 case filings by the District Court Administrator indicates that the Court's required judicial resources will be greater than 11 when the count is concluded this year.

Gwinnett County continues to be one of the fastest growing counties in our state, and the growth rate shows no signs of tapering off. The court system must be prepared to meet the ever-increasing demands of criminal, civil, and domestic litigation within the County.

As such, I would appreciate the Council's favorable consideration of the foregoing request. Should it be determined that a tenth superior court judgeship is needed, the same would be effective January 1, 2008 if otherwise approved by the General Assembly and the Governor.

Sincerely,

K. DAWSON JACKSON
 Chief Judge, Gwinnett Judicial Circuit

KDJ:pb

- c: Judges, Gwinnett Judicial Circuit
- Gwinnett County Legislative Delegation
- Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners
- District Attorney
- Clerk of Court
- District Court Administrator, Ninth Judicial District



GWINNETT COUNTY
Board of Commissioners
(770)822-7000

CHARLES E. BANNISTER, CHAIRMAN
LORRAINE GREEN, District One
BERT NASUTI, District Two
MIKE BEAUDREAU, District Three
KEVIN KENERLY, District Four



Mr. David L. Ratley,
Director, Judicial Council of Georgia
Administrative Office of the Courts
Suite 300, 244 Washington Street SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-5900

Dear Mr. Ratley:

This letter is in response to your notification that the Judicial Council will be conducting a study as to the need for a 10th superior court judgeship in the Gwinnett Judicial Circuit. We appreciate the opportunity to comment to the Judicial Council on this review.

Although the need for an additional judgeship may be warranted in Gwinnett County, we do feel we should make the Council aware of the total cost of adding a new judge to the taxpayers of the County. Staff, equipment, peripheral services and supplies to support a new judge impact the County budget significantly. Our model for staff support of a superior court judge show a total need of 12 full time employees at a cost of \$1.7 million. Ongoing annual operating costs for one judgeship is approximately \$1.5 million.

Also, please note that our 2007 budget will be impacted by the addition of a sixth state court judge (2006 legislative session), and the 2006 budget was impacted by the addition of the ninth superior court judge (2005 legislative session). While we understand the increasing demands on our court system, we do feel it necessary to provide you with Gwinnett County's financial issues related to the addition of a 10th superior court judge.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Bannister
Chairman, Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners

c: District Commissioners
Judge Dawson Jackson, Superior Court
Jock Connell, County Administrator
Mike Comer, Deputy County Administrator
Lisa Johnsa, Director of Financial Services

MOUNTAIN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SUMMARY

Original Request and Comment Letters Mountain Judicial Circuit 3rd Judgeship Request

Date of Letter	Authored by	Content
April 25, 2006	Chief Judge Ernest H. Woods, III Mountain Judicial Circuit Ninth Judicial District	Request for study to assess the need for an additional judgeship
June 1, 2006	The Honorable Nancy Schaefer State Senator, District 50	Letter of support for additional judgeship
June 19, 2006	The Honorable Eston E. Melton, Jr. Chairperson Rabun County Board of Commissioners	Letter takes no position for or against an additional judgeship; however, does discuss the financial impact of adding an additional judge;
July 18, 2006	The Honorable Ben Bridges, Sr. State Representative, District 10	Letter of support for additional judgeship referencing an increase in both caseload and population

SUMMARY



SUPERIOR COURTS
MOUNTAIN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF GEORGIA
ERNEST H. WOODS, III, Chief Judge

HABERSHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE
P.O. BOX 485
CLARKESVILLE, GEORGIA 30523

TELEPHONE 706-754-6274
FAX 706-754-4722

April 25, 2006

Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears, Chair
Judicial Council of Georgia
Administrative Office of the Courts
244 Washington Street SW Suite 300
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900

RE: Additional Judgeship, Mountain Judicial Circuit

Dear Chief Justice Sears:

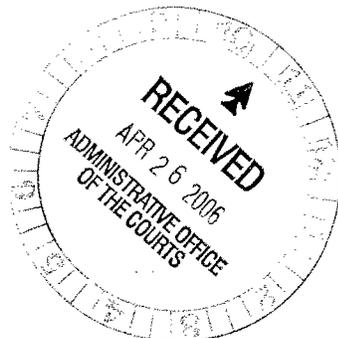
In response to your letter dated April 19, 2006, I respectfully request a study in the Mountain Judicial Circuit for an additional judgeship.

At the present time, there are two superior court judges in the Mountain Judicial Circuit. A study of the rapid population growth in this area of the State is reflected in the case load of each judge. The Mountain Judicial Circuit is comprised of Habersham, Rabun and Stephens counties. Habersham and Stephens counties have part-time state courts whose jurisdiction includes misdemeanor offenses, traffic, DUI, game and fish violations and some civil jurisdiction. Rabun County has no state court. Therefore, the superior court has jurisdiction over misdemeanor violations, game and fish violations and civil cases in Rabun County. Traffic cases including DUI's are filed in the probate court of Rabun County.

Please know that this office will be available to assist with information that might be needed in the study.

Sincerely,

Ernest H. Woods, III, Chief Judge
Superior Courts
Mountain Judicial Circuit



EHW,III: raw



NANCY SCHAEFER
District 50
P.O. Box 294
Turnerville, Georgia 30580
Tel: (706) 754-1998
Fax: (706) 754-1803



COMMITTEES:

Secretary, Retirement
Banking and Financial Institutions
Economic Development
Ethics
Special Judiciary

323 - A Coverdell Legislative Office Building
18 Capitol Square, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
Tel: (404) 463-1367
Fax: (404) 463-1388

The State Senate
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

E-mail: senatornancyschaefer@alltel.net

June 1, 2006

Mr. David L. Ratley, Director
Judicial Council of Georgia
Administrative Office of the Courts
244 Washington Street, S.W., Suite 300
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-5900



Dear Mr. Ratley,

I am writing in regards to the study commissioned to determine the need for a 3rd superior court judgeship in the Mountain Judicial Circuit. In accordance with your policies and procedures, I hereby submit my support for the appointment of a 3rd superior court judgeship in the Mountain Judicial Circuit, and ask for your favorable consideration.

The Mountain Judicial Circuit, much like it's neighboring Enotah Judicial Circuit, has experienced exponential growth in its caseloads over the years. I believe that as the population of our communities expands, it is appropriate for our governing bodies and entities to take the necessary steps to meet the new demands. Establishing a third judgeship will ensure that all citizens are provided timely and equitable services from the Mountain Judicial System.

Thank you for your attention to the needs of the Mountain Judicial Circuit. Please feel free to call on me if I can provide additional information or comments.

Sincerely,

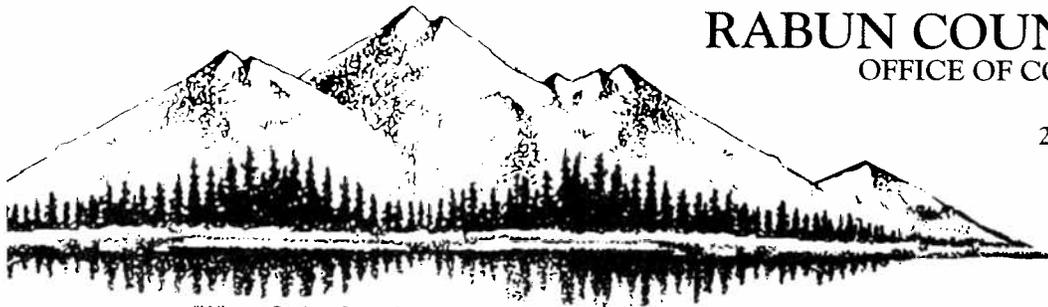
Nancy Schaefer
State Senator, District 50

Cc: Chief Judge Ernest H. Woods, III

SUMMARY

Original Request and Comment Letters Gwinnett Judicial Circuit 10th Judgeship Request

Date of Letter	Authored by	Content
May 24, 2006	Chief Judge K. Dawson Jackson Gwinnett Judicial Circuit	Request for study to assess the need for an additional judgeship
June 27, 2006	The Honorable Charles E. Bannister Chairperson Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners	Letter discusses the financial impact of adding an additional judge; takes no position for or against



"Where Spring Spends The Summer"

RABUN COUNTY, GEORGIA

OFFICE OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Rabun County Courthouse
25 Courthouse Square Suite 201
Clayton, Georgia 30525

Telephone: 706-782-5271
Fax: 706-782-7588

June 19, 2006

Mr. David L. Ratley
Director - Administrative Office of the Courts
Judicial Council of Georgia
244 Washington Street, S.W. - Suite 300
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-5900

Dear Mr. Ratley:

Thank you for your letter to me dated May 26 advising the Rabun County Board of Commissioners of the upcoming study and review by the Judicial Council regarding caseload to determine whether or not to seek an additional judgeship for our circuit.

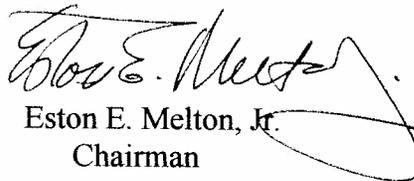
I have little knowledge as to the need/justification for an additional judgeship in our circuit. I do have, however, considerable knowledge as to the attendant costs to Rabun County taxpayers resulting from an added judgeship in our circuit.

At this time, I would ask that the present study and review by the Judicial Council fully develop all of the cost details resulting from an added judgeship and make this cost analysis available to the Rabun County Board of Commissioners prior to the meeting scheduled for August 29, 2006. I am quite confident that the Judicial Council is equally concerned about the cost impact of an added judgeship as is the Board of Commissioners.

I presume the August 29 meeting is a public meeting and if you would be so kind as to advise me of the time and location of the meeting, I will make every effort to be there to observe this proceeding.

Thank you for your letter of notice. If I can provide you with any additional information helpful to the study, please let me know.

Sincerely,


Eston E. Melton, Jr.
Chairman



CC: The Honorable Chief Judge Ernest H. Woods, III
Rabun County Board of Commissioners



House of Representatives

BEN BRIDGES, SR.
REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 10
100 SANG ROAD
CLEVELAND, GEORGIA 30528
(706) 865-1962 (H)
(706) 219-3272 (FAX)
E-MAIL: ben.bridges@house.ga.gov

STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 402
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334
(404) 656-5143

STANDING
COMMITTEES:

RETIREMENT, CHAIRMAN
RULES
PUBLIC UTILITIES & TELECOMMUNICATIONS
BANKS & BANKING

July 18, 2006

Mr. David Ratley
Administrative Office of the Courts
Suite 300
244 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30334



Dear Mr. Ratley:

I am writing to support the application of an additional superior court judgeship in the Mountain Judicial Circuit. I realize that you are presently conducting a study, but I wanted to reiterate how important I believe this is. The circuit is growing in both case load and population and an additional judge would help the circuit to serve its citizens better. I believe that you are or have received statistical data from Judge Woods, so I won't take the time to go over these numbers again. Please be assured that I will do whatever I can on the legislative side to show my support.

Thank you for your consideration and hard work.

Sincerely,

Ben Bridges, Sr.
District 10
Chairman, House Retirement Committee
BB/sg

PIEDMONT JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

**Original Request and Comment Letters
Piedmont Judicial Circuit
4th Judgeship Request**

Date of Letter	Authored by	Content
June 20, 2006	Chief Judge Robert W. Adamson Piedmont Judicial Circuit	Request for study to assess the need for an additional judgeship
July 11, 2006	The Honorable Nancy Schaefer State Senate, District 50	Supporting the need for a 4 th judgeship
July 14, 2006	The Honorable Terry England State Representative, District 108	Supporting the need for a 4 th judgeship referencing the population increase and visiting Judge Adamson regarding their caseload
July 25, 2006	Douglas Garrison, Chairman Jerry D. Lampp, District 1 William J. Brown, District 2 James Roger Wehunt, District 3 Isiah Berry, District 4 David Dyer, District 5 Ben Hendrix, District 6 Board of Commissioners of Barrow County	Supporting the need for a 4 th judgeship referencing the population increase
August 2, 2006	The Honorable Gene Hart Chairperson, Banks County Board of Commissioners	Supporting the need for a 4 th judgeship

ROBERT W. ADAMSON
JUDGE OF SUPERIOR COURT
PIEDMONT JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
BANKS, BARROW AND JACKSON COUNTIES
POST OFFICE BOX 39
HOMER, GEORGIA 30547

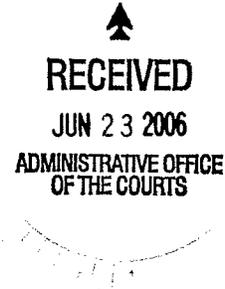
JEFFERSON, GEORGIA
706-367-6371

WINDER, GEORGIA
770-307-3031

706-677-3213

June 20, 2006

Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears
Suite 300
244 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-5900



Re: Additional Judgeship
Piedmont Judicial Circuit

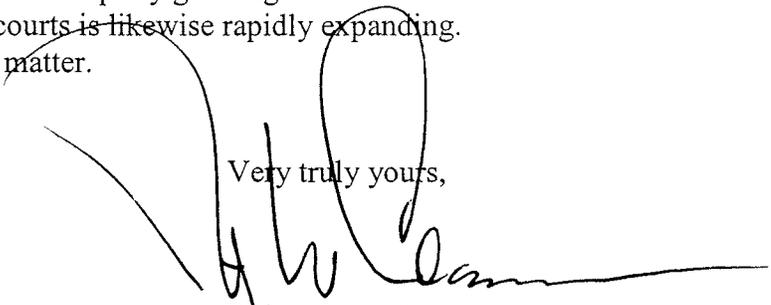
Dear Chief Justice Sears:

Pursuant to your letter of instruction of April 19, 2006, please initiate studies necessary to approve a fourth Superior Court judgeship for the Piedmont Judicial Circuit comprised of Barrow, Jackson and Banks Counties. I understand that no specific form or format is necessary at this stage.

Both Barrow and Jackson Counties are located on the I-85 corridor adjacent to Gwinnett County and are among the most rapidly growing counties of our state. Our caseloads and the other work of the courts is likewise rapidly expanding.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Very truly yours,



Robert W. Adamson
Chief Superior Court Judge
Piedmont Judicial Circuit

RWA/vhm

cc: David L. Ratley, Director AOC
Chairman Doug Garrison – Board of Commissioners
Tom Gunnels, DCA – Tenth Judicial District

NANCY SCHAEFER
District 50
P.O. Box 294
Turnerville, Georgia 30580
Tel: (706) 754-1998
Fax: (706) 754-1803



COMMITTEES:

Secretary, Retirement
Banking and Financial Institutions
Economic Development
Ethics
Special Judiciary

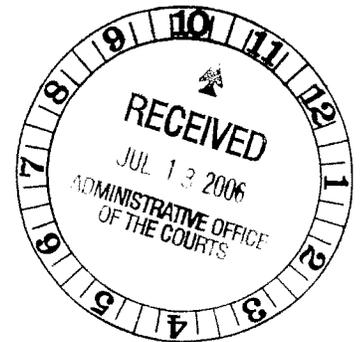
The State Senate
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

323 - A Coverdell Legislative Office Building
18 Capitol Square, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
Tel: (404) 463-1367
Fax: (404) 463-1388

E-mail: senatornancyschaefer@alltel.net

July 11, 2006

David L. Ratley, Director
Judicial Council of Georgia
Administrative Office of the Courts
244 Washington Street, S.W.
Suite 300
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-5900



Dear Director Ratley,

Thank you for updating me on the implementation of a study to determine the need for a fourth superior court judgeship in the Piedmont Judicial Circuit. I appreciate your keeping me informed.

Should this study reveal the necessity of a fourth superior court judgeship, please be assured that I am most willing to support the necessary efforts and recommend the additional judgeship through legislation.

Please keep me abreast of your developments. I am eager to offer my assistance in accomplishing the needs of the Piedmont Judicial Circuit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Schaefer".

Nancy Schaefer
State Senator, District 50



House of Representatives

TERRY ENGLAND
REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 108
1060 OLD HOG MOUNTAIN ROAD
AUBURN, GEORGIA 30011
(770) 867-1601 (O)
(770) 867-8096 (H)
(770) 867-2160 (FAX)
E-MAIL: englandhomeport2@alltel.net

COVERDELL LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 501
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334
(404) 656-0177
(404) 463-2196 (FAX)

STANDING
COMMITTEES:

AGRICULTURE & CONSUMER AFFAIRS
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS - SECRETARY

July 14, 2006

Mr. David L. Ratley, Director
Administrative Office of the Courts
Suite 300
244 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900



Dear Mr. Ratley,

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on my thoughts about the need for a 4th superior court judgeship in the Piedmont Judicial Circuit.

As a lifelong resident of the Piedmont Judicial Circuit, Barrow County in particular, I have seen our population grow at an astronomical rate over the last 15 - 20 years. I have been a witness to the growth of neighboring Jackson County as well as seeing our District mate Banks County growing at a similar rate.

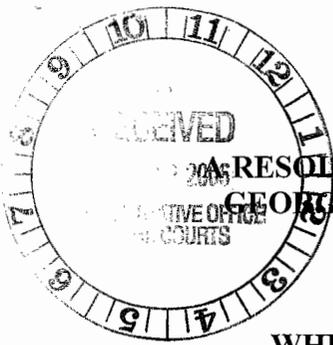
I recently visited with Judge Adamson and he informed me that their current caseload is around 1780 per judge and growing. He also informed me that the usual threshold for starting this review process is around the 1500 case range.

Given the increased population, the large number of houses being built, the current caseload and the projections that Barrow County will remain in the top 25 counties in the nation for growth for the next several years, I would respectfully ask that The Judicial Council favorably consider the recommendation of adding a 4th judgeship for the Piedmont Judicial Circuit at its August 29th meeting.

I think that the citizens of the Piedmont Circuit will be very well served by adding this additional judgeship.

Sincerely,

Terry England
Georgia House of Representatives
District 108



**RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BARROW COUNTY,
GEORGIA SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF A FOURTH SUPERIOR COURT
JUDGESHIP IN THE PIEDMONT JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

WHEREAS, the Superior Courts of the Piedmont Judicial Circuit, which includes the Superior Court of Barrow County, Georgia, currently consist of three (3) judgeships;

WHEREAS, the third judgeship for the Piedmont Judicial Circuit was created eleven (11) years ago in 1995;

WHEREAS, according to information available from the United State Census Bureau, the population of the Piedmont Judicial Circuit has, over five (5) years, grown by 26,146 people from a population of 102,155 in 2000 to 128,301 in 2005, representing a 26% increase in population;

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the population of the Piedmont Judicial Circuit will continue to increase at a similar rate in the future;

WHEREAS, said population increase has resulted, and will continue in the future to result, in an increased caseload in the Piedmont Judicial Circuit, which increased caseload operates, and will continue in the future to operate, as a substantial burden on the current three (3) judges of the Piedmont Judicial Circuit, as well as their respective administrative staffs;

WHEREAS, the creation of a new fourth judgeship would reduce said burden in the Piedmont Judicial Circuit;

WHEREAS, the creation of a new fourth judgeship would consequently promote judicial economy and the rendering of justice in the Piedmont Judicial Circuit;

WHEREAS, the resulting promotion of judicial economy and rendering of justice in the Piedmont Judicial Circuit would benefit the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Barrow County, as well as all citizens of the Piedmont Judicial Circuit;

WHEREAS, the Judicial Council of Georgia is receiving comments until August 7, 2006, regarding a study it is conducting, at the request of Chief Judge Robert W. Anderson of the Piedmont Judicial Circuit, as to the need for a fourth Superior Court Judgeship in the Piedmont Judicial Circuit;

WHEREAS, the Judicial Council of Georgia will render a decision on whether to recommend to the General Assembly and the Governor the requested fourth judgeship at its meeting in Atlanta, Georgia on August 29, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Barrow County wishes to convey to the Judicial Council of Georgia, the General Assembly, and the Governor its support for the creation of a fourth judgeship for the Piedmont Judicial Circuit.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Barrow County vigorously supports the creation of a fourth Superior Court Judgeship for the Piedmont Judicial Circuit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Barrow County urges the Judicial Council of Georgia to strongly recommend to the General Assembly and the Governor the creation of a fourth Superior Court Judgeship for the Piedmont Judicial Circuit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Barrow County urges the General Assembly and the Governor to support the creation of a fourth Superior Court Judgeship for the Piedmont Judicial Circuit.

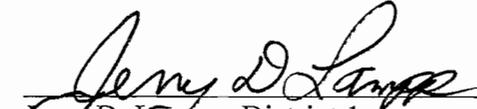
Duly adopted this 25th day of July, 2006.

[signatures on following page]

**BARROW COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS**

ABSENT

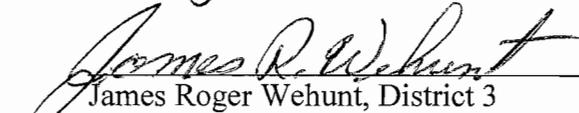
Douglas Garrison, Chairman



Jerry D. Camp, District 1



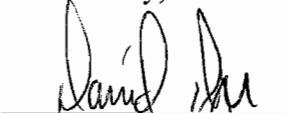
William J. Brown, District 2



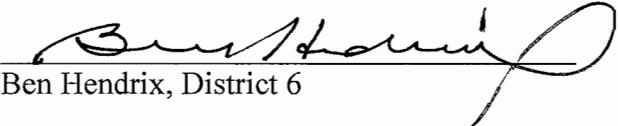
James Roger Wehunt, District 3



Isaiah Berry, District 4



David Dyer, District 5



Ben Hendrix, District 6

(Seal)

Attest:



Michelle Sims, Clerk
Barrow Board of Commissioners



BANKS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Gene Hart
Chairman

Pat Westmoreland
Member

Rickey Cain
Member

August 2, 2006

David L. Ratley
Suite 300
244 Washington St SW
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900



RE: 4th Superior Court Judgeship – Piedmont Judicial Circuit

Mr. Ratley:

This is in reference to your letter dated June 26, 2006 requesting remarks concerning the possible appointment of a 4th Superior Court Judge for the Piedmont Circuit. The Banks County Commissioners are in support of the additional position if the caseload reflects the need. Please forward the results of the study when completed so that we may plan for the position if approved.

If additional information is needed, please let us know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gene Hart".

Gene Hart
Chairman

WAYCROSS JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SUMMARY

Original Request and Comment Letters Waycross Judicial Circuit 4th Judgeship Request

Date of Letter	Authored by	Content
June 30, 2006	The Honorable J. Mark Hatfield State Representative, District 177	Request for study to assess the need for an additional judgeship
July 19, 2006	The Honorable Terry Thomas Chairperson Board of Commissioners of Brantley County	Letter of support for an additional 4 th judgeship. The increase in crime, drugs, and court caseload has increased at a more accelerated rate than growth.
July 20, 2006	The Honorable Donnie Graham Chairperson, Board of Commissioners of Coffee County	Letter discusses the financial impact of adding an additional judge



 **COPY**

House of Representatives

J. MARK HATFIELD
REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 177
P. O. BOX 1361
WAYCROSS, GEORGIA 31502
(912) 283-3820 (O)
(912) 283-3819 (FAX)
E-MAIL: mhatfield@legis.state.ga.us

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 404
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334
(404) 656-0109
(404) 651-8086 (FAX)

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

STANDING
COMMITTEES:

HIGHER EDUCATION
JUDICIARY - CIVIL, SECRETARY
TRANSPORTATION

June 30, 2006

Honorable Leah Ward Sears
Chair
Judicial Council of Georgia
5th Floor
State Judicial Building
40 Capitol Square
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

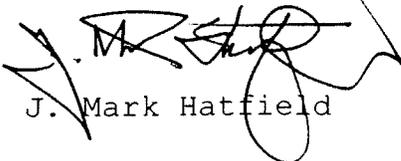
Dear Chief Justice Sears:

Pursuant to your letter of April 19, 2006, I am writing, as a member of the Georgia General Assembly, to make a formal request to the Administrative Office of the Courts for a study to determine the need for an additional judgeship for the Waycross Judicial Circuit.

I have spoken with Superior Court Judge Mike Boggs concerning this matter, and I am submitting this letter at the request of the sitting judges of the Waycross Judicial Circuit.

I appreciate Your Honor's attention to this matter. Please let me know if any further information is required from me or from the courts of the Waycross Judicial Circuit.

Very truly yours,


J. Mark Hatfield

JMH:ceg

cc: Mr. David L. Ratley
Honorable Stephen L. Jackson, Chief Judge
Honorable Dwayne H. Gillis
Honorable Michael P. Boggs





BRANTLEY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Post Office Box 398
117 Brantley Street
Nahunta, Georgia 31553
(912) 462-5256
FAX (912) 462-5538

Terry Thomas, Chairman
Ernest Hunter, Commissioner
Brian Hendrix, Commissioner
Darlene Jones, Commissioner
Charlie Summerlin, Commissioner

Dale J. Halligan, County Clerk
René T. Herrin, Bookkeeper
Cindy Lukas, Office Clerk
W. Vincent Settle III, County Attorney

July 19, 2006

David L. Ratley
Judicial Council of Georgia
Administrative Office of the Courts
Suite 300
244 Washington Street, S. W.
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900



Dear Mr. Ratley:

The Waycross Judicial Circuit, as far as Brantley County needs, is one of the fastest growing counties (districts). In my view, the growth rate for our county is very high. The increase in crime, drugs, and court case load has increased at a more accelerated rate than growth. How could this be possible may be the question? Brantley has no buffers to regulate quality growth as of this date.

Our Judges preside over state and Superior Courts. I'm sure the state of Georgia in total has experienced an increase in case numbers.

Your favorable view of our needs in the Waycross Circuit would be very much appreciated and would have a monetary value by decreasing expense to house inmates.

Thank you for the advisement of this study. I favor the increase.

Sincerely,

Terry Thomas
Chairman

OFFICE OF
COFFEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Coffee County Courthouse

**101 S. PETERSON AVENUE
DOUGLAS, GEORGIA 31533**

DONNIE GRAHAM, CHAIRMAN
JIMMY KITCHENS, VICE-CHAIRMAN
FRANK JACKSON, COMMISSIONER
EARL BRICE, COMMISSIONER
DON PAULK, COMMISSIONER

(912) 384-4799
Fax (912) 384-0291

JOANN METTS, Clerk
TONY ROWELL, Attorney
WESLEY VICKERS, Finance Director
PRINCESS LEGGETT, Deputy Clerk
ABBY PAULK, Secretary
TRACIE VICKERS, Secretary

July 20, 2006

Mr. David Ratley
Administrative Office of the Courts
Suite 300
244 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900



Dear David:

Thank you for your letter dated July 6 regarding the study to determine the need for a 4th superior court judgeship in the Waycross Judicial Circuit. At this time we do not have enough information to make a decision as to whether or not another judgeship is needed. We feel like the judges themselves along with the district attorney and other court officers should know if the caseload is becoming too large to be handled by our three current superior court judges. We would be concerned at the additional cost if any the County would incur if an additional judgeship is created. We currently fund a supplement to each judge in our circuit and would assume if another judge is added, would be asked to supplement him/her as well. This additional supplement alone would not cause the County an undue financial burden, but if there were other costs, we would like to be aware of those before a decision by your committee is reached.

We would appreciate an update on your study as it progresses and would welcome the opportunity to respond to any questions or concerns that the study committee may have that would affect Coffee County, financially or otherwise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Donnie Graham".

Donnie Graham, Chairman
Coffee County Board of Commissioners

DUBLIN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SUMMARY

Original Request and Comment Letters Dublin Judicial Circuit Carryover - 3rd Judgeship Request

Date of Letter	Authored by	Content
April 25, 2006	Chief Judge H. Gibbs Flanders, Jr. Dublin Judicial Circuit	Carryover status expires in 2006. Letter submitted regarding a renewal for study to assess the need for an additional judgeship due to significant increase in the number of criminal cases.
May 31, 2006	The Honorable DuBose Porter Representative, District 143	Letter of support for additional judgeship

Superior Courts
Dublin Judicial Circuit

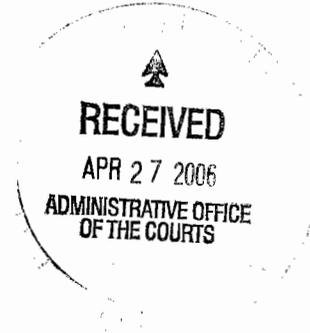
LAURENS COUNTY COURTHOUSE
DUBLIN, GEORGIA 31021

H. GIBBS FLANDERS, JR., CHIEF JUDGE
P. O. BOX 2100
DUBLIN, GEORGIA 31040
TELEPHONE (478) 272-0061
FAX (478) 275-9180

J. STANLEY SMITH, JUDGE
P. O. BOX 2069
DUBLIN, GEORGIA 31040
TELEPHONE (478) 272-4131
FAX (478) 272-1639

April 25, 2006

Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears
Chair, Judicial Council of Georgia
Suite 300, 244 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900



Dear Chief Justice Sears:

In response to your letter of April 19, please accept this letter as a renewal of the Dublin Judicial Circuit's request to add a third Superior Court Judgeship. As you may recall the Dublin Circuit was determined qualified for an additional judgeship by the Judicial Council in 2004 and 2005. Unfortunately in the 2005 and 2006 Legislative Sessions the Dublin Circuit was next in line according to the priority ranking for each year, but was not reached.

Within the last year there has been a significant increase in the number of criminal cases within the Dublin Circuit and this is placing an increasing strain upon the courts, the prosecuting attorneys and the public defenders. I request that the Administrative Office of the Court review our status, conduct further study if necessary, and make appropriate recommendations to the Judicial Council.

Thank you for your leadership and assistance. If further information is needed we stand ready to comply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "H. Gibbs Flanders, Jr.".

H. Gibbs Flanders, Jr.

cc: Senator Robert Brown
Senator Jack Hill
Senator Ross Tolleson
Representative Allen G. Freeman
Representative Jimmy Lord
Representative Greg Morris
Representative Butch Parrish
Representative Dubose Porter

Chief Judge Phillip R. West, Administrative Judge of Eight Administrative District

Judge J. Stanley Smith, Dublin Judicial Circuit

Mr. Tripp Fitzner, Eight Administrative District Court Administrator

Mr. David L. Ratley, Director of Administrative Office of the Courts ✓

Mr. James McAfee, Jr., Chairman of Johnson County Board of Commissioners

Mr. Clinton Lord, Chairman of Laurens County Board of Commissioners

Mr. George L. McLendon, Chairman of Treutlen County Board of Commissioners

Mr. Ray Bennett, Chairman of Twiggs County Board of Commissioners



House of Representatives

DuBOSE PORTER
MINORITY LEADER
REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 143
POST OFFICE DRAWER B, CSS
DUBLIN, GEORGIA 31040
(478) 272-5522 (O)
(478) 272-7373 (H)
E-MAIL: dporter@legis.state.ga.us

408 COVERDELL OFFICE BUILDING
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334
(404) 656-5058
(404) 656-0114 (FAX)

STANDING
COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE & CONSUMER AFFAIRS
APPROPRIATIONS
ETHICS
RULES

May 31, 2006

Mr. David Ratley
Administrative Office of the Courts
244 Washington Street, SW
Suite 300
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-5900

Dear David:

Thank you for your letter regarding the carryover status of the superior court judgeship for the Dublin Circuit. Please know that I fully support the additional superior court judgeship for our county.

If there is anything that I can do to help, please let me know.

Sincerely,

DuBose Porter
Minority Leader

DP:kh

ENOTAH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SUMMARY
Enotah Judicial Circuit Summary
Carryover - 3rd Judgeship Request Summary

Date of Letter	Authored by	Content
April 25, 2006	Chief Judge Hugh W. Stone Enotah Judicial Circuit	Request to conduct a study for an additional judgeship which is in carryover status
May 19, 2006	The Honorable Nancy Schaefer State Senate, District 50	Request to conduct a study for an additional judgeship which is in carryover status
January 31, 2006	Messrs. Chris Nonnemaker, Dennis Berger, and Craig Bryant White County Board of Commissioners	Letter of Support to Senator Nancy Schaefer
March 27, 2006	The Honorable Lamar Paris Commissioner, Lamar County	Letter of Thanks to Senator Nancy Schaefer and offer of assistance in the next legislative session
April 27, 2006	Chief Judge Hugh W. Stone and Judge David E. Barrett Enotah Judicial Circuit	Letter of Thanks to Senator Nancy Schaefer for SB 416 and intention to seek additional judge in 2007
June 1, 2006	The Honorable Nancy Schaefer State Senate, District 50	Letter of support for a 3 rd additional judgeship which is in carryover status as it is experiencing a tremendous growth in caseloads.
July 10, 2006	Mr. Lawrence S. Sorgen Attorney at Law	Letter of support for a 3 rd additional judgeship which is a carryover status. The topography of this circuit puts additional burdens upon the court personnel and especially the circuit riding trial judges.

July 11, 2006	Mr. Carl S. Free Attorney at Law	Letter of Support and explanation of population growth
July 11, 2006	Mr. Jeffrey L. Wolff Attorney at Law	Letter of support for a 3 rd additional judgeship due to increase caseload numbers and drive time for judges from courthouse to courthouse
July 11, 2006	Messrs. Chris Nonnemaker, Dennis Berger, and Craig Bryant White County Board of Commissioners	Letter of support for a 3 rd additional judgeship to help alleviate the strain on the court system.
July 12, 2006	The Honorable Charles Jenkins House of Representatives, District 8	Letter of Support and explanation of population and caseload growth
July 13, 2006	Mr. Raymond E. George Attorney at Law	Letter of support for a 3 rd additional judgeship which is a carryover status.
July 13, 2006	The Honorable Rudy Eller Sheriff of Towns County	Letter of support for a 3 rd additional judgeship which is a carryover status.
July 14, 2006	The Honorable Scott Stephens Sheriff of Union County	Letter of support and explanation of increase in crime and criminal court delay
July 14, 2006	The Honorable Amos Amerson State Representative, District 9	Letter of support for a 3 rd additional judgeship which is a carryover status. providing an additional judgeship
July 14, 2006	Alfred Chang, Esq. President, Enotah Judicial Circuit Bar Association	Letter of support for a 3 rd additional judgeship
July 18, 2006	The Honorable Ben Bridges, Sr. State Representative, District 10	Letter of support for additional judgeship referencing while realizing it is a carryover, it has a continued growth in its caseload
July 19, 2006	The Honorable Edward E. Tucker Superior Court Clerk of Lumpkin County	Letter of support for a 3 rd additional judgeship

July 19, 2006	The Honorable Mark T. McClure Sheriff of Lumpkin County	Letter of support for a 3 rd additional judgeship
July 19, 2006	Mr. Wesley Williams Attorney at Law	Letter of support for a 3 rd additional judgeship due to its influx of new residents and increased workload of judges
July 20, 2006	The Honorable Stephen W. Gooch Chairperson, Board of Commissioners of Lumpkin County	Letter of support for a 3 rd additional judgeship due the growth of its circuit caseloads
July 21, 2004	The Honorable Lamar Paris Commissioner, Union County	Letter of support for a 3 rd additional judgeship due to its caseloads and population growth
July 27, 2006	The Honorable N. Stanley Gunter District Attorney Enotah Judicial Circuit	Letter of support for a 3 rd additional judgeship due the population growth of its circuit



SUPERIOR COURTS

ENOTAH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF GEORGIA

HUGH W. STONE, Judge

MAILING ADDRESS:
114 COURTHOUSE ST., BOX 2
BLAIRSVILLE, GEORGIA 30512

TELEPHONE: (706) 439-6100
FAX: (706) 439-6099
EMAIL: HW_STONE@YAHOO.COM

STREET ADDRESS:
216 CLEVELAND ST., UNIT 1
BLAIRSVILLE, GEORGIA 30512

April 25, 2006

Mr. David L. Ratley, Director
Administrative Office of the Courts
244 Washington Street, SW, Suite 300
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900



RE: Request for Study to Determine Need for Additional Judgeship
Enotah Judicial Circuit

Dear Mr. Ratley:

It is requested that the Administrative Office of the Courts conduct a study to determine the need for an additional judgeship for the Enotah Judicial Circuit.

Please forward me the Judicial Council policy and procedures regarding the form and content of the proposal to be submitted.

With best personal regards,

Yours truly,

Hugh W. Stone
Chief Judge

HWS/pmch

cc: Judge David E. Barrett

NANCY SCHAEFER
District 50
P.O. Box 294
Turnerville, Georgia 30580
Tel: (706) 754-1998
Fax: (706) 754-1803



COMMITTEES:
Secretary, Retirement
Banking and Financial Institutions
Economic Development
Ethics
Special Judiciary

323 - A Coverdell Legislative Office Building
18 Capitol Square, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
Tel: (404) 463-1367
Fax: (404) 463-1388

The State Senate
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

E-mail: senatomancyschaefer@alltel.net

May 19, 2006

Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears
Chairperson, Judicial Council of Georgia
244 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-5900

Dear Chief Justice Sears,

During the 2006 Legislative Session of the Georgia General Assembly, I introduced legislation requesting the appointment of a third judgeship for the Enotah Judicial Circuit. However, the additional judgeship was not granted.

Therefore, I am hereby submitting this subsequent request for the appointment of a third judgeship for the Enotah Judicial Circuit. I continue to support this effort and ask for your favorable consideration.

Enclosed are copies of correspondence relating to our request for an additional judgeship. The Enotah Circuit has grown exponentially, and a third judgeship would greatly assist in meeting the growing needs of our citizens.

Thank you for your attention and careful consideration to appointing a third judgeship for the Enotah Judicial Circuit. I appreciate your leadership of the Judicial Council of Georgia, and hope you will call on me if I can ever be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

Nancy Schaefer
State Senator, District 50

Enclosure

Cc: Judge Hugh Stone



Chris R. Nonnemaker, Chairman
Dennis Bergin, Post 1
Craig Bryant, Post 2

Board of Commissioners

Phone: (706) 865-2235
Fax: (706) 865-1324

January 31, 2006

Honorable Nancy Schaefer
State Senator
313B Legislative Office Building
Atlanta, GA 30334

Re: Additional Judgeship for the Enotah Judicial Circuit

Dear Senator Schaefer:

The Enotah Judicial Circuit, comprised of White, Lumpkin, Union and Towns Counties, has experienced growth in its case loads in proportions equal to the population growth and the growth in tourism in this area. The strain on our legal system has become such that the Enotah Circuit has qualified for a review for a third judge. It is our understanding that the funding must now be appropriated in order to create the third judge's position.

We support the Enotah Circuit's request for the third judge to alleviate some of the strain on our court system. We ask for your consideration and support for the necessary funding to make this much-needed position become a reality.

Thank you so much for your continued support of the needs of White County and the North Georgia area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris R. Nonnemaker".

Chris R. Nonnemaker, Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Bergin".

Dennis Bergin, Post 1

Craig Bryant, Post 2

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Bryant".

Cc: Honorable Hugh W. Stone
Honorable David E. Barrett



Lamar Paris

Union County Commissioner
114 Courthouse Street, Box 1 • Blairsville, Georgia 30512

Fax 706-439-6004

unioncounty@alltel.net

Phone 706-439-6000

March 27, 2006

Senator Nancy Schaefer
District 50
P.O. Box 294
Turnerville, Georgia 30580

Dear Senator Schaefer,

I want to thank you for all the hard work you did in requesting an additional judgeship for the Enotah Judicial Circuit. I was not too surprised that we did not receive it this time but hopefully we will be successful next year.

Let me know if I can be of assistance to you in any way when we again request a third superior court judgeship in the next legislative session.

Sincerely,

Lamar Paris
Union County Commissioner



SUPERIOR COURTS
ENOTAH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF GEORGIA

DAVID E. BARRETT, Judge
59 SOUTH MAIN STREET, SUITE K
CLEVELAND, GEORGIA 30528
706-865-6135

HUGH W. STONE, Chief Judge
114 COURTHOUSE STREET, BOX 2
BLAIRSVILLE, GEORGIA 30512
706-745-6919

April 27, 2006

The Honorable Nancy Schaefer
State Senator, District 50
Post Office Box 294
Turnerville, GA 30580

RE: SB 416 Enotah Judicial Circuit
Additional Judgeship

Dear Senator Schaefer:

Thank you for introducing Senate Bill 416 and obtaining the necessary co-sponsors. Judge Barrett and I appreciate your support of our circuit. We hope to again qualify in 2007 for an additional judgeship and if so, your continued support will be greatly appreciated.

Should you have any questions that we can help you with, please contact us.

With best personal regards,

Yours truly,

Hugh W. Stone, Chief Judge

David E. Barrett, Judge

HWS/pmch

NANCY SCHAEFER
District 50
P.O. Box 294
Turnerville, Georgia 30580
Tel: (706) 754-1998
Fax: (706) 754-1803



COMMITTEES:

Secretary, Retirement
Banking and Financial Institutions
Economic Development
Ethics
Special Judiciary

323 - A Coverdell Legislative Office Building
18 Capitol Square, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
Tel: (404) 463-1367
Fax: (404) 463-1388

The State Senate
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

E-mail: senatornancyschaefer@alltel.net

June 1, 2006



David Ratley, Director
Judicial Council of Georgia
Administrative Office of the Courts
244 Washington Street, S.W., Suite 300
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-5900

Dear Mr. Ratley,

The Enotah Judicial Circuit has a third superior court judgeship request which is a carry-over status from last year. I continue to support efforts to establish the third judgeship.

The Enotah Judicial Circuit, which is comprised of Lumpkin, Union, Towns and White Counties, has experienced tremendous growth in its caseloads. There is also a large population and tourism growth in the Enotah Judicial Circuit. This growth has placed a strain on the legal system and, therefore, I introduced legislation requesting the appointment of a third judgeship in the 2006 Legislative Session of the General Assembly.

I received a letter from Chief Justice Sears that the Enotah Judicial Circuit had indeed been approved for an additional judgeship.

Enclosed with this letter are copies of correspondence relating to our request for an additional judgeship. The Enotah Judicial Circuit has mushroomed in such a way that a third judgeship would greatly assist in meeting the needs of the citizens.

Thank you for your attention and careful consideration to appointing a third judgeship for the Enotah Judicial Circuit. I appreciate the leadership of the Judicial Council of Georgia.

Sincerely,

Nancy Schaefer
State Senator, District 50

Enclosure

Lawrence S. Sorgen

ATTORNEY AT LAW
345 North Main Street
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 67
HIAWASSEE, GA 30546

TELEPHONE: 706-896-4113

FAX: 706-896-1498

E-MAIL: lss@brmemc.net

July 10, 2006

Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears
Chairperson, Judicial Council of Georgia
Supreme Court
507 State Judicial Building
Atlanta, GA 30304



Re: Additional Judgeship for the Enotah Judicial Circuit

Dear Chief Justice Sears:

I was admitted to the Georgia Bar in June of 1977 and in the 29 years since that date I have been practicing law in the what is now the Enotah Judicial Circuit. My practice involves both civil and criminal litigation and I am intimately familiar with the judicial system within our circuit and how it has evolved over the decades. I have also had an opportunity to review the statistical, case count data compiled by the Honorable Hugh W. Stone, Chief Judge of the Enotah Judicial Circuit, for submission to the Judicial Council of Georgia for its use in consideration of an additional judgeship for our circuit.

These statistics, by themselves, seem to bear out the dire need for a third judgeship to serve this circuit. Even so, those statistics and case count numbers cannot portray the full extent of the need for an additional judgeship in the Enotah Judicial Circuit.

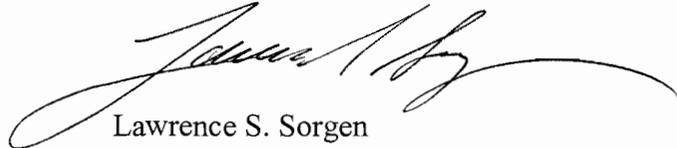
This circuit was created by taking counties out of the former Mountain Circuit and former Northeastern Circuit to establish a new, four county circuit located in the mountains of Northeast Georgia. Two of the counties within the Enotah Judicial Circuit lie south of the tallest ridgeline in the state of Georgia, and the other two counties lie north of that ridgeline. Thus, the topography of this circuit puts additional burdens upon the court personnel and especially the circuit riding trial judges. One cannot discount the effect that the distance and often difficult travel conditions have upon the already precious time available to our judges in the carrying out of their respective duties and obligations.

Additionally, the area encompassed within the Enotah Judicial Circuit has experienced a phenomenal growth in population over the past 15 years as formerly open lands have been rapidly developed into residential subdivisions and commercial developments. Of course, the increase in caseload substantiated by the data submitted to the Council is indicative and reflective of this area's growth and development.

Lastly, I have personally observed and witnessed the long hours and tiresome effort that each of our Superior Court Judges has had to put forth in order to keep up with the demands upon our judiciary. The public service selflessly given by the Courts has been above and beyond the call of duty. Both the judiciary and the citizens of the Enotah Judicial Circuit need and deserve an additional judgeship in order to insure reasonable and practical access to the courts in a fair and timely manner and to preserve the integrity of the judicial system.

Please accept this letter as a respectful request for your support in providing an additional judgeship for the Enotah Judicial Circuit in order to relieve the overburdening and unfair demands upon the circuit's current judiciary.

Yours truly,



Lawrence S. Sorgen

LSS/ks

cc: David L. Ratley, Director
Administrative Office of the Courts
Suite 300, 244 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30344

**CARL S. FREE
ATTORNEY AT LAW**

P.O. Box 884
9 East Jarrard Street
Cleveland, Georgia 30528

Telephone (706) 865-1829

Facsimile (706) 865-1730

July 11, 2006

David L. Ratley
Director, Judicial Council of Georgia
244 Washington Street, SW Suite 300
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900



RE: Additional Judgeship in Enotah Judicial Circuit

Dear Mr. Ratley:

I am a practicing attorney in the Enotah Judicial Circuit. This area has grown rapidly since the circuit was formed in the early 1990's. In fact, I believe the data would indicate that the population of these four counties has more than doubled since that time. However, our number of Superior Court Judges has remained the same.

Our Judges do a great job. Nevertheless, the increase in population has imposed an ever expanding case load on our two Judges, and an additional Judge would be greatly appreciated by everyone in our circuit.

If you have any questions, or wish further input, please do not hesitate to call. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

With Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl S. Free', written over a horizontal line.

Carl S. Free
Attorney at Law

CSF/bk

JEFFREY L. WOLFF
ATTORNEY AT LAW
487 MORRISON MOORE PARKWAY, WEST
DAHLONEGA, GEORGIA 30533

(706) 867-9098
(706) 864-8457 FAX
jwolfflaw@yahoo.com

REPLY TO:
P.O. Box 708
DAHLONEGA, GEORGIA 30533

July 11, 2006

Mr. David L. Ratley
Director, Judicial Council of Georgia
244 Washington Street, S.W., Suite 300
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-5900



Re: Additional Judgeship in Enotah Judicial Circuit

Dear Mr. Ratley:

I am a practicing attorney in the Enotah Judicial Circuit. In addition, I am also the Municipal Court Judge for the City of Dahlonega.

The Enotah Judicial Circuit is growing rapidly and we are in great need of an additional Judge. I believe the caseload data will confirm the increased numbers.

The geography and topography of this circuit should also be considered. Our circuit is divided in half by the tallest mountains in the State of Georgia, which requires our Judges to spend an inordinate amount of time driving from Courthouse to Courthouse.

In the interest of judicial efficiency, I believe that the Enotah Judicial Circuit warrants a third Superior Court Judgeship.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any further information.

Very truly yours,

Jeffrey L. Wolff



Chris R. Nonnemaker, Chairman
Dennis Bergin, Post 1
Craig Bryant, Post 2

Board of Commissioners

Phone: (706) 865-2235
Fax: (706) 865-1324

July 11, 2006

Mr. David L. Ratley
Director
Administrative Office of the Courts
244 Washington Street, SW
Suite 300
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900



Re: Additional Judgeship for the Enotah Judicial Circuit

Dear Mr. Ratley:

The Enotah Judicial Circuit, comprised of White, Lumpkin, Union and Towns Counties, has experienced growth in its case loads in proportions equal to the population growth and the growth in tourism in this area. The strain on our legal system has become such that the Enotah Circuit has qualified for a review for a third judge.

We support the Enotah Circuit's request for the third judge to alleviate some of the strain on our court system. We ask for your consideration and support to make this much-needed position become a reality.

Sincerely,

Chris R. Nonnemaker, Chairman

Dennis Bergin, Post 1

Craig Bryant, Post 2

Cc: Honorable Hugh W. Stone
Honorable David E. Barrett



House of Representatives

CHARLES JENKINS
REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 8
POST OFFICE BOX 909
BLAIRSVILLE, GEORGIA 30514
(706) 745-4684 (H)
E-MAIL: charlesj@legis.state.ga.us

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 411
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334
(404) 656-0126
(404) 651-8086 (FAX)
July 12, 2006

STANDING
COMMITTEES:
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM
GAME, FISH & PARKS
RETIREMENT

Mr. David L. Ratley, Director
Administrative Office of the Courts
Suite 300
244 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30334



RE: Additional Judgeship, Enotah Judicial Circuit

Dear Mr. Ratley,

It is my pleasure to express support for an additional judgeship for the Enotah Judicial Circuit.

As you know, eligibility and priority for additional judgeships are determined by the Judicial Council of Georgia at its August meeting, based on the previous year's case count and other factors. Due to this, we are eligible for the additional judgeship. Significant growth is being experienced in population and case load. The case count indicates that the two judges in the Enotah Judicial Circuit have been carrying the workload normally carried by three Superior Court judges.

I feel we have a responsibility to our citizens to provide first class legal services in the Enotah Judicial Circuit. While this continues to be done in a meaningful manner, the sacrifices are untold on the present two judges.

I trust the Judicial Council of Georgia will approve the additional judgeship for the Enotah Judicial Circuit.

Sincerely,

Charles Jenkins
Representative, District 8

RAYMOND E. GEORGE
ATTORNEY AT LAW

65B TURNER ROAD
P.O. BOX 242
DAHLONEGA, GA 30533

(706) 867-9882
FAX (706) 867-9883

July 13, 2006

David L. Ratley
Director, Administrative Office of the Courts
244 Washington Street, S.W.
Suite 300
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900



RE: Additional Judgeship for the Enotah Judicial Circuit

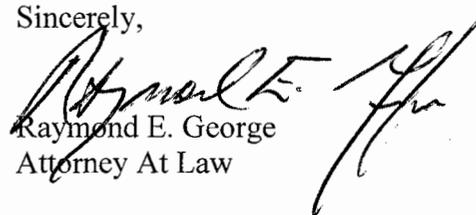
Dear Mr. Ratley:

As a practicing trial attorney in the Enotah Circuit, I'm keenly aware of the tremendous case load increased within the circuit.

This area is one of the fastest growing areas in the entire country. This vast increase in permanent population, plus the multitudes of tourists that visit this area, has increased the necessity for an additional Superior Court Judge.

Therefore I strongly support the necessity of the appointment of a third Superior Court Judge within the Enotah Judicial Circuit. If I can be of further service please feel free to call upon me.

Sincerely,


Raymond E. George
Attorney At Law

REG/sg

Cc: Hugh W. Stone, Chief Judge
David E. Barrett, Judge

Towns County Sheriff's Office

4070 State Hwy 339
Young Harris, Ga. 30582

Rudy Eller
Sheriff

Eddie Osborn
Chief Deputy

(706) 896-4444
Fax (706) 896-3349



July 13, 2006

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

Dear Honorable Leah Ward Sears:

I am writing you in regards to the need for a third superior court judge for the Enotah Judicial Circuit. Our county is growing, and the increase in crime rate here is continuing to rise. It is becoming impossible for the two judges to keep up with the demand on cases requiring hearings.

With the amount of cases continuing to climb, our current judges are doing their best to try to meet the demands for timely consideration of cases, but there is just a limit to the number of days available for scheduling court. In order for the demands to be met in the counties they represent a third judge is the only solution.

I ask that you please consider this request and appreciate any assistance you could provide us with in helping to making this happen.

Sincerely,


Rudy Eller
Sheriff, Towns County, GA



UNION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

SCOTT STEPHENS / SHERIFF

July 14, 2006

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



Dear Honorable Leah Ward Sears:

I am writing you requesting your consideration for a third superior court judge for the Enotah Judicial Circuit. Our county and district growth is causing an increase in our crime rate. It is impossible for the current two judges to keep up with the demand on cases requiring hearings. The population of our jail is at an all time high. The maximum capacity for housing in my county is only 54 inmates. We have stayed at or above capacity for the past 13 months. Inmates requesting bond hearings have a 30-90 waiting period because the judge's docket is full.

With the amount of cases continuing to climb, our current judges are doing their best to try to meet the demands for timely consideration of cases, but there is just a limit to the number of days available for scheduling court. In order for the demands to be met in the counties they represent a third judge is the only solution.

I ask that you please consider this request and appreciate any assistance you could provide us in helping to make this happen.

Sincerely,

Scott P. Stephens
Sheriff Scott Stephens
Union County Sheriff's Office

SDS/gdc

CC: District Attorney Stan Gunter
The Honorable Hugh Stone
The Honorable David Barrett



House of Representatives

AMOS AMERSON
REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 9
689 N. CHESTATEE STREET
DAHLONEGA, GEORGIA 30533
(706) 864-6589 (H)
E-MAIL: Aamerson@legis.state.ga.us

STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 401
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334
(404) 657-8534
(404) 463-2044 (FAX)

STANDING
COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS
HIGHER EDUCATION
PUBLIC UTILITIES & TELECOMMUNICATIONS
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - CHAIRMAN

July 14, 2006

Mr. David L. Ratley, Director
Administrative Office of the Courts
244 Washington Street, SW
Suite 300
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900



RE: Enotah Judicial Circuit - Additional Judgeships

Dear Mr. Ratley:

Last August I requested that the Administrative Office of the Courts conduct the necessary study in order to determine the necessity of an additional Superior Court judgeship for the Enotah Judicial Circuit. Judges Stone and Barrett are doing the work of three judges, and they are again asking that your studies be updated to put Enotah at the top of your list of Judicial Circuits needing additional judgeships.

Once again I support their request, and I will again introduce legislation requesting an appointment of a third judgeship for the Enotah Judicial Circuit. Thank you for your attention and careful consideration to appointing a third judgeship to the Enotah Judicial Circuit.

Sincerely,

Amos Amerson

THE LAW OFFICE OF ALFRED CHANG, PC

ATTORNEY AT LAW
81 CROWN MOUNTAIN PLACE, SUITE 300 E
DAHLONEGA, GEORGIA 30533
TELEPHONE (706) 867-3103
FACSIMILE (706) 867-3106
TOLL FREE (877) 415-8111

July 14, 2006

David L. Ratley
Director, Judicial Council of Georgia
244 Washington Street, S.W., Suite 300
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-5900

Re: Additional Judgeship in the Enotah Judicial Circuit

Dear Mr. Ratley:

I am writing you as the 2005-2006 president of the Enotah Judicial Circuit Bar Association as well as a family law attorney in Lumpkin County, Georgia regarding the need for an additional judgeship in our circuit.

I have practiced law in the Enotah Judicial Circuit for eight years. During the past eight years, I have witnessed a tremendous growth in the number of family law cases that appear in our court system. Business is good for family law attorneys like me; however, the current strain due to the high caseloads in the court system is not. Temporary and final hearings for divorce are routinely continued because our over-worked and under-paid judges can only hear so many cases in a given day. Clients are often frustrated because they cannot have their "day in court". Scheduling is a nightmare! When I first started practicing law in the Enotah Circuit in 1999, I can often schedule a temporary hearing with a judge within thirty (30) days of making the appointment. Now, my clients often have to wait conservatively sixty (60) to ninety (90) days. If opposing counsel files any type of conflict letters for the scheduled hearing, my client may have to wait another sixty (60) to ninety (90) days before he/she obtains a hearing. To borrow a much quoted Supreme Court ruling, "Justice delayed is justice denied."

I respectfully beseech you to do everything in your power to ensure that the Enotah Judicial Circuit receives a third judgeship in 2007. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything I can do personally and/or as president of the Enotah Judicial Circuit Bar Association to expedite the creation of a third judgeship. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alfred Chang". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Alfred Chang



House of Representatives

BEN BRIDGES, SR.
REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 10
100 SANG ROAD
CLEVELAND, GEORGIA 30528
(706) 865-1962 (H)
(706) 219-3272 (FAX)
E-MAIL: ben.bridges@house.ga.gov

STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 402
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334
(404) 656-5143

STANDING
COMMITTEES:

RETIREMENT, CHAIRMAN
RULES
PUBLIC UTILITIES & TELECOMMUNICATIONS
BANKS & BANKING

July 18, 2006

Mr. David Ratley
Administrative Office of the Courts
Suite 300
244 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30334



Dear Mr. Ratley:

I am writing to support the application of an additional superior court judgeship in the Enotah Judicial Circuit. I realize that this is a carryover item from last year, but I wanted to reiterate how important I believe this is. The circuit has continued to grow in its case load and an additional judge would help the circuit to serve its citizens better. I know that you have received statistical data from Judge Stone, so I won't take the time to go over these numbers again. I will do whatever I can on the legislative side to show my support.

Thank you for your consideration and hard work.

Sincerely,

Ben Bridges, Sr.
District 10
Chairman, House Retirement Committee
BB/sg



Edward E. Tucker
CLERK OF COURTS
SUPERIOR, JUVENILE & MAGISTRATE
LUMPKIN COUNTY
99 COURTHOUSE HILL, SUITE D
DAHLONEGA, GA 30533-0541
706-864-3736
FAX 706-864-5298



July 19, 2006

Mr. David L. Ratley, Director
Administrative Office of the Courts
244 Washington Street, S.W.
Suite 300
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900



Re: Additional Judgeship Enotah Judicial Circuit

Dear Mr. Ratley:

I understand our Superior Court Judges have again applied for an additional Judgeship for our Circuit. As you know from the information supplied to you on our case count, the figures indicates that our Judges did the work of three (3) Superior court Judges in 2005.

Since the creation of this Circuit, it has continued to grow both in population and case load. With this growth brings the need for more court time. We have continued to add additional weeks of jury trials and now have from sixteen (16) to twenty (20) weeks per calendar year of jury trial weeks. I feel that the additional judgeship is clearly warranted. Please accept this as my support for the request for an additional judge for the Enotah Judicial Circuit.

If anyone should have any question or would like to talk to me concerning this matter, please don't hesitate to contact me at any time.

With best regards, I am

Sincerely,

Edward E. Tucker
Clerk of Superior Court
Lumpkin County, Georgia

385 E. Main Street
Dahlonega, GA 30533
(706) 864-0414 / 0412

Office of the Sheriff Lumpkin County

Captain Jason Stover
Criminal Inv. Commander

Captain Tony Garcia
Detention Commander

FAX: (706) 864-1032

Mark T. McClure, Sheriff
Ed Anderson, Chief Deputy

Captain Danny Peck
Uniform Patrol Commander

E-mail:
sheriffmcclure@alltel.net

July 19, 2006

Administrative Office of the Courts
David L. Ratley, Director
Suite 300, 244 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30334 - 5900



Ref: Additional Judgeship

Dear Mr. Ratley,

I am writing you in regards to the need for a third superior court judge for the Enota Judicial Circuit. Due to the rapid growth in our county and the increase in crime rate, it is impossible for the current two judges to keep up with the demands on cases requiring hearings. As methamphetamine and illegal drug use spirals in our community, the population of our jail has reached an all time high.

With the amount of cases continuing to climb, our current judges are doing their best to try to meet the demands for timely consideration of cases, but there is just a limit to the number of days available for scheduling court. In order for the demands to be met in the counties they represent, a third judge is the only solution.

I ask that you please consider this request and I would appreciate any assistance you could provide us with in helping to make this happen.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark T. McClure". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Sheriff Mark T. McClure

MTM/mlr

WESLEY WILLIAMS & ASSOCIATES, LLC

Attorneys at Law

P. O. Box 280

Blairsville, Georgia 30514

Telephone: (706) 745-5599

Telecopier: (706) 745-4688

Email: lwlaw@alltel.net

July 19, 2006



Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears
Chairperson, Judicial Council of Georgia
507 State Judicial Bldg.
Atlanta, GA 30334

Re: Enotah Judicial Circuit - Additional Judgeship

Dear Chief Justice Sears:

Having practiced in the Enotah Judicial Circuit, and its predecessor, the Mountain Judicial Circuit, since 1981, I believe I am as familiar with this judicial circuit and its needs as anyone in the area.

At the present time, the statistics show a definite need for a third Judge for this four (4) county circuit which covers Lumpkin, Towns, Union and White Counties. This is due to the fact that there has been a great influx of new residents to the northeast Georgia mountains since this circuit was originally created and our judges are most definitely overworked at the present time. Except for the fact that we are blessed with two (2) very intelligent and industrious judges, it would be difficult for our circuit to show any semblance of providing justice to the citizens of this circuit. However, there comes a time when any judge cannot constantly maintain the mental and physical demands of his or her position without additional help. We have reached that point in the Enotah Judicial Circuit.

We ask that each of you very seriously consider our needs and would greatly appreciate any assistance that you can provide for us.

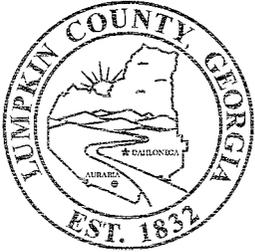
If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Wesley Williams

/cb



LUMPKIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

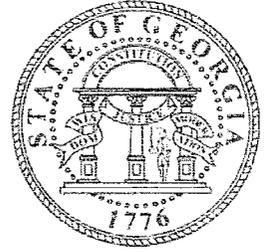
"Dr. John" Raber
District 1

Stephen W. Gooch
Chairman

Clarence Stowers
District 3

Deborah A. Hutcheson
District 2

Marvin J. Martin
District 4



July 20, 2006

Mr. David L. Ratley, Director
Administrative Office of the Courts
244 Washington Street, SW
Suite 300
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900



Re: Enotah Judicial Circuit – Additional Judgeships

Dear Mr. Ratley:

The judges of the Enotah Judicial Circuit have requested that consideration be given for a third judgeship.

The Board of Commissioners support the addition of a judgeship for our circuit. We have reviewed the data reflecting the growth of this circuit caseload from 1998 through 2005. Judge Stone and Barrett have conscientiously performed their duties as the caseload has increased. The administration of justice in our circuit can best be performed with the additional judgeship, which we support.

Sincerely,

Stephen W. Gooch
Chairman

cc: Board of Commissioners



Lamar Paris

Union County Commissioner
114 Courthouse Street, Box 1 • Blairsville, Georgia 30512

Fax 706-439-6004

unioncounty@alltel.net

Phone 706-439-6000

July 21, 2006

Mr. David L. Ratley, Director
Administrative Office of the Courts
244 Washington Street, SW
Suite 300
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900

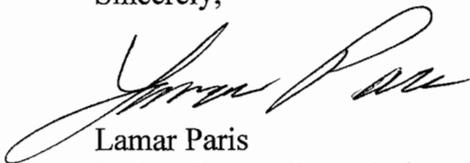
Re: Enotah Judicial Circuit – Additional judgeships

Dear Mr. Ratley,

I previously wrote to you regarding the need for an additional judge in the Enotah Judicial Circuit. Once again I would like to request that serious consideration be given to this urgent matter. Case loads only continue to increase as the population of our area continues to grow.

Judge Stone and Judge Barrett are performing their duties admirably under such adverse conditions but at some point justice will suffer. I therefore request that the Enotah Judicial Circuit be allotted a much needed additional judgeship as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Lamar Paris
Union County Commissioner





N. STANLEY GUNTER

District Attorney

Enotah Judicial Circuit

99 Courthouse Hill, Suite H

Dahlonega, GA 30533

Phone: (706) 864-6754 • Fax: (706) 864-0343

48 Rivers Street, Suite A
Hiawassee, GA 30546
(706) 896-6489



59 South Main Street, Box 14
Cleveland, GA 30528
(706) 865-3306

July 27, 2006

Judicial Council Of Georgia
c/o Mr. David Ratley
244 Washington St., S. W.
Suite 300
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-5900

Re: Additional Judgeship for Enotah Judicial Circuit

To the Members of the Judicial Council of Georgia:

Please accept this letter as my sincere support for a third superior court judgeship for the Enotah Judicial Circuit. As you are aware this request for an additional judgeship is a carryover from last year.

Our circuit is in an area of the State that has been experiencing approximately 5% growth in population each year for the last several years. Along with this growth has come a proportionate increase in the number of cases filed in each of the four counties of our circuit. Three of the four counties in the circuit have or are planning to either expand or build new courthouses to better serve the citizens they represent.

Each year our judges publish their calendars showing the days and weeks dedicated each year to hear matters involving criminal and civil cases. Each year the number of days scheduled in court have increased and we still needed more time before the court to get all the work done in a timely manner. Scheduling additional days is difficult as the judges calendars are already full. Delayed court hearings are causing jail overcrowding in all four counties.

Please consider adding a third superior court judgeship in the Enotah Judicial Circuit.

Sincerely,

N. Stanley Gunter

cc: Hon Hugh W. Stone
Hon. David E. Barrett

SOUTHERN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SUMMARY

Original Request and Comment Letters Southern Judicial Circuit Carryover - 6th Judgeship Request

Date of Letter	Authored by	Content
April 25, 2006	Chief Judge H. Arthur McLane Southern Judicial Circuit	Carryover status expires in 2006. Letter submitted regarding a renewal for study to assess the need for an additional judgeship due to significant increase in the number of criminal cases.
June 7, 2006	Chief Judge H. Arthur McLane Southern Judicial Circuit	Letter Support with explanations
June 8, 2006	The Honorable Mike Keown State Representative, District 173	Letter of support for carryover of additional judgeship



H. Arthur McLane
Chief Judge Superior Courts
Southern Judicial Circuit

P. O. BOX 1349
VALDOSTA, GA 31603-1349
TELEPHONE: 229/333-5130
FACSIMILE: 229/245-5223

April 25, 2006

BROOKS, COLQUITT, ECHOLS
LOWNDES & THOMAS
COUNTIES

Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears
Chairman, Judicial Council
244 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Ga 30334-5900

Re: Additional Judgeship
Southern Judicial Circuit



Dear Chief Justice Sears:

Thank you for your letter of April 19, 2006, in regard to additional judgeships to be considered by the Judicial Council.

As you know, last year it was recommended that a sixth superior court judgeship be created for the Southern Circuit and we were listed as number seven out of ten in terms of immediate need among other circuits in the state. Therefore, the judges of the Southern Judicial Circuit respectfully request that a study be made and that the Southern Circuit be recommended for a sixth judge.

I am awaiting the latest figures for caseloads, which, I understand, are a part of the formula for determining judgeships. Our fifth judgeship was just created in 2005. However, since the sudden loss last year in state funds for utilizing senior judges, our circuit has suffered a tremendous strain because, in years past, the use of senior judges in the Southern Circuit was the only recourse we had to maintain the necessary scheduling of habeas corpus cases, probation revocations and civil non-jury hearings. We are, therefore, strong in our request for an additional judge. We are currently using all resources available. Four of the five counties have State Courts, and the fifth county, Echols, utilizes a Probate Court for the handling of some cases. All counties, of course, have Magistrate Courts, and all counties have either a sitting or an available Juvenile Judge.

We appreciate very much any favorable consideration that can be given to us. Should you need further information, please contact me.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

H. Arthur McLane

HAMc:bh
xc: Mr. David Ratley, Director AOC
Circuit Judges
Mr. John Cowart, DCA



H. Arthur McLane
Chief Judge Superior Courts
Southern Judicial Circuit

P. O. BOX 1349
VALDOSTA, GA 31603-1349
TELEPHONE: 229/333-5130
FACSIMILE: 229/245-5223

BROOKS, COLQUITT, ECHOLS
LOWNDES & THOMAS
COUNTIES

June 7, 2006

Mr. David Ratley, Director
Administrative Office of the Courts
244 Washington St., S.W., Suite 300
Atlanta, Ga 30334

Re: Southern Judicial Circuit

Dear David:

Thank you for your letter of May 26, 2006.

I have not seen the caseload figures for fiscal year 2005, but the latest figures that I have seen would indicate that, under the present formula, the Southern Circuit should have seven or eight judges. If more current figures are available, I would appreciate your forwarding them to me, together with any other documentation that might indicate the number of judges that should be considered for the Southern Circuit based upon the current formula for allocation.

I will, within the next few weeks, forward to you additional information that I hope will be considered by the Council at its meeting on August 29. Some of the information may or may not already be in your files, but I would want the Council to have the benefit of it during their deliberations.

Also, in the past, it has been deemed advisable for the Chief Judge of the circuit requesting an additional judgeship to attend a Judicial Council meeting. I assume that is probably still the case, and, unless you advise to the contrary, I am tentatively planning on attending the meeting on August 29.

Again, thank you very much and if there is anything further that you need from me at this point, please give me a call.

Sincerely,

H. Arthur McLane

HAMc:bh
xc: Circuit Judges
Mr. John E. Cowart, DCA



House of Representatives

MIKE KEOWN
REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 173
P.O. BOX 96
COOLIDGE, GEORGIA 31738
(229) 346-3663 (H)
E-MAIL: mkfnbc@rose.net

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 501
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334
(404) 656-0177

STANDING
COMMITTEES:

EDUCATION
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT
SPECIAL RULES (POLICY) - V. CHAIR

June 8, 2006

David L. Ratley, Director
Judicial Council of Georgia
Suite 300
244 Washington St. S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900



Mr. Ratley,

I am writing you in support of a 6th Superior Court Judge for the Southern Judicial Circuit. I understand this request has been carried over from last year.

The Superior Court Judges in the Southern Judicial Circuit do a great job under very stressful conditions. Caseloads continue to increase and there seems to be no slowing down in the future.

Please take a close look at the Southern Judicial Circuit when the Judicial Council meets to make these very important decisions.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mike Keown, State Representative

FY2007 Amended Budget

and

**FY2008 Judicial Branch
General Appropriations & Enhancements**

**Will be mailed separately
prior to the Judicial Council Meeting**

**Judicial Council Committee on Domestic Violence
Report to the Judicial Council of Georgia
August 29, 2006**

This year the General Assembly appropriated to the Judicial Council of Georgia \$2,095,081 in state funds to provide victims of domestic violence with civil legal services. These funds provide legal assistance to over 4,000 victims from all over the state. Furthermore, the grant funds pay for the provision of domestic violence training programs for judges, lawyers, law enforcement and advocates. Grant funds are awarded after a competitive grant process to nonprofit agencies that have a history of providing legal services to local victims.

In 1998 Past State Bar President Linda Klein approached the State Legislature for grant funds for legal services to help victims of domestic violence victims who could not afford to hire an attorney. This grant continues to be supported by the State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors and the Women and Minorities Committee of the State Bar. Although the Judicial Council has managed this grant since 1999, there was an initiative during the last Legislative Session to move the management of the funds to the Executive Branch. Thanks to the efforts of Chief Justice Leah Sears, former State Bar of Georgia President Linda Klein, and shelter advocates the funds have remained under the purview of the Judicial Branch.

The Judicial Council Domestic Violence Committee met on June 15, 2006 and reviewed 13 grant applications for funds from agencies throughout Georgia. The total amount requested from these agencies was \$2,519,320. After much deliberation, eight awards were made to the following agencies:

FY 2007 Grant Recipients

Atlanta Legal Aid, Inc.	\$ 513,484.35
Cherokee Family Violence Center	\$ 19,285.11
Gateway House, Inc.	\$ 33,784.69
Georgia Coalition against Domestic Violence	\$ 48,284.26
Georgia Law Center for the Homeless	\$ 48,284.26
Georgia Legal Services	\$1,322,487.10
Hope Harbour	\$ 19,285.11
Support in Abusive Family Emergencies, Inc.	\$ 48,284.26

Grant award ceremonies were held and attended by State Representatives and members of the Judicial Council Domestic Violence Committee. After the award of the grant funds the AOC will conduct site visits to each grant recipient. Each nonprofit is required to report on its specific use of the grant funds every six months. These reports and the personal contacts with each nonprofit ensure that the grant funds are used appropriately.

The Judicial Council Domestic Violence Committee members are proud that the Judicial Branch can take such a positive role in helping domestic violence victims. The 2006 Committee members were:

Judge William T. Boyett, Chair	Judge Anne E. Barnes
Judge William P. Bartles	Judge Thomas Bobbitt
Judge Melodie Clayton	Judge Divida Gude
Judge Cliff L. Jolliff	Judge Edward D. Lukemire
Judge J. Carlisle Overstreet	Dr. Louise Bill
Ms. Linda A. Klein	

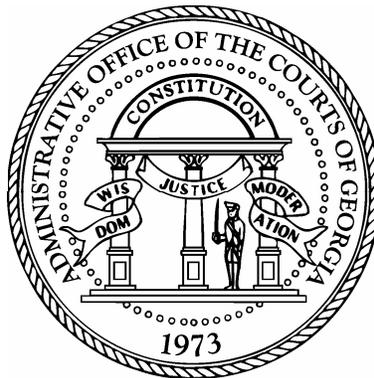
The Committee appreciated the helpful insight at its meeting by District Court Administrator Jody Overcash and Kirsten Rambo the Director of the Commission on Family Violence. The continued day to day oversight of the grant by Cynthia Clanton at the AOC is also appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

The Honorable William T. Boyett
Chair, Judicial Council Committee on Domestic Violence

ANNUAL REPORT 2005-2006

GEORGIA COMMISSION ON ACCESS AND FAIRNESS IN THE COURTS



PRESIDING JUSTICE CAROL W. HUNSTEIN, CHAIR

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	3
Historical Background	4
Letter from the Program Manager	5
GCAFC Objectives	6
Accessibility in the Courts	7
Persons with Cognitive Disabilities	7
TTY/TDD Equipment	8
American Sign Language Legal Interpreters	8
Training for Judges and Court Personnel.....	9
GCAFC Members	10
GCAFC Future Projects.....	11

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the past year, Georgia Commission on Access and Fairness in the Courts (GCAFC) has worked feverishly on numerous projects designed to improve court accessibility, and to inform constituents about the courts and the services available to them. The twenty-three members who comprise the board include judges from various classes of court, attorneys, a law school professor, and two law students. Each member brings a unique perspective and expertise which is attributable to the Commission's overall success.

For the past year, many of the Commission's undertakings have delved in accessibility in the courts. American Sign Language legal interpreters, physical and cognitive disabilities, courthouse accessibility, and trainings on related topics for judges and court personnel are a few of the most recent projects. Other initiatives include updating the *Protocol Handbook for Responding to Victims of Sexual Assault*, a joint project with AOC Research Division on a pamphlet entitled "Basic Rules Before Going to Court" available in five languages (English, Spanish, French, Korean and Arabic), re-circulation of the brochure "Interacting with Persons with Disabilities", and two seminars for ASL legal interpreters.

The Commission, members of the judiciary and the citizens who enter our courts have benefited greatly from these efforts. Today, the Commission's mission remains to provide information and training to help improve our courts.

GEORGIA COMMISSION ON ACCESS AND FAIRNESS IN THE COURTS HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Commission on Access and Fairness in the Courts history dates back to March 1989 when the Supreme Court of Georgia established the Georgia Commission on Gender Bias in the Judicial System to examine the extent to which unfair practices overtly prevailed against women judges and attorneys. The Commission identified several areas and the Supreme Court Committee on Gender Equality was formed for a two-year period to implement its recommendations. Subsequently, in December 1991, the Supreme Court Committee on Racial and Ethnic Bias in the Judicial System was established for a three year period to study the public's perception of the state judiciary. At the end the committees terms, neither had discharged all of its duties. The Commission on Equality was established in December 1995 to continue implementation of the recommendations identified in the Final Reports of the Supreme Court Committee for Gender Equality and the Supreme Court Commission on Racial and Ethnic Bias in the Courts. The Commission on Equality served for approximately nine years developing new initiatives and promoting the recommendations from the previous committees.

With an expanded scope and mission, the Commission on Equality was renamed the Georgia Commission on Access and Fairness in the Courts in August 2004. Since that time it has continued the legacy of the former commissions by implementing the recommendations set forth – creating innovative ways to address the changing demographics within the judiciary and by assisting those constituents who require a stronger voice in order to be heard.

Presiding Justice Carol W. Hunstein chairs the Commission and has been instrumental in many of its accomplishments over the past 15 years. The GCAFC office is located at the Administrative Office of the Courts where Stephanie Chambliss serves as the Program Manager. The Commission's mailing address is 244 Washington Street SW, Suite. 300, Atlanta, GA 30334. The phone number is 404-463-3927 or visit the website at:

www.georgiacourts.org/agencies/gcafc/index.html.



GEORGIA COMMISSION ON ACCESS & FAIRNESS IN THE COURTS

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

244 WASHINGTON STREET, S.W., SUITE 300

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334-5900

PHONE: 404-463-3927

FAX: 404-651-6449

www.georgiacourts.org

JUSTICE CAROL W. HUNSTEIN
CHAIR

STEPHANIE CHAMBLISS
PROGRAM MANAGER

August 7, 2006

TO: Each Supreme Court Justice
Each Member of the Judicial Council of Georgia
Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts

The attached Annual Report serves as an overview of the programs and activities sponsored by the Georgia Commission on Access and Fairness in the Courts from June 2005 thru July 2006. We hope that you find the report insightful as we highlight the good works of the Commission designed to help improve access to all persons appearing in Georgia courts.

We thank you for your continued support and resources as we embark upon national trends, and re-evaluate past initiatives established by former committees. Coming soon in September and October 2006, the Commission will host a series of public hearings in DeKalb and Fulton counties. The purpose of the hearings is to examine the public's perception of Georgia's judicial system since the release of the publication, *Let Justice Be Done: Equally, Fairly and Impartially* in August 1995. We invite you to join us as we host these meetings in selected areas throughout the state, and welcome your ideas and comments on how we can better serve you and the citizens of Georgia.

On behalf of our Chair, Presiding Justice Carol W. Hunstein and GCAFC members,

I remain very truly yours,

Stephanie Chambliss
Program Manager, Georgia Commission
on Access and Fairness in the Courts

SC

Sometimes we talk about “equal justice,” but someone said this is a redundancy. All justice by its definition must be equal because unequal justice is no justice at all. When court proceedings fail the equality test, they also fail the justice test.



*Justice Harold G. Clarke
State of the Judiciary Speech
January 1993*

GEORGIA COMMISSION ON ACCESS AND FAIRNESS IN THE COURTS OBJECTIVES

The Supreme Court of Georgia has charged the Commission to:

1. Formulate and propose guidelines, standards, and procedures to implement the Commission’s recommendations;
2. Develop appropriate mandatory judicial and legal education course materials and programs on equality, including appropriate instruction to be included in Georgia’s new judge and new lawyer orientation programs;
3. Develop and participate in programs about equality for professional and lay audiences;
4. Serve as a resource to the media;
5. Advise the legislature on legislation needed to further the aims of the Commission;
6. Facilitate a plan that educates the public about the dynamics of the cycle of domestic violence, the resources for victims and the protections available under Georgia law;
7. Develop a mechanism for the processing of complaints received about judges’ and lawyers’ biased behaviors;
8. Collaborate with the Judicial Nominating Committee to encourage more minorities, women and men to apply for appointments as judges; and
9. Act as a resource to Georgia law schools in revising teaching and curricula to promote the elimination of biased conduct on the part of attorneys.

ACCESSIBILITY IN THE COURTS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

October 2004 marked the release of *A Meaningful Opportunity to Participate: A Handbook for Georgia Court Officials on Courtroom Accessibility for Individuals with Disabilities*. The publication served as the impetus for GCAFC projects seeking to remove barriers for persons with disabilities in Georgia courts. In partnership with the State ADA Coordinator's office, both entities have been intricately involved in the development of training curricula for judges and court personnel, exploration of best practices to help navigate persons with cognitive disabilities through the courts, and the expansion of Phase II of the court accessibility project.

PERSONS WITH COGNITIVE DISABILITIES IN THE COURTS

The State ADA Coordinators Office continues its partnership with GCAFC to expand the technical support phase of the accessibility project and to create innovative ways to meet the needs of individuals with cognitive disabilities who enter the courts. As trailblazers within the legal community, the Commission and State ADA Coordinator's Office partnered with the Criminal Justice & Developmental Disabilities Coalition to organize the first of its kind, "Cognition Issues in the Courts" conference. The two-day conference, with 66 participants, convened at the State Bar of Georgia with a panel of experts and attendees from across the country. They gathered to discuss state programs designed to navigate persons with cognitive disabilities in the court system. Research has repeatedly shown these specialized groups of court-users are rarely offered an opportunity to actively participate in court proceedings. Most commonly are ushered through the process with no voice at all. As a way to more effectively engage these constituents, programs like the Vermont Speech Communication Support Project and the PACER Center Project were introduced as possible ways to remedy the problems.

Georgia judges representing each class of court, public defenders, prosecutors, mental health practitioners, and citizens recounting their experiences in our judicial system were present to partake in the discussions. Resources currently available in our state courts were identified, as well as new ideas to improve those existing services. In culmination of the conference, a whitepaper will be drafted to highlight the information and national programs presented. It will be available for distribution in Fall 2006.

TTY/TDD EQUIPMENT

To serve as a model within the judiciary, GCAFC authorized the purchase and installation of TTY/TDD equipment to assist callers with hearing impairments. Generally, when a deaf caller using TTY/TDD equipment places a call to a non-equipment user, a relay service operator translates the messages between the two parties. With the new equipment, both parties can communicate via text messaging without the intermediary of the telephone operator. The equipment is housed at the AOC Atlanta office and is available for use by all AOC staff. The TTY/TDD number is (404) 463-6788 and will be published on all AOC publications and postings.

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE LEGAL INTERPRETERS

In the last few years, the Administrative Office of the Courts and Commission on Access and Fairness was charged with the responsibility of maintaining a list of qualified American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters. These interpreters play a very important role in servicing the courts for individuals with hearing impairments or who are deaf. On October 16 - 17, 2005, at the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Macon Training Center, GCAFC held the first ever court sponsored seminar for legal trained ASL interpreters. The event was widely heralded attracting ASL interpreters and students throughout the state and Florida. Local television media was also on site to cover this historical event.

Twenty-three interpreters attended the seminar and became oriented with court procedures, professionalism and ethics, legal terminology, and the role of an interpreter. Catherine Thomas, a 15 year sign language interpreter veteran from California and a Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) instructor served as the featured speaker for the day and a half event. Diane Fowler, a local, certified legal trained ASL interpreter conducted the session on day two. At the close of the event, participants expressed gratitude to the Commission for bridging the gap and creating a conduit for information to help them become more knowledgeable about their role in the courts.

In light of the demonstrated need to offer more training for ASL legal interpreters, the Commission has collaborated with other judicial partners to help foster additional initiatives. The first came in May 2006, when the Administrative Judicial Districts (or District Court Administrators) awarded ten scholarships to ASL legal interpreters, identified by the Commission, to participate in the Conference for Legal Sign Language Interpreters, Inc.. The conference was held in Atlanta at the Marriott Marquis Hotel. Many of the scholarship recipients also participated in the October seminar. The national conference afforded local interpreters an opportunity to network with other professionals and learn new standards and applications in the field of interpreting.

In an effort to assist the Commission in increasing the number of qualified, experienced sign language interpreters, the District Court Administrators (DCA's) co-sponsored a second training. The group donated resources to sponsor the two, two day training sessions. Ms. Carla Mathers, a renowned lawyer and certified legal trained sign language interpreter, conducted the first 12 hour accelerated course on July 15 & 16 at the AOC Atlanta office. Twenty-one practitioners holding mid-level certifications of either CI, CI & CT, or SC:L from RID participated in the training.

Class size was limited and attendance was mandatory for both days due to the complexity of information given. Sign language interpreting is a highly skilled profession which differs greatly from non-English speaking interpreters. Only after years of formal education, training, and experience does one become eligible to attain mid-level certification to work in legal environments. Certification as a legal trained ASL interpreting, or SC:L requires more specialized training and advanced testing. Following completion of the July course, with a minimum of three years experience, and no pending grievances, many of the interpreters were placed on the GCAFC's registry of ASL legal sign language interpreters.

The attendees welcomed the instructor and course which generally costs \$300 per person. Due to the DCA's generous donations, all participants attended the training free of charge. A second training session has been scheduled for June 2007.

TRAINING FOR JUDGES AND COURT PERSONNEL

In November 2005, Justice Carol W. Hunstein along with Commission members, Judges Nelly Withers and Nina Radakovich, conducted training for a cross-section of judges at the Wyndham Peachtree City Hotel. Topics presented included accessibility for persons with disabilities, immigrants in the courts, and avoiding biased behaviors in the courts. Approximately 50 participants were in attendance and the group posed questions and comments as to how they could better serve a diverse group of court-users.

With the onset of the courthouse accessibility handbook and in partnership with the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education (ICJE), several trainings have been set to commence for many of the court councils. The first set has been slated to start October 2006 through January 2007 for superior, state, probate, municipal, and magistrate court judges. Due to the multi-faceted areas addressed in the accessibility handbook, judges have been allowed to customize sessions from a pre-established group of training modules. In turn, this option has allowed them to gain in-depth knowledge about specific areas relevant to their courts.

Officers

Presiding Justice Carol W. Hunstein, Chair
Georgia Supreme Court

Linda Klein, Esq., Vice-Chair
Gambrell and Stolz

Felecia LeRay, Esq.
Morris, Manning & Martin LLP

Members

Carrie Baker, Ph.D.
Berry College

Honorable James F. Bass, Jr.
Eastern Circuit, Superior Court

Kali Wilson Beyah, Esq.
Kilpatrick Stockton LLP

William “Ned” Cannon
Mercer University, Law Student

Frances Finegan
Law School Representative

Teresa M. Garcia, Esq.
Law Offices of Teresa Garcia

Professor Bernadette Hartfield
GSU College of Law

Honorable Steve Jones
Western Circuit, Superior Court

Honorable Gwendolyn Keyes Fleming
DeKalb County, District Attorney

Honorable Barbara J. Mobley
DeKalb County, State Court

Stephanie Chambliss, *Program Manager*
Marla Moore, *Senior Associate Director*
Court Services

GCAFC Membership

General appointments to the Commission are for two-year terms, with members rotating off the board in January and July. Law school students are selected or reappointed annually. Currently, there are 23 members one staff person who serve on the Commission. Listed below is the membership roster and supporting AOC staff.

John A. Moore, Esq.
Powell Goldstein LLP

Honorable Wayne M. Purdom
DeKalb County, State Court

Honorable Nina Radakovich
Attorney at Law

Maria Tsagaris, Esq.
Clark & Washington

Honorable Brenda Weaver
Appalachian Circuit, Superior Court

William K. Whitner, Esq.
Paul Hastings LLP

Honorable Nelly Withers
DeKalb County, Records Court

Honorable Alvin T. Wong
DeKalb County, State Court

Robert “Bobby” Woo, Jr.
King & Spalding, LLP

Honorable Cynthia Wright
Atlanta Circuit, Superior Court

GCAFC FUTURE PROJECTS

In light of the progress and advancements made to provide access to all persons who enter the courts there remains more work to be done. The Commission, as with other judicial entities has endured budget reductions and limited staff; however, its momentum has not wavered in serving the citizens of the state. Through collaboration with our partners and use of collective resources, GCAFC has managed to broker some groundbreaking events over the past year.

The revision of the *Protocol Handbook for Responding to Victims of Sexual Assault* was one of many great projects. Due to a surge of phone calls for requests of copies and updated information; the Commission recognized the importance of this resource tool and has taken steps to put the document back in to circulation. The AOC Research Division and several GCAFC members have donated their time, staff, and services to research case law, update victim services lists, and edit the 120 plus page document. The document has not been released due to recent statutory changes that became effective July 1, 2006. An anticipated release date is Fall 2006.

Members of the Commission are also gearing up for a series of public hearings scheduled throughout the state over the course of the year. After more than ten years since the release of the Commission on Racial and Ethnic Bias in the Court System report, *Let Justice Be Done: Equally, Fairly, and impartially*, the Commission, like many other states, has decided to examine the progress resulting from the recommendations in the report. This particular project is a huge undertaking with limited staff and resources available. However, GCAFC members are committed to seeing it completed. Some members of the Superior Court Access to Justice and Fairness in the Courts Committee have also expressed interest in being a part of this initiative.

The National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) created the “Color of Justice” program which is designed to encourage middle to high school students to pursue a career in law. The Commission has approved to host two Color of Justice programs with Atlanta Public Schools. Therrell Magnet School and Booker T. Washington High School are two of the targeted schools. The program creates a forum for students, judges and attorneys to engage in dialogue in preparation for a career in law or the judiciary. If the program is held at a law school, the institution receives a \$1000 scholarship to be awarded to a law student in the field of social justice.

Please visit our website at www.georgiacourts.org/agencies/gcafc/index.html.or call (404) 463-3927 for more information on these exciting initiatives offered by the Georgia Commission on Access and Fairness in the Courts.



GEORGIA COURTS AUTOMATION COMMISSION

244 Washington Street, SW, Suite 300

Atlanta, Georgia 30334

August 2006
Report to the Judicial Council

Georgia Courts Automation Commission Report to the Judicial Council August 2006

In 2005 the Georgia Courts Automation Commission established a set of guiding principles for its decision making and operations. From these principles came the Vision of the Commission: Better Information; Better Decisions; and Truer Justice. To affect the vision the commission developed a strategic business plan. Out of the plan strategic objectives, key initiatives and measures of success were articulated. The GCAC budget is tied directly to these objectives, initiatives and measures.

The presentation given to the Judicial Council will be an illustration of how GCAC is operating through its strategic plan using clearly defined objectives in the plan, setting time tables, and meeting its objectives within the timetables.

Vision

Better Information

Better Decisions

Truer Justice

Mission

To facilitate the automation and sharing of information through the establishment of standards and information exchange processes for the benefit of the Courts and citizens of Georgia.

Guiding Principles

- *Ethically formulate and apply best business practices*
- *Applicable statewide*
- *Collaborative and cooperative approach*
- *Programs driven by grass-roots needs and priorities*
- *Must meet strategic objectives within the boundaries of our legislative charter*
- *Maintain the independence and integrity of the court systems*
- *Provide for measurable results and outcomes.*