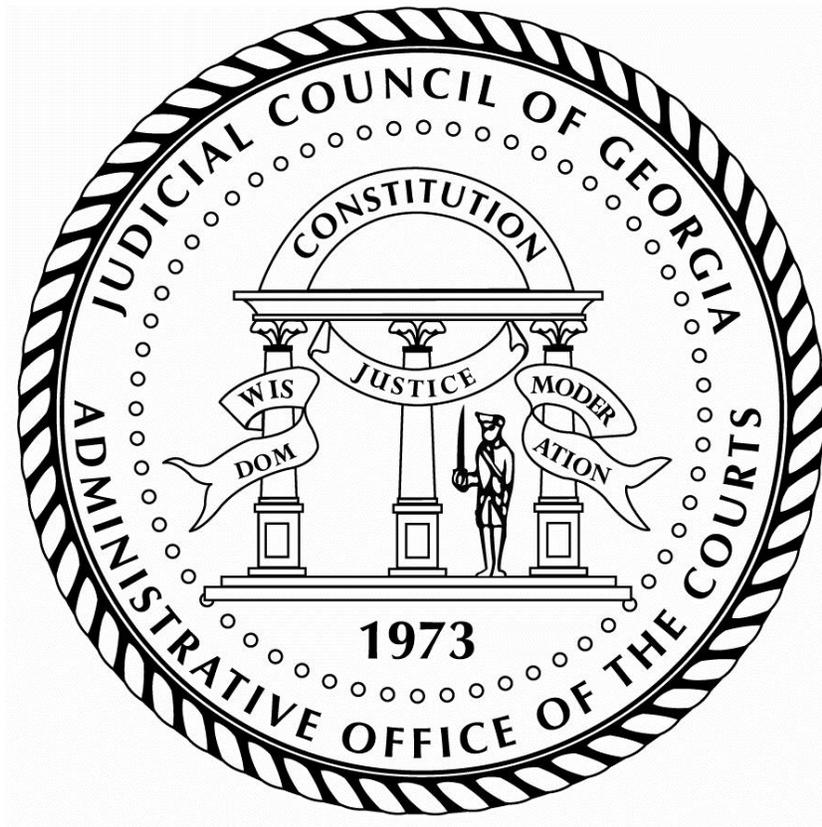


JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA

General Session

Thursday, August 6, 2015

9:30 a.m. – 12 noon



The Loudermilk Center
40 Courtland Street NE
Atlanta, GA 30303

Judicial Council of Georgia

The Loudermilk Center
40 Courtland Street NE
Atlanta, GA 30303

Thursday, August 6, 2015

9:30 a.m. – 12 noon

Lunch will be provided immediately following the Council meeting.

- 1. Preliminary Remarks and Introductions**
(Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson, Est. Time – 5 Min.)
- 2. Approval of Minutes, June 17, 2015** (*Action Item*) **TAB 1**
(Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson, Est. Time – 2 Min.)
- 3. Supreme Court Commission on Interpreters** **TAB 2**
(Justice Keith Blackwell & Mr. Shinji Morokuma, Est. Time – 5 Min.)
- 4. JDEX – Judicial Data Exchange**
(Judge Gerald Bruce, Est. Time – 10 Min.)
- 5. Statewide Judiciary Civil E-Filing Steering Committee**
(Justice Harold Melton, Est. Time – 5 min.)
- 6. Judicial Council Committee Reports**
 - A. Budget Committee** (*Action Item*) **TAB 3**
(Justice Harold Melton, Est. Time – 15 Min.)
 - B. Domestic Violence Grant Committee** (*Written Report*) **TAB 4**
 - C. Policy and Legislative Committee** (*Action Item*) **TAB 5**
(Presiding Justice P. Harris Hines, Est. Time – 15 Min.)
- 7. Judicial Council/AOC Director Search Committee**
(Presiding Justice P. Harris Hines, Est. Time – 5 Min.)
- 8. Report from Judicial Council/AOC** **TAB 6**
(Ms. Cynthia Clanton, Est. Time – 15 Min.)

9. Reports from Appellate Courts and Trial Court Councils

TAB 7

(Est. Time – 10 min.)

A. Supreme Court (*Written Report*)

B. Court of Appeals

C. Council of Superior Court Judges (*Written Report*)

D. Council of State Court Judges (*Written Report*)

E. Council of Juvenile Court Judges (*Written Report*)

F. Council of Probate Court Judges (*Written Report*)

G. Council of Magistrate Court Judges (*Written Report*)

H. Council of Municipal Court Judges (*Written Report*)

10. Written Report from the Council of Superior Court Clerks

TAB 8

11. Old/ New Business

(Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson, Est. Time – 5 Min.)

12. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

(Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson, Est. Time – 5 Min.)

Judicial Council Meeting Calendar

September 30, 2015

Noon - 5 p.m.

Macon Marriott City Center, Macon, GA

December 9, 2015

10:00 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The Carter Center, Atlanta, GA

Directions to The Loudermilk Center

40 Courtland Street NE
Atlanta, GA 30303

From I-75/85 Northbound: Exit #248-B - Go left at the first traffic light (Edgewood Avenue). Go Approximately 4 blocks until you cross Courtland Street. At the next traffic light go right onto Peachtree Center Avenue and take the first entrance on your right (Lynch's Alley). The entrance to the parking garage will be past the median on the left. The Loudermilk Center is adjacent to the parking garage.

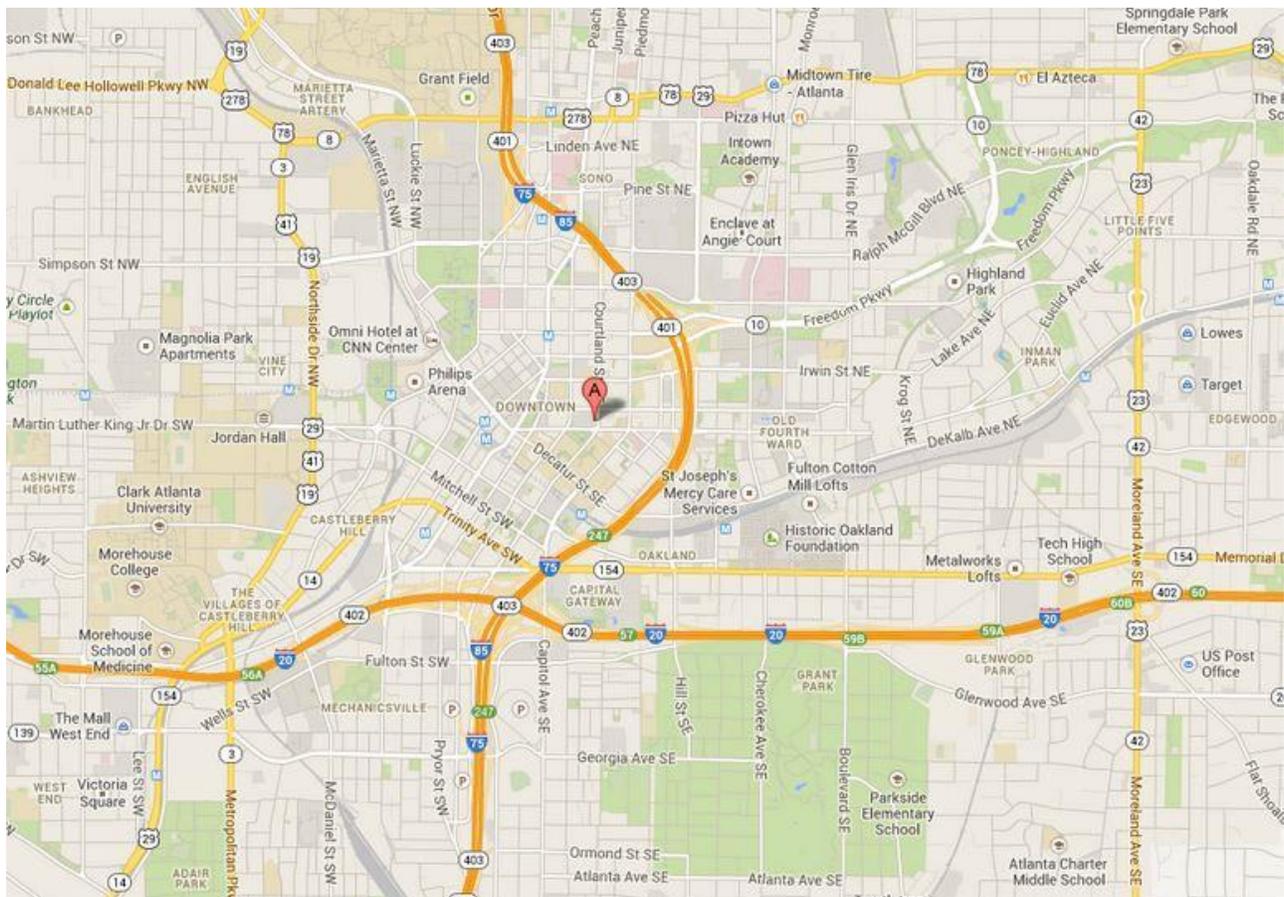
From I-75/85 Southbound: Exit #249A- Courtland Street is one -way street going south. The Loudermilk Center for the Regional Community will be on the right after Auburn Avenue. Turn right onto Lynch's Alley (the street after Auburn Ave. and before Edgewood Ave.) and park in the United Way parking deck.

From MARTA Northbound or Southbound Line: Get off at the Peachtree Center Station, take the set of escalators to Ellis Street. Once you get to the street level, you will see the Georgia Pacific Building on your left. Cross in front of Georgia Pacific Building and take a left onto John Wesley Dobbs Avenue. At the first traffic light, go right onto Peachtree Center Avenue. Walk on Peachtree Center Avenue

and make a left between The Woodruff Volunteer Center parking deck and The Woodruff Volunteer Center (United Way Building). The Loudermilk Center for the Regional Community will be on the left facing The Woodruff Volunteer Center (United Way Building).

From I-20 Eastbound: Exit #56B - Windsor/ Spring Street. Go straight to the third traffic light. Take a left on Central Avenue. Turn right onto Auburn Avenue, then right onto Courtland Street. The Loudermilk Center for the Regional Community will be on the right. Turn right onto Lynch's Alley (the street after Auburn Ave. and before Edgewood Ave.) and park in the United Way parking deck.

From I-20 Westbound: Exit #58A - Capitol Avenue turn right at the light. Stay on Capitol Avenue, which changes into Piedmont Avenue after crossing MLK Jr. Drive. Turn left onto Auburn Avenue, then left onto Courtland Street. The Loudermilk Center for the Regional Community will be on the right. Turn right onto Lynch's Alley (the street after Auburn Ave. and before Edgewood Ave.) and park in the United Way parking deck.



Judicial Council Members

As of August, 2015

Supreme Court

Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson
Chair, Judicial Council
507 State Judicial Building
Atlanta, GA 30334
404-656-3475/F 657-9586
thompsoh@gasupreme.us

Presiding Justice P. Harris Hines
Vice-Chair, Judicial Council
501 State Judicial Building
Atlanta, GA 30334
404-656-3472/F 651-8642
hinesph@gasupreme.us

Court of Appeals

Chief Judge Sara Doyle
47 Trinity Avenue, Suite 501
Atlanta, GA 30334
404-656-3458/F 657-9764
doyles@gaappeals.us

Judge Stephen Louis A. Dillard
47 Trinity Avenue, Suite 501
Atlanta, GA 30334
404-657-9405/ F 657-8893
dillards@gaappeals.us

Superior Court

Chief Judge Brenda S. Weaver
President, CSCJ
Appalachian Judicial Circuit
P.O. Box 545
Jasper, GA 30143
706-253-8729/ F 253-8734
basw54@gmail.com

Judge Horace J. Johnson, Jr.
President-Elect, CSCJ
Alcovy Judicial Circuit
1132 Usher Street, NW
Covington, GA 30014
770-784-2080/F 784-2130
hjohnson@co.newton.ga.us

Judge John E. Morse Jr.
Eastern Judicial Circuit, 1st JAD
213 Chatham County Courthouse
133 Montgomery Street
Savannah, GA 31401
912-652-7236/F 652-7361
jemorse@chathamcounty.org

Chief Judge Harry J. Altman II
Southern Judicial Circuit, 2nd JAD
P.O. Box 1734
Thomasville, GA 31799
229-228-6278/F 225-4128
thosct@rose.net

Judge Edward D. Lukemire
Houston Judicial Circuit, 3rd JAD
201 N. Perry Parkway
Perry, GA 31069
478-218-4850/F 218-4855
elukemire@houstoncountyga.org

Chief Judge Tangela M. Barrie
Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit, 4th JAD
5230 DeKalb County Courthouse
556 N. McDonough Street
Decatur, GA 30030
404-371-2338/F 371-3081
tbarrie@dekalbcountyga.gov

Chief Judge Gail S. Tusan
Atlanta Judicial Circuit, 5th JAD
T8955 Justice Center Tower
185 Central Avenue SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-612-8520/F 302-8524
gail.tusan@fultoncountyga.gov

Judge Matthew O. Simmons
Clayton Judicial Circuit, 6th JAD
Harold R. Banke Justice Center
9151 Tara Boulevard
Jonesboro, GA 30236
770-477-3484/F 477-3487
matthew.simmons@co.clayton.ga.us

Judge S. Lark Ingram
Cobb Judicial Circuit, 7th JAD
70 Haynes Street
Marietta, GA 30090
770-528-1831/F 528-1834
larkingram@mindspring.com

Chief Judge Kathy Palmer
Middle Judicial Circuit, 8th JAD
P.O. Box 330
Swainsboro, GA 30401
478-237-3260/F 237-0949
kspalmer@bellsouth.net

Chief Judge Melodie Snell Conner
Gwinnett Judicial Circuit, 9th JAD
75 Langley Drive
Lawrenceville, GA 30046
770-822-8660/F 822-8662
melodie.conner@gwinnettcourt.com

Chief Judge J. Carlisle Overstreet
Augusta Judicial Circuit, 10th JAD
735 James Brown Blvd., Suite 4203
Augusta, GA 30901
706-821-2347/F 721-4476
joverstreet@augustacourt.gov

State Court

Chief Judge Wayne M. Purdom
President, CSCJ
DeKalb County
556 N. McDonough St, Suite 3220
404-687-7180/ F 687-7185
wmpurdom@dekalbcourt.gov

Chief Judge Richard A. Slaby
President-Elect, CSCJ
Richmond County
735 James Brown Boulevard
Suite 4105
Augusta, GA 30901-2974
706-821-2582/ F 821-1177
rslaby@augustacourt.gov

Juvenile Court

Judge John Sumner
President, CJJC
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit
90 North Street, Suite 310
Canton, GA 30114
678-293-6250/F 493-6255
jbsumner@cherokeecourt.com

Chief Judge Benjamin P. Brinson
President-Elect, CJJC
Atlantic Judicial Circuit
P.O. Box 667
Claxton, GA 30417
912-739-2533/F 739-2513
bpbrinson@aol.com

Probate Court

Judge Don Wilkes
President, CPCJ
Emanuel County
P.O. Box 70
124 S. Main Street
Swainsboro, GA 30401
478-237-7091/F 237-2633
judgewilkes@yahoo.com

Judge Alice Padgett
President-Elect, CPCJ
Columbia County
P.O. Box 1520
Evans, GA 30809
706-312-7254/F 312-7251
apadgett@columbiacourt.gov

Magistrate Court

Judge Robert "Bob" Turner
President, CMCJ
Chief Magistrate
Houston County
89 Cohen Walker Drive
Warner Robins, GA 31088
478-987-4695/F 987-5249
bturner@houstoncourt.org

Judge Kristina Hammer Blum
First Vice-President, CMCJ
Chief Magistrate
Gwinnett County
75 Langley Drive
Lawrenceville, GA 30045-6900
770-822-8081/F 822-8075
kristina.blum@gwinnettcourt.com

Municipal Courts

Judge Leslie Spornberger Jones
President, CMCJ
Municipal Court of Athens-Clarke County
P.O. Box 1705
Athens, GA 30603
706-613-3695/F 613-3696
leslie.jones@athensclarkecounty.com

Judge Gary E. Jackson
President-Elect, CMCJ
Municipal Court of Atlanta
150 Garnett Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303-6372
404-658-6930/F 658-7488
gejackson@atlantacourt.gov

Bylaws of the Judicial Council of Georgia
Adopted June 17, 2015

Table of Contents

Purpose	P. 2
Article I: Officers	P. 2
Article II: Composition and Organization	P. 2
Article III: Meetings	P. 3
Article IV: Committees	P. 4
Article V: Duties	P. 4
Article VI: Amendments to Bylaws	P. 4

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Judicial Council is to establish policy for Georgia's judiciary, effectuate its statutory responsibilities, and improve the administration of Georgia's courts.

ARTICLE I: OFFICERS

Officers of the Council shall be the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary.

Chair

The Council Chair shall be the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The Chair, or his or her designee, shall: serve as the presiding officer of the Council; call the meetings, affording written notice as hereinafter required; preside at Council meetings and control debate; serve as ex-officio member on all committees; and serve as the official spokesperson for the Council.¹ In the event the Chair, or Vice-Chair, is not present to preside at Council meetings, the Chair will appoint a presiding officer.

Vice-Chair

The Vice-Chair shall be the Presiding Justice of the Supreme Court. The Vice-Chair shall assist the Chair as needed and preside at meetings in the event the Chair is unable to do so.² The Vice-Chair shall serve as chair of designated committees.

Secretary

The Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts shall serve as Secretary for the Judicial Council. The Director, or his or her designee, shall be responsible for an accurate recordation and distribution of meeting minutes, for updating and distributing Judicial Council Handbooks, and for providing a copy of the bylaws and other governing documents to all members. The Director shall not be considered a member of the Judicial Council for purposes of voting or determining a quorum.

ARTICLE II: COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

Council Membership and Terms

Council members should be committed to improving justice through collaboration, innovation and information. Members of the Council and their terms shall be as provided by the Supreme Court of Georgia.³

Vacancies

¹ Supreme Court Order dated August 5, 1983.

² Supreme Court Order dated August 5, 1983.

³ O.C.G.A. §15-5-23.

A vacancy occurs when a Council member no longer serves in the capacity of representative for his or her respective group. The vacancy shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term as provided by Supreme Court order.

ARTICLE III: MEETINGS

Call to Meetings/Notification

Regular Council meetings may be called at least four times a year by the Chair, or by a majority of the voting members of the Council, at such times and places as may be deemed necessary and convenient. A proposed schedule of future meetings shall be published at the last regular meeting of each fiscal year.

Council members must be notified of regular meeting times and locations at least thirty (30) business days in advance. Notice may be sent by mail or electronic communication.

In case of an emergency, or other event necessitating an unscheduled meeting as deemed by the Chair, notice shall be given at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting.

Quorum

A quorum consisting of a majority of Council members is required for voting and conducting business.

Conduct of Meetings

Regular Council meetings shall be conducted in person unless otherwise authorized by the Chair. Emergency meetings may be conducted electronically.

Rules

Except as otherwise provided in these bylaws, all meetings of the Council and its committees shall be conducted in accordance with the most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

Voting

All members shall be entitled to vote, except that the presiding officer shall vote only in the event of a tie.⁴ A member unable to attend a meeting for good cause shall be entitled to designate a meeting representative to cast his or her vote. The absent member shall notify the Chair in writing of the designated representative. The designated representative may be heard, entitled to vote, and be considered part of the quorum for the meeting.

When a quorum is present at a Judicial Council meeting, or a committee meeting, a simple majority of votes cast will pass an item unless specified by Supreme Court order, Council policy, or the Chair. When a vote is called and a member, or his or her designated representative, takes no position, that vote will not be counted in favor of or against the item being voted upon.

⁴ Supreme Court Order dated August 5, 1983.

Any member of the Council, or his or her designated representative, shall have the right to dissent or abstain from the majority of any official action, and request that their vote be reflected in the minutes.

ARTICLE IV: COMMITTEES

Standing Committees

Standing Committees and their memberships shall be determined by Supreme Court order or the Council Chair, and should include at least one current Council member. The Council Chair should endeavor to include as members on each committee representatives from every affected entity represented on the Council. Committee membership may include advisory members appointed, as needed, by each committee chair. All chairs and members shall serve at the pleasure of the Council Chair. Advisory members may be heard but shall not be entitled to vote.

Ad-Hoc Committees

The Council Chair shall name ad-hoc committees as are necessary to conduct the business of the Council.⁵ The Chair of the Council shall appoint the chairs of the ad-hoc committees who shall be current or past Council members. The ad-hoc committee chair may appoint the remaining committee members after receiving the approval of the Council Chair. At least one current Council member shall be appointed to serve on each ad-hoc committee. Advisory members may be heard but shall not be entitled to vote.

ARTICLE V: DUTIES

The Council shall effectuate its duties as defined by statute and Supreme Court order. In addition, the Council shall engage in ongoing strategic planning.

The Council shall issue, publish, and distribute official opinions or policies concerning matters of court administration.

The Council shall appoint a Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, who shall serve at the pleasure of the Council.⁶ The appointment of a Director shall be confirmed by a majority vote of the Council. Duties of the Director shall be defined by law and as directed by the Council.

ARTICLE VI: AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

The Council shall vote on any proposed bylaw amendments during its final regular meeting of the fiscal year. Proposed amendments shall be sent to the Chair no later than December 31. Council members shall receive at least sixty (60) days' notice of proposed amendments prior to

⁵ Supreme Court Order dated August 5, 1983.

⁶ O.C.G.A. §15-5-23.

the date of the meeting. The bylaws shall be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Council. The bylaws may also be amended at any time as a result of a Supreme Court order.

Administrative Office of the Courts

244 Washington St. SW, Suite 300 Atlanta, GA 30334

Cynthia H. Clanton, Interim Director
404-656-5171

As of August 1, 2015

Director's Office

Budget

Ashley Garner
404-656-6404

Governmental and Trial Court Liaison

Tracy Mason
404-463-0559

Christopher Causey
404-463-6296

Catherine Fitch
404-463-1023

LaShawn Murphy
404-651-6325

Human Resources

Stephanie Hines
404-657-7469

Jacqueline Booker
404-463-0638

General Counsel

Jessica Farah
404-463-3805

Judicial Services

Certification and Licensing

Shinji Morokuma
404-463-3785

Bianca Bennett
404-463-6478

Herbert Gordon
404-232-1409

Tynesha Manuel
404-463-3785

Yolanda Mashburn
404-657-6269

Zan Patorgis
404-656-6447

Aquaria R. Smith
404-651-8707

Linda Smith
404-657-4219

Children, Families, & the Courts

Michelle Barclay
404-657-9219

Patricia Buonodono
404-463-0044

Elaine Johnson
404-463-6383

Paula Myrick
404-463-6480

Bruce Shaw
404-463-6106

Lateefah Thomas
404-463-1906

Research and Data Management

Christopher Hansard
404-463-1871

Kimberly Miller
404-463-6887

Wendy Hosch
404-656-6413

Robert Aycock
404-656-0371

Communications

Ashley G. Stollar
404-656-6783

Derrick Bryant
404-656-6784

Financial Administration

Randy Dennis
Division Director
404-651-7613

Kim Burley
404-463-3816

Roxanne Harkcom
404-463-9016

Monte Harris
404-656-6691

Matthew Kloiber
404-463-5177

Nancy Nevels
404-463-1907

Tanya Osby
404-463-0237

Information Technology

Jorge Basto
Division Director
404-657-9673

Gilberto Alcantara
404-463-0016

Bradley Allen
404-657-1770

Michael Cuccaro
404-656-7780

Angela He
404-651-8169

Christina Liu
404-651-8180

Tony Mazza
404-657-4006

Michael Neuren
404-657-4218

Wanda Paul
404-538-0849

Kriste Pope
404-731-1358

Pete Tyo
404-731-1357

Georgia Judicial Exchange

Tajsha Dekine
404-656-3479

Kevin Kirk
404-275-8372

Rory Parker
404-656-3478

Arnold Schoenberg
404-463-6343

Other Agencies

**Georgia Commission on
Family Violence**

Jennifer Thomas
404-657-3412
404-683-9101

Jenny Aszman
404-657-3412

Jameelah Ferrell
404-657-3412

Accountability Courts

Joshua Becker
404-463-6298

Stacey Seldon
404-463-0043

Judicial Council of Georgia
General Session
James H. “Sloppy” Floyd Building Atlanta, GA
June 17, 2015 • 1:00 p.m.

Members Present

Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson, Chair
Judge Harry J. Altman, II
Judge Brian Amero (for Judge Matthew O. Simmons)
Judge Sara L. Doyle
Judge Kathlene Gosselin
Judge James Griner (for Judge W. Allen Wigington)
Judge S. Lark Ingram
Judge Horace J. Johnson, Jr.
Judge Leslie Spornberger Jones
Judge E.R. Lanier
Judge John E. Morse, Jr.
Judge J. Carlisle Overstreet
Judge Kathy Palmer
Chief Judge Herbert E. Phipps
Judge Wayne M. Purdom
Judge Rucker Smith (for Judge Edward D. Lukemire)
Judge John Sumner
Judge Robert Turner
Judge Gail S. Tusan
Judge Brenda S. Weaver
Judge James Whitfield (for Judge Benjamin P. Brinson)
Judge Don Wilkes
Judge Charles Wynne

Members Absent

Judge Tangelia M. Barrie
Judge Benjamin P. Brinson
Justice P. Harris Hines
Judge Edward D. Lukemire
Judge Alice Padgett
Judge Matthew O. Simmons
Judge W. Allen Wigington

Non-Member Committee Chairs Present

Justice Harold Melton, Budget Committee

Staff Present

Ms. Cynthia H. Clanton, Interim Director
Mr. Brad Allen
Ms. Michelle Barclay
Mr. Jorge Basto
Ms. Bianca Bennett
Mr. Derrick Bryant
Mr. Michael Cuccaro
Mr. Randy Dennis
Ms. Ashley Garner
Mr. Christopher Hansard
Ms. Tracy Mason
Ms. LaShawn Murphy
Ms. Aquaria Smith
Ms. Ashley Stollar

Guests (Appended)

Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting of the Judicial Council of Georgia (Council) was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chief Justice Thompson. Chief Justice Thompson recognized the Council's newest member, Judge Johnson, and administered the Council's oath. The following judges were recognized as designees for absent members: Judge Brian Amero (for Judge Matthew O. Simmons); Judge James Griner (for Judge W. Allen Wigington); Judge James Whitfield (for Judge Benjamin P. Brinson); and, Judge Rucker Smith (for Judge Edward D. Lukemire). The Chief Justice acknowledged a Supreme Court order granting voting privileges for designees only when a member has shown good cause, and stated that all absent were considered to be for good cause and all designees would be authorized to vote.

Adoption of Minutes – April 23, 2015

Chief Justice Thompson directed the Council's attention to the minutes of the April 23, 2015 meeting. He noted that Mr. Cuccaro's name had been added to the attendance list. A motion to approve was offered by Judge Lanier, followed by a second from Judge Wynne. The motion passed unanimously.

Supreme Court Committee on Justice for Children Cold Case Project

Ms. Barclay presented an overview of the Supreme Court Committee on Justice for Children Cold Case Project, and reported that outcomes for the cases reviewed by this project showed an increased placement rate by 30 percent in Calendar Year 2014. The Project's annual reports are available through the Judicial Council website. Ms. Barclay highlighted cases from the report and presented a video about one of the cases, reported on by Fox 5 Atlanta.

Roll Call

Members and guests identified themselves for the purposes of roll call.

Committee Reports

Policy and Legislative Committee. Chief Judge Phipps referred to the written report provided in the materials. He recognized the participation of Council legislative chairs in the Policy Committee process over the past year and reviewed the timeline for preparation for the 2016 legislative session. The Committee will meet July 16 to consider legislative proposals and will make recommendations at the August 6 Council meeting.

Chief Judge Phipps was excused from the meeting.

Judicial Council/AOC Director Search Committee. Chief Justice Thompson provided an update on the search for a Judicial Council/AOC Director. Justice Hines is serving as Chair of the Search Committee, and the following judges have been appointed as members: Judge Doyle, Judge Ingram, Judge Johnson, Judge Wigington, Judge Lanier, and Judge Wynne. Justice Keith Blackwell will serve as an advisor and Ms. Tee Barnes will serve as the committee's Reporter. Chief Justice Thompson assured the Council that the Committee was designed to be representative and inclusive and will be receptive to feedback and input. A meeting schedule has been set, and while the process was initially planned to be completed at the September 30 Council meeting, it is likely it will be delayed until later in the fall. Chief Justice Thompson encouraged everyone to participate and asked that names of any possible candidates be referred to Justice Hines or Ms. Barnes.

Strategic Plan Implementation Committee. Judge Doyle reported that the Committee is halfway through its three-year charge and has addressed all nine Priority Initiatives set forth in the Strategic Plan. The most recent meeting took place on June 2; the agenda focused on communications (Priority Initiative #5), which generated fruitful discussion. On behalf of the Committee, Judge Doyle presented draft Judicial Council bylaws¹ for the Council's adoption. After brief discussion, the Chief Justice called for a vote. No opposition was voiced and the motion passed unanimously. Judge Doyle summarized the remaining materials, including the research priorities for FY 2016 (Priority Initiative #7). The Committee's next meeting is scheduled for August 18.

Court Reporting Matters Committee. Judge Doyle referred to the written report provided in the materials and presented the following nominations to the Board of Court Reporting: Attorney James M. Anderson, III (reappointment); Ms. Maxine Bursky (appointment); Ms. Linda Drake (reappointment); Judge John K. Edwards, Jr. (appointment); Ms. Cheryl Gilliam (appointment). No opposition was voiced and the nominations were approved unanimously. Judge Doyle then presented the proposed Policy 3.2 – Georgia Realtime License² as an amendment to the *Judicial Council of Georgia Policies and Fees for Court Reporting Services in Criminal Cases*. Judge Doyle highlighted Item 1(C), pertaining to the grandfathering requirement, and explained that the form planned for this provision will be very simple. Judge

¹ Appended.

² Appended.

Wynne asked for clarification that the policy does not require the use of a realtime reporter, nor does the policy prevent someone from providing realtime services without certification as long as they do not charge the extra fee; Judge Doyle confirmed both questions. The Chief Justice called for a vote; no opposition was voiced and the motion passed unanimously.

Judicial Workload Assessment Committee. A written report was provided in the materials. Mr. Hansard confirmed that three judicial circuits (Cherokee, Clayton and Griffin) have applied for an additional judgeship and that the results of the analysis will be presented at the September 30 Council meeting.

Accountability Courts Committee. Judge Weaver reported on the transition of work to the Council of Accountability Court Judges, as created by the passage of House Bill 328. The legislation provides an effective date of July 1 for this new Council and an ad hoc committee has been formed to develop a transition plan. A set of Council bylaws and a constitution have been drafted and circulated to all felony accountability court judges, plus DUI court judges; the committee will meet on June 26 to discuss and consider these draft documents. The Council will hold its first meeting on July 27, in conjunction with the Council of Superior Court Judges Annual Conference. Judge Weaver stressed that while the statute did not provide express direction to begin this planning process the judges feel it is important to be ready for the July 1 effective date. She also reiterated that the statute only defines adult drug, mental health and veterans courts as felony accountability courts, and so these are the only categories included in the new Council at this time. An opinion has been requested from the Attorney General's office to clarify whether DUI courts fall under the statutory definition of adult drug courts; the intent is not to exclude DUI courts from the Council but it is important to follow the statute as written. As House Bill 328 transferred responsibility over peer review and standards to the new Council (which will be supported administratively by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council), Judge Weaver recognized the work of Ms. Clanton and Ms. Barclay on a Memorandum of Understanding with that agency to ensure a smooth transition of work. Peer reviews are continuing and new courts are being encouraged to come on board. Judge Weaver stated she has enjoyed serving as Chair of the Accountability Courts Committee and looks forward to the Council's decision on its status after July 1.

Budget Committee. Justice Melton briefly reflected on the 2015 legislative session and noted that the Judicial Council had received enhancement funding in seven areas. In regards to

the Amended Fiscal Year 2016 and Fiscal Year 2017 budget cycles, White Papers were accepted May 1 – June 15. Submissions have been received from six Judicial Council budget units and are undergoing a refinement process. The Budget Committee will meet July 16 to consider all requests and will make recommendations at the August 6 Council meeting.

Statewide Judiciary Civil E-filing Steering Committee Report

Justice Melton reported that the FY 2016 budget appropriated \$120,000 for the design and implementation of an e-filing portal. A subcommittee was appointed to develop and issue a Request for Proposal; proposals were accepted May 15 – June 1 and four submissions were received. A consensus was reached to select the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) as the vendor. This recommendation was presented to the full Committee on June 4 and adopted unanimously. The contract with NCSC is being finalized and a quick turnaround on a design recommendation is expected.

Report from Judicial Council/AOC Director

Ms. Clanton reported that the Supreme Court Commission on Interpreters received a \$15,000 grant from the State Justice Institute to develop a step-by-step administrative guide to assist courts in meeting requirements for providing interpreters. The grant will also fund the development of an educational brochure and reference materials. In the area of technology, successful collaboration continues with the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Division of Family and Children Services and the Council of Juvenile Court Judges to implement a strong case management system. The AOC continues to provide requested research and consultancy to courts, and noted that work has been done to ensure continued support of accountability courts during the transition period after July 1. Ms. Clanton emphasized that as a service agency, the AOC is focusing on improved communication and performance in order to build customers' trust. She also thanked everyone for their support and feedback during this time of transition.

Reports from Appellate Courts and Trial Court Councils

Supreme Court. Chief Justice Thompson referred members to the written report provided in the materials. He highlighted the adoption of the revised Code of Judicial Conduct, effective January 1, 2016, and thanked all who worked on it.

Court of Appeals. Judge Doyle reported that the Court will have a transition in leadership next week and recognized Judge Stephen Dillard as the Court's incoming member of the

Council. The Court is working on refining some internal operations, made even more important with the new panel of judges coming in January.

Council of Superior Court Judges. Judge Weaver referred members to the written report provided in the materials. She noted the recent passing of Senior Judge Lindsay A. Tise, Jr.

Council of State Court Judges. Judge Wynne referred members to the written report provided in the materials. He expressed his appreciation to Chief Justice Thompson for being the featured speaker at the Council's Annual Conference held in May and recognized Mr. Bray for his service to the Council.

Council of Juvenile Court Judges. Judge Sumner referred members to the written report provided in the materials.

Council of Probate Court Judges. Judge Wilkes referred members to the written report provided in the materials. The Council is looking forward to its Strategic Planning retreat in July and will certify over 100 judges later this year. The Council is also refining its legislative items for the 2016 session. Judge Wilkes expressed his deep appreciation to the Judicial Council/AOC staff for their support.

Council of Magistrate Court Judges. Judge Turner reported that the Council's new standardized curriculum was first used at the Annual Conference in May. Feedback has been positive and there are some improvements being made. The Access to Courts Filing Wizard has received national recognition from two groups; it has been nominated for the State Transformation Award from the Southern Legislative Conference and it will be presented at the National Center for State Courts' Court Technology Conference in September. Judge Turner expressed regards from Judge Wigington, outgoing President of the Council, as he was attending the National Judicial College and unable to attend the meeting.

Council of Municipal Court Judges. Judge Lanier referred members to the written report in the materials. The Council leadership met June 12-13 and the Annual Conference will be held at Jekyll Island June 23-26. Judge Jones spoke to the success of the Council's Lunch and Learn program, and announced plans to hold another session in the fall. Judge Lanier commended the incredible degree of support received from the Judicial Council/AOC staff.

Council of Superior Court Clerks. A written report was provided in the materials. Chief Justice Thompson expressed his gratitude to Ms. Cinda Bright and the Council of Superior Court Clerks for their support during this year's caseload reporting period, and shared a letter of

appreciation sent to Ms. Bright from Ms. Clanton. Mr. Mike Holiman reported that the statewide jury list was delivered to all counties on June 15.

Chief Justice Thompson commended the councils for their work.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Chief Justice Thompson recognized the outgoing Council members (Chief Judge Phipps, Judge Gosselin, Judge Wynne, Judge Lanier, and Judge Wigington) as well as two immediate past members (Judge Mary Staley and Judge J. Lane Bearden) and presented each with a certificate of appreciation. The Chief Justice stated he was pleased to hear praise for the AOC and recognized Mr. Thomas Worthy and the State Bar of Georgia for their help during the last legislative session. The remaining meeting schedule for the year was reviewed (August 6, September 30, December 9, as well as a possible meeting in the fall) and Chief Justice Thompson adjourned the meeting at 3:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracy Mason
Program Administrator, AOC

The above and foregoing minutes
were approved on the _____ day of
_____, 2015.

Hugh P. Thompson
Chief Justice

Judicial Council of Georgia
General Session
James H. “Sloppy” Floyd Building Atlanta, GA
June 17, 2015 • 1:00 p.m.

Guests Present

Mr. Joe Baden, Third Judicial Administrative District
Ms. Tee Barnes, Supreme Court of Georgia
Judge J. Lane Bearden, Juvenile Court, Cherokee Judicial Circuit
Mr. Edwin Bell, Fourth Judicial Administrative District
Mr. Tracy J. BeMent, Tenth Judicial Administrative District
Mr. Bob Bray, Council of State Court Judges
Judge Melodie Snell Conner, Superior Court, Gwinnett Judicial Circuit
Ms. Lindsey Costakos, Superior Court, Flint Judicial Circuit
Judge Kristina Blum, Magistrate Court of Gwinnett County
Mr. Bob Bray, Council of State Court Judges
Ms. Jacqueline Bunn, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
Mr. Richard F. Denney, First Judicial Administrative District
Judge Stephen Dillard, Court of Appeals of Georgia
Mr. Steven Ferrell, Ninth Judicial Administrative District
Mr. Mike Holiman, Council of Superior Court Clerks
Ms. Emily Irvin, State Bar of Georgia
Judge Gary E. Jackson, Municipal Court of Atlanta
Mr. Eric John, Council of Juvenile Court Judges
Ms. Jessica Johnson, Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget
Judge Michael Johnson, Superior Courts, Oconee Judicial Circuit
Ms. Kathleen Joyner, Fulton County Daily Report
Ms. Sandy Lee, Council of Superior Court Judges
Trooper Moses Little, Georgia State Patrol
Ms. Tia Milton, Supreme Court of Georgia
Mr. David Mixon, Second Judicial Administrative District
Mr. Bob Nadekow, Eighth Judicial Administrative District
Ms. Sharon Reiss, Council of Magistrate Court Judges
Mr. Chuck Spahos, Prosecuting Attorneys’ Council of Georgia
Judge Mary Staley, Superior Court, Cobb Judicial Circuit
Mr. Bryan Tyson, Georgia Public Defender Standards Council
Ms. Kirsten Wallace, Council of Juvenile Court Judges
Mr. Shannon Weathers, Council of Superior Court Judges
Ms. Ashley Willcott, Office of the Child Advocate
Mr. Thomas Worthy, State Bar of Georgia

Bylaws of the Judicial Council of Georgia

Table of Contents

Purpose	P. 2
Article I: Officers	P. 2
Article II: Composition and Organization	P. 3
Article III: Meetings	P. 3
Article IV: Committees	P. 4
Article V: Duties	P. 4
Article VI: Amendments to Bylaws	P. 5

DRAFT

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Judicial Council is to establish policy for Georgia's judiciary, effectuate its statutory responsibilities, and improve the administration of Georgia's courts.

ARTICLE I: OFFICERS

Officers of the Council shall be the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary.

Chair

The Council Chair shall be the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The Chair, or his or her designee, shall: serve as the presiding officer of the Council; call the meetings, affording written notice as hereinafter required; preside at Council meetings and control debate; serve as ex-officio member on all committees; and serve as the official spokesperson for the Council.¹ In the event the Chair, or Vice-Chair, is not present to preside at Council meetings, the Chair will appoint a presiding officer.

Vice-Chair

The Vice-Chair shall be the Presiding Justice of the Supreme Court. The Vice-Chair shall assist the Chair as needed and preside at meetings in the event the Chair is unable to do so.² The Vice-Chair shall serve as chair of designated committees.

Secretary

The Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts shall serve as Secretary for the Judicial Council. The Director, or his or her designee, shall be responsible for an accurate recordation and distribution of meeting minutes, for updating and distributing Judicial Council Handbooks, and for providing a copy of the bylaws and other governing documents to all members. The Director shall not be considered a member of the Judicial Council for purposes of voting or determining a quorum.

ARTICLE II: COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

Council Membership and Terms

Council members should be committed to improving justice through collaboration, innovation and information. Members of the Council and their terms shall be as provided by the Supreme Court of Georgia.³

¹ Supreme Court Order dated August 5, 1983.

² Supreme Court Order dated August 5, 1983.

³ O.C.G.A. §15-5-23.

Vacancies

A vacancy occurs when a Council member no longer serves in the capacity of representative for his or her respective group. The vacancy shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term as provided by Supreme Court order.

ARTICLE III: MEETINGS**Call to Meetings/Notification**

Regular Council meetings may be called at least four times a year by the Chair, or by a majority of the voting members of the Council, at such times and places as may be deemed necessary and convenient. A proposed schedule of future meetings shall be published at the last regular meeting of each fiscal year.

Council members must be notified of regular meeting times and locations at least thirty (30) business days in advance. Notice may be sent by mail or electronic communication.

In case of an emergency, or other event necessitating an unscheduled meeting as deemed by the Chair, notice shall be given at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting.

Quorum

A quorum consisting of a majority of Council members is required for voting and conducting business.

Conduct of Meetings

Regular Council meetings shall be conducted in person unless otherwise authorized by the Chair. Emergency meetings may be conducted electronically.

Rules

Except as otherwise provided in these bylaws, all meetings of the Council and its committees shall be conducted in accordance with the most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

Voting

All members shall be entitled to vote, except that the presiding officer shall vote only in the event of a tie.⁴ A member unable to attend a meeting for good cause shall be entitled to designate a meeting representative to cast his or her vote. The absent member shall notify the Chair in writing of the designated representative. The designated representative may be heard, entitled to vote, and be considered part of the quorum for the meeting.

When a quorum is present at a Judicial Council meeting, or a committee meeting, a simple majority of votes cast will pass an item unless specified by Supreme Court order, Council policy,

⁴ Supreme Court Order dated August 5, 1983.

or the Chair. When a vote is called and a member, or his or her designated representative, takes no position, that vote will not be counted in favor of or against the item being voted upon.

Any member of the Council, or his or her designated representative, shall have the right to dissent or abstain from the majority of any official action, and request that their vote be reflected in the minutes.

ARTICLE IV: COMMITTEES

Standing Committees

Standing Committees and their memberships shall be determined by Supreme Court order or the Council Chair, and should include at least one current Council member. The Council Chair should endeavor to include as members on each committee representatives from every affected entity represented on the Council. Committee membership may include advisory members appointed, as needed, by each committee chair. All chairs and members shall serve at the pleasure of the Council Chair. Advisory members may be heard but shall not be entitled to vote.

Ad-Hoc Committees

The Council Chair shall name ad-hoc committees as are necessary to conduct the business of the Council.⁵ The Chair of the Council shall appoint the chairs of the ad-hoc committees who shall be current or past Council members. The ad-hoc committee chair may appoint the remaining committee members after receiving the approval of the Council Chair. At least one current Council member shall be appointed to serve on each ad-hoc committee. Advisory members may be heard but shall not be entitled to vote.

ARTICLE V: DUTIES

The Council shall effectuate its duties as defined by statute and Supreme Court order. In addition, the Council shall engage in ongoing strategic planning.

The Council shall issue, publish, and distribute official opinions or policies concerning matters of court administration.

The Council shall appoint a Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, who shall serve at the pleasure of the Council.⁶ The appointment of a Director shall be confirmed by a majority vote of the Council. Duties of the Director shall be defined by law and as directed by the Council.

⁵ Supreme Court Order dated August 5, 1983.

⁶ O.C.G.A. §15-5-23.

ARTICLE VI: AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

The Council shall vote on any proposed bylaw amendments during its final regular meeting of the fiscal year. Proposed amendments shall be sent to the Chair no later than December 31. Council members shall receive at least sixty (60) days' notice of proposed amendments prior to the date of the meeting. The bylaws shall be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Council. The bylaws may also be amended at any time as a result of a Supreme Court order.

DRAFT

Realtime Reporting Policy

In September 2014, the CRMC asked the Judicial Council to remove from its consideration certification requirements regarding realtime reporting in Georgia to give the CRMC further time to evaluate this issue. At the behest of the CRMC, the Board of Court Reporting, in consultation with the Court Reporters' Training Council, examined the existing realtime policy requirements. Deliberation and feedback from the state associations, the Georgia Shorthand Reporters Association, and the Georgia Certified Court Reporters Association, resulted in the development of proposed certification and training standards for realtime services offered in Georgia trial courts.

The CRMC reviewed the proposed certification and training standards and requests that the Judicial Council approve the following:

3.2 Georgia Realtime License

1. Qualifications

To obtain a Georgia Realtime License (GRL), an applicant must:

- A. Qualify as a Georgia certified court reporter in good standing; and
- B.
 - 1) Successful achievement on the realtime certification exam administered by the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) or the National Verbatim Reporters Association (NVRA); or
 - 2) Achieve a minimum score of 90 percent on the realtime certification exam administered by the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) or the National Verbatim Reporters Association (NVRA); or
- C. Be grandfathered as a realtime reporter by April 1, 2016. To satisfy the grandfathering requirement, a court reporter shall make an application on an approved Board form documenting the judge's affirmation of the reporter's capability to deliver a realtime feed.

2. Certification and Training Requirements

- A. The Board shall issue the designation, Georgia Realtime License (GRL), to display on the court reporters certificate annually; and
- B. Each court reporter issued a GRL shall comply with the training requirements as determined by the Court Reporters' Training Council.

3. Fees

In order to charge for realtime services, court reporters must possess a GRL as set forth above.



WORKING WITH DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING PERSONS AND SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS IN THE COURTROOM

— A Bench Card for Judges —

The Law on Sign Language Interpreters for Participants in Court Proceedings

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and state law (O.C.G.A. § 24-6-650 to 658), Georgia courts must provide auxiliary aids or services – such as qualified sign language interpreters – to participants in court proceedings who are deaf or hard of hearing (DHH). They must provide these aids or services when necessary to ensure effective communication by and with DHH participants. DHH participants can include litigants, witnesses, and spectators. Court proceedings include all court services, programs, and activities. DHH participants:

- Cannot be required to arrange or pay for their own interpreters;
- Must be provided an interpreter for any criminal or civil proceeding;
- Can waive their right to an interpreter if the waiver is in writing and it is approved by the court;
- Do not waive their right to an interpreter simply because they do not request an interpreter.

Establishing the Communication Preference of the Participants

The court must ask DHH participants to identify the type of reasonable accommodation needed.¹ If a request for an interpreter is not made, but the participants could benefit from the services of an interpreter, the judge should address the need on the record:

- “Please tell the court your name.”
- “You have the right to participate and understand these proceedings. Tell the court the best way to communicate with you, so you know what is being said.”
- “Do you need an interpreter?”

Finding a Qualified Sign Language Interpreter

The Registry for Interpreters for the Deaf (RID), the national certification organization for all sign language interpreters, has a searchable database of certified members on its website, www.rid.org

Credentials of Sign Language Interpreters

An ability to sign does not equate to being able to interpret. To effectively communicate, the interpreter must possess the necessary skills to process spoken language into equivalent sign language and to process sign language into equivalent spoken language. Family members or friends of DHH participants should never be called upon to interpret court proceedings. Court personnel should not function as interpreters unless they are certified and employed as staff interpreters.

A court official or designee should assess an interpreter’s qualifications prior to scheduling the interpreter’s appearance in court. To be recognized as qualified in Georgia, an interpreter must hold a current certification from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID). For legal proceedings, courts should first try to use certified sign language interpreters who hold this credential:

- SC:L (Specialist Certificate: Legal) *Preferred and recommended credential based on demonstrated specialized knowledge of legal system, language, and settings.*

If an SC:L interpreter cannot be located, interpreters with these RID certifications may also be used. However, it is recommended that they have additional specialized training in legal interpreting:

- NIC (National Interpreter Certification), Master
- NAD V (National Association of the Deaf: Certification – Master)
- CI and CT (Certificate of Interpretation and Certificate of Transliteration)
- CDI (Certified Deaf Interpreter)
- CSC (Comprehensive Skills Certificate)

If the court is unsure of an interpreter’s qualifications, the court should *voir dire* the interpreter:

Sample Voir Dire to Assess an Interpreter’s Qualifications

- “Are you certified by RID?”
- “What specialized training have you completed?”
- “How long have you been an interpreter?”
- “How many times have you interpreted in court?”
- “Describe the Code of Ethics as it applies to legal interpreters.”
- “How did you learn American Sign Language?”

Additional Considerations When Selecting Sign Language Interpreters

Courts should take additional steps to determine whether a particular interpreter is suited to work in a court setting. Some considerations could include:

- Prior professional and/or social contact or association with the DHH participants.
- Education, professional training, and formal legal training completed by the interpreter.
- The types of court proceedings in which the interpreter has experience.

(A full list of suggested *voir dire* questions, considerations, and acceptable answers may be requested from the Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts.)

Sign Language Interpreter's Ethics

The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf and the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) together have enacted a Code of Professional Conduct for interpreters that comprises seven ethical tenets:

1. Adhere to standards of confidential communication.
2. Possess the professional skills and knowledge required for the specific interpreting situation.
3. Conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to the specific interpreting situation.
4. Demonstrate respect for consumers.
5. Demonstrate respect for colleagues, interns, and students of the profession.
6. Maintain ethical business practices.
7. Engage in professional development.

The Code applies to RID's certified and associate members and NAD's certified members; is superseded by any local, state, or federal laws and regulations; and applies to both face-to-face and remote interpretations.

Sign Language Interpreter's Oath

Courts should administer an oath to the interpreter prior to the start of court proceedings. Below is an example:

"Do you solemnly swear or affirm that you will interpret accurately, completely and impartially, using your best skill and judgment in accordance with the standards prescribed by law, follow all official guidelines established by this court for legal interpreting, and discharge all of the solemn duties and obligations of legal interpretation?"

¹ As set out in the final ADA Title II rule, "[t]he type of auxiliary aid or service necessary to ensure effective communication will vary in accordance with the method of communication used by the individual, the nature, length, and complexity of the communication involved, and the context in which the communication is taking place. In determining what types of auxiliary aids and services are necessary, a public entity shall give primary consideration to the requests of individuals with disabilities." 28 C.F.R. 35.160(b)(2) (analysis).

Best Practices for Interacting with DHH Persons²

- DHH persons experience differing levels of hearing loss and may prefer varying methods of communication. Ask DHH persons which method they prefer.
- When speaking with DHH persons, whether through a sign language interpreter or not, speak directly to them, look directly at them, and maintain eye contact. Natural facial expressions and gestures will be helpful in facilitating your conversation.
- The role of a sign language interpreter is only to facilitate communication between DHH and hearing people. Therefore, the interpreter should never be asked to participate in any activity other than interpreter for the DHH individual.

Resources

Georgia Supreme Court Rule on Interpreters
http://coi.georgiacourts.gov/sites/default/files/coi/Rule%20on%20Interpreters%20-%20FINAL_JULY.pdf

State of Georgia ADA Coordinator's Office
<http://ada.ga.gov>

Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
www.garid.org

Georgia Council for the Hearing Impaired
www.gachi.org

National Association of the Deaf
www.nad.org

Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf/National Assoc. for the Deaf Code of Professional Conduct
rid.org/UserFiles/File/NAD_RID_ETHICS.pdf

National Association of Judiciary Interpreters & Translators Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibilities
<http://www.najit.org/about/NAJITCodeofEthicsFINAL.pdf>

Working with Sign Language Interpreters in Texas: A Bench Card for Judges
<http://www.najit.org/asl/benchcardtexas.pdf>

U.S. Dept. of Justice/Americans with Disabilities Act
www.ada.gov

² Best Practices when Interacting with Persons with Disabilities: A Customer Service Guide for State Government Agencies – Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission, State ADA Coordinator's Office.
http://ada.georgia.gov/sites/ada.georgia.gov/files/related_files/document/BestPractices%20Handbook%20final%20copy%20with%20Corrina%20M%20foreward.pdf



SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

DRAFT

Atlanta September 3, 2015

The Honorable Supreme Court met pursuant to adjournment.

The following order was passed:

Upon consideration, the Court hereby establishes the Judicial Council Standing Committee on Technology, created for the purpose of general governance of Judicial Council technology initiatives, said Committee having been created as a successor to the Statewide Judiciary Civil E-Filing Steering Committee, created by Order of the Court on June 13, 2012 and the AOC Information Technology Advisory Committee, established in September 2008.

The Judicial Council Standing Committee on Technology shall provide guidance and oversight for the Judicial Council's technology initiatives. The current membership of the Statewide Judiciary Civil E-Filing Steering Committee, consisting of the following representatives, shall comprise this Judicial Council Standing Committee on Technology, with the addition of a representative from the Georgia Court of Appeals:

- Two members chosen by the President of the State Bar of Georgia;
- Two judges chosen by the Chair of the Judicial Council of Georgia;
- Two members chosen by the Chair of the Georgia Superior Court Clerks' Cooperative Authority;
- One Clerk of Superior Court chosen by the President of the Council of Superior Court Clerks of Georgia;
- One member chosen by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals;
- One member chosen by the President of the Council of Superior Court Judges;
- One member chosen by the President of the Council of State Court Judges;
- One member chosen by the President of the Council of Juvenile Court Judges;
- One member chosen by the President of the Council of Probate Court

- Judges;
- One member chosen by the President of the Council of Magistrate Court Judges;
 - One member chosen by the President of the Council of Municipal Court Judges;
 - One member chosen by the President of the Georgia Council of Court Administrators;
 - One member chosen by the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts of Georgia;
 - One member of the Georgia Senate designated by the Chair of the Judiciary Committee;
 - One member of the Georgia House of Representatives designated by the Chair of the Judiciary Committee;
 - One member designated by the Governor; and
 - One member designated by the Attorney General.

The Chair of the Judicial Council shall ensure that the Committee includes at least one Council member.

Justice Harold D. Melton and Judge David T. Emerson shall continue to serve as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, respectively, until further designated.

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA
Clerk's Office, Atlanta

I hereby certify that the above is a true extract from
the minutes of the Supreme Court of Georgia
Witness my signature and the seal of said court hereto
affixed the day and year last above written.

DRAFT



Judicial Council of Georgia

Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Interim Director

Memorandum

TO: Judicial Council Members

FROM: Justice Harold D. Melton

RE: Budget Committee Report

DATE: August 6, 2015

The Judicial Council Budget Committee met on July 16, 2015, in the Ratley Training Room of the Administrative Office of the Courts, to give consideration to enhancement requests submitted by various programs under the fiscal authority of the Judicial Council as enumerated within Section 6 of Legislative Appropriation documents. Subsequent to the July 16 meeting, the Committee met again on July 28, 2015, by conference call to give consideration to a Bond proposal.

Enhancement requests and corresponding total budget requests were granted approval by vote of the Committee for submission to the Legislature for the Amended FY 2016 and FY 2017 budget periods. A white paper for each enhancement request is attached.

Judicial Council Budget Committee Conference Call
July 28, 2015
2:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Justice Harold D. Melton, Chair
Chief Judge Leslie Spornberger Jones
Chief Judge Wayne M. Purdom
Judge Robert Turner
Chief Judge Brenda S. Weaver
Judge Don Wilkes

Staff Present:

Ms. Cynthia Clanton, Interim Director
Mr. Jorge Basto
Ms. Ashley Garner
Mr. Christopher Hansard
Ms. Tracy Mason
Ms. LaShawn Murphy

Members Absent:

Judge John B. Sumner

Guests Present:

Mr. Bob Bray
Mr. Eric John
Ms. Sharon Reiss

Motion to accept the Data Sharing Infrastructure (Bond) proposal.

Motion: Judge Weaver
Second: Judge Purdom
In Favor: Unanimous
Oppose: None

Motion to withdraw the eCourts Case Management System Updating and Licensing request for \$580,000.

Motion: Judge Purdom
Second: Judge Jones
In Favor: Unanimous
Oppose: None

Motion to Approve the FY 2017 Budget Request of \$15,251,282.

Motion: Judge Weaver
Second: Judge Purdom
In Favor: Unanimous
Oppose: None

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley C. Garner, Chief Budget Officer
Judicial Council/AOC

Judicial Council Budget Committee
July 16, 2015
10:30 a.m.

Members Present:

Justice Harold D. Melton, Chair
Chief Judge Leslie Spornberger Jones
Chief Judge Wayne M. Purdom
Judge Robert Turner
Chief Judge Brenda S. Weaver
Judge Don Wilkes

Members Absent:

Judge John B. Sumner

Staff Present:

Ms. Cynthia Clanton, Interim Director
Mr. Randy Dennis
Ms. Ashley Garner
Ms. Tracy Mason

Guests:

Ms. Kathy Adams
Judge Brian Amero
Mr. Bob Bray
Ms. Patricia Buonodono
Judge Chase Daughtrey
Ms. Catherine Fitch
Ms. Tangular Gray
Mr. Christopher Hansard
Ms. Phyllis Holmen
Mr. Joseph Hood
Mr. Eric John
Judge Gary Jackson
Ms. Jessica Johnson
Ms. Vicky Kimbrell
Ms. Sandy Lee
Ms. Tia Milton
Ms. LaShawn Murphy
Ms. Susan Nunnally
Mr. Michael Schulte
Ms. Kirsten Wallace

Amended Fiscal Year 2016 Enhancement Request:

Institute of Continuing Judicial Education (ICJE) – Electronic Media Curriculum Designer
\$13,000

Motion: Judge Weaver
Second: Judge Turner
In Favor: Judges Jones, Turner, Weaver, and Wilkes.
Oppose: Judge Purdom.

Fiscal Year 2017 Enhancement Requests:

Council of Municipal Court Judges – Operating Funds
\$21,795
Motion: Judge Purdom
Second: Judge Wilkes
In Favor: All
Oppose: None

ICJE – Electronic Media Curriculum Designer \$52,000
Motion: Judge Purdom
Second: Judge Turner
In Favor: All
Oppose: None

Judicial Council/AOC – Cold Case Project \$75,000
Motion: Judge Wilkes
Second: Judge Purdom
In Favor: All
Oppose: None

Judicial Council/AOC – ECourts CMS update and licensing \$1,366,000 \$580,000
Motion: Judge Purdom
Second: Judge Turner
In Favor: All
Oppose: None

Judicial Council Child Support Collaborative – Parent Accountability Court Coordinators
\$741,801 \$247,267
Motion: Judge Weaver
Second: Judge Jones
In Favor: All
Oppose: None

Approval of Budget Requests:

Motion to Approve the Amended FY 2016 Budget Request of \$14,440,413
Motion: Judge Weaver
Second: Judge Wilkes
In Favor: All
Oppose: None

Motion to Approve the FY 2017 Budget Request of \$15,831,282
Motion: Judge Weaver
Second: Judge Purdom
In Favor: All
Oppose: None

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley C. Garner, Chief Budget Officer
Judicial Council/AOC

Amended FY 2016 Judicial Council Enhancement Requests

	All Programs	less CMPAC/GCFV
Continuation*	\$ 15,411,761	\$ 14,427,413
Enhancement Requests	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,000
Total	\$ 15,424,761	\$ 14,440,413
% Change	0.08%	0.09%

*HB310 July 1, 2015 transfers CMPAC and GCFV to DCS

Changes	Continuation	Enhancement Request	HB 310	AFY 16
Administrative Office of The Courts	\$ 6,729,601	\$ -		\$ 6,729,601
CMPAC	\$ 609,367	\$ -	\$ (609,367)	\$ -
Child Support Collaborative	\$ 113,117	\$ -		\$ 113,117
Georgia Council of Court Administrators	\$ 11,557	\$ -		\$ 11,557
Council of Magistrate Court Judges	\$ 184,127	\$ -		\$ 184,127
Council of Probate Court Judges	\$ 61,216	\$ -		\$ 61,216
Council of State Court Judges	\$ 231,500	\$ -		\$ 231,500
Council of State Court Judges Ret.	\$ 2,524,704	\$ -		\$ 2,524,704
Council of Municipal Court Judges	\$ 16,185	\$ -		\$ 16,185
Legal Services for Domestic Violence	\$ 2,306,875	\$ -		\$ 2,306,875
Georgia Commission on Family Violence	\$ 374,981	\$ -	\$ (374,981)	\$ -
Other Judicial Council Subprograms	\$ 6,433,629	\$ -	\$ (984,348)	\$ 5,449,281
Accountability Courts	\$ 326,319	\$ -		\$ 326,319
Accountability Courts Conference	\$ 120,000	\$ -		\$ 120,000
Resource Center	\$ 800,000	\$ -		\$ 800,000
Judicial Qualifications Commission	\$ 530,423	\$ -		\$ 530,423
Inst of Continuing Jud Ed Operations	\$ 471,789	\$ 13,000		\$ 484,789
Separate Judicial Council Programs	\$ 2,248,531	\$ 13,000		\$ 2,261,531
TOTAL JUDICIAL COUNCIL	\$ 15,411,761	\$ 13,000	\$ (984,348)	\$ 14,440,413

FY 2017 Judicial Council Enhancement Requests

	All Programs	less CMPAC/GCFV
Continuation*	\$ 15,411,761	\$ 14,427,413
Enhancement Requests	\$ 823,869	\$ 823,869
Total	\$ 16,235,630	\$ 15,251,282
% Change	5%	6%

*HB310 July 1, 2015 transfers CMPAC and GCFV to DCS

Changes	Continuation	Enhancement Request	HB 310	FY 2017
Cold Case Project		\$ 75,000		
Data Sharing Infrastructure (BOND)		\$ -		
Administrative Office of The Courts	\$ 6,729,601	\$ 75,000		\$ 6,804,601
CMPAC	\$ 609,367	\$ -	\$ (609,367)	\$ -
Child Support Collaborative	\$ 113,117	\$ 247,267		\$ 360,384
Georgia Council of Court Administrators	\$ 11,557	\$ 7,500		\$ 19,057
Council of Magistrate Court Judges	\$ 184,127	\$ -		\$ 184,127
Council of Probate Court Judges	\$ 61,216	\$ 155,464		\$ 216,680
Council of State Court Judges	\$ 231,500	\$ -		\$ 231,500
Council of State Court Judges Ret.	\$ 2,524,704	\$ -		\$ 2,524,704
Council of Municipal Court Judges	\$ 16,185	\$ 21,795		\$ 37,980
Legal Services for Domestic Violence	\$ 2,306,875	\$ 193,125		\$ 2,500,000
Georgia Commission on Family Violence	\$ 374,981	\$ -	\$ (374,981)	\$ -
Other Judicial Council Subprograms	\$ 6,433,629	\$ 625,151	\$ (984,348)	\$ 6,074,432
Accountability Courts	\$ 446,319	\$ -		\$ 446,319
Resource Center	\$ 800,000	\$ -		\$ 800,000
Judicial Qualifications Commission	\$ 530,423	\$ -		\$ 530,423
Inst of Continuing Jud Ed Operations	\$ 471,789			\$ 471,789
Merit based pay		\$ 4,718		
IT Equipment Replacement		\$ 24,000		
Events Air Software Update		\$ 43,000		
Electronic Media Curriculum Designer		\$ 52,000		
Separate Judicial Council Programs	\$ 2,248,531	\$ 123,718		\$ 2,372,249
TOTAL JUDICIAL COUNCIL	\$ 15,411,761	\$ 823,869	\$ (984,348)	\$ 15,251,282



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

REQUEST SUMMARY:

For use as talking points during conversations with funding and policy making bodies to include the Judicial Council, General Assembly, and Office of the Governor.

1. Which Program is requesting this Enhancement?

Judicial Council - Council of Municipal Court Judges

2. Enhancement Name/Descriptor: (Example: Cold Case Project)

N/A

FISCAL YEAR	Current state funds received	Amount Requesting	If granted, new state funding level
<input type="checkbox"/> Amended FY 2016	\$	\$	\$
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FY 2017	\$16,185	\$21,795	\$37,980

3. What will the enhancement accomplish?

- To provide low-cost mandated training and alternatives to all Municipal Court Judges in their districts.
- To provide training to Municipal Court Judges on best practices for handling *Failure to Appear* and fine-only cases.
- To gather data & research and to plan for a State-wide bond forfeiture and online fine payments program that will allow persons charged with minor traffic offenses in Municipal Courts anywhere in the State to pay fines at a State-wide website.
- To gather data & research and disseminate best practices for implementing e-citations in all Municipal Courts in the State.

4. What is unable to be accomplished without the enhancement?

- Without enhancements for training at the district level, the only other option for training is at higher cost State-wide events and conferences.
- Without enhancements for research on the State-wide e-citations fines and bond forfeiture program, the Municipal Courts will continue to process fine and bond forfeiture payments with less-efficient, outmoded manual processes that remain cumbersome for the State's constituents.



**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA
FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM
FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM**

5. Does the enhancement include salaried staff and/or operations, which includes contractors?
- Salaried staff
 - Operating Funds (includes contractors)



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA

FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM

FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Budget Categories	FY 16 Amended Request	FY 17 Enhancement Request
Personnel Services:		
Operating Costs:		
Postage	\$	495
Motor Vehicle Expenses		
Printing, Publications, Media		
Supplies and Materials	\$	1,300
Repairs and Maintenance		
Equipment < \$5,000		
Water/Sewage		
Energy		
Rents Other Than Real Estate		
Insurance and Bonding		
Freight		
Other Operating		
Travel – Employee		
Real Estate Rentals		
Professional Services (Per Diem)	\$	10,000
Professional Services (Expenses)		
Other Contractual Services (Non State)	\$	10,000
Contracts – State Orgs		
IT Expenses		
Voice/Data Communications		
Grants		
Indirect Costs		
Transfers		
Total Operating Budget	0	\$ 21,795
TOTAL OVERALL BUDGET	0	\$ 21,795
State Funds		
Other Budgeted Funds		



**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA
FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM
FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM**

Which Program is requesting this Enhancement?
Judicial Council - Council of Municipal Court Judges

Part 1 – Detailed Explanation of Request

1. Proposal:

- a. The Council seeks to provide low-cost training alternatives to State mandated training at district and executive committee meetings (\$10,000);
- b. The Council seeks to publish Standard Operating Procedures, including Standard forms, for municipal courts in Georgia via digital delivery (\$1,795); and
- c. The Council requires the services of a contractor to facilitate strategic business and information technology planning (\$10,000).

2. Geographic Impact: Where does the request impact the state?

Statewide or list counties below:

3. Current Status:

- a. What is the budget unit currently doing to address this issue?

Due to the decreases in budgets in cities across the State for State-mandated training, the Council has had to find low-cost alternatives for Municipal Court Judges' training. With the Georgia Municipal Court Judges Training Council's approval of certification hours towards Continuing Judicial Education, the Council has been able to provide training in local districts at a fraction of the cost of annual conferences (approximately \$600 per session as opposed to tens of thousands of dollars per session). The Council can continue and expand these programs while still maintaining costs.

The Council has provided a Benchbook to the State's Municipal Court Judges for years. The Benchbook provides information about the law of Municipal Courts. A few years ago, the Council began disseminating this Benchbook digitally. Judges and Clerks across the State have expressed a need to have standardized forms, and the Council has already completed all the research to disseminate these forms digitally, but needs funds to collate, format, and disseminate these forms digitally across the State.



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

The Council seeks to provide better service to its constituents who use court services. This can only be done if all of the State's Municipal Courts have electronic and modern processes for receiving and filing citations (e-citations) and collecting fine and bond forfeiture payments. In order to implement a State-wide system or State-wide options available to all courts, the Council will need to collect data and conduct research to determine the best ways to implement these solutions, including investigating all possible benefits and obstacles to such a system.

b. Will those activities continue if this request is funded?

These activities will continue if the request is funded. And, if funded, they will still be done at a lesser cost than other possible alternatives.

The Council expects there would be an initial investment of \$10,000 for research and development of State-wide e-citation and fine & bond forfeiture payment programs, and a continuing annual cost in subsequent years of \$3,000 to \$5,000 for maintenance of such programs.

The Council expects there would be an initial investment of \$1,795 for producing the digital Standard Operating Procedures forms, and a continuing annual cost in subsequent years of \$500 to \$1,000 for digital updates.

The Council expects there would be a continuing cost of \$10,000 to \$15,000 for providing district level State-mandated training, but such continuing cost would be at a greatly reduced price to other annual State-wide conferences.

4. Supporting Data:

- a. Provide any supporting data, evaluations, and/or research for this request.

The municipal courts dispose of a large number of cases each year, and touch the lives of hundreds of thousands of Georgians annually. Case counts for 2013 reported the following filings:

Case Type	Volume
Traffic	1,134,742
Ordinance	112,846
Drugs/Marijuana	16,693
Serious Traffic	37,955
Misdemeanors	84,800
Felony Bindovers	23,374



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

- b. Include information on similar successful programs or evaluations in other jurisdictions that are relevant to this request.

Other Court Councils pursue similar planning and meeting priorities, having adopted strategic planning over the last ten years as a means to pursue their goals.

5. Performance Measures:

- a. What measures are or will be used to evaluate the impact of this change?

The Council can monitor the standardization of Municipal Court processes across the State after the implementation of the Standard Operating Procedures and best practices management training through the use of *CourTools* surveys and data collation.

- b. If an enhancement, what is the projected cost savings or return on investment?

The return on investment to the State will include less expensive State-mandated training for all Municipal Court Judges, which will save both the State and various Cities' costs for training.

The uses of Standard Operating Procedures will cut State and Cities' costs in handling claims in Municipal Courts.

- c. What efficiencies will be realized?

With Standard Operating Procedures, State-wide e-citation and fine & bond forfeiture payment programs, the State will see efficiencies in the way in which court services, access, and fairness in courts are provided to constituents, which can be measured using the *CourTools* surveys.

With increased low-cost training on best practices management, leadership, and court administration at the district levels, constituents will be guaranteed to receive standard services from Municipal Courts across the State.

6. Stakeholders & Constituents:

- a. Describe the constituent and stakeholder groups affected by this change (e.g., board members, advocates/interest groups, service providers, other agencies, other governmental entities).

Constituents coming into Municipal Courts, including victims, witness, and persons accused of traffic and local ordinance violations; judges; and cities will see benefits from all of these programs which will increase the provision of services in Municipal



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Courts. Stakeholders also include state agencies such as the Georgia Department of Driver Services and the Georgia Department of Community Supervision.

The standardization of Municipal Court practices and training will also translate into increased confidence in the judgments, convictions, and orders issued in Municipal Courts.

Almost four hundred municipal courts operate in Georgia. These courts run the gamut from very large metropolitan operations to rural courts with small caseloads and part-time judges. Many Municipal Courts do not have prosecutors. These courts handle the bulk of Georgia’s traffic caseload and are frequently the only court a citizen may visit. The courts, and especially those with part-time judges, need Council support to provide their constituents with the judicial service that is required by law and expected of our courts and our judiciary.

b. Which are likely to support this request?

The Municipal Court Clerks will gain important education and a reference resource regarding best practices and options for how the courts may be operated in a lawful and efficient manner.

Georgia Municipal Association, the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia, and the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education will likely support the Council’s efforts to standardize best practices across the State.

c. We do not foresee any opposition.

7. Legislation or Rule Change:

- a. Is legislation or a rule change required if this request is implemented? NO. If so, please explain. N/A.
- b. Is this request a result of a legislation or rule change? NO. If so, please explain. N/A.

8. Alternatives:

What alternatives were considered and why are they not viable?

The Council of Municipal Court Judges has no other viable source of funding for these projects and is reliant on state appropriations for support of Council efforts.



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Part 2 - BUDGET

9. Requested and Projected Resources:

- a. For enhancements and certain base adjustments, describe the additional resources are you requesting. **Ensure descriptions and amounts align with the budget chart on page 2.*
 - Positions: (full-time/part-time, education required, qualifications, overview of general duties, and salaries) NONE.
 - Operational needs: Funds for operational expenses (postage, per diem, travel, general office) and to secure a contractor to provide strategic planning services.
- b. What are your out-year projections?

These would be recurring costs requiring annual state appropriations. Planning involves year to year adjustment. District and clerk meetings need to be held consistently. Standard Operating Procedures and forms need to be updated to comply with statutory and regulatory changes as they arise.

10. Methodology/Assumptions:

- a. Provide the methodology and assumptions behind the requested amount and out-year projections.
- b. How did you arrive at the amounts?
- c. What time period does the request cover (i.e., the number of months)?

Travel/Per Diem. Staff arrived at an average amount of travel reimbursements for judges' attendance at executive committee meetings and this average was used that as a cost basis.

10 Districts

10 Meetings annually. Do they meeting monthly/quarterly/as needed? QUARTERLY

267 Judges invited to choose which meeting to attend, an average of 20 in attendance

\$1,000 = cost per training event

Standard Operation Procedures. Quotes for creation of the product in a user friendly web, tablet, mobile device format.



**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA
FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM
FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM**

Strategic Planning Facilitation. Staff researched the costs of average cost of strategic planning by several court councils, to include facilitation and reporting services.

- d. What time period does the request cover (i.e., the number of months)? Annually, 12 months. Fiscal year to fiscal year.

11. Federal and Other Funds: Describe the impact on federal and/or other funds related to this request (amount, policy etc). NONE

Part 3 - OTHER INFORMATION

12. Discuss any historical or other relevant factors that should be considered.

From its inception, the municipal council's State level of appropriated funds has been the least among trial court councils. No increase has been requested in many years. In this time the Council has worked to increase the professionalism and efficiency within municipal courts statewide, courts that differ greatly in their caseload, staffing and available resources.

The Council of Municipal Court Judges has a demonstrable record of success serving its judges and the citizens of Georgia by enhancing the professionalism of its membership and courts. As a critical component to the yearly development of the Council of Municipal Court Judges and the services and representation it provides its membership, there is an pertinent need to set strategic goals, re-examine those strategic goals, assess the progress in implementing them and set goals for accomplishing those parts of the plan which have not yet been implemented. Several other trial courts also maintain strategic planning efforts that they use successfully to move their business forward and fulfill their mandates.

With the creation of general Standard Operating Procedures and the implementation of recommended practices from them, this will encourage greater professionalism of court staff and confidence from the public. Again, this is not a new concept – benchbooks and other guides to the business of the courts are published regularly.



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

REQUEST SUMMARY:

For use as talking points during conversations with funding and policy making bodies to include the Judicial Council, General Assembly, and Office of the Governor.

1. Which Program is requesting this Enhancement?

Judicial Council - Council of Probate Court Judges

2. Enhancement Name/Descriptor: *(Example: Cold Case Project)*

Executive Director

FISCAL YEAR	Current state funds received	Amount Requesting	If granted, new state funding level
<input type="checkbox"/> Amended FY 2016	\$	\$	\$
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FY 2017	\$	\$115,464	\$

3. What will the enhancement accomplish? *(pending 7/12/15 CPCJ meeting)*

4. What is unable to be accomplished without the enhancement? *(pending 7/12/15 CPCJ meeting)*

5. Does the enhancement include salaried staff and/or operations, which includes contractors?

- Salaried staff
- Operating Funds (includes contractors)



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Budget Categories	FY 16 Amended Request	FY 17 Enhancement Request
Personnel Services:		\$ 107,464
Operating Costs:		
Postage		
Motor Vehicle Expenses		
Printing, Publications, Media		
Supplies and Materials		
Repairs and Maintenance		
Equipment < \$5,000		
Water/Sewage		
Energy		
Rents Other Than Real Estate		
Insurance and Bonding		
Freight		
Other Operating		\$ 6,000
Travel – Employee		\$ 2,000
Real Estate Rentals		
Professional Services (Per Diem)		
Professional Services (Expenses)		
Other Contractual Services (Non State)		
Contracts – State Orgs		
IT Expenses		
Voice/Data Communications		
Grants		
Indirect Costs		
Transfers		
Total Operating Budget	0	\$ 8,000
TOTAL OVERALL BUDGET	0	\$ 115,464
State Funds		
Other Budgeted Funds		



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Which Program is requesting this Enhancement?
Judicial Council - Council of Probate Court Judges

Part 1 – Detailed Explanation of Request

1. Proposal: Create a state-funded position of Executive Director for the Council of Probate Court Judges (CPCJ).
2. Geographic Impact: Where does the request impact the state?
Statewide
3. Current Status:
 - a. What is the budget unit currently doing to address this issue?
 - b. Will those activities continue if this request is approved?

Duties typical of trial court council directors are currently assigned to the AOC Trial Court Liaison team for the CPCJ. Specialized duties related to classes of courts are sometimes assigned to council staff.

4. Supporting Data:
 - a. Provide any supporting data, evaluations, and/or research for this request.
 - b. Include information on similar successful programs or evaluations in other jurisdictions that are relevant to this request.

The 2013 Strategic Plan Update of the Council of Probate Court Judges calls for the Council to investigate the hiring of an executive director. Four other classes of trial courts have an executive director. The CPCJ and Council of Municipal Court Judges do not.

5. Performance Measures:
 - a. What measures are or will be used to evaluate the impact of this change?
 - b. If an enhancement, what is the projected cost savings or return on investment?
 - How is this calculated?
 - c. What efficiencies will be realized?
 - How is this calculated?

The Council of Probate Court Judges intends that the executive director reduce the amount of time that volunteer committees of judges need to work on projects. There is a tremendous



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

amount of hours dedicated each year to maintaining our standard forms and ensuring compliance with our various licensing obligations. For example, since the passage of the gun bill in 2014 (HB 60), our judges have dedicated hundreds of hours researching information, working with various federal and state law enforcement agencies, and special interest groups to ensure compliance with weapons carry license laws, while guaranteeing uniformity across 159 probate courts. It should be worth noting that the probate courts are unique in that their jurisdiction varies across the state. Volunteer judges are tasked with assisting judges regarding local administrative issues, along with issues like traffic, elections, and vital records.

6. Stakeholders/Constituents/Constituencies:

- a. Describe the constituent and stakeholder groups affected by this change (e.g., board members, advocates/interest groups, service providers, other agencies, other governmental entities).
- b. Which are likely to support this request?
- c. Which are likely to oppose this request?
- d. Which have not voiced support or opposition?

The addition of an executive director by the Council of Probate Court Judges would affect the AOC Trial Court Liaison team.

7. Legislation or Rule Change:

- a. Is legislation or a rule change required to be passed or changed if this request is implemented? If so, please explain.

While not as clear as the authorization to employ an executive director as the authorization in the Council of Juvenile Court Judges' statute, there is language similar to that for other councils of court: "(c) Expenses of the administration of the council shall be paid from state funds appropriated for that purpose or from other funds available to the council." O.C.G.A. 15-9-15. Whether there needs to be legislation should be examined further.

- b. Is this request a result of a legislation or rule change? If so, please explain.

No

8. Alternatives:

What alternatives were considered and why are they not viable?

An alternative would be to support the augmentation of AOC resources to perform those specific tasks that the Council of Probate Court Judges requests beyond those adequately addressed under the current state of AOC funding and resources.



**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA
FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM
FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM**

Part 2 - BUDGET

9. Requested and Projected Resources:

- a. For enhancements and certain base adjustments, describe the additional resources are you requesting (positions, salaries and operational needs).
- b. What are your out-year projections?

The executive director position would be an ongoing annual cost requiring annual state appropriations.

10. Methodology/Assumptions:

- a. Provide the methodology and assumptions behind the requested amount and out-year projections.
- b. How did you arrive at the amounts?
- c. What time period does the request cover (i.e., the number of months)?

The estimate is lower than the amount received by other trial court councils for their executive director salaries.

11. Federal and Other Funds: Describe the impact on federal and/or other funds related to this request (amount, policy etc.).

None

Part 3 - OTHER INFORMATION

12. Discuss any historical or other relevant factors that should be considered.



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

REQUEST SUMMARY:

For use as talking points during conversations with funding and policy making bodies to include the Judicial Council, General Assembly, and Office of the Governor.

1. Which Program is requesting this Enhancement?

Judicial Council - Council of Probate Court Judges

2. Enhancement Name/Descriptor: Records Accessibility Project

FISCAL YEAR	Current state funds received	Amount Requesting	If granted, new state funding level
<input type="checkbox"/> Amended FY 2016	\$	\$	\$
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FY 2017	\$	\$40,000	\$

3. What will the enhancement accomplish?

- Creates a state-wide central storage resource (“repository”) for Probate Court records and a central point of contact for retrieving those records rather than communicating with 159 county Probate Courts.
- Allows individuals to retrieve copies of their records for marriage and estates online from the repository rather than visiting the county where the original record is filed.
- Maintains control of the records and income generated from the records by the Council of Probate Court Judges rather than an outside, third party.
- Provide an offsite backup of important probate court records

4. What is unable to be accomplished without the enhancement?

- Centralized storage is not possible
- Online records retrieval statewide
- Maintenance of control

5. Does the enhancement include salaried staff and/or operations, which includes contractors?

- Salaried staff
 Operating Funds (includes contractors)

The projected costs for contract resources to study the proposal and produce recommendations and a project plan is \$40,000.



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Budget Categories	FY 16 Amended Request	FY 17 Enhancement Request
-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------------

Personnel Services:

Operating Costs:

Postage			
Motor Vehicle Expenses			
Printing, Publications, Media			
Supplies and Materials			
Repairs and Maintenance			
Equipment < \$5,000			
Water/Sewage			
Energy			
Rents Other Than Real Estate			
Insurance and Bonding			
Freight			
Other Operating			
Travel – Employee			
Real Estate Rentals			
Professional Services (Per Diem)			
Professional Services (Expenses)			
Other Contractual Services (Non State)		\$	40,000
Contracts – State Orgs			
IT Expenses			
Voice/Data Communications			
Grants			
Indirect Costs			
Transfers			
Total Operating Budget	0	\$	40,000
TOTAL OVERALL BUDGET	0	\$	40,000

State Funds
Other Budgeted Funds



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Which Program is requesting this Enhancement?

Judicial Council - Council of Probate Court Judges

Part 1 – Detailed Explanation of Request

1. Proposal: As part of its long-term plans to support the Probate Courts, the Council of Probate Court Judges seeks to create a statewide repository for marriage licenses issued throughout the state of Georgia where all marriage licenses issued in each county would be digitally held and available for search and printing for the fee set by the legislature from any internet-connected computer. The electronic repository should be scalable, in anticipation of warehousing other documents under the custody of the probate judges. The main result of this initial request is to produce a recommendation that:
 - a. Supports the Committee’s vision for a single sign-on Portal and defines design parameters for identity management, retrieval and online payment of fees;
 - b. Offers recommendations for changes to the Council’s vision for this accessible repository; or,
 - c. Provides a recommendation for an alternative course, including design parameters.
2. Geographic Impact: Where does the request impact the state?
 Statewide or list counties below:
3. Current Status:
 - a. What is the budget unit currently doing to address this issue?

Currently marriage records and other document archives are maintained by probate courts and/or their respective counties. No statewide index or repository exists and there is no present funding to create a statewide repository.
 - b. Will those activities continue if this request is funded?

Yes.



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

4. Supporting Data:

- a. Provide any supporting data, evaluations, and/or research for this request.

In 2013 alone, more than 69,755 marriage licenses were issued (the figure represents all reporting courts). Multiplied over years, the number of records is significant. At present, there is no “one-stop” means of searching or retrieving these records or to obtain a copy certified by the issuing court. The need for such a system is growing with the advent of additional identification requirements by all levels of government and the private identity and credit-reporting industry. Marriage record requests in 2014 approached 35,000 in 111 reporting counties, and these same counties have experienced a sharp increase in the number of requests per court between 2012 and 2013. The increases in the volume of requests will likely continue.

- b. Include information on similar successful programs or evaluations in other jurisdictions that are relevant to this request.

See <https://www.vitalchek.com/marriage-records/georgia/gwinnett-county-probate-court>,
<http://jeffcoprobatocourt.com/archive/> and www.granicus.com

5. Performance Measures:

- a. What measures are or will be used to evaluate the impact of this change?

The volume of queries against the system will be a direct measure of the customer service impact of the repository. Part of the project recommendations will be to create measures of the impact on counties and the reduction of administrative time to respond to requests by the courts.

- b. If an enhancement, what is the projected cost savings or return on investment?
 - How is this calculated?

Should adequate fees be authorized for use of the repository for obtaining records, this will have a direct impact on the cost of the system. Savings will be realized at the county and court level, since judges and clerks will (1) no longer have to search for records that may not even be located in their counties, and (2) if the repository is able to provide requestors with the requested documents, this will result in a time savings to both the requestor and the court/county.

- c. What efficiencies will be realized?
 - How is this calculated?



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Please see the response to 5.b. above. This project will also increase the benefit to counties for digitizing probate court documents, encouraging digitization and automated processes.

6. Stakeholders & Constituents:

- a. Describe the constituent and stakeholder groups affected by this change (e.g., board members, advocates/interest groups, service providers, other agencies, other governmental entities).

Any person who has gotten married in the State of Georgia will need a copy of their marriage license from time to time and benefit from this program, as will: genealogy researchers, family members, attorneys. _Marriage record requests in 2014 approached 35,000 in 111 reporting counties, and these same counties have experienced a sharp increase in the number of requests per court between 2012 and 2013. The trend appears that these increases in the volume of request will continue.

The Department of Vital Records has an interest in some of the data contained in county records for which the Probate Judge is the custodian.

- b. Which are likely to support this request?

It is expected that probate courts and document requestors will support this request. Probate Court Judges, speaking through this Council, are in favor and receive the request from attorneys, researchers, and families on a regular basis.

The Association of County Commissioners of Georgia may also support this request due to the resulting efficiencies and reduction in administrative costs associated with fulfilling document requests. ACCG will most likely want to ensure that the fee established for records produced to consumers will be enough to keep the counties from shouldering a burden to maintain the repository.

- c. Which are likely to oppose this request?

Department of Vital Records may have some concerns.

- d. Which have not voiced support or opposition?

No interest group has voiced opposition.



**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA
FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM
FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM**

7. Legislation or Rule Change:

- a. Is legislation or a rule change required if this request is implemented? If so, please explain.

The project may require legislation to clarify that the Council of Probate Judges, acting on behalf of their respective counties, are the custodians of their original records. Further, the legislation may authorize electronic versions of documents to be maintained in the repository, which may in turn offer the documents to customers in return for a fee that offsets the costs of the system and provides that counties do not lose revenue.

- b. Is this request a result of a legislation or rule change? If so, please explain.

No. This is an attempt to provide better service through technologies that the public expects our courts to be able to provide.

8. Alternatives:

What alternatives were considered and why are they not viable?

The purpose of this request is to validate the repository model or to suggest alternatives. The probate courts need to exercise a measure of control over records which they are responsible for and which they may certify. By combining their records within a repository they oversee, the probate courts assist users—both local and nonlocal—to access needed documents remotely and in a more efficient manner. Relinquishing control to a third party was not considered to be appropriate given the custodial role of the probate judges and the demand for “certified” copies of documents..



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Part 2 - BUDGET

9. Requested and Projected Resources:

a. For enhancements and certain base adjustments, describe the additional resources are you requesting. **Ensure descriptions and amounts align with the budget chart on page 2.*

- Positions: (full-time/part-time, education required, qualifications, overview of general duties, and salaries)
- Operational needs:

b. What are your out-year projections?

10. Methodology/Assumptions:

- a. Provide the methodology and assumptions behind the requested amount and out-year projections.
- b. How did you arrive at the amounts?
- c. What time period does the request cover (i.e., the number of months)?

11. Federal and Other Funds: Describe the impact on federal and/or other funds related to this request (amount, policy etc).

This request will not affect any other funds or funding streams available to the Council of Probate Court Judges. The operation of a statewide system may reduce revenue that counties charge for retrieval and certification of these documents, but there is the opportunity to provide the counties with cost savings and perhaps even pass-through revenue.

Part 3 - OTHER INFORMATION

12. Discuss any historical or other relevant factors that should be considered.



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

REQUEST SUMMARY:

For use as talking points during conversations with funding and policy making bodies to include the Judicial Council, General Assembly, and Office of the Governor.

1. Which Program is requesting this Enhancement?

Georgia Council of Court Administrators (GCCA)

2. Enhancement Name/Descriptor: *(Example: Cold Case Project)*

Georgia Certified Court Manager Program

FISCAL YEAR	Current state funds received	Amount Requesting	If granted, new state funding level
<input type="checkbox"/> Amended FY 2016	\$	\$	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> FY 2017	\$11,557	\$7,500	\$19,057

3. What will the enhancement accomplish?

Expansion of the certified court manager program for court managers throughout the state.

4. What is unable to be accomplished without the enhancement?

Level and amount of training and services provided will remain at minimal current levels.

5. Does the enhancement include salaried staff and/or operations, which includes contractors?

Operating Funds (includes contractors)



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Budget Categories	FY 16 Amended Request	FY 17 Enhancement Request
Personnel Services:		
Operating Costs:		
Postage		
Motor Vehicle Expenses		
Printing, Publications, Media	\$	1,000
Supplies and Materials	\$	1,500
Repairs and Maintenance		
Equipment < \$5,000		
Water/Sewage		
Energy		
Rents Other Than Real Estate		
Insurance and Bonding		
Freight		
Other Operating	\$	1,500
Travel – Employee		
Real Estate Rentals		
Professional Services (Per Diem)	\$	1,000
Professional Services (Expenses)	\$	2,500
Other Contractual Services (Non State)		
Contracts – State Orgs		
IT Expenses		
Voice/Data Communications		
Grants		
Indirect Costs		
Transfers		
Total Operating Budget	0	\$ 7,500
TOTAL OVERALL BUDGET	0	\$ 7,500

State Funds		
Other Budgeted Funds		



**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA
FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM
FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM**

Which Program is requesting this Enhancement?
Georgia Council of Court Administrators (GCCA)

Part 1 – Detailed Explanation of Request

1. Proposal:

Increase funding for general operational expenses, training support and logistics.

2. Geographic Impact: Where does the request impact the state?

Statewide or list counties below:

Statewide

3. Current Status:

a. What is the budget unit currently doing to address this issue?

The Georgia Council of Court Administrators (GCCA) was created by statute in 1997 to promote the profession of court management in the state. Seminars and conferences are open to any individual interested in this field. Membership is open to all court managers, administrators and directors who are appointed, rather than elected, to their positions. The primary focus of GCCA is to train court managers in the ten core competencies identified by the Institute for Court Management (ICM) and the National Association for Court Management (NACM). GCCA is a state association affiliate of NACM. Each year GCCA offers two educational conferences, open to all individuals with an interest in court management on topics ranging from caseload management to finance to information technology management and all areas in-between.

Georgia's courts and government probation departments have been investing in the development of a highly-trained, professional team of managers and leaders. In Spring 2009, the leadership of GCCA established its certified Georgia Court Manager program to provide leadership skills, knowledge, and performance improvement resources to current and emerging court leaders in Georgia.

b. Will those activities continue if this request is funded?

GCCA will continue its operations limited to the amount of services and member support that its volunteer board members can provide.



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

4. Supporting Data:

- a. Provide any supporting data, evaluations, and/or research for this request.

The Georgia Council of Court Administrators is statutorily charged with providing educational opportunities to its members. Per the Official Code of Georgia § 15-5-100:

“It shall be the purpose of the council to effectuate the responsibilities conferred upon it by law, to further the improvement of the courts and the administration of justice, to assist the court administrators and managers throughout the state in the execution of their duties, and to promote and assist in the training of court administrators, managers, and support personnel.”

Through an analysis of court supervisory, management and executive leadership needs, GCCA has developed an educational plan to focus on identifying critical knowledge, skills and abilities for each of NACM’s Core Competencies. The NACM core competencies are incorporated into discussions on specific Georgia management roles and responsibilities. GCCA attempts to ensure that training is of a consistent quality and directly related to the needs of court and probation department managers.

The Georgia Court Manager (GC)M program has two tiers of certification – a 40-hour certificate and 100-hour certificate. The early career certificate requires the GCCA member to complete 40 contact hours of GCCA training within five (5) years. These courses are offered at the bi-annual GCCA conferences and could be completed within as little as two (2) years. To maintain this certification, the GCCA member must complete a minimum of sixteen (16) hours of approved training every two (2) calendar years after receipt of the certification. The 100-hour certificate can be obtained after completion of the 40-hour certification. The participant will successfully complete 60 additional hours of GCCA-approved and sponsored training for a total of 100 hours. Up to twenty-five (25) of the sixty 60 hours beyond the GCCA Certificate may be obtained from non-GCCA courses such as the National Association for Court Management, the Institute for Court Management, the National Judicial College and similar organizations. To maintain this certificate, sixteen (16) hours of approved training must be completed every two (2) calendar years and the candidate must be available to serve as a mentor to a new court administrator.

As of Spring 2014, 105 members have been awarded 40-hour certificates of which 42 members have continued on to receive their 100-hour certificate. GCCA has



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

had great success with this program initially graduating approximately fifteen 40-hour certificate members per year while current rates are now approximately 8-10 per year. Likewise, GCCA graduates 8-10 100-hour certificate members per year. GCCA's active membership used to be approximately 250-275 when the certification program started. However, as a voluntary membership organization, due to local and state budget cuts over the last several years, the organization's active membership over the past three years has been approximately 150-175. Of GCCA's current membership, approximately one-half (74) have obtained their 40-hour certificate while approximately one-fourth (36) have obtained their 100-hour certificate. Only eight (8) current GCCA members have obtained ICM Fellows status with only two (2) CCM or CMP graduates amongst its current members.

To carry out this expanded mission, GCCA along with the AOC has entered into a partnership with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) to adopt ICM classes so that they can be conducted locally. Upon renewal, GCCA will be signing on to that agreement as a partner organization. The leadership of the AOC and GCCA has developed a sustainable program model for delivery of the classes within Georgia using local Georgia faculty in an effort to bring national-level training to court management in Georgia. The expanded Georgia Court Manager (GCM) program will continue to provide the Georgia judicial system with highly qualified and well-trained court managers that are prepared to advance within the field.

- b. Include information on similar successful programs or evaluations in other jurisdictions that are relevant to this request.

Not applicable at this time.

5. Performance Measures:

- a. What measures are or will be used to evaluate the impact of this change?

GCCA recognizes the need for an innovative approach to business process management. The funding request would enable GCCA to:

- Identify and implement needed training logistics improvements thus saving time and lowering expenses over a multi-year period;*
- Pursue greater depth and breadth of course design enriching educational products for stronger impacts on the operation of the State's courts, and develop more State-based intellectual capital;*
- Implement critical educational services to our members that improve service delivery to Georgia's citizenry, create process efficiencies and reduce operational costs.*



**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA
FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM
FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM**

- b. If an enhancement, what is the projected cost savings or return on investment?
▪ How is this calculated?

The return on investment will be the continued expansion of educational services to our members.

- c. What efficiencies will be realized?
▪ How is this calculated?

Efficiencies will be realized by a decrease in the amount of volunteer hours given by Board members and other member volunteers while realizing an overall increase in educational services provided.

6. Stakeholders & Constituents:

- a. Describe the constituent and stakeholder groups affected by this change (e.g., board members, advocates/interest groups, service providers, other agencies, other governmental entities).

GCCA has an annual membership of 125 to 175 court administrators, managers and program personnel from around the state. GCCA's membership touches every level of trial courts in the state and the AOC. The work of these professionals affect the day-to-day operations of the courts of Georgia. GCCA is working with the Institute for Continuing Judicial Education (ICJE) to develop possible efficiencies in training logistics.

- b. Which are likely to support this request?

All members, AOC, ICJE and the various judge councils are likely to support this request.

- c. Which are likely to oppose this request?

None

- d. Which have not voiced support or opposition?

None have voiced opposition at this time.

7. Legislation or Rule Change:

- a. Is legislation or a rule change required if this request is implemented? If so, please explain.



**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA
FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM
FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM**

NO

- b. Is this request a result of a legislation or rule change? If so, please explain.

NO

8. Alternatives:

What alternatives were considered and why are they not viable?

The only alternative is to continue to pass the cost of these enhancements on to our membership. Our members and training attendance has already suffered over the last several years due to local and state budget cuts. Increasing membership dues and conference fees will further limit court personnel from receiving the necessary training.

Part 2 - BUDGET

9. Requested and Projected Resources:

- a. For enhancements and certain base adjustments, describe the additional resources are you requesting. *Ensure descriptions and amounts align with the budget chart on page 2.

- Operational needs:

The requested funds will offset:

- *Training costs (costs of speakers, per diems, etc.)*
- *Conference Logistics costs (with assistance of ICJE)*
- *Administrative Expenses (website, member certification tracking, etc.)*

The most notable additional expense is to enhance the tracking of certification. Currently, certification is tracked manually and would benefit from automation. Members also seek to be updated regularly as to their certification status (hours needed, hours logged, etc.), which is also done manually. Additionally, GCCA is in discussions with ICJE to possibly shift its conference and training planning to its highly trained staffed thus freeing the member volunteers who currently conduct these activities. GCCA also seeks to continually offer the best, most cost effective training. While GCCA relies heavily on in-state, volunteers from within and outside the judiciary, occasional national speakers or presenters from within the state whom we must cover travel expenses and per diems for are desired. GCCA has also partnered with the AOC to bring the Institute for Court Management's Certified Court Manager (CCM) program to Georgia. The initial training of faculty in these courses would be covered, in part, by GCCA after



**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA
FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM
FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM**

which GCCA and the AOC would have several faculty around the state to provide these trainings cost effectively.

- b. What are your out-year projections?

Most of the enhancements noted are ongoing costs and would continue. Some efficiencies would be realized in out-year in which case the additional funds would further offset training costs thereby making the outlay for members less and encouraging greater participation.

10. Methodology/Assumptions:

- a. Provide the methodology and assumptions behind the requested amount and out-year projections.

Estimates of additional expenses are based on past expenditures over the last 5 years.

- b. How did you arrive at the amounts?

Estimate

- c. What time period does the request cover (i.e., the number of months)?

Annual

11. Federal and Other Funds: Describe the impact on federal and/or other funds related to this request (amount, policy etc).

GCCA has received a multi-year grant funding from the State Justice Institute that requires a cash match. That match will be passed on to members seeking the enhanced certification. GCCA would prefer to absorb that match from its own funds.

Part 3 - OTHER INFORMATION

12. Discuss any historical or other relevant factors that should be considered.

In 2012-2013, a statewide survey of stakeholders in the Georgia court system was conducted asking about future challenges. With regards to education, the survey noted the need for continuing education of clerks and court managers. While the economy has delayed the retirement of some, the need to plan for future court leadership remains a pressing matter.



**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA
FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM
FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM**

Additionally staffing cuts throughout the court system have required managers to maintain levels of service with a fraction of the staff. These trends highlight the reliance on effective management to meet the ongoing and emerging challenges in Georgia courts.

Many GCCA members have been asking what they can do next. Members were recently polled and they overwhelmingly supported exploring bringing the Certified Court Manager program to Georgia. With limited local and state funding, court managers in Georgia can generally not afford national-level educational opportunities. The AOC is exploring agreements with other states to offer this training to staff from their courts.

Graduates of the CCM program are eligible to attend the Certified Court Executive (CCE) level classes and to then seek ICM Fellowship status. Participant evaluations indicated a high value in having the classes focus on Georgia courts and on the relevance of the curriculum to their daily management duties.

This request supports the recommendation of the Next Generation Courts Commission with regard to both greater state-based support for judicial education.



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

REQUEST SUMMARY:

For use as talking points during conversations with funding and policy making bodies to include the Judicial Council, General Assembly, and Office of the Governor.

1. Which Program is requesting this Enhancement?

Judicial Council - Civil Legal Services to Victims of Domestic Violence

2. Enhancement Name/Descriptor: *(Example: Cold Case Project)*

Providers of Civil Legal Services to Victims of Family Violence

FISCAL YEAR	Current state funds received	Amount Requesting	If granted, new state funding level
<input type="checkbox"/> Amended FY 2016	\$	\$	\$
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FY 2017	\$2,306,875	\$ 193,125	\$ 2,500,000

3. What will the enhancement accomplish?

- This funding supports attorneys to represent victims of domestic violence throughout Georgia. Georgia Legal Services Program (154 counties outside metro Atlanta) and Atlanta Legal Aid (5 metro Atlanta counties), the two non-profits that provide civil legal assistance, will be able to provide additional attorneys to increase representation for survivors. Additionally, selected domestic violence agencies with a history of securing attorneys for survivors are also funded with a portion of the special needs funding under the grant.
- Additional attorneys will represent survivors to protect their safety by filing for Protective Orders against batterers and by improving the financial security of survivors so that they can permanently escape the violence.
- The Special Needs portion of this funding will target rural counties, many in South Georgia where there are few or no attorneys available to represent victims, homeless survivors, and survivors in counties with a disproportionately high number of fatalities from domestic violence.

4. What is unable to be accomplished without the enhancement?

- This enhancement represents one-half of the \$361,251 in funding that was reduced from the FY 2016 funding request. That reduction resulted in fewer attorneys available to survivors when they needed legal representation.



**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA
FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM
FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM**

- Victims who represent themselves pro se are at a severe disadvantage when their batterers are represented and also there are additional strains on the court system to assure family protection and a smoothly running judicial system.
5. Does the enhancement include salaried staff and/or operations, which includes contractors?
- Salaried staff
 - Operating Funds (includes contractors)-The Legal Services providers use the funding to fund attorney staff in the GLSP and ALAS offices across the state.



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Budget Categories	FY 16 Amended Request	FY 17 Enhancement Request
-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------------

Personnel Services:

Operating Costs:

Postage		
Motor Vehicle Expenses		
Printing, Publications, Media		
Supplies and Materials		
Repairs and Maintenance		
Equipment < \$5,000		
Water/Sewage		
Energy		
Rents Other Than Real Estate		
Insurance and Bonding		
Freight		
Other Operating		
Travel – Employee		
Real Estate Rentals		
Professional Services (Per Diem)		
Professional Services (Expenses)		
Other Contractual Services (Non State)	\$	193,125
Contracts – State Orgs		
IT Expenses		
Voice/Data Communications		
Grants		
Indirect Costs		
Transfers		
Total Operating Budget	0	\$ 193,125
TOTAL OVERALL BUDGET	0	\$ 193,125

State Funds
Other Budgeted Funds



**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA
FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM
FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM**

Which Program is requesting this Enhancement?

Judicial Council – Administrative Office of the Courts

Judicial Council - Civil Legal Services to Victims of Domestic Violence

Part 1 – Detailed Explanation of Request

1. Proposal: The Judicial Council asks for a budget increase of \$193,125 to fund grants to Providers of Civil Legal Services for Victims of Family Violence for civil legal representation. This funding would restore the domestic violence civil legal service grant funding amount to the \$2.5 million level. Funding peaked at \$2,145,000 in 2004 before the series of budget cuts that were seen in the past several years. This increase will allow civil legal services providers to increase the number of survivors they can represent at Family Violence Act Protective Order hearings to help survivors to successfully escape abuse and obtain other needed relief to achieve financial stability and safer homes.
2. Geographic Impact: Where does the request impact the state?
 Statewide or list counties below:
3. Current Status:
 - a. What is the budget unit currently doing to address this issue? The Judicial Council awards funding based on both the state poverty population and to areas of special needs for victims, including homelessness, rural counties, or areas with a disproportionately high rate of death from family violence. Current funding supports legal services attorneys to represent victims in Twelve Month Protective Order cases to order abusers to stay away from victims and their children and to award custody and provide support and housing for victims.
 - b. Will those activities continue if this request is funded? Both Georgia Legal Services Program and Atlanta Legal Aid will be able to increase capacity by increasing the number of attorneys available to represent survivors in hearings to secure safety and economic stability while they escape from family violence with the funding provided by this increase.
4. Supporting Data:
 - a. The numbers of victims assisted under this grant: 4,557 in 2011; 4,904 in 2012; 5,265 in 2013 and 4,930 in 2014. However, the GBI reported 68,313 family violence incident reports filed in 2013 and 58,995 calls were placed to Georgia's



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline in 2013. The need for representation outstrips the resources available to provide attorney representation for survivors.

- b. Provide any supporting data, evaluations, and/or research for this request. Several research studies show that protective orders can reduce or end family violence. A study done in Kentucky analyzed the impact of Protective Orders and concluded that civil Protective Orders were effective in reducing violence. The study showed that after a Protective Order was entered the violence ceased in 50% of the cases and that violence was substantially reduced in an additional 25% of the cases. Thus, Protective Orders were effective in protecting survivors in 75% of the cases studied. *Kentucky Civil Protective Order Study: A Rural and Urban Multiple Perspective Study of Protective Order Violation Consequences, Responses, and Costs*, T.K. Logan, Robert Walker, William Hoyt, Teri Faragher, available at: <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/228350.pdf>.
 - c. Include information on similar successful programs or evaluations in other jurisdictions that are relevant to this request. Another study showed that legal representation in TPO cases was one of the most effective tools in ending family violence. While all types of community resources are necessary, by providing victims with legal access to the courts, researchers were able to show a direct relationship between the provision of legal services and a significant decline in domestic violence in their area. See, “Explaining the Decline in Domestic Violence” (2003) Amy Farmer and Jill Tiefenthaler, *Contemporary Economic Policy*, Volume 21, Issue 2, pages 158–172, available at: <http://www.nasams.org/DMS/Documents/1195248210.25/Explaining%20Decline%20in%20Domestic%20Violence.pdf>.
5. Performance Measures:
- a. What measures are or will be used to evaluate the impact of this change? Grantees report semi-annually to the AOC on the numbers of clients served; the types of legal representation; such as Temporary Protective Orders, custody, visitation, and contempt actions; the geographic location of clients; gender and racial breakdowns; numbers of children and household members impacted; and the amount of financial benefits secured for the family.
 - b. If an enhancement, what is the projected cost savings or return on investment? Protective Orders reduce costs to the public by reducing law enforcement risk and expenditures, incarceration days, judicial time and resources, emergency room and healthcare costs, as well as public costs for family violence shelters, child protective services, and public benefits which are needed when family violence is allowed to continue. Community well-being is also served by a reduction in family violence. One study showed that for every \$1 spent on securing Protective



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Orders for victims, the public saved \$30.75 in law enforcement, courts, jail expenses, medical, and other community costs.

- c. What efficiencies will be realized? A reduction in family violence can be measured by a reduction in law enforcement calls, Domestic Violence hotline calls, and improvement in public safety.
 - How is this calculated? The Kentucky study cited above, demonstrated the cost saving in providing legal representation to victims of family violence in protective order cases versus the public costs of allowing the violence to go unchecked. The study compared the public costs in law enforcement, incarceration, medical costs, shelter costs, prosecution and other community outlays in Domestic Violence incidents to show that protective orders are an effective way of combating violence while also saving money for the community.

6. Stakeholders & Constituents:

- a. Describe the constituent and stakeholder groups affected by this change (e.g., board members, advocates/interest groups, service providers, other agencies, other governmental entities). Constituents and stake holders include survivors, law enforcement, faith organizations, legislators, community leaders, the private bar, judges, and domestic violence coalitions and agencies. All of these stake holders are potentially impacted by the increase in legal resources for survivors. They have all expressed a need for resources to refer victims to for legal representation and support this funding.
- b. Which are likely to support this request? Last year this request had broad based support that we would expect to continue. The private bar throughout the state, including the State Bar of Georgia, has been supportive of this request and we expect their strong support will continue. During last year's session, this request received strong support in the legislature, but was halved as a result of budget priorities.
- c. Which are likely to oppose this request? The Council is unaware of any opposition to this request.
- d. Which have not voiced support or opposition? Unknown.

7. Legislation or Rule Change:

- a. Is legislation or a rule change required if this request is implemented? If so, please explain. No.
- b. Is this request a result of a legislation or rule change? If so, please explain. No.



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

8. Alternatives: What alternatives were considered and why are they not viable? Family violence victims have few alternatives when seeking representation in a domestic violence court action. Experience has shown that representation by an attorney is an effective response to domestic violence. Yet, both legal services organizations in the State have limited resources to provide attorneys for victims. Both have sought additional funding, but the Georgia Bar Foundation's resources, funded by the Interest on Lawyer Trust Fund accounts have dwindled. In addition poverty rates have increased in Georgia. As a result, both legal aid programs have seen an increase in demand for services by low income victims which they have been unable to meet.

While domestic violence occurs in all economic strata, low-income survivors have fewer resources. Low income survivors are more entrenched and less likely to be able to afford the means of escape for themselves and their children, including legal assistance. For these survivors, legal representation by a private attorney is financially out of reach, and for some who live in rural South Georgia, there are simply no attorneys available. *The Georgia State Plan for Ending Family Violence*, prepared by the Georgia Commission on Family Violence (2012), p.17, available at www.gcfv.org. In many counties, a legal services attorney is the only option for low-income survivors.

Part 2 - BUDGET

9. Requested and Projected Resources:
- For enhancements and certain base adjustments, describe the additional resources you are requesting. **Ensure descriptions and amounts align with the budget chart on page 2.*
 - Positions: (full-time/part-time, education required, qualifications, overview of general duties, and salaries)
 - Operational needs:
 - What are your out-year projections?
10. Methodology/Assumptions:
- Provide the methodology and assumptions behind the requested amount and out-year projections.
 - How did you arrive at the amounts?
 - What time period does the request cover (i.e., the number of months)?
11. Federal and Other Funds: Describe the impact on federal and/or other funds related to this request (amount, policy etc).

Part 3 - OTHER INFORMATION

12. Discuss any historical or other relevant factors that should be considered.



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

REQUEST SUMMARY:

For use as talking points during conversations with funding and policy making bodies to include the Judicial Council, General Assembly, and Office of the Governor.

1. Which Program is requesting this Enhancement?

Institute of Continuing Judicial Education

2. Enhancement Name/Descriptor: *(Example: Cold Case Project)*

Merit-Based Pay Adjustments & Employee Recruitment

FISCAL YEAR	Current state funds received	Amount Requesting	If granted, new state funding level
<input type="checkbox"/> Amended FY 2016	\$	\$	\$
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FY 2017	\$	\$4,718	\$

3. What will the enhancement accomplish?

- Enable the ICJE access to the basic personnel employee recruitment and merit-based pay adjustment resources accorded customarily to other departments in the judicial branch of government. Such fundamental business operation functionality has not been available to the ICJE during the recent season of consecutive fiscal years over which providing State appropriated financial resources for judicial education in Georgia was deemed undesirable.
- As recommended by the State Bar of Georgia’s Next Generation of Courts’ Commission, begin systematic implementation of a fully State-funded ICJE of Georgia, beyond the minimum requirements of core staffing, but also including the customary and necessary sum for basic personnel management enhancements.
- Address long-range plans of the Institute of Continuing Judicial of Georgia, to strengthen operations of the ICJE by facilitating the staff’s access to such a fundamental personnel management enhancements for fulfilling its mission.

4. What is unable to be accomplished without the enhancement?

- The ICJE continues to fall further behind in sustaining its regular personnel enhancement operating capacities.
- Continuing to rely on staffing departures and position downgrades to access monies and redirect such assets toward ongoing personnel must stop. After doing so for more than half a decade, the ICJE is dangerously close to having nothing left to redirect. CJE



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

mandates have not been lessened over the course of this same period. The preferences of constituencies for CJE products and services featuring more complexity, greater volume, and additional expense have not diminished, but only increased. ICJE personnel have performed well, yet with little support.

- Implementation of long-range plans for the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education of Georgia, and the vision to strengthen court services in Georgia expressed by the State Bar's Next Generation of Courts Commission, would be disabled / discounted / dismissed / not achieved.

5. Does the enhancement include salaried staff and/or operations, which includes contractors?

- Salaried staff
- Operating Funds (includes contractors)



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Budget Categories	FY 16 Amended Request	FY 17 Enhancement Request
Personnel Services:	\$	4,718
Operating Costs:		
Postage		
Motor Vehicle Expenses		
Printing, Publications, Media		
Supplies and Materials		
Repairs and Maintenance		
Equipment < \$5,000		
Water/Sewage		
Energy		
Rents Other Than Real Estate		
Insurance and Bonding		
Freight		
Other Operating		
Travel – Employee		
Real Estate Rentals		
Professional Services (Per Diem)		
Professional Services (Expenses)		
Other Contractual Services (Non State)		
Contracts – State Orgs		
IT Expenses		
Voice/Data Communications		
Grants		
Indirect Costs		
Transfers		
Total Operating Budget	0	0
TOTAL OVERALL BUDGET	0	\$ 4,718
State Funds		
Other Budgeted Funds		



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Which Program is requesting this Enhancement?
Institute of Continuing Judicial Education

Part 1 – Detailed Explanation of Request

1. Proposal: Merit-Based Pay Adjustments & Employee Recruitment

2. Geographic Impact: Where does the request impact the state?

Statewide or list counties below:

Statewide; inasmuch as GA judges and court support personnel from throughout the State would be served by this new ICJE capacity, the impact would be statewide.

3. Current Status:

- What is the budget unit currently doing to address this issue?
- Will those activities continue if this request is funded?

Currently the budget unit carries on without any allocation for merit based pay adjustment and employee recruitment. Other customary efforts at maintaining efficiencies will continue to be pursued at the ICJE.

4. Supporting Data:

- Provide any supporting data, evaluations, and/or research for this request.
- Include information on similar successful programs or evaluations in other jurisdictions that are relevant to this request.

Virtually all other departments associated with the judicial branch are accorded some sort of flexibility concerning the requested type of allocation.

5. Performance Measures:

- What measures are or will be used to evaluate the impact of this change?
- If an enhancement, what is the projected cost savings or return on investment?
 - How is this calculated?
- What efficiencies will be realized?
 - How is this calculated?

Merit-based employee evaluation criteria would be applied to expenditure of these funds.



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

6. Stakeholders & Constituents:

Describe the constituent and stakeholder groups affected by this change (e.g., board members, advocates/interest groups, service providers, other agencies, other governmental entities).

GA judges, record-keeping clerks, legal research clerks, and GA court administrators.

- a. Which are likely to support this request? Most likely to support this capacity sustainability are members of the ICJE Board of Trustees, along with judicial educational leaders in the respective Training Councils and the educational planning committees for various classes of courts.
- b. Which are likely to oppose this request?
- c. Which have not voiced support or opposition?

7. Legislation or Rule Change:

- a. Is legislation or a rule change required if this request is implemented? If so, please explain. No
- b. Is this request a result of a legislation or rule change? If so, please explain. No

8. Alternatives:

What alternatives were considered and why are they not viable?

Alternatives to the capability sought by this funding request are not available to the ICJE, as there is no other fund source at hand.

Part 2 - BUDGET

9. Requested and Projected Resources:

- a. For enhancements and certain base adjustments, describe the additional resources are you requesting. **Ensure descriptions and amounts align with the budget chart on page 2.*

- Positions: (full-time/part-time, education required, qualifications, overview of general duties, and salaries)

The time-period for this appropriations request contemplates the entirety of FY 2017.

- Operational needs:

- b. What are your out-year projections?



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

10. Methodology/Assumptions:

- a. Provide the methodology and assumptions behind the requested amount and out-year projections.
- b. How did you arrive at the amounts?
- c. What time period does the request cover (i.e., the number of months)?

The funding request is based upon the customary 1% of pre-existing personal service expenses.

11. Federal and Other Funds: Describe the impact on federal and/or other funds related to this request (amount, policy etc).

No federal grant or other funds aimed at supporting the core infrastructural operating expenses of staff positions of state judicial education organizations are available for application to the type funding here-requested.

Part 3 - OTHER INFORMATION

12. Discuss any historical or other relevant factors that should be considered.

The ICJE of GA, over the past 5 to 10 years, has not only been the recipient of substantial funding cuts at the hands of the State legislature, but has been specifically targeted on more than one occasion (particularly by leadership in the Senate) for elimination from the State's general revenue appropriations funding stream. The legislatively expressed preference is for individual court personnel to pay participation fees that would underwrite the entirety of costs associated with judicial branch education and training efforts. For the three most recent fiscal years, the State's appropriated funds commitment to judicial educational funding has been flat. So, while during the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s the ICJE was considered an exemplary state judicial education program, in more recent years it has lost status as a national leader in the field. It now operates to catch-up to the state-of-the-art, such as in the arena of possessing adequate resources for routine personnel pay advancements or recruitment enhancements, which forms the heart of this funding request.



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

REQUEST SUMMARY:

For use as talking points during conversations with funding and policy making bodies to include the Judicial Council, General Assembly, and Office of the Governor.

1. Which Program is requesting this Enhancement?

Institute of Continuing Judicial Education

2. Enhancement Name/Descriptor: *(Example: Cold Case Project)*

IT Equipment Replacement and Associated Operating Expenses

FISCAL YEAR	Current state funds received	Amount Requesting	If granted, new state funding level
<input type="checkbox"/> Amended FY 2016	\$	\$	\$
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FY 2017	\$	\$24,000	\$

3. What will the enhancement accomplish?

- Enable replacement of various IT equipment that is more than a decade old; recovery of routine business operation functionalities that have gone unimproved during the recent season of consecutive fiscal years over which providing State appropriated financial resources for judicial education in Georgia was deemed undesirable.
- As recommended by the State Bar of Georgia’s Next Generation of Courts’ Commission, begin systematic implementation of a fully State-funded ICJE of Georgia, beyond the minimum requirements of core staffing, but also including a necessary sum for basic operating expenses.
- Address long-range plans of the Institute of Continuing Judicial of Georgia, to strengthen operations of the ICJE by facilitating the staff’s access to up-to-date equipment and other modern resources for fulfilling its mission.

4. What is unable to be accomplished without the enhancement?

- The ICJE continues to fall further behind in sustaining its regular business operating capacities.
- The ICJE would continue to rely on staffing departures and position downgrades to access monies and redirect such assets to meet regular ongoing business expenses. The



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

problem is that after doing so for more than half a decade, the ICJE is dangerously close to having nothing left to trim. CJE mandates have not been lessened over the course of this same period. More importantly, the preferences of constituencies for CJE products and services featuring more complexity, greater volume, and additional expense have not diminished, but only increased.

- Implementation of long-range plans for the Institute of continuing Judicial Education of Georgia, and the vision to strengthen court services in Georgia expressed by the State Bar's Next Generation of Courts Commission, would be disabled / discounted / dismissed / not achieved.

5. Does the enhancement include salaried staff and/or operations, which includes contractors?

- Salaried staff
- Operating Funds (includes contractors)



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Budget Categories	FY 16 Amended Request	FY 17 Enhancement Request
-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------------

Personnel Services:

Operating Costs:

Postage			
Motor Vehicle Expenses			
Printing, Publications, Media			
Supplies and Materials			
Repairs and Maintenance			
Equipment < \$5,000			
Water/Sewage			
Energy			
Rents Other Than Real Estate			
Insurance and Bonding			
Freight			
Other Operating			
Travel – Employee			
Real Estate Rentals			
Professional Services (Per Diem)			
Professional Services (Expenses)			
Other Contractual Services (Non State)			
Contracts – State Orgs			
IT Expenses		\$	24,000
Voice/Data Communications			
Grants			
Indirect Costs			
Transfers			
Total Operating Budget	0	\$	24,000
TOTAL OVERALL BUDGET	0	\$	24,000

State Funds
Other Budgeted Funds



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Which Program is requesting this Enhancement?
Institute of Continuing Judicial Education

Part 1 – Detailed Explanation of Request

1. Proposal: IT Equipment Replacement and Associated Operating Expenses

2. Geographic Impact: Where does the request impact the state?

Statewide or list counties below:

Statewide; inasmuch as GA judges and court support personnel from throughout the State would be served by this new ICJE capacity, the impact would be statewide.

3. Current Status:

- What is the budget unit currently doing to address this issue?
- Will those activities continue if this request is funded?

Currently the budget unit carries on without replacing outdated equipment or modernizing internal operating procedures that involve any significant expense, employing work-arounds internally created with the tools available. Absolutely, such efforts at maintaining efficiencies will continue to be pursued at the ICJE.

4. Supporting Data:

- Provide any supporting data, evaluations, and/or research for this request.
- Include information on similar successful programs or evaluations in other jurisdictions that are relevant to this request.

The ICJE staff has prepared for the AOC legislative liaison office a list of the pending IT and other business operations capabilities that are overdue for strengthening.

5. Performance Measures:

- What measures are or will be used to evaluate the impact of this change?
- If an enhancement, what is the projected cost savings or return on investment?
 - How is this calculated?
- What efficiencies will be realized?
 - How is this calculated?



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

The ICJE has kept some outdated equipment functioning by purchasing used parts off the internet as well as cannibalizing equipment internally. While this practice maintains basic operability at low cost, it cannot keep equipment functional when it comes to absorbing software upgrades that require more modern hardware capacities. There are limits beyond which it is not reasonable to stretch, where short-term economies fail to advance into long-term gains.

6. Stakeholders & Constituents:

Describe the constituent and stakeholder groups affected by this change (e.g., board members, advocates/interest groups, service providers, other agencies, other governmental entities).

GA judges, record-keeping clerks, legal research clerks, and GA court administrators.

- a. Which are likely to support this request? Most likely to support this capacity sustainability are members of the ICJE Board of Trustees, along with judicial educational leaders in the respective Training Councils and the educational planning committees for various classes of courts.
- b. Which are likely to oppose this request?
- c. Which have not voiced support or opposition?

7. Legislation or Rule Change:

- a. Is legislation or a rule change required if this request is implemented? If so, please explain.
- b. Is this request a result of a legislation or rule change? If so, please explain.

8. Alternatives:

What alternatives were considered and why are they not viable?

Alternatives to the capability sought by this funding request are not available to the ICJE, as there is no other fund source at hand.

Part 2 - BUDGET

9. Requested and Projected Resources:

- a. For enhancements and certain base adjustments, describe the additional resources are you requesting. **Ensure descriptions and amounts align with the budget chart on page 2.*
 - Positions: (full-time/part-time, education required, qualifications, overview of general duties, and salaries)



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

▪ Operational needs:

b. What are your out-year projections?

The time-period for this appropriations request contemplates the entirety of FY 2017.

10. Methodology/Assumptions:

- a. Provide the methodology and assumptions behind the requested amount and out-year projections.
- b. How did you arrive at the amounts?
- c. What time period does the request cover (i.e., the number of months)?

The cost projections for updating IT equipment and other business operations are based upon the current costs accruable to the ICJE were the funding available for meeting these expenses.

11. Federal and Other Funds: Describe the impact on federal and/or other funds related to this request (amount, policy etc).

No federal grant or other funds aimed at supporting the core infrastructural operating expenses of staff positions of state judicial education organizations are available for application to the type funding here-requested.

Part 3 - OTHER INFORMATION

12. Discuss any historical or other relevant factors that should be considered.

The ICJE of GA, over the past 5 to 10 years, has not only been the recipient of substantial funding cuts at the hands of the State legislature, but has been specifically targeted on more than one occasion (particularly by leadership in the Senate) for elimination from the State's general revenue appropriations funding stream. The legislatively expressed preference is for individual court personnel to pay participation fees that would underwrite the entirety of costs associated with judicial branch education and training efforts. For the three most recent fiscal years, the State's appropriated funds commitment to judicial educational funding has been flat. So, while during the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s the ICJE was considered an exemplary state judicial education program, in more recent years it has lost status as a national leader in the field. It now operates to catch-up to the state-of-the-art, such as in the arena of possessing adequate resources for conducting day-to-day business, which forms the heart of this funding request.



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

REQUEST SUMMARY:

For use as talking points during conversations with funding and policy making bodies to include the Judicial Council, General Assembly, and Office of the Governor.

1. Which Program is requesting this Enhancement?

Institute of Continuing Judicial Education

2. Enhancement Name/Descriptor: *(Example: Cold Case Project)*

Events Air Software Upgrade

FISCAL YEAR	Current state funds received	Amount Requesting	If granted, new state funding level
<input type="checkbox"/> Amended FY 2016	\$	\$	\$
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FY 2017	\$	\$43,000	\$

3. What will the enhancement accomplish?

- Modernize the events management and participant tracking software utilized by the ICJE in the creation and delivery of judicial educational products and services. This software is utilized to manage participation and record successful completion by all constituents (i.e., judges and court support personnel) from all GA courts, trial as well as appellate.
- Fulfill the long-range plans of the Institute of Continuing Judicial of Georgia, to modernize the registration, assignment, and recorded-participation of constituents in all ICJE learning activities. The ICJE’s currently employed events management software (initially named People Ware and now Events Pro) has been used for more than a decade. Its most valuable feature is the long-term archive of participant involvement and demographic data. It is no longer state-of-the art as to efficiency in registration processing, assignment of participants to selected product options, or recording with accountability credit hours earned for involvement by constituents.
- As initially created by the Georgia Supreme Court together with the Judicial Council in the 1970s, and more recently recommended by the State Bar of Georgia’s Next Generation of Courts’ Commission, serving as Georgia’s principally designated and preferably State-funded provider of judicial educational products and services, the ICJE merits support from time-to-time to modernize accomplishment of its mission.



**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA
FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM
FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM**

4. What is unable to be accomplished without the enhancement?
- Service support for the ICJE's currently employed generation of software will soon become unavailable from the vendor; and it presently grows more costly each year.
 - The currently available data storage capability for charting events management activity and constituent participation records will soon need expansion; and this would be more efficiently accomplished were the ICJE using the new generation of events management software.
 - Internally created work-arounds to strengthen the efficiency of the ICJE's current (yet now outmoded) generation of events management software become more cumbersome each year.
5. Does the enhancement include salaried staff and/or operations, which includes contractors?
- Salaried staff
 - Operating Funds (includes contractors)



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Budget Categories	FY 16 Amended Request	FY 17 Enhancement Request
-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------------

Personnel Services:

Operating Costs:

Postage			
Motor Vehicle Expenses			
Printing, Publications, Media			
Supplies and Materials			
Repairs and Maintenance			
Equipment < \$5,000			
Water/Sewage			
Energy			
Rents Other Than Real Estate			
Insurance and Bonding			
Freight			
Other Operating			
Travel – Employee			
Real Estate Rentals			
Professional Services (Per Diem)			
Professional Services (Expenses)			
Other Contractual Services (Non State)			
Contracts – State Orgs			
IT Expenses		\$	43,000
Voice/Data Communications			
Grants			
Indirect Costs			
Transfers			
Total Operating Budget	0	\$	43,000
TOTAL OVERALL BUDGET	0	\$	43,000

State Funds
Other Budgeted Funds



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Which Program is requesting this Enhancement?
Institute of Continuing Judicial Education

Part 1 – Detailed Explanation of Request

1. Proposal: Events Air Software Upgrade
2. Geographic Impact: Where does the request impact the state?
 Statewide or list counties below:

Statewide; inasmuch as GA judges and court support personnel from throughout the State would be served by this new ICJE capacity, the impact would be statewide.

3. Current Status:
 - a. What is the budget unit currently doing to address this issue?
 - b. Will those activities continue if this request is funded?

Internally created work-arounds to strengthen the efficiency of the ICJE's current (yet now outmoded) generation of events management software occur each year. The need for these adjustments to Events Pro would be eliminated for at least half a decade were this request funded to enable an upgrade to Events Air.

4. Supporting Data:
 - a. Provide any supporting data, evaluations, and/or research for this request.
 - b. Include information on similar successful programs or evaluations in other jurisdictions that are relevant to this request.

The State Bar of Georgia's similar software for events management utilized by the ICLE of GA is a multi-million dollar customized system, which is paid for by the Bar's 40,000+ lawyers. The ICJE does not operate with constituency groups that present the scale economies to justify or pay for such a system.

The Georgia Courts Registrar project, another customized system and operated by the AOC, yet not primarily with an events management capability, has shown the ICJE an estimate of over \$150,000 to develop events management features akin to those required by the ICJE and available from Events Air at far less expense.



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

5. Performance Measures:

- a. What measures are or will be used to evaluate the impact of this change?
- b. If an enhancement, what is the projected cost savings or return on investment?
 - How is this calculated?
- c. What efficiencies will be realized?
 - How is this calculated?

ICJE use of a commercially available, off-the-shelf, events management software product, for which literally thousands of users internationally continuously provide feedback to the vender on the efficiency of its software product, is the most likely means for providing GA judicial education access to an affordable and reliable events management software capability.

Ongoing use of this desired Events Air software package will save the ICJE many hours of personnel time.

6. Stakeholders & Constituents:

- a. Describe the constituent and stakeholder groups affected by this change (e.g., board members, advocates/interest groups, service providers, other agencies, other governmental entities). GA judges, record-keeping clerks, legal research clerks, court administrators.
- b. Which are likely to support this request? Most likely to support this innovation are members of the ICJE Board of Trustees, along with judicial educational leaders in the respective Training Councils and the educational planning committees for various classes of courts.
- c. Which are likely to oppose this request?
- d. Which have not voiced support or opposition?

7. Legislation or Rule Change:

- a. Is legislation or a rule change required if this request is implemented? If so, please explain.
- b. Is this request a result of a legislation or rule change? If so, please explain.

No new legislation or change in uniform court rules is required to implement this request.

This request is not the result of legislative or uniform court rule change.

8. Alternatives:

What alternatives were considered and why are they not viable?

Alternatives to the capability sought by this funding request are not available to the ICJE, as there is no other fund source at hand, nor any more efficient system capable of working with the database built by the ICJE over the past decade.



**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA
FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM
FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM**

Part 2 - BUDGET

9. Requested and Projected Resources:

- a. For enhancements and certain base adjustments, describe the additional resources are you requesting. **Ensure descriptions and amounts align with the budget chart on page 2.*

- Positions: (full-time/part-time, education required, qualifications, overview of general duties, and salaries)

- Operational needs:

- b. What are your out-year projections?

c.

The funding requested would facilitate execution of events management functions by the staff of the ICJE of GA, including modernizing the registration, assignment, and recorded-participation of constituents in all ICJE learning activities.

This Events Air software sought for purchase is utilized to manage participation and record successful completion by all constituents (i.e., judges and court support personnel) from all classes of GA courts, trial as well as appellate.

It would provide the ICJE a bridge from the current Events Pro database yielding greatest efficiency in registration processing, assignment of participants to selected product options, and recording with accountability credit hours earned for involvement by constituents.

10. Methodology/Assumptions:

- a. Provide the methodology and assumptions behind the requested amount and out-year projections.
- b. How did you arrive at the amounts?
- c. What time period does the request cover (i.e., the number of months)?

The time-period for this appropriations request contemplates the entirety of FY 2017.

The cost is that quoted by the vendor.

11. Federal and Other Funds: Describe the impact on federal and/or other funds related to this request (amount, policy etc). No federal grant or other funds aimed at supporting the core



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

infrastructural IT system of state judicial education organizations are available for application to this request for funding.

Part 3 - OTHER INFORMATION

12. Discuss any historical or other relevant factors that should be considered.

The ICJE of GA, over the past 5 to 10 years, has not only been the recipient of substantial funding cuts at the hands of the State legislature, but has been specifically targeted on more than one occasion (particularly by leadership in the Senate) for elimination from the State's general revenue appropriations funding stream. The legislatively expressed preference is for individual court personnel to pay participation fees that would underwrite the entirety of costs associated with judicial branch education and training efforts. For the three most recent fiscal years, the State's appropriated funds commitment to judicial educational funding has been flat. So, while during the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s the ICJE was considered an exemplary state judicial education program, in more recent years it has lost status as a national leader in the field. It now operates to catch-up to the state-of-the-art, such as in the arena of possessing basic events management IT functionality, which forms the heart of this funding request.



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

REQUEST SUMMARY:

For use as talking points during conversations with funding and policy making bodies to include the Judicial Council, General Assembly, and Office of the Governor.

1. Which Program is requesting this Enhancement?

Institute of Continuing Judicial Education

2. Enhancement Name/Descriptor: *(Example: Cold Case Project)*

Electronic Media Curriculum Designer

	FISCAL YEAR	Current state funds received	Amount Requesting	If granted, new state funding level
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amended FY 2016	\$	\$13,000	\$
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FY 2017	\$	\$52,000	\$

3. What will the enhancement accomplish?

- Expand design and delivery in GA of computer-based, on-line, internet-connected courses for GA judges and court support personnel.
- As recommended by the State Bar of Georgia’s Next Generation of Courts’ Commission, enable systematic commencement of implementation of remote-learning applications, i.e., computer-based, on-line, internet-connected courses for GA judges and court support personnel.
- Fulfill long-range plans of the Institute of Continuing Judicial of Georgia, to advance the court system’s wider use of remote-learning methods / platforms / products through computer-based, on-line, internet-connected courses for GA judges and court support personnel.

4. What is unable to be accomplished without the enhancement?

- Access otherwise to remote-learning products / courses would be limited to nationally-based courses and related resources, which lack institutional context with GA (i.e., law, court procedures, State and local government departmental relationships), and thereby lack substantive relevance to the work of GA judges and court support personnel.
- Ability to design and deliver computer-based, on-line, internet-connected courses for GA judges and court support personnel would be pushed-off to some unknown future date, disabling the State’s judiciary to obtain (a) immediacy of information transfer as well as



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

(b) potential savings in professional time and travel expense afforded by use of on-line learning techniques.

- Fulfillment of long-range plans of the Institute of continuing Judicial Education of Georgia, and the vision to strengthen court services in Georgia expressed by the State Bar's Next Generation of Courts Commission, would be disabled / discounted / dismissed / not achieved.

5. Does the enhancement include salaried staff and/or operations, which includes contractors?

- Salaried staff
 Operating Funds (includes contractors)



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Budget Categories	FY 16 Amended Request	FY 17 Enhancement Request
Personnel Services:	\$ 13,000	\$ 52,000
Operating Costs:		
Postage		
Motor Vehicle Expenses		
Printing, Publications, Media		
Supplies and Materials		
Repairs and Maintenance		
Equipment < \$5,000		
Water/Sewage		
Energy		
Rents Other Than Real Estate		
Insurance and Bonding		
Freight		
Other Operating		
Travel – Employee		
Real Estate Rentals		
Professional Services (Per Diem)		
Professional Services (Expenses)		
Other Contractual Services (Non State)		
Contracts – State Orgs		
IT Expenses		
Voice/Data Communications		
Grants		
Indirect Costs		
Transfers		
Total Operating Budget	0	0
TOTAL OVERALL BUDGET	\$ 13,000	\$ 52,000
State Funds		
Other Budgeted Funds		



**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA
FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM
FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM**

Which Program is requesting this Enhancement?
Institute of Continuing Judicial Education

Part 1 – Detailed Explanation of Request

1. Proposal: Electronic Media Curriculum Designer
2. Geographic Impact: Where does the request impact the state?
 Statewide or list counties below:

Statewide; inasmuch as GA judges and court support personnel from throughout the State would be served by this new ICJE capacity, the impact would be statewide.

3. Current Status:
 - a. What is the budget unit currently doing to address this issue?
 - b. Will those activities continue if this request is funded?

The ICJE has experimented for several years by pilot-testing the usefulness of: (a) e-Learning Commons (eLC) 12 hour courses, (b) Citrix Go-To-Training 1 hour webinars, and (c) on-line delivery of the Georgia Domestic Violence Benchbook.

Nevertheless, due to present staffing limitations, sustainable benefits from remote-learning products have yet to be achieved that reflect both annual planning and marketing as well as comprehensive design and delivery.

Testing episodically of more modern computer-based, on-line, internet-connected, remote-learning methods / platforms / products / courses would be continued, time-permitting by existing staff.

4. Supporting Data:
 - a. Provide any supporting data, evaluations, and/or research for this request.
 - b. Include information on similar successful programs or evaluations in other jurisdictions that are relevant to this request.

ICJE evaluation feedback from episodically furnished 1 hour webinars and 12 hour eLC courses is generally positive.



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Experience elsewhere in the country by other state's judicial branch educational programs (e.g., New Mexico, Arizona, California, Missouri, Nebraska, Colorado, Ohio, Virginia, Florida) with remote-learning is generally favorable.

5. Performance Measures:

- a. What measures are or will be used to evaluate the impact of this change?
- b. If an enhancement, what is the projected cost savings or return on investment?
 - How is this calculated?
- c. What efficiencies will be realized?
 - How is this calculated?

Performance measures to gauge success in the productivity associated with the efforts enabled by this new staff position will include tracking:

The numbers of individual constituents who sign-up for and then take part in these remote-learning opportunities, along with any corresponding scaling-back of attendance at face-to-face courses.

The percentages of constituency pool membership that choose to earn yearly certification hours through these remote-learning tools, together with the long term trends reflected by such participation.

The financial cost-savings accrued to constituents due to participating via remote-learning products, together with projections on relevant time-savings.

6. Stakeholders & Constituents:

- a. Describe the constituent and stakeholder groups affected by this change (e.g., board members, advocates/interest groups, service providers, other agencies, other governmental entities). GA judges, record-keeping clerks, legal research clerks, court administrators.
- b. Which are likely to support this request? Most likely to support this innovation are members of the ICJE Board of Trustees, along with judicial educational leaders in the respective Training Councils and the educational planning committees for various classes of courts.
- c. Which are likely to oppose this request?
- d. Which have not voiced support or opposition?

7. Legislation or Rule Change:

- a. Is legislation or a rule change required if this request is implemented? If so, please explain.
- b. Is this request a result of a legislation or rule change? If so, please explain.



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

No new legislation or change in uniform court rules is required to implement this request.

This request is not the result of legislative or uniform court rule change.

8. Alternatives:

What alternatives were considered and why are they not viable?

Alternatives to wider use of remote-learning methods are traditional face-to-face conferences and seminars, along with information transfer via hard-copy printing platforms, both of which usually present less time-sensitive as well as more financially expensive methods for delivery of educational experiences.

Part 2 - BUDGET

9. Requested and Projected Resources:

a. For enhancements and certain base adjustments, describe the additional resources are you requesting. **Ensure descriptions and amounts align with the budget chart on page 2.*

- Positions: (full-time/part-time, education required, qualifications, overview of general duties, and salaries)

- Operational needs:

b. What are your out-year projections?

c.

The funding requested would facilitate payment of salary and fringe benefits for a full-time position. It contemplates hiring of an individual with a basic undergraduate college degree in educational technology or information technology.

Current operating expense resources are likely to be sufficient for the near term, as this new position works with the ICJE's existing hardware and software capabilities.

Out-year expense projections are likely to introduce sums for IT hardware improvements and new software licensing as these envisioned remote-learning efforts evolve in the use of more sophisticated technologies.

10. Methodology/Assumptions:

a. Provide the methodology and assumptions behind the requested amount and out-year projections.

b. How did you arrive at the amounts?



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

- c. What time period does the request cover (i.e., the number of months)?

The time-period for these appropriations requests contemplate the last fiscal quarter of FY 2016 and the entirety of FY 2017.

The salary and fringe benefit sums projected are consistent with pertinent classified positions within the UGA personnel system.

- 11. Federal and Other Funds:** Describe the impact on federal and/or other funds related to this request (amount, policy etc). No federal grant or other funds aimed at supporting the core infrastructural staff positions of state judicial education organizations are available for application to the type of position contemplated via this request for funding.

Part 3 - OTHER INFORMATION

- 12.** Discuss any historical or other relevant factors that should be considered.

The ICJE of GA, over the past 5 to 10 years, has not only been the recipient of substantial funding cuts at the hands of the State legislature, but has been specifically targeted on more than one occasion (particularly by leadership in the Senate) for elimination from the State's general revenue appropriations funding stream. The legislatively expressed preference is for individual court personnel to pay participation fees that would underwrite the entirety of costs associated with judicial branch education and training efforts. For the three most recent fiscal years, the State's appropriated funds commitment to judicial educational funding has been flat. So, while during the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s the ICJE was considered an exemplary state judicial education program, in more recent years it has lost status as a national leader in the field. It now operates to catch-up to the state-of-the-art, such as in the arena of possessing basic events management IT functionality, which forms the heart of this funding request.



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

REQUEST SUMMARY:

1. Which Program is requesting this Enhancement?

Judicial Council - Administrative Office of the Courts

2. Enhancement Name/Descriptor: **Cold Case Project**-quality review program of children with long stays in state foster care

FISCAL YEAR	Current state funds received	Amount Requesting	If granted, new state funding level
Amended FY 2016	\$	\$	\$
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FY 2017	\$100,000	\$75,000	\$ 175,000

3. What will the enhancement accomplish?

- Identify children most likely to exit foster care without legal permanency and will work to prevent them from becoming legal orphans
- Utilize a team of experts to prevent legal orphans, finalize legal permanency and improve the life outcomes of children in state custody.
- Improve Georgia’s child welfare outcome measures
- Will help meet the state match required by the Federal Court Improvement (CIP) grant, which requires technology and data analysis improvement for child dependency court cases. The AOC has learned that the CIP grant will probably be expanded to encourage states to track child trafficking victims which can be part of any Cold Case review as well.

4. What is unable to be accomplished without the enhancement?

- Experts will not be paid to review cases
- Children who would have benefited from the case review will not receive the support

5. Does the enhancement include salaried staff and/or operations, which includes contractors?

- Salaried staff
- Operating Funds (includes contractors)



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Budget Categories	FY 16 Amended Request	FY 17 Enhancement Request
-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------------

Personnel Services:

Operating Costs:

Postage			
Motor Vehicle Expenses			
Printing, Publications, Media			
Supplies and Materials			
Repairs and Maintenance			
Equipment < \$5,000			
Water/Sewage			
Energy			
Rents Other Than Real Estate			
Insurance and Bonding			
Freight			
Other Operating			
Travel – Employee			
Real Estate Rentals			
Professional Services (Per Diem)			
Professional Services (Expenses)			
Other Contractual Services (Non State)	\$		75,000
Contracts – State Orgs			
IT Expenses			
Voice/Data Communications			
Grants			
Indirect Costs			
Transfers			
Total Operating Budget	0	\$	75,000

TOTAL OVERALL BUDGET	0	\$	75,000
-----------------------------	---	----	--------

State Funds			
Other Budgeted Funds			



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Which Program is requesting this Enhancement?
Judicial Council - Administrative Office of the Courts

Part 1 – Detailed Explanation of Request

1. Proposal: Funds are requested to institutionalize the Cold Case Project within the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) in partnership with multiple Georgia agencies serving children in state custody. The Cold Case Project uses a statistical predictive model using GA DFCS data to find children most likely to age out of foster care without a family. Once a list of the children is made, a team of experts works each case to try and improve the child's outcome. Five years' worth of data indicates that the project works well.
2. Geographic Impact: Where does the request impact the state?
 Statewide or list counties below:
3. Current Status:
 - a. What is the budget unit currently doing to address this issue?
The Cold Case Project is currently funded by \$100,000 of state funds. \$175K total is needed to include all the children who fit the criteria.
 - b. Will those activities continue if this request is funded?
The activities will not continue if the expert reviewers cannot be paid.
4. Supporting Data:
 - a. Provide any supporting data, evaluations, and/or research for this request.
We have annual reports with data analysis indicating the project's success. Please see <http://www.j4c.georgiacourts.gov/>
 - b. Include information on similar successful programs or evaluations in other jurisdictions that are relevant to this request.
5. Performance Measures:
 - a. What measures are or will be used to evaluate the impact of this change?
The project measures the numbers of children on the list who leave foster care to permanent families as well as increased access to education, health and visitation resources.
 - b. If an enhancement, what is the projected cost savings or return on investment?



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

The return on investment is beyond cost savings in that many of these children on the Cold Case list are really struggling in educational outcomes and socially. These children usually with severe trauma backgrounds are often in group homes or institutions, disconnected from people and communities other than people paid to take care of them. These are the children most likely to be homeless, on public assistance and/or often have contact with law enforcement and prison time. The average cost of per diem of the Cold Case list is over 150 dollars. Often the funding stream follows the child to a legal permanent placement, but studies show that legal permanency improves a child's chance to become a productive citizen and thus increasing the return on this investment.

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/congress_adopt.pdf

This investment also improves Georgia's child welfare outcome measures which matters for federal funding streams and federal audits. Georgia once paid a 6 million dollar fine for failing a child welfare audit. Today, Georgia's permanency outcomes measures are meeting federal standards

- How is this calculated?

Five years' worth of data from the Cold Case Project has shown a 25% improvement in achieving legal permanency when compared to a similarly situated group of children who were not reviewed.

c. What efficiencies will be realized?

The Cold Case Project is a quality assurance-like program and brings in expertise to check on whether everything has been done for the child, whether all due process measures met, and the quality of legal representation for the children. In addition, the Project works to get an outside expert review of medical issues (such as psychotropic drug intake) and educational issues (many of the children are failing school). The project also works to assist children to extend foster care which the law now allows beyond 18 to age 21 giving the child more time to get ready for adult life.

- How is this calculated?

Five years' worth of data from the Cold Case Project shows an increase in improvement of educational and health goals as well as more children extending their stays in foster care compared to a similar group of children not reviewed.

6. Stakeholders & Constituents:

- a. Describe the constituent and stakeholder groups affected by this change (e.g., board members, advocates/interest groups, service providers, other agencies, other governmental entities).

Children in Georgia's foster care system, Georgia Department of Family and Children Services both at the state and local levels, local juvenile courts, Georgia



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

foster care group homes and institutional care facilities, Georgia CASA, local and state child welfare attorneys.

- b. Which are likely to support this request?
The constituent and stakeholder groups consist of all the executive branch government and non-profit agencies that serve children in foster care. The project has been working with all these groups for four years, developing strong working relationships and good reports.
- c. Which are likely to oppose this request? None
- d. Which have not voiced support or opposition?
7. Legislation or Rule Change:
- a. Is legislation or a rule change required if this request is implemented? No. If so, please explain.
- b. Is this request a result of a legislation or rule change? No If so, please explain.

8. Alternatives:

What alternatives were considered and why are they not viable?

The AOC obtained grant funding to experiment with a new approach to serving the state's most complex foster child cases. The project which has existed for 5 years on grant funding shows that it works and should be institutionalized.

Part 2 - BUDGET

9. Requested and Projected Resources:

- a. For enhancements and certain base adjustments, describe the additional resources are you requesting. **Ensure descriptions and amounts align with the budget chart on page 2.*

We are seeking funds to continue the Cold Case Project at full capacity with expert reviewers hired on an hourly contract basis. All of the reviewers are contractors.

- Positions: (full-time/part-time, education required, qualifications, overview of general duties, and salaries)
- Operational needs:

- b. What are your out-year projections? \$175,000 annual project appropriation.

10. Methodology/Assumptions:



**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA
FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM
FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM**

- a. Provide the methodology and assumptions behind the requested amount and out-year projections.

We have been managing this project with foundation funds for five years and have a good handle on costs. \$175K allows us to review between 225 and 250 children's cases per year at a cost of approximately \$700 per case.

- b. How did you arrive at the amounts?

The amount is based on the past five years' actual costs

- c. What time period does the request cover (i.e., the number of months)? 24 months

- 11. Federal and Other Funds:** Describe the impact on federal and/or other funds related to this request (amount, policy etc). N/A

Part 3 - OTHER INFORMATION

- 12.** Discuss any historical or other relevant factors that should be considered.



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

REQUEST SUMMARY *as amended and approved by the Judicial Council Budget Committee:*

For use as talking points during conversations with funding and policy making bodies to include the Judicial Council, General Assembly, and Office of the Governor.

1. Which Program is requesting this Enhancement?

Judicial Council - Child Support Collaborative

2. Enhancement Name/Descriptor: *(Example: Cold Case Project)*

Parent Accountability Court (PAC) Coordinator funding

FISCAL YEAR	Current state funds received	Amount Requesting	If granted, new state funding level
<input type="checkbox"/> Amended FY 2016	\$	\$	\$
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FY 2017	\$	\$741,801 247,267	\$

3. What will the enhancement accomplish?

- Expansion of ~~34~~ 10 Additional Coordinators Statewide. DCSS would continue to cover the cost of the existing 18 Coordinators.

4. What is unable to be accomplished without the enhancement?

- PAC's will not grow at the desired rate.

5. Does the enhancement include salaried staff and/or operations, which includes contractors?

- Salaried staff
- Operating Funds (includes contractors)



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Budget Categories	FY	16	Amended FY 17	Enhancement Request
-------------------	----	----	---------------	---------------------

Personnel Services:	\$		-
----------------------------	----	--	---

Operating Costs:			
Postage			
Motor Vehicle Expenses			
Printing, Publications, Media			
Supplies and Materials			
Repairs and Maintenance			
Equipment < \$5,000			
Water/Sewage			
Energy			
Rents Other Than Real Estate			
Insurance and Bonding			
Freight			
Other Operating			
Travel – Employee			
Real Estate Rentals			
Professional Services (Per Diem)			
Professional Services (Expenses)			
Other Contractual Services (Non State)			
Contracts – State Orgs	\$		247,267
IT Expenses			
Voice/Data Communications			
Grants			
Indirect Costs			
Transfers			
Total Operating Budget	0	\$	247,267

TOTAL OVERALL BUDGET	0	\$	247,267
-----------------------------	----------	-----------	----------------

State Funds		\$	247,267
Other Budgeted Funds	(Federal Match Grant Funds Available)	\$	494,534



Nathan Deal, Governor

Robyn A. Crittenden, Commissioner

Georgia Department of Human Services • Division of Child Support Services • Tanguler Gray, Director
Two Peachtree Street, NW • 20th Floor • Atlanta, GA 30303 • 404-657-3851 • 404-657-3326 (Fax)

July 8, 2015

Honorable Harold D. Melton
Justice, Supreme Court of Georgia
244 Washington Street
Room 572, State Office Annex Building
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

**Re: Problem Solving Court Subcommittee
Program Growth of Problem Solving Courts (a.k.a., Parental Accountability Courts)**

Dear Justice Melton:

Please accept this letter as commitment from the Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Child Support Services (DCSS) on behalf of the Problem Solving Court Subcommittee to expand and grow the Problem Solving Court (PSC) concept in the State of Georgia.

Be assured that DHS/DCSS will continue to fund the coordinators in the eighteen (18) judicial circuits that currently have PSCs. Any additional funding provided by the legislature through the Judicial Council will be used to expand this concept to the entire 49 Judicial Circuits. Furthermore, DHS/DCSS will prioritize and implement new PSC courts with the commitment of a corresponding presiding judge(s) in areas that have the highest number of incarcerations for failure to pay child support.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (404)463-0097 or Robyn.Crittenden@dhs.ga.gov.

Sincerely,

Robyn A. Crittenden
Commissioner

Cc: Judge Brian Amero, Flint Judicial Circuit
Lynn Vellinga, DHS Deputy Commissioner
Renorta R. Heard, DHS Deputy Commissioner
Tanguler Gray, DCSS Director
Pat Buonodono, AOC Staff Attorney

An Alternative to Incarceration: Parent Accountability Courts in Georgia

Success Story

Charles Stokes, a middle-aged man from South Bend, Indiana, found himself in a troublesome situation in 2011. He had an order to appear before the Henry County Superior Court for failure to pay child support for six of his children. Although he was supporting several other of his children who were living with him at the time, Charles had failed to pay any child support for these six other children from the time he arrived in Georgia eight years prior. He owed as much as \$80,000 in back child support payments and faced possible imprisonment for up to five years.

Despite what his track record of non-payment suggested, Charles wanted to do better. He knew the man portrayed on paper was not whom he truly was. He had several barriers to overcome, but he believed that with a decent job and little extra help he could provide for his children consistently.

Two days before his court hearing, Charles decided to visit his local child support office to seek help. Through meeting with an agent, he was referred to Ms. Tina Brooks, the coordinator for Henry County's Parent Accountability Court (PAC), who assessed his situation and ran it by the PAC judge, Brian Amero, who accepted him into the outreach program. His agreement to participate in the PAC prevented him from having to appear before court later that week and face a likely sentence of imprisonment. Charles was relieved by this alternative and resolved that he would do whatever it took to avoid going to jail or prison.

Charles' time in the PAC was challenging. He was required to actively search for a job 40 hours a week, maintain weekly communication with Ms. Brooks, and appear before Judge Amero once a month to assess his progress. He was having great difficulty securing a job because of a pair of arrest charges on his background. Nonetheless, Ms. Brooks worked tirelessly to help him find job leads, receive job readiness training, get his driver's license reinstated, and even receive legal assistance from an advocacy organization in Atlanta.

Charles recalls, "Tina helped me out a lot...just giving me the chance to be in the program might have been the biggest thing. She accepted me when no one else would. But it was not a picnic; she was not trying to be my friend. She was a true advocate for the children."

After having been in the program for some time, but still not paying child support consistently, Charles received a warning from Judge Amero that he would be removed from the program if he did not find a job - any job - and begin regularly paying child support soon. This pressure from the judge caused Charles to ramp up his efforts, and within a few days he was able to find a job with a moving company. However, he did not want to settle with this job and was determined to find something better.

Within two days he called a friend who was a principal of a high school in DeKalb County and applied for a job as a kitchen supervisor for this school – a position which provided a foot in the door of a school system in which he would like to become a teacher. Charles had been working to earn his teaching

degree from Mercer University while participating in the PAC, and this job had the potential of opening up future job opportunities within the school system. Charles told his plan to Judge Amero who commended him saying, "You are the type of person this program is for." He was permitted to stay in the program and he left the courtroom with a renewed sense of motivation.

Within two weeks Charles was hired for the job as kitchen supervisor. He began consistently paying child support each month – never missing a payment – all the while attending school at Mercer. Charles eventually graduated from the PAC after paying the full amount of his child support orders for sixth months in a row. It had been three years since he first entered the program - a testament to his perseverance and determination.

Since graduating, Charles has continued to faithfully pay child support. He decided to change his degree from teaching to social work after having a conversation with Ms. Brooks that helped him realize his dream job is really to be a school counselor. He considers it a calling to help kids move down a positive path and learn to take responsibility for their actions, which he has already begun to do as a coach and mentor. In addition, he plans to launch an initiative called "Take Back the Reins," which aims to empower young men involved with the child support system to respect themselves, become responsible, and avoid the struggles and pitfalls that come with the lack of discipline and knowledge.

Charles' time in the PAC was not a cake-walk, but it was what he needed to get back on his feet and support his kids. Reflecting on his experience, Charles says, "It was pressure. As a coach, I know pushing my players past their limits is how they get better. That's what this program did. It pushed me when I was not able to push myself. Accountability is good."

A Promising Idea

Charles story is just one of many success stories that have come through the Parent Accountability Court program since first being introduced to Georgia in 2009. These courts, originally called Child Support Problem Solving Courts,^{1,i} have been effective in helping parents address the underlying barriers that prevent them from being gainfully employed and consistently paying their child support obligation. They accomplish this through the accountability of a judge and the assistance of a coordinator.

The idea to introduce PACs in Georgia came from former Chief Justice Leah Sears who noted the success that a judge in North Carolina was having in running such a court. She recommended to Department of Human Resources Commissioner, Keith Horton, to visit the North Carolina court and observe its effectiveness. Upon observing the court, Commissioner Horton quickly became convinced of the program's potential to assist chronic, non-payers of child support in Georgia and help them become regular payers of child support. DCSS adapted the model and worked with Judge John Simpson in the Coweta Judicial Circuit to spearhead the first PAC in October 2009. The pilot showed considerable promise that first year, which led DHS to recruit more judges from around the state and fund coordinators to manage these new courts.ⁱⁱ

¹ Recently, the Division of Child Support Services changed the name of the court from Child Support Problem Solving Court (PSC) to Parent Accountability Court (PAC) because the new name more accurately reflects the nature of the court and the work that it does in holding parents accountable to supporting their children. These courts do not solve all of non-custodial parents' problems, but they do work to help parents overcome barriers to paying child support and become self-sufficient.

Since that time, the program has expanded to 18 courts with eight additional courts pending.ⁱⁱⁱ DCSS' goal is to have 24 courts in place by 2016.^{iv}

Why Parent Accountability Courts are Needed

PACs serve non-custodial parents who face a contempt action for failure to pay child support and require additional accountability and services to overcome their barriers to supporting their children. Some of the barriers these parents face include having a suspended driver's license, a substance abuse or mental health issue, inadequate education or job skills, and a criminal record.^v

An estimated **80 percent** of PAC participants have a criminal record, which severely impacts their ability to become employed and consistently provide for their children.^{vi} Many parents with these barriers have gone through repeated cycles of unemployment (or underemployment), non-payment, and incarceration, which has left them feeling discouraged and defeated. Many want to provide for their children but often feel powerless to overcome the obstacles they are facing.

DCSS has identified **55,529 parents** in Georgia who could benefit from participation in a PAC or the Georgia Fatherhood Program (FHP).^{2,vii} This figure represents **14 percent** of Georgia's 396,640 child support cases, which means both programs have the potential of positively impacting as many as **70,000 children**.^{3,viii}

Child Support Enforcement

To understand why PACs offer such a positive alternative to non-custodial parents who have cycled in and out of jail for non-payment of child support (due to willful non-payment or failure to appear before the court when ordered), it is helpful to look at the way child support enforcement works from the point an order is first established:

1. A custodial parent (most often the mother) applies with the Division of Child Support Services (DCSS) to get financial support from the noncustodial parent (usually the father) to help care for her child.^{4,ix}
2. Once the non-custodial parent has been properly identified through a paternity test or through voluntary consent, a child support order is put into place. The amount of the order is determined by a formula that considers a variety of factors, such as the income of both parents and other children whom the non-custodial parent is supporting.
3. The non-custodial parent is then required to pay the support order every 30 days. If he fails to do so, the DCSS' payment tracking system (\$TARS) alerts an agent who subsequently sends a notice to the non-custodial parent regarding his failure to pay and the consequences for non-payment.

² DHS currently has two Community Outreach Programs for which non-custodial parents can volunteer to participate: The Georgia Fatherhood Program (FHP) and PACs. The FHP was created by DCSS in 1997 to work with non-custodial parents who owe child support but lack the ability to pay. This program helps participants find gainful employment and overcome barriers to paying support. The FHP takes three to six months to complete and participants are required to work at least 20 hours per week while enrolled in the program. The FHP differs from PACs in that it provides services for non-custodial parents who have similar barriers but do not have a contempt action in place. In addition, the FHP does not require judicial supervision.

³ In 2014, Georgia had 396,640 child support cases representing 533,252 children – a staggering 20 percent of children statewide.

⁴ In Georgia, 91 percent of non-custodial parents owing child support are fathers and 9 percent are mothers.

4. After 60 days of non-payment pass, DCSS automatically suspends the non-custodial parent's driver's license, professional license(s), and other state-issued licenses.
5. Continued non-payment results in DCSS taking further action, which may include intercepting federal and/or state income tax refunds, garnishing worker's compensation benefits, intercepting lottery winnings of more than \$2,500, filing liens and levies on tangible or intangible property, seizing bank accounts, denying passports if more than \$2,500 is owed, and reporting parents to credit bureaus.
6. After these actions, failure to willingly pay results in DCSS filing a contempt of court action which may result in a jail sentence of up to 30 days if the parent fails to appear before the court or is found in willful contempt of the court upon appearing.^x

In light of these enforcement actions, the PAC Program stands as a welcomed alternative for someone who has significant barriers to paying child support and faces the possibility of incarceration.

The Program

PACs are relatively simple in structure, especially compared to other accountability courts. They are run by a superior court judge and a coordinator provided by DCSS who jointly serve as the public face of the program.

The judge ensures that participants receive appropriate services and oversees their progress, providing incentives and sanctions that encourage participants to meet their individual goals. He or she leads the PAC team in development of all protocols and procedures and ensures they are carried out effectively.

The coordinator is the chief administrator of the program and acts as a liaison between participants and the judge, treatment providers, and employers. The coordinator sets up evaluations, manages services for participants, connects them to employers, and provides the judge a weekly update regarding each participant's progress. The success of the program depends largely upon the effort of the coordinator and the leadership of the judge.^{xi}

Other members of the PAC team include the assistant district attorney (ADA) for the county or the special assistant attorney general (SAAG) who represents DCSS at staffing meetings and PAC hearings, and a DCSS representative who helps identify potential participants for the program and protects the children's right to support.^{xii}

To be eligible to participate in a PAC, a non-custodial parent must be in one of the following situations:

- A contempt action has been filed against him or her by the state to appear before the court for non-payment of child support;
- A warrant has been issued for his or her arrest for failure to appear in court for non-payment of child support;
- The parent has appeared before the judge and found to be in contempt of court for willful non-payment of child support; or
- The parent is currently in jail for having been found in contempt of the court.

Once a non-custodial parent has been identified for the program and agreed upon by the judge and coordinator, the judge can offer the program to the non-custodial parent as an alternative to jail, which

the parent can voluntarily accept or reject. Those who choose to enter the program must demonstrate a willingness to work and overcome their barriers to paying child support. Failure to do so will eventually result in dismissal and the potential of facing jail time for future contempt actions.

The program generally takes 12 to 18 months to complete and consists of three stages: Intake, Phase I, and Phase II.

Intake – This stage involves a comprehensive assessment of a participant’s issues by a Community Service Board (CSB), such as identifying a substance abuse or mental health issue. Participants must write a letter to the PAC team explaining why they want to be in the program, receive an explanation of the program guidelines and expectations, and sign terms of conditions.

Phase I - Once admitted into the program, Phase I consists of the coordinator helping the participant to become work-ready and find employment. Based on the assessment conducted by the CSB, participants may receive services related to substance abuse, mental health, literacy, and employment-readiness. Some courts provide parenting classes, visitation, and monitoring to increase the parent-child bonding. In addition, legal services for legitimation and mediation are provided as needed.^{xiii}

Upon getting a job, participants must begin paying current child support according to their ability. The coordinator closely manages each participant and the judge uses a system of graduated incentives and sanctions to promote compliance with paying support. Incentives may include such things as praise from the judge, certificates and medals of recognition, and getting to appear before the judge less, so long as the parent is working and paying their child support in full. Sanctions range from having to report to the coordinator more frequently during the week to spending a few days in jail (for the most serious cases of non-compliance).

Phase II - Promotion to Phase II may vary from one court to the next, but it generally occurs once the non-custodial parent has demonstrated consistency in paying child support from month-to-month. Often coordinators will give the participant a certificate or medal when promoted to this phase. The goal for participants in Phase II is to pay 100 percent of their current order and a portion of their arrears for sixth months in a row, which makes them eligible for graduation. Some participants may stay in the program even after meeting this requirement if additional services and supervision are needed.^{xiv}

Graduation – This final ceremony is a special time for participants. They are commended by the judge and coordinator for their hard work and perseverance in the program before their family, friends, and other participants. Certificates of completion are awarded, short speeches are given, and a small celebration is held with cake and punch. For many participants, this is the first time they have experienced a graduation ceremony and it marks an important milestone in their life.^{xv}

Success

Parent Accountability Courts have proven to be very successful since their commencement in 2009. Just this past year (SFY14), PACs collected a total of **\$840,592** from **1,091 non-custodial parents**, many of whom did not pay anything in the months (and sometimes years) leading up to their participation.^{5,xvi}

⁵ See the chart titled “Parent Accountability Courts – State Fiscal Year 2014 Data” in the appendix for a breakdown of child support collected for each of the 18 PACs.

This amount represents a **54 percent increase** in child support collected by PACs from the previous year and a **287 percent increase** from two years prior.

The increase can be attributed in large part to a growing number of participants being served by the program, which increased more than twofold since FY2013 and more than fivefold since FY2012. This growth occurred as PACs expanded from eight to eighteen courts in a matter of two years.⁶

Another reason for the increase in aggregate amount of child support collected is that PACs are helping more and more participants pay at least some portion of what they owe. Between SFY2012 and SFY2014, **68-73 percent** of participants paid a portion of their child support order while enrolled in the program.^{xvii} Based on data from this year (SFY2015), participants are paying **over one-third** of the total amount of current support due by all non-custodial parents in the program.^{7,xviii} This is remarkable given that the percentage paid by these same non-custodial parents prior to entering the program was close to zero.

Further, the program has had considerable success in helping non-custodial parents obtain employment. At any given time, between **51-53 percent** of participants are employed while in the program, which fluctuates based on the number of new people admitted into PACs.^{xix} This percentage is fairly significant given that most participants carry a criminal record which has shown by one study to reduce the likelihood of a person receiving a job callback or offer by nearly **50 percent**.^{xx}

Over the past two years, PACs have graduated a total of **248 participants**, indicating these non-custodial parents obtained gainful employment and consistently paid their child support order in full. The Administrative Office of the Courts and DCSS are working to develop a system that will begin tracking participants' employment status in the months and year(s) following graduation.^{xxi}

PAC Spotlights:

The PAC in Macon recently had a group of five participants who graduated from the program in March 2015. During the twelve months prior to their enrollment, these participants paid a collective total of \$16,570.19 in child support. While participating in the PAC program, these same non-custodial parents contributed a total of \$32,320.80 – a **95 percent increase** from their previous performance.

In Hall County, child support payments from non-custodial parents **increased by \$45,000** during the PAC's first year of operation in 2011, while the cost to incarcerate them was reduced by **\$178,000**.^{xxii}

Cost

The cost of operating a PAC mostly involves paying the salary of a coordinator to run the program, which is **\$32,000**.^{xxiii} This amounts to a total of **\$1,248,770** for DCSS to fund the 18 PACs across the state.^{xxiv}

⁶ In SFY 2012, 207 non-custodial parents paid a total of \$217,014, and in SFY 2013, 471 non-custodial parents paid a total of \$545,997. See the chart titled "Parent Accountability Court Data Highlights – SFY 2012-2014" in the Appendix.

⁷ Between July 2014 and February 2015, participants paid \$494,936, which represents 36 percent of the total amount of current support due by all participants

These programs are not funded through any federal grants given to DCSS, which comprise 66 percent of the agency's budget. Instead, the program is funded by DCSS reappropriating limited funds from within the budget allotted to them by the state. Federal funds cannot be appropriated to these programs since they do not "technically" fall within the five core services provided by DCSS,⁸ even though they help significantly in the collection of child support from non-custodial parents who have failed to pay their current support and arrears.^{xxv}

According to DCSS, the agency makes this sacrifice because it believes in the importance of the program and has witnessed the considerable success PACs have had in supporting non-custodial parents and helping them to pay child support.^{xxvi} However, it will be difficult for DCSS to expand the number of these courts without receiving additional funding from the state or federal government to hire more coordinators to run the program.

Benefits

PACs benefit a variety of stakeholders in Georgia.

From a fiscal perspective, PACs save counties a considerable amount of money in reduced costs of incarceration. The amount of savings has ranged from **\$6,000** to **\$77,000** in a given month.^{xxvii} This results in an estimated minimum savings of **\$2,664,000** in a year by not having to incarcerate as many non-custodial parents in county jails within the 18 judicial circuits that have a PAC.⁹ Local counties also save money by avoiding the costs associated with paying sheriff's departments to arrest non-custodial parents who have a contempt action in place.

PACs have resulted in the state collecting as much as **\$840,592** in a year and **\$1,603,603** over the past three years in current child support and arrears from non-custodial parents who have had a history of non-payment.^{xxviii} The result is that more money is going directly to children to provide for their needs. In SFY2014, **1600 children** were served by the program.

Additionally, PACs result in the state spending less money in:

- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) for custodial parents who are not receiving support from the non-custodial parent
- Medicaid for the non-custodial parent
- DCSS enforcement actions
- Arrests
- Recidivism¹⁰

⁸ DCSS five core services include locating non-custodial parents, establishing paternity, establishing and enforcing child support orders, establishing and enforcing medical support orders, and collecting and distributing support payments.

⁹ \$6,000 (lowest recorded amount in monthly savings by a county jail by not incarcerating non-custodial parents) x 12 months in a year x 37 counties (which comprise the 18 judicial circuits with a PAC in SFY2014) = \$2,664,000

¹⁰ Non-custodial parents who are reentering the community from prison face tremendous financial pressure from having to pay various debts and obligations, not the least of which is paying current child support and arrears that have accumulated while they were in prison. Such pressure may lead non-custodial parents to work underground as a way of avoiding having their income withheld by employers, may lead them to avoid paying fees associated with their probation or parole, or may lead them

All of this ultimately results in taxpayers saving money.

From a human perspective, PACs benefit children by ensuring non-custodial parents provide financial and emotional support that their children desperately need. When this support is absent, the child is much more likely to live in poverty and to suffer emotional, mental, and physical distress.^{xxix}

PACs benefit custodial parents by ensuring they receive financial assistance from non-custodial parents to care for their children, reducing the burden of providing for and raising them day-to-day. Reduced stress and improved interactions with non-custodial parents can, in turn, improve custodial parents' interaction with their children.

Finally, PACs benefit non-custodial parents by providing them with professional assessment, treatment, and services that address their underlying issues and help them to become employed and pay their child support regularly. As a result, they enjoy the happiness and dignity that comes from providing for their children and meeting their needs, as well as contributing to their community through working and paying taxes.^{xxx}

Cost-Benefit Analysis

Costs	Benefits
Operating 18 courts (SFY2014): \$1,248,770	Aggregate child support collected by 18 PACs in SFY2014: \$840,592
Salary of a PAC coordinator: \$32,000 (factored into above operating cost)	Average amount of child support collected per PAC in SFY2014: ¹¹ \$46,700
Judges' time	Estimated savings from not incarcerating: \$2,664,000
DA's or SAAG's time	Savings for not issuing an arrest warrant to sheriff's departments Savings in reduced TANF disbursements Savings in reduced Medicaid enrollment Savings from reduced recidivism Taxes paid by working non-custodial parents

to commit a new crime, all of which can result in their re-incarceration. PACs have the potential of providing returning citizens the supervision and assistance they need to pay their obligations and successfully reintegrate into society.

¹¹ Among the eight PACs that have been established the longest, the total amount of child support collected by these courts was \$625,883 in SFY2014. This means that each of the eight courts collected an average of \$78,235, which more than covers the cost of a coordinator to the state, which is \$32,000.

Conclusion

Parent Accountability Courts promote one of the most basic goods for society: parents providing for their children. These courts may not reverse the trend of family fragmentation, but they do an excellent job of mitigating its effects and promoting better relationships between non-custodial parents and their children. Given all the good they provide and the success they have shown, they deserve a closer look as a solution to be further funded and implemented across the state.

DRAFT

Appendix

Parent Accountability Courts – State Fiscal Year 2014 Data

Judicial Circuit	Judge	Total Child Support Collected	Graduated	Removed	Non-Custodial Parent Count
Alcovy	Johnson	\$25,785.00	3	4	38
Appalachian	Worcester	\$123,353.59		3	52
Augusta	Craig	\$24,602.58		15	45
Coweta	Simpson	\$137,664.25	57	175	395
Dublin	Flanders	\$4,687.50	0	5	14
Enotah	Miller	\$50,314.14	0	10	33
Flint	Amero	\$56,537.31	15	4	56
Fulton	Wright	\$30,448.28	6	2	50
Gwinnett	Schrader	\$10,606.71	0	2	40
Macon	Raymond	\$38,052.72	5	17	60
Mountain	Caudell	\$26,843.67	6	9	39
Northeastern	Oliver	\$68,341.23	5	4	19
Northern	Hodges	\$214.32	0	1	12
Pataula	Bishop	\$96,226.48		16	105
Rockdale	Mumford	\$1,952.72	0	2	9
Southwestern	Smith	\$13,307.25	0	4	30
Stone Mountain	Scott	\$88,709.40	9	9	42
Towaliga	Fears	\$42,945.09	0	10	52
Total:		\$840,592.24	106	292	1,091

Source: Division of Child Support Services^{xxxii}

Parent Accountability Court Data Highlights – SFY 2012-2014

	SFY 2012	SFY 2013	SFY 2014
NCP's Served	207	471	1,091
Children Served	539	757	1,600
Support Paid	\$217,014	\$545,997	\$840,592
Percentage of NCPs Who Paid	73.48%	68.48%	69.60%
Graduates	90	52	106

Source: Division of Child Support Services^{xxxiii}

Endnotes

ⁱ Tangler Gray-Johnson, Director of Georgia's Division of Child Support Services, email message to author, June 25, 2015; B. Chan Caudell, Superior Court Judge, Mountain Judicial Circuit, email message to author, June 25, 2015.

ⁱⁱ Keith Horton, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Human Services, testimony heard by the author at a Problem Solving Court Subcommittee meeting held at the Department of Human Services' office in Atlanta on February 18, 2015; Division of Child Support Services, *Problem Solving Court Express*, Georgia Department of Human Services, Volume 2, Issue 4, March 2015, 2, received in an email from Ashley Cooper, Executive Assistant to Director & Deputy Director, Division of Child Support Services, April 21, 2015.

ⁱⁱⁱ Division of Child Support Services, "DCSS Problem Solving Court," Georgia Department of Human Services, Excel spreadsheet, email message to author from Patricia Smith, Director of State Operations, Division of Child Support Services, May 13, 2015.

^{iv} Tangler Gray-Johnson, "Problem Solving Court – SFY14 Data – Updated Information," Department of Human Services, Division of Child Support Services, February 4, 2015, email message to author from Brian Amero, Superior Court Judge, Flint Judicial Circuit, February 13, 2015.

^v Applied Research Services, Inc., "Logic Model – Problem Solving Court," AOC-CCSC Logic Model, Revised March 27, 2009, 3, received in an email from Ashley Cooper, Executive Assistant to Director & Deputy Director, Division of Child Support Services, April 21, 2015.

^{vi} Estimate provided by Susan Cosby during a conversation at the DeKalb County Problem Solving Court, Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit, May 19, 2015.

^{vii} Tangler Gray-Johnson, "Problem Solving Court – SFY14 Data"; Division of Child Support Services, "Georgia Fatherhood Program – Fact Sheet," Georgia Department of Human Services, Office of Communications, March 2010, http://ocse.dhr.georgia.gov/sites/dcss.dhs.georgia.gov/files/imported/DHR-OCSE/DHR-OCSE_About_OCSE/DCSS%20DHS%20Fatherhood%20fact%20sheet%20FY2010.pdf.

^{viii} Georgia Department of Human Services, "Division of Child Support Services," Fact Sheet, Revised November 2014, <http://dhs.georgia.gov/sites/dhs.georgia.gov/files/2014%20DCSS%20Fact%20Sheet%20Rev%20November%202014%5B1%5D.pdf>

^{ix} Ibid.

^x Ibid.

^{xi} Administrative Office of the Courts, "Problem Solving Court Standards," Draft, October 27, 2014, received in an email message from Ashley Cooper, Executive Assistant to Director & Deputy Director, Division of Child Support Services, April 21, 2015.

^{xii} Ibid.

^{xiii} Applied Research Services, Inc., "Logic Model – Problem Solving Court."

^{xiv} Stacey Sitten, Problem Solving Court Coordinator for the Towaliga Judicial Circuit, Division of Child Support Services, conversation with author at the Monroe County Problem Solving Court, June 2, 2015.

^{xv} Susan Cosby, Problem Solving Court Program Evaluator, Division of Child Support Services, conversation with author at the DeKalb County Problem Solving Court, May 19, 2015.

^{xvi} Tangler Gray-Johnson, "Problem Solving Court – SFY14 Data."

^{xvii} Division of Child Support Services, *Problem Solving Court Express*, 1.

^{xviii} Patricia Smith, Director of State Operations, Division of Child Support Services, email message to author, May 10, 2015.

^{xix} Susan Cosby, Problem Solving Court Program Evaluator, Division of Child Support Services, email to author, May 13, 2015.

^{xx} Devah Pager, Bruce Western, and Naomie Sugie, "Sequencing Disadvantage: Barriers to Employment Facing Young Black and White Men with Criminal Records," *The Annals of the American Academy of Political Science* 623 (2009): 195-213, retrieved from the U.S. National Institute of Health, National Library of Medicine, National Center for Biotechnical Information, NIH Public Access, Author Manuscript, 4, <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3583356/>.

^{xxi} Susan Cosby, Problem Solving Court Program Evaluator, Division of Child Support Services, email to author, May 13, 2015.

^{xxii} Division of Child Support Services, "New Courts Launch in Dublin and Gwinnett Circuits," *Problem Solving Court Express*, Volume 2, Issue 2, April – June 2014, email message to author from Brian Amero, Superior Court Judge, Flint Judicial Circuit, June 9, 2014.

^{xxiii} Susan Cosby, Problem Solving Court Program Evaluator, Division of Child Support Services, email to author, May 13, 2015.

^{xxiv} Tangler Gray-Johnson, "Questions/Responses," compiled for the Problem Solving Court Subcommittee meeting held at the Department of Human Services' office in Atlanta on April 22, 2015, received in an email from Ashley Cooper, Executive Assistant to Director & Deputy Director, Division of Child Support Services, April 21, 2015.

^{xxv} Georgia Department of Human Services, "Division of Child Support Services."

^{xxvi} Keith Horton, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Human Services, testimony heard by the author at a Problem Solving Court Subcommittee meeting held at the Department of Human Services' office in Atlanta on February 18, 2015.

^{xxvii} Susan Cosby, Problem Solving Court Program Evaluator, Division of Child Support Services, email to author, May 13, 2015.

^{xxviii} Division of Child Support Services, "Problem Solving Court Data Highlights – SFY 2012/2013/2014," *Problem Solving Court Express*, Volume 2, Issue 4, March 2015, email message to author from Ashley Cooper, Executive Assistant to Director & Deputy Director, Division of Child Support Services, April 21, 2015.

^{xxix} Office of Child Support Enforcement, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, "Custodial Parents Living in Poverty," *The Story Behind the Numbers*, Fact Sheet Series, Number 3, January 2014, https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/programs/css/sbtn_custodial_parents_living_in_poverty.pdf; American Psychological Association, "Effects of Poverty, Hunger and Homelessness on Children and Youth," Accessed June 26, 2015, <http://www.apa.org/pi/families/poverty.aspx>.

^{xxx} Randy Hicks, “From Welfare to Opportunity,” Presentation at a special luncheon with Jennifer Marshall, Vice President for the Institute for Family, Community, and Opportunity at the Heritage Foundation, Buckhead Club in Atlanta, April 8, 2015.

^{xxxi} Tanguler Gray-Johnson, “Problem Solving Court – SFY14 Data.”

^{xxxii} Division of Child Support Services, “Problem Solving Court Data Highlights – SFY 2012/2013/2014.”

DRAFT



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

REQUEST SUMMARY as amended by the Judicial Council Budget Committee:

For use as talking points during conversations with funding and policy making bodies to include the Judicial Council, General Assembly, and Office of the Governor.

1. Which Program is requesting this Enhancement?

Judicial Council - Administrative Office of the Courts of Georgia (JC/AOC)

2. Enhancement Name/Descriptor: **Data sharing infrastructure expansion, update and licensing (BOND REQUEST: Issued to CJCC. Judicial Council agrees to partner through an MOU)**

FISCAL YEAR	Current state funds received	Amount Requesting	If granted, new state funding level
<input type="checkbox"/> Amended FY 2016	\$	\$	\$
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FY 2017	\$	\$0.00	\$0.00

3. What will the enhancement accomplish?

- Facilitating the modernization of state-of-the-art data sharing infrastructure without straining limited resources while locking in sustainable and predictable pricing and costs.
- Streamlining data sharing infrastructure, enabling justice partners across state agencies while maintaining local discretion, by providing a broad spectrum of tools and choices to customize needs and services.
- Resolving concerns in data inconsistency in first offender process between state level justice partners and the criminal records maintained by GBI's GCIC.
- Expanding service beyond existing justice partners due to reduction in costs, thereby decreasing associated financial, human and capital resources currently being utilized.
- Identifying data sharing services which allow customization for local discretion while improving the standardization of data definitions, fields, code references, general work flow features for improved data sharing capabilities.
- Leveraging cost advantages of a larger user base by partnering with any of the seven classes of courts across 159 counties and streamlining first stage support through the JC/AOC field and IT staff, enhancing service and reducing time spent on problem resolution by local personnel.
- Providing critical upgrades to the existing service infrastructure by supporting our justice partners in their constitutional mandate for the provision of effective, efficient and timely access to the courts by resolving disputes and administering justice.
- Fulfilling the needs of our courts and justice partners for upgraded services and improved web-based access to desktop, laptop, tablet and mobile devices with remote access from any browser, in any region of state and beyond for true anytime, anywhere access.
- Centralizing data storage and systems maintenance while expediting business continuity and recovery processes with knowledgeable IT staff.



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

4. What is unable to be accomplished without the enhancement?

- Diminishing ability to carry the current aging data sharing infrastructure. SUSTAIN was purchased and installed in 1993, had funding and vendor patches/ upgrades terminated in 2008, and is currently supported by reduced number of JC /AOC personnel and contractors.
- Failing to modernize systems makes them incompatible with advances in technology, thereby increasing costs and time for court personnel and JC/AOC staff in seeking alternative means for reporting, daily operations, and administration of justice.
- Eliminating the ability to provide standardized and timely data collection, correction and reporting to various bodies, including county agencies, clerks' authorities, financial collection and data reporting partnership agencies, executive branch agencies such as GBI, JC/AOC, legislative entities and members of the public.
- Reducing opportunities to support expanding services such as problem solving courts, rural locations, and minimizing automated reporting capabilities.
- Advancing technology with shorter improvement cycles renders the current environment obsolete and no longer able to communicate with new technology platforms, such as mobile devices.
- Risking retirement of the current data sharing infrastructure by the vendor, potentially leading to increased start-up and maintenance costs, resulting from expedited service delivery needs

5. Does the enhancement include salaried staff and/or operations, which includes contractors?

- Salaried staff (in current budget)
- Operating Funds (includes contractors)



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Which Program is requesting this Enhancement?
Judicial Council - Administrative Office of the Courts

Part 1 – Detailed Explanation of Request

1. Proposal:

It is proposed to recommend in the Governor's FY17 Budget the issuance of a bond to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) for the purpose of implementing the data sharing infrastructure expansion and update project, formally titled Judicial Data Exchange (JDX). The bond would be awarded to CJCC and be implemented through an MOU with the Judicial Council's Administrative Office of the Courts (JC/AOC). The CJCC would issue grants to participating local jurisdictions, thereby ensuring compliance and shared financial responsibility. By coordinating the financial considerations through the CJCC, justice partners would have representative votes and oversight in the project implementation. Justice partners with CJCC membership and representation include: Prosecutors, Public Defenders, JC/AOC, Superior Court Council, Sheriff, County Commissioner, and Municipal leadership.

By building judicial data exchanges into existing data sharing infrastructure, data inconsistencies are reduced as data is shared electronically in a common format. Research supports the increase in data quality and consistency where repeated re-entry of data elements is minimized. This provides significant benefits at the state level in dealing with first offender data entry errors reported to GCIC, as well as members of the public by ensuring consistent data is reported throughout the local and state level, as well as to federal government partners. An integrated criminal justice system increases data integrity and quality while streamlining processes and error resolution, providing efficiencies, effectiveness and access for all justice partners.

In the proposed bond issuance format, initial implementation costs would be borne by the state while systems maintenance costs would be shared among all justice partners in a controlled and predictable manner.

The Data Sharing Infrastructure project is a state and local partnership between JC/AOC and local court consumers created to achieve optimal pricing for replacement technology software which has reached its end of life. Economic changes have forced an evaluation of the existing no-cost service business model. An adjusted business model shares costs of necessary upgrades through a combination of state and local human and financial resources. This funding would be for the rollout of new centralized systems, which will have dedicated staff reassigned from the existing platform, managing updates, and maintenance, centralized in Atlanta at the JC/AOC offices, while each local partner would pay for individual user licenses. Standardized work processes will be designed while remaining highly customizable



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

for each local court. State employees currently supporting the existing system will move to support the new software, assist in training local users, as well as continue to serve as the first line of technical support.

The proposed solutions comply with Judicial Council technology standards, allowing for automated data sharing, public access and e-filing, should the local courts choose to pursue advanced services. The broad spectrum of choices compliments local technology choices, with the opportunity to customize and select appropriate solution to fit local needs.

2. Geographic Impact: Where does the request impact the state?

Statewide or list counties below: Statewide

3. Current Status:

a. What is the budget unit currently doing to address this issue?

The JC/AOC currently supports the current data sharing infrastructure in its entirety. These activities include writing code for upgrades in data collections, supporting systems for its use, providing training to local users, and serving as first line technical support. The operational costs are currently being absorbed by the JC/AOC IT budget.

b. Will those activities continue if this request is funded?

Dedicated staff will continue to support the current environment until the new one is ready for use by the local courts, at which time the staff will be reassigned to support the new system.

4. Supporting Data:

a. Provide any supporting data, evaluations, and/or research for this request.

In Georgia, many counties acquire data sharing solutions to meet their data reporting requirements.

1. Fulton County has reported spending \$10.8 million on a Tyler Technologies solution. <http://www.ajc.com/news/news/local/for-108-million-fulton-adopts-a-cost-cutting-measu/nQrcn/>
2. DeKalb County also selected the Tyler software and expects to spend approximately \$2.6 million. <http://investors.tylertech.com/profiles/investor/ResLibraryView.asp?ResLibraryID=75260&BzID=499&g=320&Nav=0&LangID=1&s=0>
3. In 2009, Bibb County shifted from our SUSTAIN software, moving to an out-of-state private software application vendor for an original cost of



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

\$74,000. At the current time, they are planning to switch again to another application, likely JTI's eCourt, the software recommended here.

4. The bulk of smaller counties in Georgia use the services of one of two in-state vendors. They pay anywhere from \$6,100 to \$500,000 annually, depending on their past caseload or anticipated volume of work. Another county that switched from SUSTAIN to a private vendor paid a license fee of about \$14,000 per year. These vendors may subsidize the cost of their software via other mechanism such as a fee for every document uploaded or made available to copy and upload for later re-sale online. Additional fees charged to attorneys or members of the public pose significant challenges.
- b. Include information on similar successful programs or evaluations in other jurisdictions that are relevant to this request.

Gwinnett County has several classes of courts on the proposed eCourts system. They are supported by vendor with local technical staff with an unlimited training budget. They have successfully integrated newly automated work flows and business processing and are expanding the case management system to Recorder's court. Their systems were used at the May 20 Case Manage Summit hosted in Macon, Georgia.

5. Performance Measures:

- a. What measures are or will be used to evaluate the impact of this change?

Project Measures:

- Percentage complete = courts / user ready to Go Live
- Data conversions complete = courts percentage data converted
- New User Installation = percentage complete for each new court to Go Live

Impact measures:

- Pre / Post Customer Satisfaction surveys – Likert scale
- # of courts converting to new system from old
- # of users converting to new system from old

6. If an enhancement, what is the projected cost savings or return on investment?

As the current environment is fully supported free of charge to the local courts, and the staffing support covered in the JC/AOC budget, the return on investment (ROI) is realized in Cost and Capital Avoidance.

- a. How is this calculated?



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Cost Avoidance ROI is estimated in terms of time saved by state personnel and our customer as the local levels by creating an environment that allows remote access by staff, judges, attorneys and members of the public. These automated services increase access and fairness to many constituents, but particularly to members of the public as remote access is supported by any web browser without prejudice to the type of device. In a mobile age of instance access expectations, the specific costs and benefits are difficult to attach dollar figures to, however, result in increased satisfaction by users.

Additionally, the availability of e-filing for those courts that choose to turn it on, again, leverages proven cost and time savings by staff, court personnel, attorneys and members of the public.

Capital Avoidance ROI is realized through the centralization of infrastructure support systems, similar to the current design. System maintenance, software upgrades and field support staff will all be centralized, creating shared cost savings in maintenance areas and building shared knowledge banks to support justice partners.

b. What efficiencies will be realized?

Efficiencies go hand-in-hand with cost and capital risk avoidance measures. Increased access, fairness and opportunities to customized data sharing infrastructure afford intrinsic benefits which are difficult to measure. Many will be realized with our justice partners, in terms of time savings for personnel, automated work flow processes, increased remote access, e-filing, public access as well as potentially reducing the work load by staff.

7. Stakeholders & Constituents:

- a. Describe the constituent and stakeholder groups affected by this change (e.g., board members, advocates/interest groups, service providers, other agencies, other governmental entities).

Judges, lawyers, litigants, AOC, executive branch agencies, recipients of data from the courts, clerks of all levels of court, vendors, the business community, and the public

- b. Which are likely to support this request?

Broad support is expected from many of our justice partners.

On May 20, 2015, we hosted a Court Case Management Summit in Macon sponsored by the vendor to create awareness of their new product. The presented data sharing solution provides (1) e-filing capabilities as a standard option, (2) customizable case management system for each business entity, (3) data exchange



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

infrastructure and access across the state. There were 74 registered attendees plus a few additional participants. Among these attendees were many current users of the existing case management software. Clerk, court administration, judges, staff were represented in this group, as well as JC/AOC field and support staff.

- c. Which are likely to oppose this request?

Significant opposition is not expected, as the proposed solution encourages and allows for local determination and customization to meet needs while providing state of the art case management system with standardized data capturing and reporting, meeting and exceeding the demands for increased and multiple access points to serve our justice community.

- d. Which have not voiced support or opposition?

8. Legislation or Rule Change:

- a. Is legislation or a rule change required if this request is implemented? If so, please explain.
No legislation or rule changes are expected.
- b. Is this request a result of a legislation or rule change? If so, please explain.
No, these upgrades are not a result of recent legislation or rule changes.

9. Alternatives:

What alternatives were considered and why are they not viable?

Potentially three alternatives exist.

- a. Status quo – Leaving things as they are is always a choice, however, given the age of the existing system, and the creation of new case management system by Journal Technologies Inc (JTI), it is increasingly likely that JTI will retire the current SUSTAIN case management system.
1. Risks: This option would create a vacuum in the event that the current system is no longer available. Case information could potentially be lost, converted or re-entered into a new environment with significant burden to the existing users. Potentially, some could return to the use of paper as the primary record.
- b. Forced Retirement – the option exists to force retirement of the existing system in a controlled and planned manner, without replacement. This would force current users to acquire and support case management systems, as well as execute data migration from the current system to another.
1. Risks: If a system other than the state sponsored and supported system was a viable option in terms of financial and infrastructure support, users



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

have already left the SUSTAIN project in favor of more modern systems. Therefore, as with option a – status quo, this deposits the responsibility of the state level agency to capture and standardize data and reporting functions, while minimizing access and fairness issues surrounding disparate treatment of the constituents that we service.

- c. Mandated centralized system – due to the decentralized nature of our state, its counties and the strong policy of local determination, any mandated, centralized case load reporting would never garner sufficient support within the criminal justice community. While this option creates a preferred data, process and reporting standardization previous attempts at this have proven divisive and power struggles. These attempts have created distrust and further separation and disparity in serving our communities.

1. Risks: Mandating statewide case management system would require changes to existing laws and code. Such changes are expected to be strongly challenged, as it would create significant differences in existing systems and draw ire from politically elected constitutional officers, which have traditionally self-determined through negotiation with their judges and counties. It is likely that any push in this direction would be unsuccessful and highly contested.

Part 2 - BUDGET

10. Requested and Projected Resources:

- a. For enhancements and certain base adjustments, describe the additional resources are you requesting. **Ensure descriptions and amounts align with the budget chart on page 2.*

1. Positions: (full-time/part-time, education required, qualifications, overview of general duties, and salaries)

No new positions will be created through this budget request. Existing staff supporting the current case management system will be trained and moved to support the new proposed system.

2. Operational needs:

- b. What are your out-year projections?
No additional staffing or additional capital costs are expected in the years subsequent to this request, unless significant increase in users is experienced. Staffing for training and field support services would be addressed at that time.



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Description	# of Units	Unit Cost	Extended Cost	Cost Borne by
Data Exchanges		\$ 25,000		State Bond
eCourts Implementation	1	\$ 580,000	\$ 580,000	State Bond
Ecourts Training	1	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	State Bond
Annual License Fee - Year 1	750	\$ 950	\$ 712,500	State Bond
Total:			\$ 1,322,500	
Ongoing Annual License		\$ 950		Local Justice Entity
Centralized Support		included		

As this contract represents a 5 year lease of the case management software, with a full warranty for upgrades and standard support needs, additional costs are not expected. The one-time costs for startup as well as annual licensing fees describe the costs associated with the change over from the existing case management system to the proposed environment.

Total Annual Licensing and Maintenance Fees plus One-Time Costs = \$1,322,500

License fees would begin after **January 2017** when it is estimated that production would begin with the new software, at the current level of funding for staffing and other resources (network infrastructure and storage).

11. Methodology/Assumptions:

- a. Provide the methodology and assumptions behind the requested amount and out-year projections.

Assumptions include:

1. A similar numbers of user licenses will be used in the proposed case management system as are currently in use in the existing system.
2. A small increase is expected in new users due to the ease and minimal technology requirements of the proposed upgraded data sharing infrastructure, allowing those without an automated data sharing affordable access and sufficient incentive to do so.

- b. How did you arrive at the amounts?



**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA
FY 2016 AMENDED REQUEST FORM
FY 2017 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM**

Journal Technologies Pricing Sheet / Cost Analysis

- c. What time period does the request cover (i.e., the number of months)?
Initial project rollout for funding considerations would begin no sooner than July 1, 2016 as part of FY2017 funding. Training and other non-financial considerations may begin upon budgetary approval, thereby reducing the lead time necessary from start-up to go live.

The annual maintenance fees cover the first year of production, anticipated as FY2018, with 12 – 18 month for conversion.

Subsequent annual maintenance fees will be paid for by users' funding bodies.

- 12. Federal and Other Funds:** Describe the impact on federal and/or other funds related to this request (amount, policy etc).

Improved data standardization, accuracy and collection resulting from this systems update may facilitate positioning for future federal and private grants requests.

Part 3 - OTHER INFORMATION

- 13.** Discuss any historical or other relevant factors that should be considered.



Judicial Council of Georgia

Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Interim Director

Memorandum

TO: Judicial Council Members

FROM: Judge William Boyett, Chair, Judicial Council Domestic Violence Grant Committee

RE: Judicial Council Domestic Violence Grant Committee Report

DATE: August 6, 2015

Since 1999, the Judicial Council's Domestic Violence Grant Committee has awarded state funds to Georgia nonprofits in order to provide free civil legal services to impoverished victims of family violence and their children. The grant assists over 5,000 victims each year. This year, the legislature appropriated \$2,260,737 for the Committee to award, which was an increase of \$189,263 over last year's allowance. Since Fiscal Year 2013, the legislature has incrementally increased the appropriation for a total increase of approximately \$600,000. The 2015 Committee members were:

Judge William T. Boyett, Chair
Judge Anne E. Barnes
Judge William P. Bartles
Judge Thomas Bobbitt
Judge Maria Golick
Judge Divida Gude
Judge Horace Johnson
Judge Tripp Self
Judge J. Carlisle Overstreet
Allegra Lawrence-Hardy
Linda A. Klein
Jody Overcash, advisor
Jennifer Thomas, advisor

The Committee met on June 26, 2015, and considered ten applications, three of which came from new applicants. Two of the three new applicants had been funded in years past. The Committee decided to fund eight of the applicants, including one new applicant – Cherokee Family Violence

Center, Inc., which was last funded in Fiscal Year 2009. Award amounts to each of the grantees are attached.

Finally, with the increases in yearly appropriations by the legislature, the responsibilities of the Administrative Office of Courts (AOC) increase as well. The AOC issues the grant guidelines each year, collects all grant applications, communicates with prospective and actual grantees, analyzes and condenses all materials for the Committee, organizes the Committee's yearly meeting, drafts and sends out contracts and cover letters to grantees, tallies semi-annual statistical reports, and conducts site visits to ensure state funds are being used appropriately. In order to carry out these responsibilities in an efficient and effective manner, the AOC needs the requisite resources. Because of these responsibilities and the need for increased resources, the Committee unanimously voted to recommend to the Judicial Council an increase in the AOC's administrative fee to 3%, effective for the Fiscal Year 2017 grant.

If you have any questions about this grant, please contact Zan Patorgis at zan.patorgis@georgiacourts.gov.

Civil Legal Services to Victims of Family Violence Grant

Awards FY 2016

Atlanta Legal Aid Society	\$642,921
Cherokee Family Violence Center, Inc.*	\$5,700
Gateway House	\$6,120
Georgia Law Center for the Homeless	\$25,000
Georgia Legal Services Program	\$1,499,496
Northeast Georgia Shelter Collaborative (SAFE)	\$35,000
Northwest Georgia Family Crisis Center, Inc.	\$33,000
Wayne County Protective Agency/Fair Haven	<u>\$13,500</u>
TOTAL FUNDS AWARDED	\$2,260,737

*New applicant



Judicial Council of Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Interim Director

Memorandum

TO: Judicial Council Members

FROM: Presiding Justice P. Harris Hines *P.H.H.*
Chair, Policy and Legislative Committee

RE: Committee Report

DATE: July 20, 2015

On July 16, 2015, the Policy and Legislative Committee (the "Committee") met to discuss potential legislative items for the 2016 Session of the General Assembly. The Committee makes the following recommendations to the Judicial Council:

**I. HB 691 – Removal for cause of Municipal Court judges
(O.C.G.A. § 36-32-2)**

Proposal: To amend O.C.G.A § 36-32-2 to provide defined procedures for removal ("removal for cause" provisions) of municipal court judges. While many municipal charters already contain provisions to either provide for a defined term or provide that judges be removed only for cause, current state law provides that all municipal court judges serve at the pleasure of the municipal governing authority. (*Legislation attached*)

The Committee recommends that the Judicial Council **support** legislation to amend O.C.G.A. § 36-32-2 to provide defined procedures for removal of municipal court judges. This recommendation was supported by the Judicial Council during the 2015 legislative session.

**II. SB 205 – Municipal courts to become a “court of record”
(O.C.G.A. § 36-32-1)**

Proposal: To amend § O.C.G.A. 36-32-1 to designate the municipal courts of Georgia as “courts of record.” (*Legislation attached*)

The Committee recommends that the Judicial Council **support** legislation to amend O.C.G.A. § 36-32-1 to designate municipal courts in Georgia as “courts of record.” This recommendation was supported by the Judicial Council during the 2015 legislative session.

**III. HB 480 – Creation of the Office of Prosecuting Attorney of Municipal Courts
(O.C.G.A. § 15-18-91 & O.C.G.A. § 15-18-95)**

Proposal: To amend O.C.G.A. § 15-18-91 to designate the city attorney of a municipality to serve as the prosecuting attorney pending the creation of the office of the prosecuting attorney of the municipal court; and, to amend O.C.G.A. § 15-18-95 to designate the city attorney of a municipality to serve as the prosecuting attorney of the municipality in the event the prosecuting attorney of the municipal court is disqualified and a substitute prosecuting attorney is not available. (*Legislation attached*)

The Committee recommends that the Judicial Council **support** legislation to amend O.C.G.A. § 15-18-91 and O.C.G.A. § 15-18-95 to provide for prosecuting attorneys for municipal courts. This recommendation was supported by the Judicial Council during the 2015 legislative session.

**IV. Issuance of Marriage Licenses
(O.C.G.A. § 19-3-30)**

Proposal: To amend O.C.G.A. § 19-3-30 to delete the statutory requirement that marriage licenses be issued by the probate court judge or clerk between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. This change is intended to accommodate the current operating hours of probate courts, as courthouses are not open on Saturdays and many probate courts are not open after 5 p.m. (*Proposed legislation attached*)

The Committee recommends that the Judicial Council **support** legislation to amend O.C.G.A. § 19-3-30 to delete the statutory requirement that marriage licenses be issued by the probate court judge or clerk between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

**V. Bonding Amounts
(O.C.G.A. § 15-9-7)**

Proposal: To amend O.C.G.A. § 15-9-7 to increase the required bond amount for probate court judges and clerks from \$25,000 to \$100,000 each. *(Proposed legislation attached)*

The Committee recommends that the Judicial Council **support** legislation to amend O.C.G.A. § 15-9-7 to increase the required bond amount for probate court judges and clerks from \$25,000 to \$100,000 each.

**VI. Definition of Drug Court Division to Include DUI Court
(O.C.G.A § 15-1-15)**

Proposal: To amend O.C.G.A. § 15-1-15 to include DUI Courts in the definition of “drug court division” and to add “alcohol” as a substance. *(Proposed legislation attached)*

The Committee recommends that the Judicial Council **support** legislation to amend O.C.G.A. § 15-1-15 to include DUI Courts in the definition of “drug court division” and to add “alcohol” as a substance.

**VII. HB 207 - Judicial Disqualification Based on Degrees of Relationship with Parties
(O.C.G.A. § 15-1-8)**

Proposal: To amend O.C.G.A. § 15-1-8(a)(2) to restore the third-degree standard for judicial disqualification based on degrees of relationship with parties, to correspond with the revised Georgia Code of Judicial Conduct effective January 1, 2016. *(Legislation attached)*

The Committee recommends that the Judicial Council **support** legislation to amend O.C.G.A. § 15-1-8 to restore the third-degree standard for judicial disqualification based on degrees of relationship with parties. This recommendation was supported by the Judicial Council during the 2015 legislative session.

House Bill 691

By: Representatives Tanner of the 9th, Willard of the 51st, Welch of the 110th, Caldwell of the 131st, and Golick of the 40th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 32 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to municipal courts generally, so as to provide the removal of appointed municipal
3 court judges under certain circumstances; to provide for procedure; to provide for related
4 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Article 1 of Chapter 32 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
8 municipal courts generally, is amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 36-32-2,
9 relating to appointment of judges, as follows:

10 "(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter or any general or local Act, the
11 governing authority of each municipal corporation within this state having a municipal
12 court, as provided by the Act incorporating the municipal corporation or any amendments
13 thereto, is authorized to appoint a judge of such court. Any ~~person~~ individual appointed
14 as a judge under this Code section shall possess such qualifications as set forth in Code
15 Section 36-32-1.1 and shall receive such compensation as shall be fixed by the governing
16 authority of the municipal corporation ~~and shall serve at the pleasure of the governing~~
17 ~~authority.~~ Any individual appointed as a judge under this Code section shall serve for the
18 term set forth in a written agreement between such individual and the governing authority
19 of the municipal corporation, unless otherwise agreed by the parties or if the judge is
20 removed from office as provided in Code Section 36-32-2.2."

21 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 2.**

22 Said article is further amended by adding a new Code Section to read as follows:

23 "36-32-2.2.

24 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'judge' means an individual serving as an
25 appointed municipal court judge.

26 (b)(1) A judge may be removed during his or her term of office by a two-thirds' vote of
27 the entire membership of the governing authority of the municipal corporation for:
28 (A) Willful misconduct in office;
29 (B) Willful and persistent failure to perform duties;
30 (C) Habitual intemperance;
31 (D) Conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice which brings the judicial office
32 into disrepute; or
33 (E) Disability seriously interfering with the performance of duties, which is, or is likely
34 to become, of a permanent character.
35 (2) A municipality may define in its charter further conduct that may lead to a judge's
36 removal.
37 (c) Removal proceedings pursuant to subsection (b) of this Code section may be initiated
38 only by written petition setting forth the grounds for removal of a judge signed by one or
39 more members of the governing authority of the municipal corporation. Upon submission
40 of the petition to remove the judge to such governing authority, the governing authority
41 may consider the petition and determine if the petition relates to and adversely affects the
42 administration of the office of the judge and the rights and interests of the public. If it is
43 determined at a public meeting by a majority vote of the governing authority of the
44 municipal corporation that there is an adverse impact, the judge may be suspended
45 immediately and without further action for up to 60 days pending the final determination
46 pursuant to subsection (e) of this Code section. A judge suspended pursuant to this
47 subsection shall continue to receive the compensation from his or her office until the final
48 determination on the petition or expiration of the suspension.
49 (d) If by the expiration of the suspension period no formal resolution of the petition has
50 been made, the judge shall be reinstated.
51 (e) Removal proceedings shall consist of an open and public hearing held by the governing
52 authority of the municipal corporation, provided that the judge against whom such charges
53 have been brought shall be furnished a copy of the charges at least ten days prior to the
54 hearing. At the conclusion of the hearing, the governing authority of the municipal
55 corporation shall determine whether or not to remove the judge from office. The governing
56 authority of the municipal corporation may adopt rules governing the procedures at such
57 hearings, provided that such hearings comport with due process. The right of certiorari
58 from the decision to remove a judge from office shall exist, and such certiorari shall be
59 obtained under the sanction of a judge of the superior court of the circuit in which the
60 governing authority of the municipal corporation is situated.
61 (f) This Code section shall not affect the power and authority of the Judicial Qualifications
62 Commission to discipline, remove, or cause the involuntary retirement of judges.

63 (g) Any vacancy in a judgeship created by the removal of a judge pursuant to this Code
64 section may be temporarily filled by the governing authority of the municipal corporation
65 for a period not longer than 90 days by any individual qualified by law to serve as a
66 municipal court judge. If after the conclusion of the removal proceedings, including the
67 appeal period, there is a vacancy for such judgeship, the governing authority of the
68 municipal corporation may appoint a judge in the same manner as set forth in Code Section
69 36-32-2.
70 (h) The provisions of this Code section shall expressly supersede any conflicting local law
71 of this state."

72 **SECTION 3.**

73 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.

Senate Bill 205

By: Senator Bethel of the 54th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 36-32-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 municipal courts, so as to make municipal courts a court of record; to provide for related
3 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

5 **SECTION 1.**

6 Code Section 36-32-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to municipal
7 courts, is amended by revising subsection (a) as follows:

8 "(a)(1) Each municipal corporation of this state shall, unless otherwise provided in the
9 local law relating to a particular municipal corporation, be authorized to establish and
10 maintain a municipal court having jurisdiction over the violation of municipal ordinances
11 and over such other matters as are by general law made subject to the jurisdiction of
12 municipal courts. Any such court shall be styled as a municipal court. Any reference in
13 this Code or in any local law to a corporate court, police court, recorder's court, mayor's
14 court, or any such court known by any other name which has jurisdiction over the
15 violation of municipal offenses shall be deemed to mean a municipal court. ~~Except in~~
16 ~~this Code section and in the laws relating to the City Court of Atlanta, the~~ The terms
17 'corporate court,' 'corporate courts,' 'police court,' 'police courts,' 'recorder's court,'
18 'recorders' courts,' 'mayor's court,' and 'mayors' courts,' when such terms refer to a court
19 of a municipal corporation, are stricken wherever they appear in any general or local law
20 of this state and the term 'municipal court' or 'municipal courts,' whichever is appropriate,
21 is inserted in lieu thereof. The change in the name of any such court as provided for by
22 Article VI, Section X, Paragraph I of the Constitution of the State of Georgia and by this
23 Code section shall not affect the validity of any action or prosecution in such court.

24 (2) The municipal court is a court of record. Such court shall:

25 (A) Have a seal;

26 (B) Have the power to fine and imprison;

27 (C) Have the power to grant a new trial on legal grounds;

- 28 (D) Exercise court functions independently of the judge;
29 (E) Proceed according to the course of common law; and
30 (F) Have the acts and judicial proceedings enrolled for a perpetual memorial and
31 testimony, which rolls are designated as the record of the court and are of such high and
32 super-eminent authority that their truth shall not be called into question."

33 **SECTION 2.**

34 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.

House Bill 480

By: Representatives Reeves of the 34th, Willard of the 51st, Ehrhart of the 36th, Jacobs of the 80th, and Weldon of the 3rd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 5 of Chapter 18 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to prosecuting attorneys of municipal courts, so as to require notices of the creation
3 of the office of prosecuting attorney of municipal court and the name of the prosecuting
4 attorney to be served on the Administrative Office of the Courts; to require the city attorney
5 to serve as the prosecuting attorney when such office has not been created; to provide for
6 procedure when the city attorney has a conflict of interest; to provide for related matters; to
7 provide for effective dates; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

10 Article 5 of Chapter 18 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
11 prosecuting attorneys of municipal courts, is amended by revising subsections (a) and (b) of
12 Code Section 15-18-91, relating to the creation of the office of prosecuting attorney of
13 municipal court, as follows:

14 "(a) Subject to the provisions of this article, the governing authority of a municipality shall
15 be authorized to create the office of prosecuting attorney of the municipal court. A copy
16 of the resolution or ordinance creating the office of prosecuting attorney of the municipal
17 court shall be provided to the ~~Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of the State of Georgia~~
18 Administrative Office of the Courts."

19 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 2.**

20 Said article is further amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 15-18-91, relating
21 to the creation of the office of prosecuting attorney of municipal court, as follows:

22 "(b) It shall be the duty of the municipal court clerk, or such other person designated by
23 the governing authority of a municipality, to notify the ~~Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of~~
24 ~~the State of Georgia~~ Administrative Office of the Courts of the name of any person

25 appointed to be the prosecuting attorney of a municipal court within 30 days of such
26 appointment."

27 **SECTION 3.**

28 Said article is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 15-18-91, relating
29 to the creation of the office of prosecuting attorney of municipal court, as follows:

30 "(a) Subject to the provisions of this article, the governing authority of a municipality shall
31 be authorized to create the office of prosecuting attorney of the municipal court. A copy
32 of the resolution or ordinance creating the office of prosecuting attorney of the municipal
33 court shall be provided to the ~~Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of the State of Georgia~~
34 Administrative Office of the Courts. Until the office of prosecuting attorney of the
35 municipal court is created, the city attorney of the applicable municipality shall serve as
36 the prosecuting attorney. When he or she has a conflict of interest, the court shall appoint
37 an attorney to serve in such capacity pro hac vice."

38 **SECTION 4.**

39 Said article is further amended by revising Code Section 15-8-95, relating to disqualification
40 or incapacity of prosecuting attorney, as follows:

41 "15-18-95.

42 If the prosecuting attorney of a municipal court is disqualified from engaging in the
43 prosecution of a particular case or is unable to perform the duties of said office due to
44 illness or incapacity, the governing authority shall provide for the appointment of a
45 substitute prosecuting attorney. At any time in which a substitute prosecuting attorney is
46 not available or an appointment has not been made, the city attorney of the applicable
47 municipality ~~may~~ shall serve as the substitute prosecuting attorney until such time as a
48 prosecuting attorney or substitute prosecuting attorney is available or appointed. When the
49 city attorney has a conflict of interest, the court shall appoint a prosecuting attorney pro hac
50 vice."

51 **SECTION 5.**

52 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, this Act shall become effective on
53 July 1, 2015.

54 (b) Sections 3 and 4 of this Act shall become effective on July 1, 2017, at which time,
55 Section 1 of this Act shall be superseded and repealed in its entirety.

56 **SECTION 6.**

57 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.

Proposed Legislation – Bonding Amounts
7/16/2015

§ 15-9-7. Bond

The judges of the probate courts and his or her clerk must each give bond or surety in the sum of ~~\$25,000.00~~ \$100,000.00, which amount may be increased in any county by local Act, for the faithful discharge of their duties as clerks of the judges of the probate courts.

Proposed Legislation – Issuance of Marriage Licenses
7/16/2015

§ 19-3-30. Issuance, return, and recording of license

(a) Marriage licenses shall be issued only by the judge of the probate court or his clerk, ~~at the county courthouse between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M., Monday through Saturday.~~

**Proposed Legislation - Definition of Drug Court Division to Include DUI Court
7/16/2015**

§ 15-1-15. Drug court divisions

- (a)
 - (1) Any court that has jurisdiction over any criminal case **or DUI case** which arises from the use, sale, possession, delivery, distribution, purchase, or manufacture of a controlled substance, noncontrolled substance, dangerous drug, **alcohol**, or other drug may establish a drug court division **or DUI Court Division** to provide an alternative to the traditional judicial system for disposition of such cases.
 - **(1.1) The term “drug court division” as used in this section shall also include DUI Court Divisions.**
 - (2) In any case which arises from the use, addiction, dependency, sale, possession, delivery, distribution, purchase, or manufacture of a controlled substance, noncontrolled substance, dangerous drug, or other drug or is ancillary to such conduct and the defendant meets the eligibility criteria for the drug court division, the court may assign the case to the drug court division:
 - (A) Prior to the entry of the sentence, if the prosecuting attorney consents;
 - (B) As part of a sentence in a case; or
 - (C) Upon consideration of a petition to revoke probation.
 - (3) Each drug court division shall establish a planning group to develop a work plan. The planning group shall include the judges, prosecuting attorneys, public defenders, probation officers, and persons having expertise in the field of substance abuse. The work plan shall address the operational, coordination, resource, information management, and evaluation needs of the drug court division. The work plan shall include drug court division policies and practices related to implementing the standards and practices developed pursuant to paragraph (4) of this subsection. The work plan shall ensure a risk and needs assessment is used to identify the likelihood of recidivating and identify the needs that, when met, reduce recidivism. The work plan shall ensure that drug court division eligibility shall be focused on moderate-risk and high-risk offenders as determined by a risk and needs assessment. The drug court division shall combine judicial supervision, treatment of drug court division participants, and drug testing.
 - (4) (A) On or before January 1, 2013, the Judicial Council of Georgia shall establish standards and practices for drug court divisions taking into consideration guidelines and principles based on current research and findings published by the National Drug Court Institute and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, relating to practices shown to reduce recidivism of offenders with drug abuse problems. Standards and practices shall include, but shall not be limited to, the use of a risk and needs assessment to identify the likelihood of recidivating and identify the needs that,

when met, reduce recidivism. The Judicial Council of Georgia shall update its standards and practices to incorporate research, findings, and developments in the drug court field. Each drug court division shall adopt policies and practices that are consistent with the standards and practices published by the Judicial Council of Georgia.

- **(B)** On and after January 1, 2013, the Judicial Council of Georgia shall provide technical assistance to drug court divisions to assist them with the implementation of policies and practices, including, but not limited to, guidance on the implementation of risk and needs assessments in drug court divisions.
- **(C)** On or before July 1, 2013, the Judicial Council of Georgia shall create and manage a certification and peer review process to ensure drug court divisions are adhering to the Judicial Council of Georgia's standards and practices and shall create a waiver process for drug court divisions to seek an exception to the Judicial Council of Georgia's standards and practices. In order to receive state appropriated funds, any drug court division established on and after July 1, 2013, shall be certified pursuant to this subparagraph or, for good cause shown to the Judicial Council of Georgia, shall receive a waiver from the Judicial Council of Georgia.
- **(D)** On and after July 1, 2013, the award of any state funds for a drug court division shall be conditioned upon a drug court division attaining certification or a waiver by the Judicial Council of Georgia. On or before September 1, the Judicial Council of Georgia shall publish an annual report listing certified drug court divisions.
- **(E)** Pursuant to [Code Section 15-5-24](#), the Administrative Office of the Courts shall develop and manage an electronic information system for performance measurement and accept submission of performance data in a consistent format from all drug court divisions. The Judicial Council of Georgia shall identify elements necessary for performance measurement, including, but not limited to, recidivism, the number of moderate-risk and high-risk participants in a drug court division, drug testing results, drug testing failures, participant employment, the number of participants who successfully complete the program, and the number of participants who fail to complete the program.
- **(F)** On or before July 1, 2015, and every three years thereafter, the Judicial Council of Georgia shall conduct a performance peer review of the drug court divisions for the purpose of improving drug court division policies and practices and the certification and recertification process.
- **(5)** The court instituting the drug court division may request the prosecuting attorney for the jurisdiction to designate one or more prosecuting attorneys to serve in the drug court division and may request the public defender, if any, to designate one or more assistant public defenders to serve in the drug court division.

- **(6)** The clerk of the court instituting the drug court division or such clerk's designee shall serve as the clerk of the drug court division.
- **(7)** The court instituting the drug court division may request probation officers and other employees of the court to perform duties for the drug court division. Such employees shall perform duties as directed by the judges of the drug court division.
- **(8)** The court instituting the drug court division may enter into agreements with other courts and agencies for the assignment of personnel from other courts and agencies to the drug court division.
- **(9)** Expenses for salaries, equipment, services, and supplies incurred in implementing this Code section may be paid from state funds, funds of the county or political subdivision implementing such drug court division, federal grant funds, and funds from private donations.
- **(10)** As used in this Code section, the term "risk and needs assessment" means an actuarial tool, approved by the Judicial Council of Georgia and validated on a targeted population, scientifically proven to determine a person's risk to recidivate and to identify criminal risk factors that, when properly addressed, can reduce that person's likelihood of committing future criminal behavior.
- **(b)**
 - **(1)** Each drug court division shall establish criteria which define the successful completion of the drug court division program.
 - **(2)** If the drug court division participant successfully completes the drug court division program prior to the entry of judgment, the case against the drug court division participant may be dismissed by the prosecuting attorney.
 - **(3)** If the drug court division participant successfully completes the drug court division program as part of a sentence imposed by the court, the sentence of the drug court division participant may be reduced or modified.
 - **(4)** Any plea of guilty or nolo contendere entered pursuant to this Code section may not be withdrawn without the consent of the court.
- **(c)** Any statement made by a drug court division participant as part of participation in such court, or any report made by the staff of the court or program connected to the court, regarding a participant's substance usage shall not be admissible as evidence against the participant in any legal proceeding or prosecution; provided, however, if the participant violates the conditions of his or her participation in the program or is terminated from the drug court division, the reasons for the violation or termination may be considered in sanctioning, sentencing, or otherwise disposing of the participant's case.
- **(d)** Nothing contained in this Code section shall be construed to permit a judge to impose, modify, or reduce a sentence below the minimum sentence required by law.

- **(e)** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, drug court division staff shall be provided, upon request, with access to all records relevant to the treatment of the drug court division participant from any state or local government agency. All such records and the contents thereof shall be treated as confidential, shall not be disclosed to any person outside of the drug court division, and shall not be subject to Article 4 of Chapter 18 of Title 50, relating to open records, or subject to subpoena, discovery, or introduction into evidence in any civil or criminal proceeding. Such records and the contents thereof shall be maintained by the drug court division and originating court in a confidential file not available to the public.
- **(f)** Any fees received by a drug court division from a drug court division participant as payment for substance abuse treatment and services shall not be considered as court costs or a fine.
- **(g)** The court may have the authority to accept grants and donations and other proceeds from outside sources for the purpose of supporting the drug court division. Any such grants, donations, or proceeds shall be retained by the drug court division for expenses.

House Bill 207

By: Representatives Beskin of the 54th, Willard of the 51st, Pak of the 108th, Caldwell of the 131st, Quick of the 117th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to courts, so as to
2 change provisions relating to when a judge, judicial officer, grand juror, or trial juror may
3 be disqualified from presiding or serving, as applicable, due to being related by
4 consanguinity or affinity to a party; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws;
5 and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to courts, is amended by revising
9 paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of Code Section 15-1-8, relating to when a judge or judicial
10 officer is disqualified, as follows:

11 "(2) Preside, act, or serve in any case or matter when such judge is related by
12 consanguinity or affinity within the ~~sixth~~ third degree as computed according to the civil
13 law to any party interested in the result of the case or matter; or"

14 **SECTION 2.**

15 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 15-12-70, relating to disqualification
16 for relationship to interested party, as follows:

17 "15-12-70.

18 All grand jurors in the courts of this state shall be disqualified to act or serve in any case
19 or matter when such jurors are related by consanguinity or affinity to any party interested
20 in the result of the case or matter within the ~~sixth~~ third degree as computed according to
21 the civil law. Relationship more remote shall not be a disqualification."

22 **SECTION 3.**

23 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 15-12-135, relating
24 to disqualification for relationship to interested party, as follows:

25 "(a) All trial jurors in the courts of this state shall be disqualified to act or serve in any case
26 or matter when such jurors are related by consanguinity or affinity to any party interested
27 in the result of the case or matter within the ~~sixth~~ third degree as computed according to
28 the civil law. Relationship more remote shall not be a disqualification."

29

SECTION 4.

30 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.



Judicial Council of Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Interim Director

Memorandum

TO: Judicial Council of Georgia

FROM: Michelle Barclay, Assistant Director, JC/AOC Office of Children, Families and the Courts

RE: Office of Children, Families and the Courts

DATE: August 6, 2015

In alignment with the strategic plan of the Judicial Council of Georgia to improve the administration of justice, the AOC, under Interim Director Cynthia Clanton, reorganized AOC's Office of Children, Families the Courts in an effort to include and cross-train all staff working with vulnerable populations in Georgia. The Office of Children, Families and the Courts already included the staff for the Supreme Court of Georgia Committee on Justice for Children, chaired by Presiding Justice P. Harris Hines; the Georgia Commission on Family Violence, chaired by Holly Tuchman; and the Georgia Commission on Child Support, chaired by Superior Court Judge Louisa Abbott.

As of May 15, 2015, the Office of Children, Families and the Courts expanded to include the staff for the Accountability Courts (which is in transition to serve the Accountability Court Council); the Judicial Council of Georgia's Access, Fairness, and Public Trust and Confidence Committee, which is co-chaired by Justice Robert Benham and Justice Carol Hunstein; and the AOC Communications Office.

The staff within this section of the AOC is committed to working more closely together to be knowledgeable about each other's work, to have a view of work for our state's most vulnerable populations that goes beyond one's assigned project, to share knowledge about upcoming changes in law and policy that affect these populations, and to implement the recommendations set forth from these committees, commissions, charges and statutes.

Following is a brief synopsis of the work the Office of Children, Families and the Courts is doing.

- **Committee on Justice for Children:** The staff of the J4C are working in partnership with many executive branch agencies on the Cold Case Project, which provides expert attorney reviewers for children who have been in Georgia's foster care system for many years, to see what legal or due process problems exist in each case which could be resolved to help these children achieve legal permanency. The staff is also working to set up judicial summits around Georgia for both child

welfare outcome measures and school climate initiatives, as well as supporting the Case Process Report System (a shared child specific data information system between the judicial and executive branch). A J4C Committee meeting will occur on September 17, 2015.

- **Communications:** Improving communications for internal and external judicial branch audiences is a priority under the Judicial Council Strategic plan and a consultant has been engaged for helping the AOC develop a stronger communications plan and to provide coaching for the staff. In the meantime, the daily tasks of the Communications department include working on the next Courts Journal; updating the Georgia Courts Directory; assisting with drafting and distribution of press releases; updating Judicial Council outgoing certificates and letterhead; updating Facebook/Twitter; uploads to georgiacourts.gov; updated agency organizational chart; taking photos and drafting communications.
- **Child Support Commission:** The Statute Review Committee of the Child Support Commission met recently to discuss its proposed legislation that did not pass last session, and other issues for staff to research for the next session of the General Assembly. The Commission is in the process of building an alternative child support calculator, which will be web-based. Staff attorney Pat Buonodono presented at the Family Law Institute last month with Commission member Katie Connell. Pat Buonodono and Elaine Johnson are participating in the Council of Superior Court Judges' Subcommittee on Problem Solving Courts. We continue to present trainings to judges, attorneys, and Division of Child Support Services employees throughout the state. We have made videos on how to prepare a child support worksheet and how to prepare income withholding documentation that are available to the public on the Commission's website. Staff responds to telephone calls every day from judges, attorneys and the public with child support worksheet questions, as well as to questions submitted through our website from the public.
- **Access, Fairness, and Public Trust and Confidence Committee:** The Committee is currently in transition, with Erin Oakley leaving for the private sector, and Lateefah Thomas coming in as the new Director. The Committee last met on April 9, 2015, when they heard a report from the JC/AOC Office of Research, Planning and Data Analysis regarding a statewide Baseline Customer Experience Survey, examining access and fairness measures within Georgia Courts. This report was presented to the Judicial Council at its February meeting. The Committee also heard reports on ongoing work and formed subcommittees accordingly: the ADA Handbook Revision Subcommittee, the National Association of Women Judges Conference Planning Subcommittee, and the Subcommittee on Human Trafficking and Immigration. The Committee will meet next on September 17, 2015. Thanks to Erin Oakley for all of her good work on behalf of the Committee; she will be missed.
- **Georgia Commission on Family Violence:** The Georgia Commission on Family Violence (GCFV) was statutorily reassigned to the Georgia Department of Community Supervision (DCS), effective 7/1/2015. State Funds for FY 2016 were appropriated to the Judicial Council for program operations and will be transferred to DCS in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding affecting this fiscal agreement. The Commission is now taking registrations for its 21st Annual Statewide Family Violence Conference, to be held at the Classic Center in Athens on September 27-30.



Judicial Council of Georgia

Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Interim Director

Memorandum

TO: Judicial Council of Georgia

FROM: Christopher Hansard, Assistant Director, Office of Research and Regulatory

RE: Office of Research and Regulatory

DATE: July 21, 2015

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Office of Research and Regulatory serves the Judicial Council and all of Georgia's courts and judges in two primary ways. The first is by furnishing program and administrative support to the boards and commissions responsible for the testing and licensure of Georgia professionals. The Office also provides evidence-based research and subject matter expertise to all judicial branch stakeholders, aiding their efforts to improve the administration of justice.

The following is a brief synopsis of the ongoing work within the Office of Research and Regulatory.

1. Georgia Courts Registrar

The Georgia Courts Registrar (GCR) is the online application used to manage the annual licensing and certification of Georgia court professionals. The AOC continues to improve the Registrar, including contributing additional funding for enhancements and dedicating additional staff resources. Work on enhancements is ongoing and improvements will continue to be introduced through the end of the calendar year. Also in the coming months, process server registration and parts of the tax refund intercept project will be added to the Registrar team's duties.

2. Office of Dispute Resolution

The Commission on Dispute Resolution recently passed a strategic plan and is in the beginning stages of its implementation. The strategic plan's primary goals are to: increase research around, expand access to, and improve education and communication of alternative dispute resolution in Georgia.

3. Commission on Interpreters

The Commission has created the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Bench Card and is working on distributing it to all Georgia courts. The Commission also received a \$15,000 grant from the SJI and NCSC to develop model administrative protocols that will improve access to court interpreters.

4. Board of Court Reporting and Judicial Council Court Reporting Matters Committee

The Court Reporting Matters Committee is continuing to work on “The Judicial Council of Georgia’s Guide to Producing the Official Court Record.” The guide will be completed in the next few months and posted on the Judicial Council’s website.

5. Office of Research

The Office of Research has focused on conducting research for the Council’s Strategic Plan Initiatives 8 and 9 along with its usual data collection and analysis efforts for superior court workload assessment, the Office of Dispute Resolution, and accountability courts. A report and recommendations for Initiatives 8 and 9 will be discussed at the Strategic Plan Implementation Committee’s next meeting. The Office continues to assist the Council of Probate Court Judges with their revised caseload reporting forms with a finalization of those in the coming weeks. Research has also completed its work with the Fulton County Family Division Task Force, whose reports will be published soon.



Table of Contents

1. Supreme Court of Georgia
2. Council of Superior Court Judges
3. Council of State Court Judges
4. Council of Juvenile Court Judges
5. Council of Probate Court Judges
6. Council of Magistrate Court Judges
7. Council of Municipal Court Judges



SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA
STATE JUDICIAL BUILDING
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

HUGH P. THOMPSON
CHIEF JUSTICE

(404) 656-3472

SUPREME COURT REPORT

August 6, 2015

Since the June meeting of the Judicial Council, the Supreme Court has approved the State Bar's motion to revise its rules. Our 32-page order includes such things as new rules involving when a lawyer may communicate with a juror after the conclusion of a trial. The new rules contain changes in deadlines for filing exceptions to special master or review panel decisions. Other examples include changing the name of the former Committee on Lawyer Impairment to the Lawyer Assistance Program.

The Supreme Court has also made changes to the rules governing the Georgia Bar Examination. One major change is the addition of Civil Procedure as the 7th area of law tested on the Multistate Bar Examination. This is on top of the already tested areas of contracts, criminal law, torts, constitutional law, property, and evidence. I am particularly grateful to Presiding Justice Hines for his extensive work and oversight of the Office of Bar Admissions.

The Court has appointed another member to the Commission of Interpreters, which is the 18-member commission the Supreme Court established in 2003 by court order to create a statewide plan for the use of interpreters in Georgia courts for both civil and criminal matters. The newest member is Judge Maziar Mazloom, who is an Associate Judge at the Marietta Municipal Court.

We also recently appointed a member of the public to the Fee Arbitration program, which is administered by the State Bar of Georgia on behalf of the Supreme Court. The purpose of this program is to provide a convenient mechanism for the resolution of disputes between lawyers and clients over fees. I also want to thank Justice Blackwell for accepting a new appointment as the court's liaison to the State Bar, a duty he took on in addition to his work with the Interpreter's Commission.

In other areas, the search committee for a new director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, which is led by Presiding Justice Hines, met recently to review the job posting and to create a time line for

recommending candidates to be considered for appointment. We hope to have a new director to recommend to the Council by the December meeting. I continue to urge transparency, accountability and efficiency in the AOC, and I commend Cynthia Clanton, the Interim Director, for the changes she has already made and those that are in progress – helping to steer the Office back to being what it was created to be: an administrative agency that is here to serve the judges and the councils and the courts.

The Clerk's Office and Technology Department continue to work with county clerks to get them up and running on submitting electronic records. Recently, the court staff met with the Fulton County Superior Court Clerk and her staff to coordinate the launch of that county's new e-file system with the Supreme Court's electronic record system. I understand that everyone is very committed to making this a smooth transition

Although the Supreme Court is, by law, in recess until the next term opens after Labor Day, we do not slow down. During recess, we continue to rule on motions and applications, cases continue to come in and are docketed, and we continue to research, discuss and write opinions on cases so they are ready to issue when the next term opens.

Finally, as head of the judicial system - and as a citizen of this state - I want to say how very proud I am of our probate judges in preparing for the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on same-sex marriage. Back in February, months before that decision came down, they began meeting to ensure that if same-sex unions were legalized, Georgia would be ready to comply with the law. In a very positive front-page story in The Atlanta Journal Constitution, the authors wrote, "that there was a concerted, coordinated effort to ensure that Georgia's response to the ruling was untroubled and that the implementation was well-ordered." "Again and again," the newspaper article said, "state officials say the probate judges led the way."

I specifically want to commend Chase Daughtrey, who at the time was president of the State Council of Probate Judges, and Don Wilkes, the current president of the council, for their extraordinary leadership in ensuring the law was followed and Georgia was prepared. Within two hours of the time the United States Supreme Court issued its decision, the Georgia probate judges council was sending to judges around the state a new marriage application that replaced husband and wife with "Applicant 1" and "Applicant 2." Our governor

and attorney general set the tone, and I commend them. Our AOC assisted the judges council, and I thank them, as well. In the end, however, our probate judges made this work. That makes us all very proud.



Council of Superior Court Judges of Georgia

Suite 104, 18 Capitol Square, Atlanta, Georgia 30334

(404) 656-4964 Fax (404) 651-8626

Council of Superior Court Judges Report to Judicial Council August 2015

The Council of Superior Court Judges met for its semi-annual conference and continuing education seminars in St. Simons Island, Georgia, July 26-30, 2015. The conference provided training seminars on such topics as court technology; changes to the Code of Judicial Conduct; the implications of social media for courts, including accessing cell phone information and internet accounts in relation to criminal activity; and updates on case law, evidence code changes, and other legislative enactments. Over 200 superior court judges and senior judges attended the conference.

On June 29, Gov. Nathan Deal swore in new Judge Jean-Paul “JP” Boulee as a superior court judge for the Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit. New Judge Boulee filled the vacancy created by the retirement of former judge Cynthia J. Becker, who retired effective March 1, 2015. Judge Boulee was a partner with Jones Day in Atlanta and previously served as a captain in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General’s Corps. Judge Boulee earned a bachelor’s degree in Politics from Washington & Lee University and a law degree from the University of Georgia School of Law.

Senior Judge Lindsey Tise of the Northern Judicial Circuit passed away on June 12, 2015. He was elected to the superior court bench in 1997 and served as an active judge until taking senior status in January 2009. He served in the U.S. Army in the early 1960’s, attended the University of Georgia as an undergraduate, and received his juris doctorate from John Marshall School of Law. He also served as a district attorney prior to taking the superior court bench. Judge Tise was 72 years old at the time of his death.

As of July 2015, Superior Courts had 99 accountability courts, an increase of 53 courts since July 1, 2011. More courts continue to be added throughout 2015. Felony accountability courts saved Georgia taxpayers \$23 million in 2013. The Department of Corrections has estimated they saved \$30 million in 2014. During this year’s grant cycle, an addition six judicial circuits were awarded grants to start new accountability courts, bringing the total number of circuits participating to 44 of 49 judicial circuits.



Council of State Court Judges
Impartial Courts • Judicial Excellence • Accessible and Efficient Justice

244 Washington Street, S.W.
Suite 300
Atlanta, GA 30334
404-651-6204 • FAX 404-463-5173

Staff

Bob Bray
Executive Director

Executive Committee

Judge Wayne M. Purdom
President (DeKalb)

Judge Richard A. Slaby
President Elect (Richmond)

Judge Richard T. Kent
Secretary (Colquitt)

Judge H. Gregory Fowler
Treasurer (Chatham)

Judge Charles S. Wynne
Past President (Hall)

District 1
Judge Leon M. Braun, Jr. (Liberty)

District 2
Judge R. Violet Bennett (Wayne)

District 3
Judge John K. Edwards, Jr. (Lowndes)

District 4
Judge Aaron Mason (Clayton)

District 5
Judge Alan W. Thrower (Baldwin)

District 6
Judge Joseph C. Iannazzone (Gwinnett)

District 7
Judge Wesley B. Taylor (Fulton)

District 8
Judge T. Russell McClelland (Forsyth)

Report of the Council of State Court Judges
Judicial Council Meeting
August 6, 2015

The Council of State Court Judges is pleased with the cooperative work of Superior Court and State Court judges in the organization of the Council of Accountability Court Judges. We are excited at the opportunity to further enhance and promote the effective work of accountability and treatment courts throughout the state.

In DeKalb County, we are completing the absorption of the misdemeanor caseload of the recently abolished DeKalb County Recorder's court (126, 384 cases in 2014). The county ordinance caseload has been absorbed into the operations of the DeKalb Magistrate Court. Four additional judges are being added to the State Court of DeKalb County. The Governor has appointed Shondeana Crews Morris, Keisha Storey, Ron Ramsey and Brian Ross as the new state court judges of the traffic division. Building upon the case management improvements in recent years at the Recorder's Court, new initiatives have been undertaken to assign cases randomly for handling all stages of prosecution before the same judge, to increase accessibility for both attorneys and members of the general public to communicate with the court by phone and email, and to provide alternatives to probation. Use of private probation has ceased with all probation cases handled by the DeKalb County Probation Department.

The Uniform Rules Committee has filed a request with the Supreme Court to amend Rule 15 of the Uniform Rules for State Courts, to retract our Rule 15 Default Judgments, which would automatically implement our following of Rule 15 of the Uniform Rules for Superior Courts.

At the request of the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education, the Uniform Rules Committee is considering a revision to requirements for continuing judicial education and certification under Rule 43 of the Uniform Rules for State Courts.

Our Council is in the process of updating our State Court Benchbook and we are delighted to be working with the IT Division of the AOC in providing the technology to publish the Benchbook and to update the information in the various chapters.

The Fall Conference of the Council of State Court Judges will take place at The Jekyll Island Club Hotel, from October 13 – 16, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne M. Purdom

Judge Wayne M. Purdom
President, Council of State Court Judges



COUNCIL OF JUVENILE COURT JUDGES OF GEORGIA

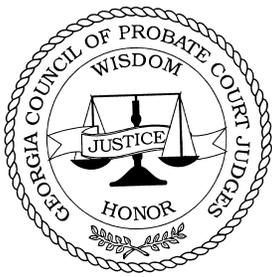
Council of Juvenile Court Judges
Report to Judicial Council
August 6, 2015

The Council of Juvenile Court Judges, through its Technology Committee chaired by the Hon. Willie Lovett (Fulton County), continues to assist with the State Data Dictionary/Juvenile Data Repository project. This project began in response to one of the recommendations of the Georgia Council on Criminal Justice Reform. It is an ongoing collaborative effort with the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, the AOC, and the Department of Juvenile Justice. The project is making great progress and hopes to conclude in the near future. Having the ability to share data will provide a great benefit to our court systems.

The Council of Juvenile Court Judges will be conducting a two day planning conference in late August in Macon through an ad hoc advisory committee established by the President of the Council. The committee is comprised of a cross section of Juvenile Court Judges from our diverse state representing all regions and distinctions: full time, part time, retired, newly appointed, single and multi-county circuits. The committee will review the present court structure, fiscal requirements, and system demands, particularly in light of the revised code, population growth, and the evolving role of the Juvenile Court Judge. If appropriate, the committee will make system improvement recommendations for consideration by the Executive Committee of the Council. The Council looks forward to collaborating with all stakeholders on possible future improvements to our court system.

Respectfully submitted

Hon. John Sumner
President
Council of Juvenile Court Judges



Council of Probate Court Judges

Judge Don Wilkes
President (Emanuel)

Judge Alice W. Padgett
President Elect (Columbia)

Judge Rooney Bowen, III
First Vice President (Dooly)

Judge Darin McCoy
Secretary- Treasurer (Evans)

Judge L. Chase Daughtrey
Immediate Past President (Cook)

Memorandum

To: Judicial Council Members

From: Judge Don Wilkes, CPCJ President

Re: Council of Probate Court Judges Report

Date: Aug. 6, 2015

Strategic Planning

Council leadership met in mid-July at Lake Blackshear Resort to discuss the CPCJ strategic plan. Strategic planning initiatives and tasks were reviewed and updated. Changes to the Council's committee structure were made, and committee chairs and vice chairs were confirmed or appointed.

Marriage License Applications

Months of preparation for the ruling in Obergefell v. Hodges paid off, as Georgia's probate judges made a fairly smooth transition to a new marriage license application that can be used for both same-sex and opposite-sex couples. The new application was sent electronically to probate judges just 90 minutes after the U.S. Supreme Court's opinion was issued, following the instruction of the Georgia Attorney General "to issue licenses to same-sex couples, to issue those licenses in the same way and via the same procedures employed for all other applicants."

Several same sex marriages took place across the state before the end of the day on June 26. Media coverage of how Georgia's government and its courts responded to the Supreme Court ruling has been mostly positive.

Council of Magistrate Court Judges
Report to Judicial Council, August 6, 2015

New Officers and Committee Chairs

The Council of Magistrate Court Judges elected its new slate of officers for 2015-2016 at our semi-annual meeting in May at Lake Lanier. New officers who began their terms on July 1, 2015 are listed as follows:

President; Judge Robert E. “Bob” Turner, Chief Magistrate, Houston County
1st Vice President; Judge Kristina Hammer Blum, Chief Magistrate, Gwinnett County
2nd Vice-President; Judge James “Jimmy” Griner, Chief Magistrate, Screven County
Secretary; Judge Beryl Anderson, Chief Magistrate, Dekalb County
Treasurer; Judge Glenda Dowling, Chief Magistrate, Pierce County

The following Judges have also been appointed as Committee Chairs for 2015-2016:
Judge Alan Harvey, Magistrate, Dekalb County, Legislative Committee
Judge Betsey Kidwell, Magistrate, Heard County, Technology Committee
Judge Jim Altman, Magistrate, Fulton County, Rules Committee

Free Forms Generator Project

Now online and operational, the Council’s Free Forms Generator Project was selected as a finalist for the STAR (State Transformation in Action Recognition) awards by the Southern Legislative Conference of the Council of State Governments at its annual meeting in Savannah, July 18-21, where Judge Turner and Judge Alan Wigington, Chief Magistrate in Pickens County, presented the project to the Judges panel at the conference. Although the project did not win the award this year, we were strongly encouraged by several judges and the awards committee organizers to re-apply for this prestigious award next year.

In addition, the Council will be presenting a demonstration of the Free Forms Generator Project at the nation-wide Court Technology Conference (CTC), sponsored by the National Center for State Courts in Minneapolis, September 22-24, 2015.

Marriage Ceremony Policy

In response to numerous inquiries from news media inquiring about Magistrates performing same-sex marriage ceremonies following the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, the Council has adopted an official policy statement concerning this issue, which reads as follows:

“All Magistrates are required by their Oath of Office to abide by the law as provided by the Supreme Court of the United States. Once the Supreme Court has ruled, its Order is the law of the land. As such, Georgia Judges are required to follow the law and adhere to the ruling of the Court.”

“Magistrates, like all Georgia Judges, are not required by law to perform weddings, but they are authorized to do so if they choose. Performing wedding ceremonies is a discretionary act for all Georgia Judges. However, once judges undertake to exercise their state authority to perform a discretionary act, they may not then refuse to do so for constitutionally impermissible reasons.”

State Court Council’s request for review of JQC Opinion 241

The Council of Magistrate Court judges has voted to join the Council of State Court Judges’ request for the Supreme Court to review the Judicial Qualifications Commission’s Opinion No. 241, regarding the propriety of filing briefs of Amicus Curiae by court councils.



COUNCIL OF MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGES

**Judge Leslie Spornberger Jones
President**

City of Athens-Clarke County
P.O. Box 1705
Athens, GA 30603
706-613-3690
Leslie.Jones@athensclarkecounty.com

**Judge Gary E. Jackson
President-Elect, City of Atlanta**
gejackson@Atlantaga.gov

**Judge Douglas G. Andrews
Vice President, City of Pooler**
doug347@bellsouth.net

**Judge LaTisha Dear Jackson
Secretary**
City of Stone Mountain
ldjackson1@dekalbcountyga.gov

**Judge John Clayton Davis
Treasurer**
City of Stockbridge
claydavis@claydavislaw.com

**Judge E.R. Lanier
Immediate Past President**
City of Norcross
erlanier@aol.com

District One
Judge Keith Barber
Judge W. Scott Brannen

District Two
Judge Jason Moon
Judge Willie Weaver, Sr.

District Three
Judge Michael P. Cielinski
Judge Jim Thurman

District Four
Judge Garland "Gary" C. Moore
Judge John Roberts

District Five
Judge Rashida Oliver
Judge Christopher Ward

District Six
Judge J. Kristi Lovelace
Judge Christopher E. Chapman

District Seven
Judge Timothy McCreary
Judge Roger Rozen

District Eight
Judge Richard Michael Gailey
Judge Tommy J. Smith

District Nine
Judge William F. Brogdon
Judge Margaret Gettle Washburn

District Ten
Judge Lori Duff
Judge Dale Samuels

Report to the Judicial Council of Georgia August 6, 2015

The Council of Municipal Court Judges has had a busy summer! Here is an overview of recent Council events, programs, and activities:

Information Technology (IT) Strategic Planning

The Information Technology Strategic Planning Committee met on May 21-22, 2015 in Columbus. The committee approved a new IT Strategic Plan which will focus on 5 strategic initiatives that are aligned with business plan objectives.

Training Initiative and Strengthening the Council

On May 29, 2015, the Council held a District Lunch 'n' Learn in Brunswick. This session, focused on the role of the Council and Judicial Recusal, was the third of four initial sessions held across the state. The final session on these topics will be held on August 17, 2015 in Athens. A new series of Lunch 'n' Learns will begin in the fall, and will be focused on the Ferguson Report, failure to appear procedures, and community based policing and supervision.

Council Meeting Endeavors

The executive leadership met in retreat on June 12-13, 2015 at Cuscowilla in Eatonton to discuss current and ongoing Council initiatives and to plan for the coming year. The leadership will meet again on August 14, 2015 in Athens to help engage new officers in Council initiatives.

The Council's full Executive Committee met on June 23, 2015, at Jekyll Island. On that same day, Council leadership conducted a training session and facilitated discussion with District Representatives to help plan and support district training and activities for the coming year.

The Council held its Annual Business Meeting at Jekyll Island on June 24-26, 2015. The Membership approved the Council's Strategic Information Technology Plan, and elected a new slate of Officers and District Representatives. A number of Judges were honored for their years of service and innovative programs. Chief Judge Charles Barrett of Duluth received the Frost Ward Lifetime Achievement Award. The following officers were elected: President-Leslie Spornberger Jones, Athens-Clarke County; President-Elect-Gary Jackson, Atlanta; Vice President-Doug Andrews, Pooler; Secretary-LaTisha Dear Jackson, Stone Mountain; Treasurer-Clay Davis, Lovejoy. The Council also elected District Representatives in the even-numbered districts. Newly-elected District Representatives include: 2nd District-Jason Moon, Nashville and Willie Weaver, Albany; 4th District-Garland "Gary" C. Moore and John Roberts, 6th District- J. Kristi Lovelace and Christopher E. Chapman, 8th District-Richard Michael Gailey and Tommy J. Smith and the 10th District- Lori Duff and Dale Samuels.

On June 27-28, 2015, Immediate Past President E. Ray Lanier, Michael Cuccaro of the AOC, and Leslie Spornberger Jones attended the Georgia Municipal Association Annual Conference in Savannah. At this meeting, they met with legislators, city officials, and GMA staff to discuss Council initiatives and proposed legislation.

Meeting With the Department of Driver Services (DDS)

On June 30, 2015, Michael Cuccaro, Catherine Fitch, and Tracy Mason of the AOC met with Michael Mitchell, Legislative and Policy Liaison, Vicki Judd, General Counsel, and other key Department of Driver Services personnel at the DDS offices in Conyers. The Council presented the DDS with a President's Award for their work with us on House Bill 114 during the 2015 General Assembly. The DDS provided a tour of their facility, and the group, which also included Bob Bray, Executive Director of the State Court, discussed plans for the upcoming legislative year. The Council and the DDS considered areas of possible collaboration for training judges and court personnel as well as sharing information between courts and the Department.

Legislation

The Council had 3 bills were sponsored and proposed in committee at the General Assembly: HB 480 to mandate prosecutors in municipal courts; HB 691 to provide that municipal judges may only be removed during their term of office for cause; and SB 250 to establish municipal courts as courts of record.

The Council's upcoming meetings include:

August 14--Leadership Retreat

August 17--District Lunch 'n' Learn

October 7-9--Fall Law and Practice Update



1231 COLLIER RD. NW, STE. J • ATLANTA, GA 30318
PHONE • 678-222-4232 • FAX 404-249-8831

COUNCIL OF SUPERIOR COURT CLERKS OF GEORGIA

Report to Judicial Council
August 6, 2015

From our civil eFiling project to criminal transcripts, we have instituted several mechanisms for receiving electronic data.

Our Council's portal for civil eFiling has 69 Superior Courts and 10 State Courts currently accepting eFiling's from any filer. There are 112 counties signed up for the transcript portal that includes 112 Superior and 9 State Courts.

We are in final deliberations on our 'Document Access Portal' and hope to provide electronic delivery of court records for judges, attorneys and the public before the end of the year.

Finally, the 2015 master jury lists have been delivered to all courts. The Council recommends using the most current list available as soon as reasonably possible. There have been recent challenges to indictments brought by grand juries based on the most recent jury list not being used to summons the jurors.

Thank you for the opportunity to update you on our work.

Cinda Bright President
Council of Superior Court Clerks
and
Clerk of Superior Court
Wilkinson County

Mike Holiman
Executive Director
Council of Superior Court Clerks
1231 Collier Road, NW
Suite J
Atlanta, GA 30318