

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA

General Session

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

10 a.m. – 12 noon



The Carter Center
453 Freedom Parkway
Atlanta, GA 30307

Judicial Council of Georgia

The Carter Center
Cyprus Room
453 Freedom Parkway
Atlanta, GA 30307

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

10 a.m. – 12 noon

Lunch will be served immediately following the Council meeting

1. **Preliminary Remarks and Introductions**
(Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson, Est. Time – 5 Min.)
2. **Approval of Minutes, September 30, 2015** (*Action Item*) **TAB 1**
(Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson, Est. Time – 2 Min.)
3. **Approval of Minutes, November 3, 2015** (*Action Item*) **TAB 1**
(Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson, Est. Time – 2 Min.)
4. **Preparing for the 2016 Legislative Session**
(Mr. Rusty Sewell, Rep. Bert Reeves, Rep. Wendell Willard, Est. Time – 25 Min.)
5. **Judicial Council Committee Reports**
 - A. **Strategic Plan Implementation Committee** (*Action Item*) **TAB 2**
(Chief Judge Sara Doyle, Est. Time – 5 Min.)
 - B. **Policy and Legislative Committee** **TAB 3**
(Presiding Justice P. Harris Hines, Est. Time – 10 Min.)
 - C. **Judicial Workload Assessment Committee** **TAB 4**
(Mr. Christopher Hansard, Est. Time – 5 Min.)
 - D. **Board of Court Reporting** (*Written Report*) **TAB 5**
6. **Review and Approval of Training Curricula for Georgia Magistrate Courts and Georgia Municipal Courts Training Councils** (*Action Item*) **TAB 6**
(Mr. Rich Reaves, Est. Time – 5 Min.)
7. **Report from Judicial Council/AOC** **TAB 7**
(Ms. Cynthia Clanton, Est. Time – 15 Min.)
8. **Reports from Appellate Courts and Trial Court Councils** **TAB 8**
(Est. Time – 10 min.)

- A. Supreme Court
 - B. Court of Appeals
 - C. Council of Superior Court Judges
 - D. Council of State Court Judges
 - E. Council of Juvenile Court Judges
 - F. Council of Probate Court Judges
 - G. Council of Magistrate Court Judges
 - H. Council of Municipal Court Judges
9. Written Report from the Council of Superior Court Clerks TAB 9
10. Written Report from the Council of Accountability Court Judges TAB 9
11. Written Report from the Georgia Council of Court Administrators TAB 9
12. Old/New Business
(Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson, Est. Time – 5 Min.)
13. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment
(Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson, Est. Time – 5 Min.)

Optional session following lunch:

Successful Communications During a High Profile Case or a Crisis

Panel discussion moderated by Ms. Christine Butcher (Judicial Council/AOC) with:

- Jane Hansen,
- Glen Jackson,
- Judge James Bodiford, and
- Lindsay Caulfield

The Cyprus Room and via live stream
1 p.m.

Next Judicial Council Meeting

Friday, February 26, 2016 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Atlanta, GA (Floyd Building)

Judicial Council Meeting Calendar - 2016

Friday, February 26, 2016	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Atlanta, GA (Floyd Building)
Friday, April 29, 2016	12 p.m. – 5 p.m.	TBD
Wednesday, June 15, 2016	12 p.m. - 5 p.m.	Jekyll Island, GA (TBD)
Wednesday, August 31, 2016	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Atlanta, GA (State Bar of Georgia)
Friday, October 21, 2016	12 p.m. – 5 p.m.	Macon, GA (Macon Marriott)
Friday, December 9, 2016	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Atlanta, GA (The Carter Center)

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@augustaga.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.com

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@augustaga.gov

Juvenile Court

Judge John Sumner
President, CJCJ
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, CJCJ
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.com

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.com

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@atlantaga.gov

Directions to The Carter Center

453 Freedom Parkway
Atlanta, Georgia 30307

From North of Atlanta

1. Take I-75 or I-85 South to Exit 248C, which says "Freedom Parkway, The Carter Center."
2. Continue on Freedom Parkway about 1.8 miles, following the signs to The Carter Center.
3. As you loop around The Carter Center, follow the signs to entrance # 3 (Executive Offices).

From South of Atlanta & Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport

1. Take I-75 or I-85 North to Exit 248C, which says "Freedom Parkway, The Carter Center."
2. Continue on Freedom Parkway about 1.8 miles, following the signs to The Carter Center.
3. As you loop around The Carter Center, follow the signs to entrance # 3 (Executive Offices).

From West of Atlanta

Follow the same directions as above or:

1. Begin on North Avenue.
2. Continue east (toward Decatur) on North Avenue until you come to N. Highland Avenue. You will see a neon art gallery, a gas station, and Manuel's Tavern at this intersection.
3. Turn right onto N. Highland Avenue.
4. Go to the next light at Freedom Parkway and turn right.
5. The Carter Center is on the left. Continue on Freedom Parkway to entrance # 3 (Executive Offices).

From East of Atlanta

1. Take Ponce de Leon towards downtown (west) to N. Highland.
2. Turn left on N. Highland.
3. Continue to the second traffic light at Freedom Parkway and turn right.
4. The Carter Center is on the left. Continue on Freedom Parkway to entrance # 3 (Executive Offices).



*Staff Parking: 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

-  Entrances
-  Parking
-  Loading Docks

- 1. Ivan Allen Foyer
- 2. Cecil B. Day Chapel
- 3. Zaban Room
- 4. Lower Commons
- 5. Rotunda/Upper Commons
- 6. Cyprus Room
- 7. Executive Dining Room
- 8. Kitchen at Copenhill
- 9. Library Lobby
- 10. Jimmy Carter Library and Museum

Administrative Office of the Courts

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

Cynthia H. Clanton, Director
404-656-5171

As of December 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

LaShawn Murphy
404-651-6325

James Rodatus
404-656-5453

Human Resources

Stephanie Hines
404-657-7469

Jacqueline Booker
404-463-0638

General Counsel

Jessica Farah
404-463-3805

Legislative Liaison

Christine Butcher
404-651-7616

Judicial Services

Research and Data Analysis

Christopher Hansard
404-463-1871

Robert Aycock
404-656-0371

Wendy Hosch
404-656-6413

Court Professionals

Shinji Morokuma
404-463-3785

Bianca Bennett
404-463-6478

Herbert Gordon
404-232-1409

Tynesha Manuel
404-463-3785

Zan Patorgis
404-463-3821

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

Communications

Ashley Stollar
404-656-6783

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

Tax Intercept

Michael Cuccaro
404-656-7780

Information Technology

Jorge Basto
Division Director
404-657-9673

Gilberto Alcantara
404-463-0016

Bradley Allen
404-657-1770

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

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

Stacey Seldon
404-657-3412

Accountability Courts

Joshua Becker
404-463-6298

**Judicial Council of Georgia
General Session**

**Macon Marriott City Center/Macon Centreplex Convention Center Macon, GA
September 30, 2015 • 1:00 p.m.**

Members Present

Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson, Chair
Presiding Justice P. Harris Hines
Judge Harry J. Altman, II
Judge Tangela Barrie
Judge Kristina Hammer Blum
Judge Benjamin P. Brinson
Judge Melodie Snell Conner
Chief Judge Sara L. Doyle
Judge S. Lark Ingram
Judge Gary E. Jackson
Judge Horace J. Johnson, Jr.
Judge Leslie Spornberger Jones
Judge Christopher McFadden (for Judge
Stephen Louis A. Dillard)
Judge John E. Morse, Jr.
Judge J. Carlisle Overstreet
Judge Alice Padgett
Judge Kathy Palmer
Judge Wayne M. Purdom
Judge Matthew O. Simmons
Judge Richard A. Slaby
Judge Rucker Smith (for Judge Edward D.
Lukemire)
Judge Robert Turner
Judge Gail S. Tusan
Judge Brenda S. Weaver
Judge Don E. Wilkes

Members Absent

Judge Stephen Louis A. Dillard
Judge Edward D. Lukemire
Judge John B. Sumner

Staff Present

Ms. Cynthia H. Clanton, Interim Director
Mr. Robert Aycock
Mr. Jorge Basto
Ms. Bianca Bennett
Ms. Ashley Garner
Mr. Christopher Hansard
Ms. Wendy Hosch
Ms. Tracy Mason
Mr. Tony Mazza
Ms. Kimberly Miller
Ms. LaShawn Murphy
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 Judge Kristina Hammer Blum – a new member of the Council as of July 1 but who was unable to attend the August 6 meeting – and administered the Council’s oath. The following judges were recognized as designees for absent members: Judge Christopher McFadden (for Judge Stephen Louis A. Dillard) and Judge Rucker Smith (for Judge Edward D. Lukemire). The Chief Justice recognized Judge John B. Sumner as an excused absence. Members and designees identified themselves for the purposes of roll call, followed by staff and guests.

Adoption of Minutes – August 6, 2015

Chief Justice Thompson directed the Council’s attention to the minutes of the August 6, 2015, meeting. A motion to approve was offered by Judge Altman, followed by a second from Judge Padgett. No discussion was offered and the motion passed with no opposition.

Council of Superior Court Judges Security Committee

Judge Samuel D. Ozburn (Superior Courts, Alcovy Judicial Circuit) was recognized to deliver a report from the Council of Superior Court Judges Security Committee. The Committee has produced several resources, available to all courts, including the Statewide Court Security Standards (which will receive updates this year); court security training webinars; and, a Basic Courtroom Security Guidelines Bench Sheet (which has been sent to the President of each Council). The Committee is working with counties to assess court security on an annual basis, and Judge Ozburn stressed that the work and resources of this committee are for the benefit of all courts. Chief Justice Thompson thanked Judge Ozburn for his report and encouraged everyone to be vigilant in this area.

Recommendation for Additional Superior Court Judgeship

Mr. Hansard referred members to the materials provided, which included the analysis and workload assessment of the Clayton Judicial Circuit, an appeal document submitted by the Clayton Judicial Circuit, and statistics on the number of superior court judgeships by circuit. The Council received requests for new judgeships from three judicial circuits: Clayton, Griffin, and Cherokee. Of these three circuits, none qualified for an additional judgeship under Council policy¹. The Clayton Judicial Circuit appealed to the Judicial Workload Assessment Committee;

¹ *Judicial Council Policy on the Study of Superior Court Judgeships and Circuit Boundaries*

that appeal was approved and therefore recommended for Judicial Council consideration of an additional superior court judgeship.

Mr. Hansard summarized the assessment data for the Clayton Judicial Circuit (Circuit), including per judge caseload data, population figures, and other circuit highlights. He reminded the Council that, by policy, because the Circuit was not found to be qualified for a judgeship under the workload assessment but by appeal, the recommendation requires a two-thirds majority to be adopted. If adopted, notice of the recommendation will be sent to the Governor and select members of the General Assembly; introduction of legislation is up to the local legislative delegation.

Judge Albert Collier was recognized by the Chief Justice to speak on behalf of the request. He spoke to the population growth in the Circuit, as well as the disproportionate number of serious felony cases seen by the superior court. Of those cases, murder cases require the most time and resources. While the circuit's caseload numbers have decreased, the judges' workload has effectively increased. Judge Collier also noted that the Circuit qualified and was recommended for a judgeship in 2008, but the recession and ensuing state budget cuts prevented the funding of the position. Following Judge Collier's remarks, the Chief Justice asked that anyone affected by the request leave the room to allow for discussion; Judge Simmons, Judge Collier, and Mr. Matthew Sorensen stepped out.

After some additional discussion about data and past Council practices, the excused individuals returned to the room and staff distributed ballots to Council members. Upon completion, the ballots were collected and Judge McFadden supervised the tally in a separate room.

Judge McFadden reported that the Council had voted in favor of the judgeship recommendation for the Clayton Judicial Circuit. Judge Collier thanked the Council and the Chief Justice expressed his appreciation for the Circuit's work.

Committee Reports

Judicial Workload Assessment Committee. A written report was provided in the materials.

Court Reporting Matters Committee. A written report was provided in the materials.

Strategic Plan Implementation Committee. Chief Judge Doyle referred to the written report provided in the materials. The Committee is in its third year and will round out its work with recommendations for the governance and structure of the Judicial Council.

Budget Committee. Chief Justice Thompson recognized Judge Wilkes for a motion and indicated the impending motion had his support as well as that of Justice Hines and Justice Melton. Judge Wilkes referenced the Council of Probate Court Judges' (CPCJ) budget enhancement request for Fiscal Year 2017 to fund an Executive Director position, approved by the Council at the August meeting, and stated a mutual agreement had been reached with Ms. Clanton to transfer the funds from the existing Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) program budget to the CPCJ subprogram budget to achieve this goal.

Judge Wilkes stated his intent to present this as a motion, and a second was offered by Judge Weaver. The motion to transfer funds from the AOC program budget to the CPCJ subprogram budget to fund an Executive Director position was approved with no opposition. Judge Padgett stated that the CPCJ will withdraw its FY 2017 budget enhancement request for an Executive Director. Chief Justice Thompson thanked the CPCJ and expressed appreciation to all for their collegiality in this decision.

Policy and Legislative Committee. Justice Hines reported that the Committee met on September 16, 2015, to consider legislative proposals for the 2016 session.

Justice Hines spoke to the request for support from the Georgia Commission on Child Support regarding Senate Bill 64, a carryover item from last year, to repeal the process of administrative legitimation. This is not a Council initiative and has not been previously taken up by the Council. Judge Weaver indicated the Council of Superior Court Judges Executive Committee supports the legislation, and Judge Brinson indicated the legislation is supported by Council of Juvenile Court Judges as well. Justice Hines restated the motion to recommend the Judicial Council support legislation to repeal the process of administrative legitimation. No opposition was voiced and the recommendation was approved unanimously.

Justice Hines summarized the recommendation to amend Title 48 of the O.C.G.A. to streamline the process of the Tax Refund Intercept Program. This program was authorized by HB 1000 during the 2014 session and the AOC currently has subprojects ongoing to implement a limited pilot program for the upcoming tax year. Justice Hines moved that the Judicial Council support legislation to amend Title 48 of the O.C.G.A. to simplify and strengthen process controls

in order for the AOC to efficiently transmit tax refund intercepts to participating courts. Judge Jackson voiced his support for the program and clarified it is a voluntary program for any court to participate in. No opposition was voiced and the recommendation was approved unanimously, with one abstention.

Justice Hines summarized the recommendation to amend O.C.G.A. § 15-2-4, to amend the terms of the Georgia appellate courts. This is a new item and has not been previously considered by the Council. Discussion took place regarding the intended effective date, and it was noted that the materials indicated December 1, 2015, which should be amended to December 1, 2016. Justice Hines moved that the Judicial Council support legislation to amend O.C.G.A. § 15-2-4, to amend the terms of the Georgia appellate courts. No opposition was voiced and the recommendation was approved unanimously.

Justice Hines moved that the Judicial Council designate authority to the Committee to make decisions/take positions on legislation and related policy issues on behalf of the Council during the 2016 legislative session. A second was offered by Judge Slaby, and the motion was approved with no opposition. Justice Hines thanked the Committee and AOC staff for their work, and reminded members to please adhere to the Judicial Council process with any potential new legislative items.

Judicial Council/AOC Director Search Committee. Justice Hines provided an update on the search for a Judicial Council/AOC Director. He stated the Committee selected nine candidates from the pool of applicants and had conducted interviews. The Committee will meet in October and plans to have a recommendation by the December 9 Council meeting. Chief Justice Thompson clarified that the Committee's recommendation would be put to the Council for a vote.

The Chief Justice called for a break at 2:18 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 2:35 p.m.

Report from Judicial Council/AOC

Ms. Clanton stated that, as a service agency, the AOC continues working to build customers' trust and confidence. She highlighted the agency's progress on technology initiatives, including the technology integration project with the executive branch and Mr. Basto's participation in the national Court Technology Conference the week prior. The AOC has recently provided trainings across the state, including training for court clerks on best practices for case count (given by Ms. Hosch) and a planned training at the Council of Probate Court Judges'

conference on the new caseload reporting form. Media training for judges has been developed by AOC Communications staff, led by Director of Communications Michelle Barclay and Ms. Stollar; this was presented to the Municipal Court Judges Executive Committee in August and will be shared with all judges' councils. Over the next few months, staff will be attending judges' conferences, preparing for legislative session, and continuing to implement the Tax Refund Intercept Program pilot project.

Criminal Justice Reform in Georgia

Mr. Thomas Worthy thanked the Council for its work with the Criminal Justice Reform Council (CJRC) over the past five years. Mr. Worthy delivered an overview of criminal justice reform efforts in Georgia since 2011, including legislation, major initiatives, outcomes and current statistics. He expressed appreciation on behalf of the CJRC for the trust and confidence from the Council and indicated that the courts play an important role in the work of the CJRC. Mr. Worthy indicated the CJRC's next steps would be work on the First Offender Act, uniform contracts among private probation providers and further sentencing reforms.

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 Justice Hines' appointment to the Judicial, District Attorney and Public Defender Compensation Commission, the recent appointments made to the Supreme Court Committee on Justice for Children, the appointment of Judge Dax Lopez to the Commission on Interpreters, and the approval of the Order creating the Judicial Council Standing Committee on Technology.

Court of Appeals. Chief Judge Doyle reported that the Court recently held a full-day off site banc meeting to analyze internal operations. The new panel of judges will start on January 1 and a plan is in place to fold the new judges in to each division during their first term.

Council of Superior Court Judges. Judge Weaver referred members to the written report provided in the materials. Chief Justice Thompson noted that Judge Weaver would be hosting the Supreme Court for oral arguments in Gilmer County on October 16.

Council of State Court Judges. No report was delivered.

Council of Juvenile Court Judges. No report was delivered.

Council of Probate Court Judges. Judge Wilkes referred members to the written report provided in the materials. He thanked the Council for its support in the CPCJ's pursuit of an

Executive Director position and expressed appreciation to the AOC for working with the CPCJ on this solution. Judge Wilkes noted a meeting scheduled for October 1 with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Commissioner Frank Berry to discuss ways probate courts can enhance services to meet the needs of constituents with mental health issues.

Council of Magistrate Court Judges. Judge Turner reported that representatives of the Council of Magistrate Court Judges (CMAcJ) attended the National Center for State Courts' Court Technology Conference and presented a session on the Magistrate Court Forms Generator. A great deal of positive feedback has been received on the project and Judge Turner noted that Georgia is the only state to provide this type of service at no cost to users. The CMAcJ is participating in a joint ad hoc committee with the Council of State Court Judges to draft a uniform rule on garnishments, in the wake of the recent federal court order on the issue.

Council of Municipal Court Judges. Judge Jones referred members to the written report in the materials. She thanked the AOC for its work in support of the Council.

Written Report from the Council of Superior Court Clerks.

A written report was provided in the materials and Chief Justice Thompson recognized Ms. Cinda Bright representing the Council of Superior Court Clerks. Ms. Bright highlighted the initiation of the Document Access Portal and discussion of possible enhancements to the master jury list compilation process.

Old Business

No old business was offered.

New Business

Chief Justice Thompson referred members to the proposed 2016 meeting schedule provided in the materials. The variety of proposed locations was received positively and Chief Justice Thompson asked that any feedback on the meeting dates be communicated to Ms. Clanton.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Chief Justice Thompson adjourned the meeting at 3:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracy Mason
Assistant Director, JC/AOC

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

Hugh P. Thompson
Chief Justice

DRAFT

Judicial Council of Georgia
General Session
Macon Marriott City Center/Macon Centreplex Convention Center Macon, GA
September 30, 2015 • 1:00 p.m.

Guests Present

Mr. Todd Ashley, Prosecuting Attorneys' Council
Mr. Joe Baden, Third Judicial Administrative District
Ms. Tee Barnes, Supreme Court of Georgia
Mr. Tracy J. BeMent, Tenth Judicial Administrative District
Ms. Christine Butcher, Administrative Office of the Courts/Contract Attorney
Judge Rooney Bowen, Probate Court of Dooly County
Mr. Bob Bray, Council of State Court Judges
Ms. Cinda Bright, Superior Court of Irwin County / Council of Superior Court Clerks
Mr. Jerry Bruce, Administrative Office of the Courts/Juvenile Data Exchange
Judge Albert Collier, Clayton Judicial Circuit
Judge Chase Daughtrey, Probate Court of Cook County
Mr. Richard F. Denney, First Judicial Administrative District
Mr. Steven Ferrell, Ninth Judicial Administrative District
Judge Mike Greene, Probate Court of Jones County
Judge James Griner, Magistrate Court of Screven County
Mr. Mike Holiman, Council of Superior Court Clerks
Judge Richard Kent, State Court of Colquitt County
Ms. Yolanda Lewis, Fifth Judicial Administrative District
Trooper James Brown, Georgia State Patrol
Ms. Cathy McCumber, Fourth Judicial Administrative District
Ms. Tia Milton, Supreme Court of Georgia
Mr. David Mixon, Second Judicial Administrative District
Ms. Debra Nesbit, Association County Commissioners of Georgia
Ms. Jody Overcash, Seventh Judicial Administrative District
Judge Samuel D. Ozburn, Alcovy Judicial Circuit
Judge Jack Partain, Superior Court, Conasauga Judicial Circuit
Ms. Sharon Reiss, Council of Magistrate Court Judges
Mr. William Simmons, Sixth Judicial Administrative District
Mr. Matthew Sorensen, Clayton Judicial Circuit
Judge Tommy Smith, State Court of Toombs County
Judge Mary Staley, Superior Court, Cobb Judicial Circuit
Mr. Bryan Tyson, Georgia Public Defender Council
Mr. Shannon Weathers, Council of Superior Court Judges
Judge James R. Whitfield, Juvenile Court, Cobb Judicial Circuit
Judge Max Wood, Office of State Administrative Hearings
Mr. Thomas Worthy, State Bar of Georgia

Judicial Council of Georgia
Special Session
Judicial Conference Room
November 3, 2017 - 11 a.m.

Members Present

Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson, Chair
Presiding Justice P. Harris Hines, Vice-Chair
Chief Judge Harry J. Altman, II
Chief Judge Tangela Barrie
Judge Kristina Hammer Blum
Chief Judge Benjamin P. Brinson
Judge Stephen Louis A. Dillard
Chief Judge Sara L. Doyle
Judge S. Lark Ingram
Judge Gary E. Jackson
Judge Horace J. Johnson, Jr.
Judge Edward D. Lukemire
Judge John E. Morse, Jr.
Chief Judge J. Carlisle Overstreet
Judge Alice Padgett
Chief Judge Kathy Palmer
Chief Judge Wayne M. Purdom
Judge Matthew O. Simmons
Chief Judge Richard A. Slaby
Judge John Sumner
Chief Judge Gail S. Tusan
Judge Robert Turner
Chief Judge Brenda S. Weaver
Judge Don Wilkes

Members Absent

Chief Judge Melodie Snell Conner
Judge Leslie Spornberger Jones

Non-Member Search Committee Members Present

Justice Keith Blackwell
Judge Charles Wynne
Judge Alan Wigington
Judge Ray Lanier

Staff Present

Therese (Tee) Barnes, Supreme Court Clerk and Committee Reporter

Call to Order and Welcome

The special session of the Judicial Council of Georgia was called to order at 11:05 a.m. by Chief Justice Thompson. He welcomed all in attendance - both in person and on the conference phone - and expressed his gratitude to the judges for participating in the special session convened for the purpose of receiving the report and recommendation of the AOC Director Search Committee and the final vote on the Committee's recommendation.

Following a discussion of the search process by Presiding Justice Hines, Chief Justice Thompson took the official vote based on the Committee's recommendation.

[The official vote is recorded and sealed in the minutes of the Supreme Court of Georgia.]

Following the vote and closing comments by Chief Justice Thompson, the meeting adjourned at 11:20.



Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson
Chair

Judicial Council of Georgia

Administrative Office of the Courts

Cynthia H. Clanton
Director

Memorandum

TO: Judicial Council of Georgia

FROM: Chief Judge Sara L. Doyle

RE: Strategic Plan Implementation Committee Report

DATE: December 2, 2015

The Strategic Plan Implementation Committee (SPI) convened for a working session on October 20, 2015, to discuss priority initiative 5 - communication strategies. A discussion was led by Mr. Jim Neal of North Highland Worldwide Consulting on improving communications among stakeholders within the judicial branch.

Providing the Georgia Courts Directory in electronic form was recommended by the Committee. Accordingly this year the Georgia Courts Directory will transition to an online document; printed copies of the directory will be mailed out upon request.

The SPI Committee requests the Judicial Council to approve the issuance of a Supreme Court order creating a new "Judicial Council Strategic Plan Committee," and appointment of its members. This will be a standing committee of the Judicial Council replacing the current Strategic Plan Implementation Committee, whose work concludes and current members' terms expire on June 30, 2016. To ensure continuity, it is recommended that one or more of the current SPI Committee members continue to serve on the new Committee and that the terms of the two Committees overlap. Potential committee members are being contacted by the chair and AOC staff.

The SPI Committee also met December 1, 2015, to discuss the Judicial Council Committees' memberships, as well as next steps for the SPI Committee after the expiration of the current members' terms on June 30, 2016.

Attachments (Judicial Council of Georgia Strategic Plan Committee 2016-2019)

Judicial Council of Georgia

Strategic Plan Committee 2016-2019

Overview

The current Judicial Council/AOC strategic plan and the terms of the Judicial Council Strategic Plan Implementation (SPI) Committee members expire on June 30, 2016. New committee members need to be appointed in order to accomplish the ongoing strategic planning efforts of the Judicial Council and AOC. *Judicial Council Bylaws, Article V: Duties.*

Accordingly, a Supreme Court order should be issued creating a new “Judicial Council Strategic Plan Committee” and appointing its members. This would be a standing committee of the Judicial Council which requires a current Judicial Council member to serve each year. *Judicial Council Bylaws, Article IV: Committees, Standing Committees.* New Committee members’ terms would be for the duration of the new strategic plan. **This Committee would replace the current SPI Committee which concludes its work on June 30, 2016.** To ensure continuity, it is recommended that 1 or more of the current SPI Committee members continue to serve on the new Committee, and that the terms of the 2 Committees overlap.

Judicial Council Strategic Plan Committee (NEW – effective January 1, 2016)

Mission/Duties

1. Coordinate with outgoing Strategic Plan Implementation (SPI) Committee to update existing strategic plan and ensure successful transition of leadership and duties to Committee
2. Create new strategic plan for FY2017-2019 (or beyond)
3. Ensure that strategic plan is implemented through work of the AOC and others
4. Provide updates on the work of the SP Committee to the Judicial Council

Strategic Plan Committee Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Current Position (if any)</u>	<u>Term on Judicial Council (linkage with JC per bylaws)/Previous SPI service</u>	<u>Term on Committee</u>
Designee	Court of Appeals			January 1, 2016 to June 30, 2019
Designee	Council of Magistrate Court Judges			January 1, 2016 to June 30, 2019

Judicial Council of Georgia

Strategic Plan Committee 2016-2019

Designee	Council of Probate Court Judges			January 1, 2016 to June 30, 2019
Designee	Council of Municipal Court Judges			January 1, 2016 to June 30, 2019
Designee	Superior Court Judges Council or Administrative Judge			January 1, 2016 to June 30, 2019
Designee	Council of Juvenile Court Judges			January 1, 2016 to June 30, 2019
Designee	Council of State Court Judges			January 1, 2016 to June 30, 2019
Designee	Supreme Court of Georgia	Committee Advisory Member		January 1, 2016 to June 30, 2019

Judicial Council of Georgia

Strategic Plan Committee 2016-2019

Strategic Plan Calendar (for both SPI and SP Committees)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Content</u>
January 2016	Supreme Court Order creating new Strategic Plan Committee (SP Committee)	Defines new committee and membership for duration of new strategic plan
Week of January 11 or 18, 2016	Orientation between existing SPI Committee Chair, new SP Committee and AOC	Review history of Judicial Council and AOC; bylaws; current strategic plan; and calendar
February 9, 2016	Meeting ¹ of SPI Committee (with new SP Committee) (Judicial Council meeting is February 26)	New SP Committee attends SPI Committee meeting to learn about on-going work
March 29, 2016	Working session of SPI Committee (with new SP Committee) (Judicial Council meeting is April 22)	SP Committee attends SPI Committee meeting and brainstorms ideas for new strategic plan (facilitated by North Highland)
<i>April-May 2016</i>	<i>SP Committee and AOC internal work</i>	<i>Continue work on new strategic plan</i>
May 24, 2016	Working session of SPI Committee ² (with new SP Committee)	Share new strategic plan and recommend adoption. Work of SPI Committee concludes June 30, 2016
<i>June-July 2016</i>	<i>AOC internal work (Judicial Council meeting is June 15 - draft strategic plan vote)</i>	<i>Continue work on strategic plan</i>

¹Meeting usually indicates one-half day meeting at the State Bar of Georgia.

²Working session usually indicates full day meeting at the State Bar of Georgia.

Judicial Council of Georgia

Strategic Plan Committee 2016-2019

August 2016	Working session of SP Committee (Judicial Council meeting is August 31)	Discuss implementation of new strategic plan
<i>September 2016</i>	<i>AOC internal work</i> (Judicial Council meeting is Oct. 21)	<i>Continue work on strategic plan</i>
October ____ 2016	Meeting of SP Committee	Update on strategic plan
<i>November 2016</i>	<i>AOC internal work</i>	<i>Continue work on strategic plan</i>
December ____ 2016	Meeting of SP Committee (Judicial Council meeting is on December 9, 2016)	Review 2017 calendar and priorities; update on outstanding Initiatives



Judicial Council of Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Director

Memorandum

TO: Judicial Council Members

FROM: Presiding Justice P. Harris Hines
Chair, Policy and Legislative Committee

P. H. Hines

RE: Committee Report

DATE: December 2, 2015

The Policy and Legislative Committee will meet on Wednesday, December 2, 2015. An updated report will be provided to the Council at the December 9, 2015, meeting.



Judicial Council of Georgia

Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Director

Memorandum

TO: Judicial Council of Georgia

FROM: Judge David Emerson

RE: Judicial Workload Assessment Committee

DATE: November 19, 2015

Introduction

The Judicial Workload Assessment Committee determines the methodology for the Judicial Council's annual superior court workload assessment that serves as the basis for recommendations for additional judgeships or circuit boundary adjustments to the Governor and General Assembly. The Committee also guides discussion and activity related to improvements in caseload data collection and analysis.

The Judicial Workload Assessment Committee membership is composed of the Chief Justice, nine superior court judges, and one judge from each class of limited jurisdiction court. Two court clerks and three court administrators serve as advisory members.

Caseload Reporting Improvements

Since the last Judicial Council meeting, Committee Chair Judge Emerson and AOC staff have taken several steps to improve the accuracy of 2014 caseload reporting.

- Judge Emerson has emailed letters directly to every superior court chief judge, pointing out potential data anomalies. Staff has worked with circuits' clerks and court administrators to update its database with accurate figures.
- Staff has conducted or will conduct caseload reporting trainings for superior court clerks in the following locations: the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Judicial Administrative District; the Seventh Judicial Administrative District (December 1), the Eight Judicial Administrative District (December 2), and the Tenth Judicial Administrative District (December 4). Staff is available to come to any circuit, county, or city to provide caseload reporting training.

- Staff has conducted caseload reporting training for magistrate and probate court judges as part of their continuing education. Similar trainings are also being contemplated for superior and state court judges.

Also, at its January 15, 2016 meeting, the Committee will consider updates and revisions to the AOC's caseload reporting protocol which will clarify the timeline, processes, and procedures for caseload reporting for all classes of courts.



Judicial Council of Georgia

Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Director

Memorandum

TO: Judicial Council of Georgia

FROM: Christopher Hansard, Assistant Director

RE: Board of Court Reporting

DATE: November 19, 2015

Introduction

The Georgia General Assembly established the Board of Court Reporting of the Judicial Council of Georgia to ensure the integrity and competency of the court reporting practice. The Board of Court Reporting establishes and enforces standards that govern court reporters and provides a forum for an exchange of ideas and educational services.

The Judicial Council of Georgia appoints the members to the Board for a term of two years, but not more than two successive terms. The Board membership is comprised of five certified court reporters, two attorney representatives from the State Bar of Georgia, and two representatives from the judiciary, one state court judge and one superior court judge.

New Officers

On November 6, 2015, the Board of Court Reporting met in Atlanta to elect new officers. A meeting schedule for calendar year 2016 will be determined and distributed in the coming weeks.

The Board's membership and officers are as follows. Due to a resignation, there are currently eight Board members.

- Chair – James M. Anderson, III, Attorney
- Vice Chair – Judge John K. Edwards, Jr., State Court Judge
- Member-at-Large – Ms. Maxyne Bursky, Freelance Reporter
- Ms. Julie Brackett, Official Court Reporter
- Ms. Linda Drake, Freelance Reporter
- Ms. Elizabeth Fite, Attorney
- Ms. Cheryl Gilliam, Official Court Reporter
- Judge M. Cindy Morris, Superior Court Judge

2016 - Magistrate Court Judges, Course Options

Jan 1-Oct 31: Spanish for Court Personnel (12 hours)	online
Feb 1-12: Judicial Ethics, New Code (12 hours)	eLC online
Feb 21-26: Magistrate Judges Criminal Basic (40 hours)	UGA Athens
Mar 3 & 4: Faculty Development (12 hours)	HI Athens
Mar 11: Judging & Humanities (12 hours)	HI Athens
Apr 22: Spanish for Court Personnel (12 hours)	KSU Kennessaw
Apr 24-26: Magistrate Judges Recert (12 hours)	UGA Athens
May 9-13: Local Ordinances (6 hours)	eLC online
Nov 10: Spanish for Court Personnel (12 hours)	HI Athens
Jun 16 & 17: Magistrate Clerks Recert (12 hours)	Sea Palms SSI
Jul 11-15: Sovereign Citizens & Court Security (6 hours)	eLC online
Sep 1 & 2: Faculty Development (12 hours)	HI Athens
Sep 18-23: Magistrate Judges Civil Basic (40 hours)	UGA Athens
Oct 3 & 4: Magistrate Judges Recert (12 hours)	DeSoto Savannah
Oct 31-Nov 4: Substances of Abuse (6 hours)	eLC online
Nov 17: Spanish for Court Personnel (12 hours)	UGA Tifton
Dec 5 & 6: New Chief's Boot Camp (12 hours)	HI Athens

These instructional options for 2016 have been endorsed by the Magistrate Courts Training Council. OCGA 15-10-25(a) and 15-10-131(3) requires the Judicial Council to approve such certification and recertification courses / training programs for each calendar year. These statutes speak in terms of approving curriculum, instructors, and facilities meeting standards of the MagCTC and the Judicial Council, which historically has been understood as operating at the level of the Judicial Council approving courses for delivery rather than naming particular instructional units or targeting specific learning objectives. For the semi-annual recertification courses, selection of particular instructional units and addressing specific learning objectives is routinely a work-in-progress up until about 60 days before each program. In the criminal and civil basic courses for new non-attorney judges the particular instructional contents remain relatively fixed from one year to the next, based upon the evaluation feedback derived from each year's course that might indicate any need for change.

2016 - Municipal Court Judges, Course Options

Jan 1-Oct 31: Spanish for Court Personnel (12 hours)	online
Feb 1-12: Judicial Ethics, New Code (12 hours)	eLC online
Mar 1: Municipal Judges NJO (6 hours)	HI Athens
Mar 3 & 4: Faculty Development (12 hours)	HI Athens
Mar 11: Judging & Humanities (12 hours)	HI Athens
Mar 7-18: Withstanding Ferguson Scrutiny (12 hours)	eLC online
Apr 22: Spanish for Court Personnel (12 hours)	KSU Kennessaw
May 9-13: Local Ordinances (6 hours)	eLC online
Jun 10: Spanish for Court Personnel (12 hours)	HI Athens
Jun 22-24: Municipal Judges NJO (20 hours)	Sea Palms SSI
Jun 22-24: Municipal Court Judges Recert (12 hours)	Sea Palms SSI
Jul 11-15: Sovereign Citizens & Court Security (6 hours)	eLC online
Aug 1-12: Withstanding Ferguson Scrutiny (12 hours)	eLC online
Sep 1 & 2: Faculty Development (12 hours)	HI Athens
Sep 8-9: Withstanding Ferguson Scrutiny (12 hours)	HI Athens
Oct 12-14: Municipal Judges NJO (20 hours)	UGA Athens
Oct 12-14: Municipal Court Judges Recert (12 hours)	UGA Athens
Oct 31-Nov 4: Substances of Abuse (6 hours)	eLC online
Nov 17: Spanish for Court Personnel (12 hours)	UGA Tifton

These instructional options for 2016 have been endorsed by the Municipal Courts Training Council. OCGA 36-32-21(5) and 36-32-27(a) requires the Judicial Council to approve such certification and recertification courses / training programs for each calendar year. These statutes speak in terms of approving curriculum, instructors, and facilities meeting standards of the MunCTC and the Judicial Council, which historically has been understood as operating at the level of the Judicial Council approving courses for delivery rather than naming particular instructional units or targeting specific learning objectives. For the semi-annual recertification courses, selection of particular instructional units and addressing specific learning objectives is routinely a work-in-progress up until about 60 days before each program. In the basic courses for new judges the particular instructional contents remain relatively fixed from one year to the next, based upon the evaluation feedback derived from each year's course that might indicate any need for change.



Judicial Council of Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice **Hugh P. Thompson**
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Director

Memorandum

TO: Judicial Council of Georgia

FROM: Michelle Barclay, Director of Communications

RE: Office of Communications, Children, Families and the Courts

DATE: December 9, 2015

In alignment with the strategic plan of the Judicial Council of Georgia to improve the administration of justice, the AOC, under Director Cynthia Clanton, continues to evolve to better communicate and to assist the courts serving our state's most vulnerable populations. This section of the AOC serves as the hub of communications for all courts and provides staff for the Supreme Court of Georgia Committee on Justice for Children, chaired by Presiding Justice P. Harris Hines; the Georgia Commission on Child Support, chaired by Judge Louisa Abbot; and most recently the Access, Fairness, Public Trust and Confidence Committee of the Judicial Council, co-chaired by Justice Robert Benham and Justice Carol Hunstein.

In addition, this section will serve as liaison to the Georgia Commission on Family Violence, chaired by Holly Tuchman. On October 15, 2015, Taylor Jones began serving as Executive Director the Council of Accountability Courts, and staff from this section will continue to serve as liaison to that Council, with Judge Jason Deal as its current president.

Following is a brief synopsis of the work.

- **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 that 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 Reporting System (a child-specific data information system shared between the judicial and executive branches). The next meeting for the J4C will be held on December 16, 2015 to hear a status report from the Council of Juvenile Court Judges' leadership on the future of Georgia's Juvenile Courts.

- **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 to assist the AOC in developing 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 writing the JC/AOC Annual Report, publishing the quarterly Courts Journal; maintaining the Georgia Courts Directory; assisting with drafting and distribution of press releases; updating Judicial Council outgoing certificates and letterhead; updating Facebook/Twitter accounts; uploads to georgiacourts.gov; taking photos and drafting daily messages for events and communications.
- **Child Support Commission:** The Child Support Commission sponsored its first ever statewide Child Support Conference in November, which was very successful. Commission staff are focused on working with the vendor to get the new online child support calculator finalized and released publicly. The Commission has appointed a subcommittee on Gender Neutrality to address some of the issues that have arisen due to the *Obergefell* decision, such as how best to identify the parties on the child support worksheets that are presently designated simply as “mother” and “father.” The Commission continues to push forward its legislation seeking to repeal administrative legitimation. Staff works collaboratively with DHS on the Parental Accountability Courts, training court coordinators on use of the database that will give us statistical evidence of the efficacy of those courts. Staff provides training throughout the state, and responds daily to questions from judges, attorneys and the public regarding the child support worksheets and income withholding.
- **Access, Fairness, and Public Trust and Confidence Committee:** Contract attorney, Karlise Grier, staffed a committee meeting on November 4, 2015. Topics addressed were a new Georgia ADA handbook, an upcoming National Association of Women Judges conference, the new Lawyers for Equal Justice (Law Incubator), updates about efforts to prevent human trafficking being done around the state, updates about school justice summits, and led a discussion around the Ferguson report.

Judicial Council Operations FY16

Financial Report as of November 30, 2015

(State Funds Only)

DEPARTMENT	BUDGET	YTD TOTAL EXPENDITURES	REMAINING	Budget Spent
Judicial Council - Administrative Office of The Courts	6,614,137	3,024,455	3,589,682	46%
Child Support Collaborative	113,117	46,313	66,804	41%
Georgia Council of Court Administrators	11,557	11,365	192	98%
Council of Magistrate Court Judges	184,127	70,078	114,049	38%
Council of Probate Court Judges	176,680	35,243	141,437	20%
Council of State Court Judges	250,000	92,713	157,287	37%
Council of State Court Judges Ret.	2,506,204	891,896	1,614,308	36%
Council of Municipal Court Judges	16,185	12,690	3,495	78%
Legal Services for Domestic Violence	2,306,875	2,260,737	46,138	98%
Other Judicial Council Subprograms	5,564,745	3,421,035	2,143,710	61%
Accountability Courts	446,319	40,967	405,352	9%
Appellate Resource Center	800,000	333,333	466,667	42%
Judicial Qualifications Commission	530,423	137,195	393,228	26%
Inst of Continuing Jud Ed Operations	471,789	172,877	298,912	37%
Separate Judicial Council Programs	2,248,531	684,372	1,564,159	30%
County and Municipal Probation Advisory Council	609,367	609,367	0	100%
Georgia Commission on Family Violence	374,981	374,981	0	100%
Transferred to DCS by Amendment	984,348	984,348	0	100%
TOTAL JUDICIAL COUNCIL	15,411,761	8,114,210	7,297,551	53%
Adjusted - Transfers to DCS Excluded	14,427,413	7,129,862	7,297,551	49%



SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA
STATE JUDICIAL BUILDING
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

HUGH P. THOMPSON
CHIEF JUSTICE

(404) 656-3472

SUPREME COURT REPORT
December 2015

Last July, I was sworn in as one of four new members of the Board of Directors of the Conference of Chief Justices. The week of November 16th, I attended my first meeting as a board member in Washington, D.C. There were a number of things we discussed of importance to the courts.

I attended a press conference about how the nation's justice system has devolved into today's "default mental health system." Consider these statistics: The number of psychiatric hospital beds in the United States has decreased by more than 90 percent since 1955. At the same time, the number of people with mental illnesses entering our courts, jails and prison has increased by more than 400 percent. Senator Al Franken (Democrat of Minnesota), and our own Representative Doug Collins (Republican of Georgia) are co-sponsoring a bi-partisan bill called the "Comprehensive Justice & Mental Health Act," which is designed to fund treatment for those with mental illness, not after they are arrested and locked up, but before, with the goal of keeping them out of the justice system altogether.

The Board had an opportunity to hear from a number of attorneys from around the country, including defense attorneys, plaintiffs' attorneys, and corporate general counsel. They were primarily concerned that a dwindling amount of civil cases are being tried anymore. Whether because of the growth of pre-trial orders requiring mediation, which is not a bad thing, or because the courts are overwhelmed with criminal trials, the number of civil trials seems to be going down. The attorneys expressed concern that a growing number of attorneys and judges will lack the expertise to try civil cases if this trend continues. The Board has been working on a report about civil justice and best practices for moving civil cases through the system. That report is near completion and will be presented to the full Conference - which is made up of Chief Justices from all 50 states, as well as the territories and the District of Columbia - at our meeting the end of January.

As you know, the Search Committee for a new director of the Administrative Office of the Courts accomplished its task with the recommendation to make Cynthia Clanton the permanent AOC Director. On November 3, 2015, the Judicial Council held a special meeting and voted to approve her appointment. I want to commend Presiding Justice Hines and his Committee for its hard work in moving so expeditiously to recommend this excellent candidate to the Council. I have said many times, I believe the AOC is on track to being what it was created to be: an administrative agency that is here to serve the judges and the councils and the courts.

I want to encourage participation in a few active projects at the Supreme Court:

First, I want to highlight the Court's electronic records project and share a success story. Recently, the Court dealt with matters related to an execution – the appeal record amounted to more than 1000 pages. In the “old days,” after entering the notice of appeal, the trial court clerk would duplicate the 1000+ pages, bind the pages into numerous volumes, manually certify the appellate record, and then drive the record to the Supreme Court Clerk's office to be handed off to the Clerk's office staff who would be waiting outside with rolling carts. This time, within an hour of filing the notice of appeal, the case was docketed and the voluminous record uploaded into the case management system for all Justices to access. The ability to send an appellate record is a game-changer. I am grateful to all the trial court clerks who use the system and I encourage the judges to speak to your clerks about participating in the electronic record transmittal system.

The Court likes to do an off-site visit each year and hold oral arguments at a location other than at the courthouse in Atlanta. In October, we had an exceptional off-site argument in Gilmer County hosted by Chief Judge Brenda Weaver. It was a remarkable experience all around. We are scheduled to hold off-site arguments on January 20, 2016 at Georgia State Law School to commemorate the new law school building, followed by April arguments in Savannah coordinated with the Board of Governor's meeting and our Court retreat. Please consider inviting the Court if you are interested in holding a special oral argument session of the Supreme Court in your circuit.

Finally, a number of you should have received a letter from me last week asking for your input to my annual State of the Judiciary Address. I do not yet know when it will be, although it is generally around the first of February. But this year, I

plan to showcase, among other things, the Judicial Council and I will be acknowledging a number of you during the speech. I think we forget how little citizens - and possibly the majority of legislators - understand about the structure and governance of our judiciary branch. I hope by underscoring your accomplishments and aspirations, as well as the challenges ahead, I can show the hard work you are doing, and emphasize the importance of our relationship with the legislature and the executive branch. As I mentioned in the letter, I'd be very grateful if you would get your responses back to Jane Hansen of my staff before you leave for the Christmas holidays.



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 December 2015

The Council of Superior Court Judges will meet for its annual conference and continuing education seminars in Athens, Georgia, January 19-22, 2016. The conference will provide training seminars on such topics as interviewing children on abuse allegations; abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older adults and adults with disabilities; proper remedies for contempt; social media evidence; spoliation of evidence; updates on the Code of Judicial Conduct; recent changes to law in behavioral health issues; and updates on the evidence code. There will also be special training for judges handling death penalty cases and an orientation program for new judges. Approximately 200 superior court judges and senior judges are expected to attend the conference.

CSCJ will soon welcome numerous new judges as well as new senior judges. Several judges have announced their intent to retire at the end of their present terms or, in some cases, resign and retire prior to the end of the current term. Most are planning to seek senior judge appointments from the Governor. The Governor will also appoint replacements for those judges who retire before their terms conclude and for the new judgeship in the Western Judicial Circuit that begins in April 2016. Appointments of new judges that are made fewer than six months from the next nonpartisan election will not be required to run for re-election in the current cycle but will run in the cycle two years away.

Judge Amanda Mercier will resign her superior court seat in the Appalachian Judicial Circuit on December 31 in order to become a Judge of the Court of Appeals. Judge Mercier has served as a superior court judge since July 15, 2010. Her superior court successor in will be appointed by Governor Deal.

Superior Courts now have over 100 accountability courts, with more planned to begin throughout the remainder of FY 2016. The creation of the additional accountability courts will bring the total number of circuits participating to 47 of 49 circuits. Felony accountability courts saved Georgia taxpayers \$23 million in 2013. The Department of Corrections has estimated they saved \$30 million in 2014.



Council of State Court Judges
Impartial Courts • Judicial Excellence • Accessible and Efficient Justice

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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. Tailor (Fulton)

District 8
Judge T. Russell McClelland (Forsyth)

Report of the Council of State Court Judges
Judicial Council Meeting
December 9, 2015

The Council has unveiled its new website with the assistance of the IT Division of the Judicial Council Administrative Office of the Courts. In conjunction with the launch of the new website, the new *2016 State Court Benchbook* is now online. This effort was a collaboration of nine state court judges, a staff attorney with the Georgia Legal Services Program and Magistrate Court Judge Michael Barker, all of whom authored the 12 Chapters.

Chapter 1 DUI	Judge Maria B. Golick (Cobb)
Chapter 2 Warrants	Judge Victoria S. Darrisaw (Dougherty)
Chapter 3 Warrantless Searches	Judge Jason Ashford (Houston)
Chapter 4 Motions to Suppress	Judge Joseph C. Iannazzone (Gwinnett)
Chapter 5 Right to Counsel	Judge C. Jean Bolin (McIntosh)
Chapter 6 Landlord Tenant	Judge Michael Barker, Magistrate Court (Chatham)
Chapter 7 Personal Property Foreclosures	Judge Michael Barker, Magistrate Court (Chatham)
Chapter 8 Garnishment	Judge Michael Barker, Magistrate Court (Chatham)
Chapter 9 Contempt	Judge Wesley B. Tailor (Fulton)
Chapter 10 Civil Subject Matter Jurisdiction	Judge Joseph C. Iannazzone (Gwinnett)
Chapter 11 Appointing Qualified Interpreters	Jana J. Edmondson-Cooper, Bilingual Staff Attorney, Georgia Legal Service Program; [Judge Melodie H. Clayton (Cobb) and Judge Dax E. Lopez (DeKalb) editors]
Chapter 12 Default Outline with Case Law	Judge Susan E. Edlein (Fulton)

Again, special thanks go to the IT Division of the Judicial Council Administrative Office of the Courts who provided the technology and formatting to publish the Benchbook online. I would like to recognize Jorge Basto, Division Director and his staff: Sowjanya Aligala, Mike Cuccaro, and Tony Mazza. Special appreciation also goes to Ms. Stacey Mitchener with LexisNexis who took all of the different writing styles and made all of the necessary adjustments to the citations of authority and hyperlink them to the Advance Lexis[®] online legal research site. Our gratitude goes to our Executive Director, Bob Bray, for his leadership and vision to bring this project to realization. I invite you to visit our website and hope that you find it to be a useful resource. Our website is: <http://statecourt.georgiacourts.gov> and click on the link to the Benchbook.

In connection with the Council of Magistrate Court Judges, a joint work group examined the problems related to Georgia garnishment laws outlined in the *Strickland* federal district court case. A proposal for an expedited Uniform Rule addressing issues the constitutional concerns in *Strickland* was prepared along with a lengthy memorandum of law to accompany the Rule that outlined the legal arguments for and against the adoption of a Rule and then approved by each Council. Ultimately, the Supreme Court elected not adopt such a rule on an expedited basis and to await legislative action.

The Uniform Rules Committee of our Council also filed changes to Rule 43 on Mandatory Continuing Judicial Education with the Supreme Court for approval.

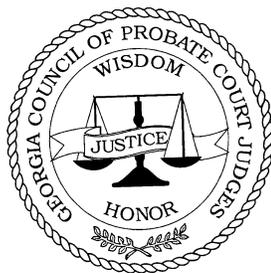
Working with the Uniform Rules Committee of the Council of Superior Court Judges, the state court has submitted a new Rule proposing to address defendants convicted of certain offenses that jeopardize their carrying a concealed weapon permit and procedures that insure proper inquiry and reporting to the appropriate probate judge.

Our New Judge Orientation will be held in Athens January 25, 2016 through January 28, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne M. Purdom

Judge Wayne M. Purdom
President, Council of State 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)

Report to Judicial Council of Georgia Dec. 9, 2015

The following is a summary of activities and current initiatives by the Council of Probate Court Judges:

COAG Fall Conference

At the Constitutional Officers' Association of Georgia's Fall Conference, probate judge Darin McCoy was sworn in as COAG president. Fortunately, he will continue to serve our Council as Secretary-Treasurer. Also at the conference, the CPCJ Executive Committee approved Catherine Fitch as our Council's first executive director.

Website Launch

The Council launched a redesigned website, currently at <http://probate.georgiacourts.gov>. It is working to secure federal permission for the domain name <http://GaProbate.gov>. Many new materials have been posted to the site, both for the public and for probate judges.

Mental Health

On Oct. 1, the Mental Health Committee met with GCIC and DBHDD staff to discuss a number of issues, including access to treatment barriers, lack of bed capacity for OTAs, and gaps in mental health reporting related to the issuance of weapons carry licenses. As a result, GCAL is now working to improve operator protocol for when a probate judge calls regarding placement for a person ordered to be apprehended. Also, an updated list of DBHDD field offices, information on inpatient facilities, and referral procedures for crisis and inpatient services have been posted on the Council website.

Caseload Reporting

The Forms and Rules Committee has continued its work with the JC/AOC Office of Research, Planning, and Data Analysis on the caseload reporting template that will be used in 2017 to report 2016 probate court caseload. The CPCJ is working with case management vendors on changes to their software, to reflect the new caseload reporting methodology. The end result will be caseload reporting that better reflects national standards.

Probate Court Standard Forms

The Court Rules and Forms Committee continues with its major overhaul of the probate court standard form, to make them all stylistically uniform. It is also making substantive corrections to several forms, and creating a new form to address the resignation of a temporary guardian or conservator of a minor and appointment of a successor temporary guardian or conservator.

Vital Records

The Executive Committee continues discussions with the State Office of Vital Records about the data it requires for the issuance of marriage license applications.

Upcoming Events

The Executive Committee will meet at the Constitutional Officers' Association of Georgia's winter meeting, date to be determined. CPCJ Day at the Capitol will be February 23, 2016. The CPCJ 2016 Annual Meeting will be held April 18 to 21 in St. Simons.

Respectfully submitted,

Don E. Wilkes

Don E. Wilkes

President, Council of Probate Court Judges



Council of Municipal Court Judges

Report to the Judicial Council of Georgia December 9, 2015

Judge, Leslie Spornberger Jones
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Judge Douglas G. Andrews
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Judge John Clayton Davis
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Judge E.R. Lanier
Immediate Past President
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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 Thuman

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

Here is an overview of recent Council events, programs, and activities:

Training Initiatives and Strengthening the Council Council of Municipal Court Judges Crisis Media Guidelines

In an effort to assist our courts communicate key messages effectively with the media and the public at large during a crisis; the Council is developing guidelines for judges and personnel to follow. We recognize the open flow of communication between the "Court and the Council" is critical during a time of crisis and want to be supportive by providing tools.

Continued Discussions Department of Driver Services (DDS)

Continued discussions are taking place regarding failure to appear suspensions; streamlining the license reinstatement process; automatic license suspensions and identity theft/ false identification and old convictions as areas of possible collaboration between the Council, municipal courts, and the DDS.

The Council will continue to maintain an open dialogue and partnership with the DDS.

Publications

Educating the public on the municipal courts, especially the youth, is an objective of many judges throughout the State. The Municipal Court of Athens-Clarke County created a coloring book *Welcome to Athens-Clarke County Municipal Court* for dissemination to children in attendance at court. The book informs kids about the personnel in the courtroom and their duties, how laws are made and what laws are heard in municipal courts. A statewide version of the coloring book has been created for use by all municipal courts. The Coloring book can be accessed at:

<http://municipal.georgiacourts.gov/content/publications-resources-news-bulletin>

Listserv Guidelines

Communication is a key factor in strengthening the Council of Municipal Court Judges. At the October Executive Committee meeting, members approved proposed guidelines for use of the Municipal Judges Listserv. The forum was created for subscribers strictly for their use in connection with their judicial duties and the guidelines will assist with maintaining that integrity.

The guidelines were disseminated to Council members for review and comment.

Next Meeting: Executive Committee Meeting, January 14-15, 2016 in Thomasville, Georgia.



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COUNCIL OF SUPERIOR COURT CLERKS OF GEORGIA

December 9, 2015

Report to Judicial Council

After discussions with jury clerks across the state, the Council has begun the process of identifying a consultant to develop functional requirements for enhancements to the master jury list compilation process. A committee composed of superior court clerks, appointed jury clerks and judges will be formed to assist in this effort. When completed, the Council will bring a recommendation to the Judicial Council for consideration.

Electronic Document Program Status

Our Council's portal for **civil eFiling** has 87 Superior Courts and 18 State Courts currently accepting eFiling's from any filer (105 total).

There are 112 Superior Courts and 9 State Courts signed up for our eTranscript service with 162 court reporters submitting eTranscripts via this portal.

We have initiated our '**Document Access Portal (DAP)**' and have begun testing electronic delivery of court records to judges, attorneys and the public. After only one month the DAP has 25 counties enrolled covering 32 courts (Superior & State).

When fully implemented, judges and other users may use the DAP to view any document, in their circuit or statewide. Of course there will be no charge for judges to use this system and access is independent of the individual clerk's case management system.

All registered users will have the ability to search the DAP, using a variety of search criteria, returning results from all participating courts.

Thank you for the opportunity to update you on our work.

Cinda Bright
President
Council of Superior
Court Clerks &
Clerk of Superior Court
Wilkinson County

Mike Holiman
Executive Director
Council of Superior Court Clerks
1231 Collier Road, NW
Suite J
Atlanta, GA 30318



Council of Accountability Court Judges

Judge Jason J. Deal

Chair - Executive Committee
Northeastern Judicial Circuit

Taylor Jones

Executive Director

Council of Accountability Court Judges
Report to Judicial Council
December 2015

The Executive Committee, chaired by Judge Jason J. Deal, of the Council of Accountability Court Judges (C.A.C.J) met on October 2, 2015 in Gainesville, Georgia, and welcomed the Council's Executive Director, Ms. Taylor Jones (effective date of hire 10/15/15). The Committee discussed and approved plans to hire four C.A.C.J staff members; a Chief Certification Officer, two Certification Officers, and an Operations Coordinator. The position vacancies opened on 10/29/15 and closed on 11/12/15. The Council will have staff in place beginning in January 2016 that will provide technical assistance to the courts, in addition to conducting the Peer Review and Accountability Court certification process. The Executive Committee continued its work to finalize five standing committees that serve the Council. The standing committees are: the Funding Committee chaired by Judge Kathlene F. Gosselin; the Standards and Certification Committee chaired by Chief Judge Jeffrey S. Bagley; the Education and Training Committee chaired by Judge Steve Goss; the Nominations Committee chaired by Judge D. Scott Smith; and the Legislative Committee chaired by Judge Stephen Kelley.

The C.A.C.J Funding Committee met at the 9th District ADR Office on November 9, 2015 in Gainesville, Georgia to review the submitted applications for the FY16 Supplemental Grant Solicitation. The Committee reviewed 41 applications that totaled a request for \$1.7 million; the Committee awarded a total amount of \$794,263. Within the 41 applications, five new accountability courts were funded: the Tallapoosa Judicial Circuit Mental Health Court, the DeKalb County Veterans Court, the Dublin Judicial Circuit Veterans & Mental Health Court, the Lowndes County Treatment Court, and the Fulton County Behavioral Court.

Also in the month of November, the C.A.C.J Standards and Certification Committee met on the 18th, at the Forsyth County Courthouse in Cumming, Georgia. The Committee discussed and approved the following certification timeline: the Drug and Mental Health Courts that currently hold a provisional certification, and/or those operating under a waiver, will be required to submit a certification application by 2/29/16 to be considered for FY17 Accountability Court Grant funding; DUI Courts will be required to submit a certification application by 2/29/16 to be considered for FY17 Accountability Court Grant funding; and all Drug and Mental Health Courts initially certified in FY14, will be required to submit an application for recertification by the end of April 2016.

The C.A.C.J Education and Training Committee is scheduled to meet on December 16, 2015 at the State Bar Building in Atlanta, Georgia.



Georgia Council of Court Administrators

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Immediate Past President

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Conasauga Judicial Circuit

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Stephen Nevels
Piedmont Judicial Circuit

Matthew Sorensen
Clayton Judicial Circuit

Gary DuBose
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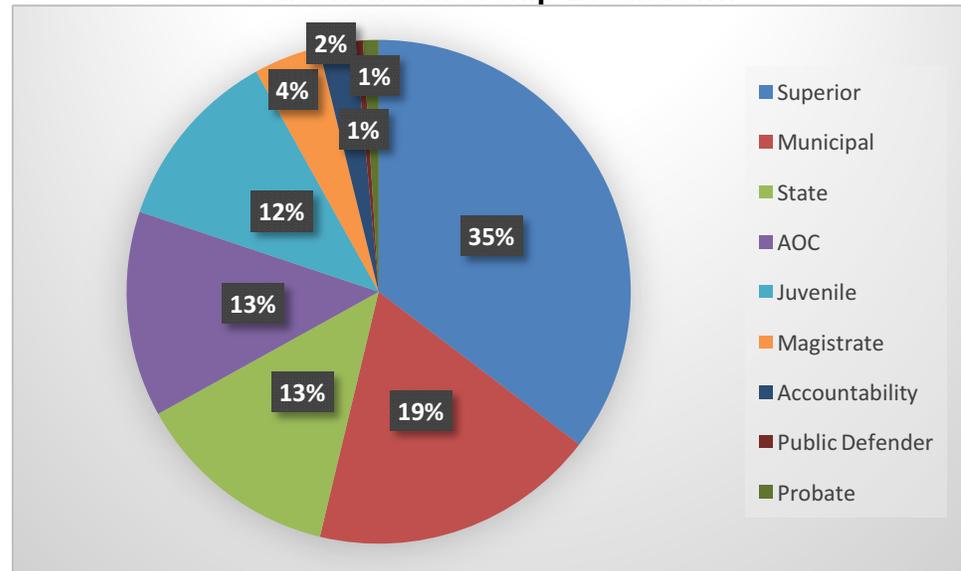
Stephanie C. Hines
Administrative Ofc. of the Courts

Report to Judicial Council of Georgia December 2015

The Georgia Council of Court Administrators (GCCA) is pleased to submit this report to the Judicial Council on behalf of our members throughout the state.

GCCA is currently 195 members strong. GCCA is comprised of court professionals throughout the state who serve in a wide variety of management positions in our courts. We have members from every class of courts including the Court of Appeals and Supreme Court.

Current Membership Breakdown



2015 Fall Leadership Conference

GCCA had 93 attendees at its fall leadership conference in St. Simons in September. Our spring conference is scheduled for April 18-20 at Lake Lanier and will focus on court operations.

Georgia Certified Court Manager Program

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 the Georgia Council of Court Administrators (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.

The Court Administration Certification program is an opportunity for court professionals to acquire greater professional credentials and to improve their fulfillment of their obligation to the public. This exciting program offers various options for every level of experience and budget resources. Each certificate can be utilized to earn the next level of certification—a building block process—that will lead to more opportunities and enriched judicial environments.

GCCA currently has 30 members (15%) who hold its basic certification with an additional 38 members (19%) holding our master certification for **a total of 1/3 of our membership being certified**. In addition, **1/5 of our members also have some form of external certification** such as those from the Institute for Court Management or Michigan State University.

GCCA Strategic Planning Initiative

GCCA leadership is currently in the beginning of a strategic planning process. We hope to complete that process over the next year in an effort to ensure that we are providing the support and services our members need most.

GCCA in Service

GCCA has appointed its President, Tracy BeMent, as its representative to the new Judicial Council Standing Committee on Technology. GCCA's president has also recently been appointed by the Governor to serve on the Georgia Criminal Justice Reform Council. GCCA's President-Elect, Yolanda Lewis was elected this past July as the Secretary-Treasurer of the National Association for Court Management (NACM) and GCCA's President is serving on NACM's Board of Directors. Numerous GCCA members serve on a multitude of local, state and national committees.

Yours in service,

Tracy J. BeMent
GCCA President