JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA

General Session

Friday, April 29, 2016
12 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Georgia Public Safety Training Center– Bay A
1000 Indian Springs Drive
Forsyth, GA 31029

Judicial Council of Georgia

Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC)
Bay A
1000 Indian Springs Drive
Forsyth, GA 31029

Friday, April 29, 2016
12 noon – 5 p.m.
Lunch will be served at noon, to be immediately followed by the Council meeting at 1 p.m.

1. **Preliminary Remarks and Introductions**
   (Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson, Est. Time – 5 Min.)

2. **Approval of Minutes, February 26, 2016** *(Action Item)* **TAB 1**
   (Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson, Est. Time – 2 Min.)

3. **Garnishment Reform**
   (Judge Wayne Purdom and Judge Michael Jacobs, Est. Time – 10 min)

4. **Committee Reports**

   A. **Strategic Plan Implementation Committee** *(Action Item)* **TAB 2**
   (Judge Allen Wigington, Est. Time – 10 Min)

   B. **Policy and Legislative Committee** **TAB 3**
   (Presiding Justice P. Harris Hines, Est. Time – 15 Min.)

   C. **Budget Committee** **TAB 4**
   (Justice Harold D. Melton, Est. Time – 5 Min.)

5. **Report from Judicial Council/AOC** **TAB 5**
   (Ms. Cynthia H. Clanton, Est. Time – 10 Min.)

6. **Reports from Appellate Courts and Trial Court Councils** **TAB 6**
   (Est. Time – 15 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**

7. **Report from the Council of Accountability Court Judges** **TAB 7**

8. **Report from the Council of Superior Court Clerks**

9. **Report from the Georgia Council of Court Administrators**

10. **Old/New Business**
(Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson, Est. Time – 5 Min.)

11. **Outgoing Members**
(Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson, Est. Time – 5 Min.)

12. **Concluding Remarks and Adjournment**
(Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson, Est. Time – 5 Min.)

Next Judicial Council Meeting

Wednesday, August 31, 2016	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Atlanta, GA (State Bar of Georgia)

Judicial Council Meeting Calendar - 2016

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)

Proposed Judicial Council Meeting Calendar - 2017

Friday, February 24, 2017	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Atlanta, GA
Friday, April 28, 2017	12 p.m. – 5 p.m.	Macon, GA
Wednesday, August 9, 2017	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Atlanta, GA
Friday, October 20, 2017	12 p.m. – 5 p.m.	Macon, GA
Friday, December 8, 2017	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Atlanta, GA

Judicial Council Members

As of April 20, 2016

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@gwinnettcounty.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@dekalbcountyga.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@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@cherokeega.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 Alice Padgett
President, CPCJ
Columbia County
P.O. Box 1520
Evans, GA 30809
706-312-7254/F 312-7251
apadgett@columbiacountyga.gov

Judge Rooney Bowen III
President-Elect, CPCJ
Dooly County
P.O. Box 304
Vienna, GA 31092
229-268-4217/F 268-6142
rbowen@doolycountyprobate.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@houstoncountyga.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@gwinnettcounty.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 Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC)

1000 Indian Springs Drive Forsyth, GA 31029

Traveling Northbound on Interstate 75:

- Take I-75 North of Macon
- Take exit number 188 for GA-42
- Turn right onto GA-42
- Take the first right onto Collier Road
- Turn left at the stop sign, proceed across the railroad tracks
- Turn right onto Indian Springs Drive toward the Training Center access road
- The entrance will be to your left

Traveling Southbound on Interstate 75:

- Take I-75 South towards Macon
- Take exit number 188 toward GA-42/Forsyth
- Keep right to take the ramp to GPSTC
- Turn right onto Collier Road
- Take turn left at the stop sign, proceed across the railroad tracks
- Turn right onto Indian Springs Road toward the Training Center access road
- The entrance will be to your left

If you are using GPS please input the following address: 1110 Indian Springs Drive Forsyth, GA 31029

Administrative Office of the Courts

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

Cynthia H. Clanton, Director
404-656-5171

As of April 1, 2016

Director's Office

Budget

Ashley Garner
404-656-6404

Governmental and Trial Court Liaison

Tracy Mason
404-463-0559

Kevin Holder
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

Zan Patorgis
404-463-3821

Legislative Liaison

Christine Butcher
404-651-7616

Judicial Services

Christopher Hansard
Division Director
404-463-1871

Research and Data Analysis

Robert Aycock
404-656-0371

Danita Chiles
404-463-3887

Carla Hardnett
404-232-1857

Jeffery Thorpe
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

Karlie Sahs
404-463-6478

Linda Smith
404-657-4219

Communications, Children, Families & the Courts

Michelle Barclay
Division Director
404-657-9219

Patricia Buonodono
404-463-0044

Elaine Johnson
404-463-6383

Paula Myrick
404-463-6480

Bruce Shaw
404-463-6106

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

All email addresses follow this format: firstname.lastname@georgiacourts.gov

Tax Intercept

Michael Cuccaro
404-656-7780

<u>Information Technology</u>

Jorge Basto
Division Director
404-657-9673

Willie Alcantara
404-519-9989

Bradley Allen
404-657-1770

John Botero
404-463-7340

Angela He
404-651-8169

Wendy Hosch
404-656-7788

Anthony Finelli
470-747-9786

Christina Liu
404-651-8180

Tony Mazza
404-657-4006

Michael Neuren
404-657-4218

Juawon Osby
470- 747-9785

Wanda Paul
404-538-0849

Kriste Pope
404-731-1358

Pete Tyo
404-731-1357

Georgia Judicial Exchange

Tajsha Dekine
404-656-3479

Arnold Schoenberg
404-463-6343

All email addresses follow this format: firstname.lastname@georgiacourts.gov

Judicial Council of Georgia
General Session
James H. "Sloppy" Floyd Building Atlanta, GA
February 26, 2016 • 10:00 a.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
Judge Stephen Louis A. Dillard
Chief Judge Sara L. Doyle
Judge James Griner (for Judge Robert Turner)
Judge Gary E. Jackson
Judge Horace J. Johnson, Jr.
Judge Leslie Spornberger Jones
Judge Richard Kent (for Judge Wayne M. Purdom)
Judge Edward D. Lukemire
Judge John E. Morse, Jr.
Judge J. Carlisle Overstreet
Judge Alice Padgett
Judge Kathy Palmer
Judge Jack Partain (for Judge S. Lark Ingram)
Judge Richard A. Slaby
Judge Matthew O. Simmons
Judge John Sumner
Judge Gail S. Tusan
Judge Brenda S. Weaver
Judge Don E. Wilkes

Members Absent
Judge S. Lark Ingram
Judge Wayne M. Purdom
Judge Robert Turner

Staff Present
Ms. Cynthia H. Clanton, Director
Mr. Brad Allen
Ms. Patricia Buonodono
Ms. Christine Butcher
Mr. Randy Dennis
Ms. Ashley Garner
Mr. Christopher Hansard
Ms. Carla Hardnett
Ms. Tracy Mason
Mr. Shinji Morokuma
Ms. LaShawn Murphy
Mr. Bruce Shaw
Ms. Tara Smith
Ms. Ashley Stollar

Guests (Appended)

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Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting of the Judicial Council of Georgia (Council) was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by Chief Justice Thompson. Members and designees identified themselves for the purposes of roll call, followed by staff and guests. The following judges were recognized as designees (with voting privileges) for absent members: Judge Jack Partain (for Judge S. Lark Ingram), Judge Richard Kent (for Judge Wayne M. Purdom) and Judge James Griner (for Judge Robert Turner).

Adoption of Minutes – December 9, 2015

Chief Justice Thompson directed the Council's attention to the minutes of the December 9, 2015, meeting. A motion to approve was offered by Judge Weaver, followed by a second from Judge Padgett. No discussion was offered and the motion passed with no opposition.

Child Support Collaborative/Parental Accountability Courts/Child Support E-filing

Ms. Buonodono, Staff Attorney for the Georgia Commission on Child Support and the Director of the Georgia Child Support Collaborative project, presented on behalf of Judge Louisa Abbot. She provided background of this partnership between the judicial and executive branches, noted current work to develop an online version of the Child Support Calculator, and spoke to pending legislation in Senate Bill 64. Judge Brian Amero (Superior Court, Flint Judicial Circuit, and presiding judge of the Henry County Parental Accountability Court) discussed the model and benefits of Parental Accountability Courts. The mission of these courts is to provide an alternative option to individuals who are behind on child support payments. Ms. Beverly Logan (Clerk of Superior Court, Athens-Clarke County) spoke on the benefits of using the child support e-filing system, known as Georgia Judicial Exchange (GAJE).

Committee Reports

Strategic Plan Implementation Committee. Chief Judge Doyle referred to the written report provided in the materials. The Committee met on February 9 to continue discussions on communications. As the Committee approaches the end of its three year term, it is discussing the Council's membership and committee structure. A new Strategic Plan Standing Committee has been created, and the Committee has started its work early with the intent that the overlap will assist in the formulation of the next strategic plan. Included in the materials are a proposed Order regarding the Council's membership that has been submitted to the Supreme Court for consideration; this proposal adds a representative of the State Bar as a non-voting member. Judge

Doyle requested that any feedback be directed to the Chief Justice. Proposed amendments to the Council bylaws were also included in the materials; these proposals seek to clarify the definitions of "standing" and "ad hoc" committees and to add a mechanism to make amendments to the bylaws more flexible. Judge Doyle requested that feedback on these proposals be directed to Ms. Clanton by March 25. Chief Justice Thompson recognized Mr. Patrick O'Connor, President-Elect of the State Bar, who indicated the Bar's favor of the membership proposal.

Technology Committee. Justice Harold Melton reported that the Technology Committee continues to work on the e-filing portal implementation. The report has been received from the National Center for State Courts and meetings with vendors will be held soon.

Budget Committee. Justice Melton reported the progress of this year's appropriations process. He summarized the results of the Amended Fiscal Year 2016 budget, including the one-time reduction to the Council budget. Justice Melton reported that all but two of the Council's enhancement requests for Fiscal Year 2017 had been supported in the House and the hope for a favorable response from the Senate.

Policy and Legislative Committee. Justice Hines referred to the written report provided in the materials. He reviewed the status of each item in the Council's legislative package and spoke to the details of several. Justice Hines spoke briefly on Senate Bill 332 (which is not a Judicial Council bill), sponsored by Sen. John Kennedy and which provides for state identification cards for judges. Judge Tilman Self was recognized and stated work is ongoing on this bill. Ms. Butcher was recognized for additional remarks and she highlighted several other bills of interest to the Council. Chief Justice Thompson thanked Justice Hines, the Committee, and all who have participated for their efforts to work together on behalf of the judiciary.

Judicial Workload Assessment Committee. Judge David Emerson referred to the written report provided in the materials. He presented an overview of the workload assessment process and emphasized that data obtained from the assessment can be influential in state legislative issues. Judge Emerson announced that the Committee will be conducting a "time and motion" study and encouraged all superior court judges to participate. Training is available to assist courts with this data; interested judges can contact Mr. Hansard with the Administrative Office of the Courts or himself. Judge Emerson concluded by stating that the work the Committee seeks to report is complex and the Committee's goal is to have accurate numbers.

The Chief Justice called for a break at 11:11 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 11:24 a.m.

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Supreme Court Commission on Interpreters

Mr. Morokuma presented on behalf of Justice Keith Blackwell and the Commission. The Commission recently produced a bench card, "Working With Limited English Proficient Persons and Foreign Language Interpreters in the Court Room," which is being distributed to all classes of court and was provided in the materials. This is meant to serve as a companion to the "Working with Deaf or Hard of Hearing Persons and Sign Language Interpreters in the Courtroom" bench card, which was presented to the Council last August. The Commission hopes this resource will help judges and staff manage any language access issues that may come up and welcomes any feedback.

Report from Judicial Council/AOC

Ms. Clanton thanked everyone for providing feedback on the AOC's performance and reported on the agency's recent and current activities.

The pilot phase of the Tax Refund Intercept Program (TRIP) is progressing well and media coverage on the program has been positive. Ms. Clanton acknowledged Mr. Dennis for his continued effort in ensuring successful participation and thanked Judge Jackson for his positive remarks made in a recent *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* article.

Ms. Clanton spoke to the AOC's new communications plan, which aims to utilize new tools and other methods to help foster communication and share information amongst the Council. Staff from the Office of Research and Data Analysis has been travelling across the state to train courts on workload assessments. Ms. Clanton introduced Ms. Hardnett as the new Program Manager of Research and Data Analysis and also introduced Ms. Smith, Executive Assistant, who will be coordinating Judicial Council meetings going forward. Ms. Clanton informed the Council of her recent court visits, as she is working diligently to observe judges in court as they help solve people's problems.

Reports from Appellate Courts and Trial Court Councils

Supreme Court. Chief Justice Thompson referred members to the written report provided in the materials. He thanked all who contributed information for the State of the Judiciary Address and indicated his hope that the judiciary's work would be appreciated by the legislature. He spoke to the work of the Appellate Jurisdiction Review Commission and the legislation resulting from its recommendations.

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Court of Appeals. Chief Judge Doyle reported that the Court welcomed three new judges in January. Internal testing will be conducted to determine if the Court has the ability to accept trial court records electronically. An update will be provided at the April Council meeting.

Council of Superior Court Judges. Judge Weaver referred members to the written report provided in the materials. Judge Weaver informed the Council of the passing of two former judges, Judge Walter C. McMillan and Judge Thomas K. Kilpatrick.

Council of State Court Judges. Judge Slaby spoke to the new State Court of Catoosa County and the anticipated judicial appointment.

Council of Juvenile Court Judges. Judge Sumner reported on the appointment of three new juvenile court judges: Judge Warren C. Caswell (Northern Judicial Circuit), Judge Neal Brunt (Cherokee Judicial Circuit) and Judge Joe Raymond Diaz (Northeastern Judicial Circuit). He also noted that Governor Deal has accepted a statewide grant for the national Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). JDAI would provide alternative options for juveniles in lieu of detention. A Statewide Coordinator has been hired and six pilot sites are anticipated to be in place by the fall. Judge Sumner expressed excitement about continuing work with the Council of Accountability Court Judges.

Council of Probate Court Judges. Judge Wilkes referred members to the written report provided in the materials. He highlighted the opportunities and challenges his council was tasked with this past year. The Council has hosted seven training sessions with the Office of Vital Records since January 1 and, to much success, hosted Probate Court Day at the Capitol on Tuesday of this week. Judge Wilkes noted that this was his last meeting and stated that it was an honor to work with so many distinguished judges. Chief Justice Thompson commended Judge Wilkes for his leadership of the Council.

Council of Magistrate Court Judges. Judge Blum reported that Magistrate Day at the Capitol, held February 3, was very well attended and received. The Council's Executive Committee has met once in the new year. The recertification seminars scheduled for April and October will include plenary sessions on the new garnishment law; Judge Blum thanked the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education for assisting in this change to the curriculum. Judge Blum also noted updates to the Council's website and Forms Wizard will include new garnishment forms.

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Council of Municipal Court Judges. Judge Jones referred members to the written report provided in the materials. She thanked the AOC for assisting with the Crisis Media Guidelines Bench card. Judge Jones will be traveling to Alabama to speak to the Alabama League of Municipalities on Georgia's model on pretrial probation services.

Report from the Council of Superior Court Clerks

A written report was provided in the materials. Chief Justice Thompson recognized Ms. Tina Blankenship, who reported that the Council is moving forward with the Document Access Portal.

Report from the Council of Accountability Court Judges

Ms. Jones referred members to the written report provided in the materials and provided a brief update on the Council's current activities. The Council is now fully staffed and the Fiscal Year 2017 grant has been released.

Report from the Georgia Council of Court Administrators

Mr. BeMent referred the members to the written report provided in the materials. He expressed appreciation to the Council for its support of GCCA's budget enhancement request.

Old Business

No old business was offered.

New Business

No new business was offered.

Concluding Remarks

Chief Justice Thompson presented Judge Wilkes with a certificate of appreciation and thanked him for his service on the Council. He also recognized that, as Judge Altman would not be able to attend the April meeting, this would be his last meeting as a member of the Council as well.

The Chief Justice announced that the previously scheduled meeting for June 15 will not take place.

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Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Chief Justice Thompson adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

_____

Tracy Mason
Assistant Director, Judicial Council/AOC

The above and foregoing minutes
were approved on the _____ day of
_____, 2016.

_____

Hugh P. Thompson
Chief Justice

DRAFT

Judicial Council of Georgia
General Session
James H. "Sloppy" Floyd Building Atlanta, GA
February 26, 2016 ● 10:00 a.m.

Guests Present

Ms. Kathy Adams, Institute of Continuing Judicial Education
Judge Brian Amero, Superior Court, Flint Judicial Circuit
Mr. Todd Ashley, Prosecuting Attorneys' Council
Mr. Joe Baden, Third Judicial Administrative District
Ms. Tee Barnes, Supreme Court of Georgia
Mr. Jay Blanch, GreenCourt Technologies
Mr. Tracy J. BeMent, Tenth Judicial Administrative District
Mr. Bob Bray, Council of State Court Judges
Ms. Tina Blankenship, Superior Court of Webster County / Council of Superior Court Clerks
Ms. Jacqueline Bunn, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
Mr. Richard F. Denney, First Judicial Administrative District
Judge David Emerson, Superior Court, Douglas Judicial Circuit
Mr. Steven Ferrell, Ninth Judicial Administrative District
Ms. Catherine Fitch, Council of Probate Court Judges
Judge Gregory Fowler, State Court of Chatham County
Judge Donald Gillis, Superior Courts, Dublin Judicial Circuit
Ms. Tanguler Gray, Department of Human Services Division of Child Support Services
Trooper Dexter Harden, Georgia State Patrol
Mr. Michael Holiman, Council of Superior Court Clerks
Mr. Joe Hood, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
Mr. Eric John, Council of Juvenile Court Judges
Ms. Jessica Johnson, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
Ms. Taylor Jones, Council of Accountability Court Judges
Ms. Yolanda Lewis, Fifth Judicial Administrative District
Ms. Beverly Logan, Superior Court of Athens-Clarke County
Mr. Ben Luke, Council of Superior Court Judges
Ms. Cathy McCumber, Fourth Judicial Administrative District
Justice Harold Melton, Supreme Court of Georgia
Ms. Tia Milton, Supreme Court of Georgia
Mr. David Mixon, Second Judicial Administrative District
Mr. Patrick T. O'Connor, State Bar of Georgia
Ms. Jody Overcash, Seventh Judicial Administrative District
Ms. Sharon Reiss, Council of Magistrate Court Judges
Ms. Tiffany Sargent, Institute of Continuing Judicial Education
Judge Tilman Self, Superior Courts, Macon Judicial Circuit
Mr. William Simmons, Sixth Judicial Administrative District
Mr. Bryan Tyson, Georgia Public Defender Council
Ms. Kirsten Wallace, Council of Juvenile Court Judges
Judge James R. Whitfield, Juvenile Court, Cobb Judicial Circuit
Judge Max Wood, Office of State Administrative Hearings

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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: Chief Judge Sara L. Doyle, Chair

RE: Strategic Plan Implementation Committee Report

DATE: April 14, 2016

On March 29, 2016, the Strategic Plan Implementation Committee (SPI) met to discuss its final action items related to priority initiative 6 - composition of Judicial Council committees. Members of the newly appointed Judicial Council Strategic Plan Standing Committee also attended the meeting to continue the transfer of strategic planning efforts and knowledge.

Action Item:

At its February 26, 2016 meeting, the SPI Committee presented the Judicial Council with proposed amendments to the Judicial Council Bylaws and asked for comments. Having received no negative comments, the SPI Committee requests that the Judicial Council approve the proposed amendments to the Judicial Council Bylaws. The amendments define the general purpose of standing and ad hoc committees, streamline their composition and allow the Council Chair to accept proposed amendments to Bylaws if Council members are afforded at least sixty (60) days' notice prior to the final regular meeting of the fiscal year. The proposed amendments to the Bylaws are attached.

Informational Item:

At its recent meeting, the SPI Committee discussed Judicial Council committee composition including membership, mission and terms. The SPI Committee has concluded its work on composition of Judicial Council committees and intends to submit its recommendations to the Supreme Court for its consideration. The Committee Recommendations include establishing nine Judicial Council committees as standing committees, establishing one ad hoc committee and abolishing two inactive Judicial Council committees. The Committee Recommendations address membership, mission and terms for the nine Judicial Council standing committees and one ad hoc committee. The Judicial Council Committee Recommendations are attached. **If you have any comments about the recommendations, please send them to Cynthia Clanton on or before**

May 13, 2016.

The final meeting of the SPI Committee will be May 24, 2016 at the State Bar of Georgia. The newly appointed Standing Committee will also be invited to attend.

Attachments (Proposed Judicial Council Bylaws Amendments; Judicial Council Committee Recommendations)

ARTICLE IV: COMMITTEES

Standing Committees
Standing Committees exist to address issues of ongoing, long-term importance to the Council. Standing Committees and their memberships shall be determined by Supreme Court order. Committee membership may include advisory members appointed, as needed, by each Standing Committee Chair. Advisory members may be heard but shall not be entitled to vote.

Ad-Hoc Committees
Ad-Hoc Committees exist to address issues of limited scope and duration. The Council Chair shall create and charge ad-hoc committees as are necessary to conduct the business of the Council.[1] Committee membership may include advisory members appointed, as needed, by each Ad-Hoc Committee Chair. Advisory members may be heard but shall not be entitled to vote.

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. Proposed amendments may be accepted by the Chair after December 31 if received within such period of time that the Council members may be afforded at least sixty (60) days' notice prior to the final regular meeting of the fiscal year. 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.

[1] Supreme Court Order dated August 5, 1983.

ARTICLE IV: COMMITTEES

Standing Committees

Standing Committees exist to address issues of ongoing, long-term importance to the Council. 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 Standing ~~c~~Committee ~~c~~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

Ad-Hoc Committees exist to address issues of limited scope and duration. The Council Chair shall create and charge ~~name~~ ad-hoc committees as are necessary to conduct the business of the Council.[1] Committee membership may include advisory members appointed, as needed, by each Ad-Hoc Committee Chair.~~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 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. ~~, but may be accepted by the Chair thereafter if received within such period of time that the Council members may be afforded at least sixty (60) days' notice prior to the final regular meeting of the fiscal year.~~ Council members shall receive at least sixty (60) days' notice of proposed amendments prior to the date of the meeting. Proposed amendments may be accepted by the Chair after December 31 if received within such period of time that the Council members may be afforded at least sixty (60) days' notice prior to the final regular meeting of the fiscal year. 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.

[1] Supreme Court Order dated August 5, 1983.

Judicial Council of Georgia

Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Director

Memorandum

TO: Judicial Council

FROM: Strategic Plan Implementation Committee
Chief Judge Sara Doyle, Chair

RE: Judicial Council Committee Recommendations

DATE: April 14, 2016

Introduction

As part of its work on Priority Initiative 6, the Strategic Plan Implementation Committee (Committee) discussed the composition of the Judicial Council and its committees. At its March 2016 meeting, the SPI Committee recommended a list of committees, including their mission, membership, and terms, be submitted to the Judicial Council and Supreme Court for their consideration. This memo includes those recommendations and related documents the Council and Court may find useful during their deliberative process.

Recommendations

The SPI Committee recommends that the Supreme Court establish the following Judicial Council Standing Committees pursuant to Judicial Council Bylaws.[1]

- Standing Committee on Legislation
- Standing Committee on Budget
- Standing Committee on Strategic Planning
- Standing Committee on Technology
- Standing Committee on Access, Fairness, and Public Trust and Confidence
- Standing Committee on Judicial Workload Assessment

[1] These recommendations and all attachments assume the Bylaws amendments recommended by the SPI Committee in February 2016 are adopted by the Judicial Council.

- Standing Committee on Court Reporting Matters
- Standing Committee on Grants
- Standing Committee on Education and Training

For consistency, the committee names have been standardized and may differ from recent Supreme Court orders and common parlance. Standing committee advisory members are listed here to memorialize current practice and recommend advisory members to committee chairs. Under the proposed Judicial Council Bylaw amendments, committee chairs would have the authority to appoint advisory members at their discretion. However, the Supreme Court and/or the Judicial Council Chair may choose to include these advisory members in their orders/charges establishing each committee. With the exception of standing committees whose members serve ex-officio, all other committee terms have been standardized to three years beginning July 1, though initial member terms may be staggered to maintain membership continuity and institutional knowledge.

The SPI Committee recommends that the Judicial Council Chair establish the following Judicial Council Ad Hoc Committees pursuant to Judicial Council Bylaws.[2]

- Ad Hoc Committee on Records Retention

The SPI Committee recommends that the Supreme Court abolish the following Judicial Council Standing Committees pursuant to Judicial Council Bylaws.

- Standing Committee on Administration
- Nominating Committee

A detailed list of the Standing Committee membership and terms, along with staff comments, are included in Attachment A. Attachment B includes templates for Supreme Court orders and ad hoc committee charges that can be used to implement the committee recommendations.

Thank you.

[2] These recommendations assume the Bylaws amendments recommended by the SPI Committee in February 2016 are adopted by the Judicial Council.

Attachment A

Standing Committee on Legislation[3]

Mission

- Reviewing and considering legislation affecting the judicial branch and recommending policy positions to the Judicial Council.

Members

- Presiding Justice of the Supreme Court, Chair
- Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, Vice Chair
- President of the Council of Superior Court Judges
- President of the Council of State Court Judges
- President of the Council of Juvenile Court Judges
- President of the Council of Probate Court Judges
- President of the Council of Magistrate Court Judges
- President of the Council of Municipal Court Judges

Advisory Members

- Executive Directors of all trial court councils or his/her designee
- Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts or his/her designee
- Legislative chairs of all trial court councils or his/her designee
- President of the State Bar or his/her designee

Terms

- All terms are ex-officio. Members serve while holding their respective council positions.

Committee Comments

- The Committee recommends one change to this committee. Currently, the Council of Superior Court Judges representative is the president-elect. The Committee recommends changing this to be the president, following the practice of other councils and to align with its recommendation for the Standing Committee on Budget. This committee is currently and officially called the Standing Committee on Policy; common practice is to call it the Policy and Legislative Committee, but the Committee is recommending standardizing its name to align with other standing committees.

[3] These recommendations assume the Bylaws amendments recommended by the SPI Committee in February 2016 are adopted by the Judicial Council.

Attachment A

Standing Committee on Budget[4]

Mission

- Reviewing the Judicial Council, AOC, and all subprogram budgets and audits and recommending continuation funding and enhancement requests to the Judicial Council.

Members

- Justice of the Supreme Court chosen by the Supreme Court, Chair
- Judge of the Court of Appeals chosen by the Court of Appeals, Vice Chair
- President-Elect of the Council of Superior Court Judges
- President-Elect of the Council of State Court Judges
- President-Elect of the Council of Juvenile Court Judges
- First Vice President of the Council of Probate Court Judges
- First Vice President of the Council of Magistrate Court Judges
- President-Elect of the Council of Municipal Court Judges

Advisory Members

- Executive Directors of all trial court councils or his/her designee
- Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts or his/her designee
- Budget chairs of all trial court councils or his/her designee

Terms

- All terms are ex-officio. Members serve while holding their respective council positions.

Committee Comments

- The Committee recommends significant changes to this committee. Currently this committee's membership is the same, save two members, as the Policy and Legislative Committee. The Committee recommends this committee be composed of the second officer of each council's leadership rather than the first. Additionally, the Committee recommends a Court of Appeals judge be added to the committee so that all classes of courts have representation. Though a significant change, the adjustment allows this committee's members to work on the budget that will be in place during their term as president of their council.

[4] These recommendations assume the Bylaws amendments recommended by the SPI Committee in February 2016 are adopted by the Judicial Council.

Attachment A

Standing Committee on Strategic Planning[5]

Mission

- Accomplishing the ongoing and future strategic planning efforts of the Judicial Council.

Members

- Judge of the Court of Appeals chosen by the Supreme Court
- Judge of a Superior Court chosen by the Supreme Court
- Judge of a State Court chosen by the Supreme Court
- Judge of a Juvenile Court chosen by the Supreme Court
- Judge of a Probate Court chosen by the Supreme Court
- Judge of a Magistrate Court chosen by the Supreme Court
- Judge of a Municipal Court chosen by the Supreme Court

Advisory Members

- Justice of the Supreme Court chosen by the Supreme Court

The Supreme Court will choose the chair and vice chair.

Terms

- Members serve three year terms beginning on July 1.

Committee Comments

- The Committee recommends no functional changes to this committee as it was constituted by the Supreme Court on January 6, 2016.

[5] These recommendations assume the Bylaws amendments recommended by the SPI Committee in February 2016 are adopted by the Judicial Council.

Attachment A

Standing Committee on Technology[6]

Mission

- Providing guidance and oversight of the Judicial Council's technology initiatives.

Members

- 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
- Clerk of a Superior Court chosen by the President of the Council of Superior Court Clerks of Georgia
- Judge of the Court of Appeals chosen by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals
- Judge of a Superior Court chosen by the President of the Council of Superior Court Judges
- Judge of a State Court chosen by the President of the Council of State Court Judges
- Judge of a Juvenile Court chosen by the President of the Council of Juvenile Court Judges
- Judge of a Probate Court chosen by the President of the Council of Probate Court Judges
- Judge of a Magistrate Court chosen by the President of the Council of Magistrate Court Judges
- Judge of a Municipal Court chosen by the President of the Council of Municipal Court Judges
- Court Administrator chosen by the President of the Georgia Council of Court Administrators
- Member chosen by the Director of the Administrative Office of the Court of Georgia
- Member of the Georgia Senate chosen by the Chair of the Judiciary Committee
- Member of the Georgia House of Representatives chosen by the Chair of the Judiciary Committee
- Member chosen by the Governor
- Member chosen by the Attorney General

The Supreme Court chooses the chair and vice chair.

Terms

- Members serve three year terms beginning on July 1.

Committee Comments

- The Committee recommends no functional changes to this committee as it was constituted by the Supreme Court on September 5, 2015.

[6] These recommendations assume the Bylaws amendments recommended by the SPI Committee in February 2016 are adopted by the Judicial Council.

Attachment A

Standing Committee on Access, Fairness, and Public Trust and Confidence[7]

Mission

- To improve the public's trust in the judicial branch by focusing on access and fairness through the elimination of systemic barriers related to gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, indigence, and language.

Members

- Two Justices of the Supreme Court chosen by the Supreme Court
- Judge of the Court of Appeals chosen by the Supreme Court
- Two Judges of a Superior Court chosen by the Supreme Court
- Judge of a State Court chosen by the Supreme Court
- Judge of a Juvenile Court chosen by the Supreme Court
- Judge of a Probate Court chosen by the Supreme Court
- Judge of a Magistrate Court chosen by the Supreme Court
- Judge of a Municipal Court chosen by the Supreme Court
- Two Clerks or Court Administrator chosen by the Supreme Court
- Attorney of the State Bar of Georgia's Young Lawyer Division chosen by the Supreme Court
- Attorney of the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys chosen by the Supreme Court
- Attorney of the Georgia Association of Women Lawyers chosen by the Supreme Court
- Attorney of the Gate City Bar Association chosen by the Supreme Court
- Attorney of the Georgia Asian Pacific American Bar Association chosen by the Supreme Court
- Attorney of the State Bar of Georgia chosen by the Supreme Court

The Supreme Court will choose the chair and vice chair.

Terms

- Members serve three year terms beginning on July 1.

Committee Comments

- The Committee recommends no functional changes to this committee as it was constituted by the Supreme Court on February 4, 2016.

[7] These recommendations assume the Bylaws amendments recommended by the SPI Committee in February 2016 are adopted by the Judicial Council.

Attachment A

Standing Committee on Judicial Workload Assessment[8]

Mission

- To determine the methodology for collection and analysis of data received through trial court caseload reporting and recommend to the Judicial Council the need for additional judicial personnel.

Members

- Judge of a Superior Court chosen by the Supreme Court, Chair
- Judge of a Superior Court chosen by the Supreme Court, Vice Chair
- Ten Judges of a Superior Court with 1 Judge from each Administrative District chosen by the Administrative Judge
- Judge of a State Court chosen by the President of the Council of State Court Judges
- Judge of a Juvenile Court chosen by the President of the Council of Juvenile Court Judges
- Judge of a Probate Court chosen by the President of the Council of Probate Court Judges
- Judge of a Magistrate Court chosen by the President of the Council of Magistrate Court Judges
- Judge of a Municipal Court chosen by the President of the Council of Municipal Court Judges

Advisory Members

- District Court Administrator chosen by the Committee Chair
- Circuit Court Administrator chosen by the Committee Chair
- Superior Court Clerk chosen by the Committee Chair

Terms

- Members serve three year terms beginning on July 1.

Committee Comments

- The Committee recommends that the presidents of each court class choose this committee's membership to ensure a connection with each class of court's own similar committee. This would change current practice to align with the practice of other committees. The Committee also recommends that each administrative district be represented on the committee by a superior court judge appointed by the administrative judge.

[8] These recommendations assume the Bylaws amendments recommended by the SPI Committee in February 2016 are adopted by the Judicial Council.

Attachment A

Standing Committee on Court Reporting Matters[9]

Mission

- To act on behalf of the Judicial Council in handling appeals from decisions of the Board of Court Reporting, review, at least once every five years, court reporting rules and fee schedules, recommend court reporting rule and fee schedule changes and candidates for Board membership to the Judicial Council, and approve Board opinions.

Members

- Judge of the Court of Appeals chosen by the Court of Appeals, Chair
- Two Judges of a Superior Court chosen by the President of the Council of Superior Court Judges
- Two Judges of a State Court chosen by the President of the Council of State Court Judges
- Two Judges of a Juvenile Court chosen by the President of the Council of Juvenile Court Judges
- Judge of a Probate Court chosen by the President of the Council of Probate Court Judges
- Judge of a Magistrate Court chosen by the President of the Council of Magistrate Court Judges
- Judge of a Municipal Court chosen by the President of the Council of Municipal Court Judges

The committee will elect its own vice chair.

Terms

- Members serve three year terms beginning on July 1.

Committee Comments

- The Committee recommends expanding this committee's membership to include two judges from each class of trial court impacted most heavily by court reporting matters along with one judge from the probate, magistrate, and municipal courts. This committee has absorbed the work formerly done by the Nominating Committee.

[9] These recommendations assume the Bylaws amendments recommended by the SPI Committee in February 2016 are adopted by the Judicial Council.

Attachment A

Standing Committee on Grants

Mission

- To review grants and grant applications for any grant awarded to the Judicial Council or Administrative Office of the Courts.

Members

- Judge of a Superior Court chosen by the Supreme Court, Chair
- Judge of a Superior Court chosen by the President of the Council of Superior Court Judges, Vice Chair
- Judge of the Court of Appeals chosen by the Court of Appeals
- Judge of a State Court chosen by the President of the Council of State Court Judges
- Judge of a Juvenile Court chosen by the President of the Council of Juvenile Court Judges
- Judge of a Probate Court chosen by the President of the Council of Probate Court Judges
- Judge of a Magistrate Court chosen by the President of the Council of Magistrate Court Judges
- Judge of a Municipal Court chosen by the President of the Council of Municipal Court Judges
- Judge of an Accountability Court chosen by the President of the Council of Accountability Court Judges
- Two Attorneys chosen by the President of the State Bar of Georgia

Advisory Members

- Justice of the Supreme Court chosen by the Supreme Court
- District Court Administrator chosen by the Committee Chair
- Executive Director of the Georgia Commission on Family Violence
- Executive Director of the Council of Accountability Court Judges

Terms

- Members serve three year terms beginning on July 1.

Committee Comments

- The Committee recommends that this committee replace the current Domestic Violence Committee and oversee any grants awarded to the Judicial Council or Administrative Office of the Courts. The Committee recommends altering membership slightly to provide representation to all classes of courts.

Attachment A

Standing Committee on Education and Training[10]

Mission

- To recommend best practices in training and education of trial court judges to the Judicial Council.

Members

- Judge of the Court of Appeals chosen by the Court of Appeals, Chair
- Chair of the Council of Superior Court Judges' Education Committee
- Chair of the Council of State Court Judges' Education Committee
- Chair of the Council of Juvenile Court Judges' Education and Certification Committee
- Chair of the Probate Courts Training Council
- Chair of the Magistrate Courts Training Council
- Chair of the Municipal Courts Training Council

Advisory Members

- Member of the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education Board of Trustees chosen by the Committee Chair
- Member of the Institute of Continuing Legal Education Board of Trustees chosen by the Committee Chair
- President of the State Bar of Georgia or his/her designee

The committee will elect its own vice chair.

Terms

- All terms are ex-officio except the Court of Appeals judge who will serve a three year term. Other members serve while holding their respective council positions.

Committee Comments

- The Committee recommends creating this new committee to address issues of judicial education at a statewide level amongst all classes of courts.

[10] These recommendations assume the Bylaws amendments recommended by the SPI Committee in February 2016 are adopted by the Judicial Council.

Attachment A

Ad Hoc Committee on Records Retention[11]

Mission

- To recommend changes to the judicial branch records retention schedules to the Judicial Council.

Members

- Justice of the Supreme Court chosen by the Supreme Court, Chair
- Judge of the Court of Appeals chosen by the Court of Appeals, Vice Chair
- Two Judges of a Superior Court chosen by the President of the Council of Superior Court Judges
- Two Judges of a State Court chosen by the President of the Council of State Court Judges
- Two Judges of a Juvenile Court chosen by the President of the Council of Juvenile Court Judges
- Two Judges of a Probate Court chosen by the President of the Council of Probate Court Judges
- Two Judges of a Magistrate Court chosen by the President of the Council of Magistrate Court Judges
- Two Judges of a Municipal Court chosen by the President of the Council of Municipal Court Judges
- Clerk of a Superior Court chosen by the Council of Superior Court Clerks
- Attorney chosen by the President of the State Bar of Georgia

Terms

- Members serve as set forth in the committee charge.

Committee Comments

- The Committee recommends that this committee be composed of two judges from each class of court. This is a change from the previous committee where some classes of courts had more than one representative and some had only one. The Committee also recommends adding a Supreme Court justice and Court of Appeals judge to the committee.

[11] These recommendations assume the Bylaws amendments recommended by the SPI Committee in February 2016 are adopted by the Judicial Council.

Attachment A

Other Committees[12]

The Committee recommends the abolition of the Standing Committee on Administration, the Nominating Committee, and the Accountability Courts Committee.

- The duties of the Standing Committee on Administration (dealing with senior judges) are no longer performed by the Judicial Council.

- The duties of the Nominating have been subsumed into the Standing Committee on Court Reporting Matters.

- The Accountability Courts are now governed by the Council of Accountability Court Judges. An ad hoc committee could be created at a later time if needed.

[12] These recommendations assume the Bylaws amendments recommended by the SPI Committee in February 2016 are adopted by the Judicial Council.

Attachment B

SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

Atlanta _____ __, 20___

The Honorable Supreme Court met pursuant to adjournment.

The following order was passed:

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Judicial Council, standing committees exist to address issues of ongoing, long-term importance to the Council, and their membership shall be determined by Supreme Court order. Upon consideration, the Court hereby establishes the Standing Committee on [Committee Name] with the mission of [Committee Mission].

The following members are hereby appointed to the Standing Committee on [Committee Name] for terms ending [Term End Date].

[Committee Members]

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Judicial Council, committee membership may include advisory members appointed, as needed, by each Standing Committee Chair. Advisory members may be heard but shall not be entitled to vote.

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.

_____, Clerk

Attachment B

Judicial Council of Georgia

Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Director

Judicial Council Ad Hoc Committee Charge

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Judicial Council, Ad Hoc Committees exist to address issues of limited scope and duration, and the Council Chair shall create and charge ad hoc committees as are necessary to conduct the business of the Council. Therefore, I hereby establish the Ad Hoc Committee on [Committee Name] with the mission of [Committee Mission].

The following members are hereby appointed to the Ad Hoc Committee on [Committee Name].

[Committee Members]

Committee membership may include advisory members appointed, as needed, by each Ad Hoc Committee Chair. Advisory members may be heard but shall not be entitled to vote.

The Ad Hoc Committee on [Committee Name] shall exist from _____ __, 20__ until _____ __, 20__.

Signed,

_____, Chief Justice
Chair, Judicial Council of Georgia

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

RE: Committee Report

DATE: April 11, 2016

The following report provides the final status of each item the Judicial Council took a position of support on during the 2016 legislative session.

I. HB 691 - Removal for cause of municipal court judges (O.C.G.A. § 36-32-2)
Sponsor: Rep. Kevin Tanner (R – Dawsonville)
Committee: House Judiciary; Senate State and Local Governmental Operations
Final Status: House Agreed to the Senate Substitute, 3/24/16. **Final Passage.**
Effective Date: July 1, 2016

II. SB 205 - Municipal courts to become a "court of record" (O.C.G.A. § 36-32-1)
Sponsor: Sen. Charlie Bethel (R – Dalton)
Committee: Senate Judiciary
Final Status: Senate Read and Referred, 3/5/15

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)
Sponsor: Rep. Bert Reeves (R – Marietta)
Committee: House Judiciary
Final Status: House Second Readers, 2/26/15

IV. **HB 856 - Bonding amounts in probate courts**
(O.C.G.A. § 15-9-7)
Sponsor: Rep. Barry Fleming (R – Harlem)
Committee: House Judiciary; Senate State and Local Governmental Operations
Final Status: Senate Tabled, 3/22/16

V. **Definition of Drug Court Division to include DUI Court**
(O.C.G.A § 15-1-15)
Included as part of Criminal Justice Reform legislation, **SB 367**, as new Code Section 15-1-19 to establish operating under the influence court divisions
Sponsor: Sen. John Kennedy (R – Macon)
Committee: Senate Judiciary Non-Civil; House Judiciary Non-Civil
Final Status: Senate Agreed to House Substitute, 3/24/16. **Final Passage.**
Effective date: July 1, 2016

VI. **SB 262 - Judicial disqualification based on degrees of relationship with parties**
(O.C.G.A. § 15-1-8)
Sponsor: Sen. Jesse Stone (R – Waynesboro)
Committee: Senate Judiciary; House Judiciary
Final Status: Senate Agreed to House Substitute, 3/24/16. **Final Passage.**
Effective date: July 1, 2016

VII. **SB 64 - Repeal of Administrative Legitimation**
(O.C.G.A. § 15-11-2, Title 19, and Chapter 10 of Title 31)
Sponsor: Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (R – Rome)
Committee: Senate Special Judiciary; House Juvenile Justice
Final Status: House and Senate Conference Committee report Adopted, 3/24/16. **Final passage.**
Effective Date: July 1, 2016

VIII. **HB 939 - Tax Refund Intercept Program**
(O.C.G.A. Title 48 Chapter 7 Article 7)
Sponsor: Rep. Betty Price (R – Roswell)
Committee: House Ways & Means; Senate Finance
Final Status: Senate Committee Favorably Reported, 3/16/16

IX. **HB 741 - Adjustment of appellate court terms**
(O.C.G.A. § 15-2-4)
Sponsor: Rep. B.J. Pak (R – Lilburn)
Committee: House Judiciary; Senate Judiciary
Final Status: House Committee Favorably Reported by Substitute, 2/1/16
Amendment to **HB 927 (Part V)**: Senate Passed, 3/24/16. **Final passage.**
Effective Date: December 5, 2016, and upon such date the December term of court shall begin as provided by this Act; provided, however, that the term of court which began on the first Monday in September, 2016, under the former provisions of Code Section 15-2-4 shall end on December 16, 2016.

X. Juvenile court; update and revise the state grant investment in the juvenile code
Final Status: No legislation filed

XI. SB 255 - Garnishment proceedings; modernize, reorganize, and provide constitutional protections
(O.C.G.A Title 18)
Sponsor: Sen. Jesse Stone (R – Waynesboro)
Committee: Senate Judiciary; House Judiciary
Final Status: Senate Agreed to House Substitute, 3/24/16. **Final passage.**
Effective Date: 30 days after approval by the Governor or 30 days after becoming law without such approval.

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: Budget Committee
Justice Harold D. Melton, Chair

RE: Judicial Council Budget and Financial Report

Date: April 4, 2016

This memo will provide an update on Amended Fiscal Year 2016 and Fiscal Year 2017 budget requests as well as outline next steps for Amended Fiscal Year 2017 and Fiscal Year 2018 budget cycles.

Fiscal Year 2016: The Judicial Council received $15,711,761 in State Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2016. A budget amendment totaling $984,348 was completed for the transfer of the County and Municipal Probation Advisory Council and Georgia Commission on Family Violence to the Department of Community Supervision, reducing the Judicial Council Fiscal Year 2016 budget to $14,427,413. (HB 310)

A Fiscal Year 2016 overview highlighting Judicial Council expenditures through March 31 is attached.

Amended Fiscal Year 2016: The Council of State Court Judges received funding for JRS/ERS retirement obligations. The Institute of Continuing Judicial Education request for a position was not funded. The attached report outlines the adjustments received. In total, the Judicial Council budget was reduced by $13,289 to $14,414,124.

Fiscal Year 2017: The Judicial Council submitted ten enhancement requests for consideration to the General Assembly. Seven were supported and six were funded. The attached report outlines enhancements and adjustments impacting the budget. In total, the Judicial Council budget was increased by $324,405 to $14,751,818.

Amended Fiscal Year 2017 and Fiscal Year 2018: The Judicial Council Budget Committee will accept White Papers for these budget cycles from May 1 – June 15. The Committee will meet in July to review all requests for funding. Requests supported by the Committee will be presented to the Judicial Council at the August meeting. Those approved by the Judicial Council will be submitted to the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget prior to the September 1 deadline.

Judicial Council Operations Amended FY16

Financial Report as of March 31, 2016
(State Funds Only)

DEPARTMENT	PROJECT	AFY 2016 Changes	BUDGET	YTD TOTAL EXPENDITURES	REMAINING	Budget Spent
Judicial Council - Administrative Office of The Courts		**(83,727)**	**6,530,410**	**4,865,966**	**1,664,444**	**75%**
Child Support Collaborative	174		113,117	83,287	29,830	74%
Georgia Council of Court Administrators	141		11,557	11,562	(5)	100%
Council of Magistrate Court Judges	204		184,127	123,080	61,048	67%
Council of Probate Court Judges	205	(28,866)	147,814	93,208	54,607	63%
Council of State Court Judges	206		250,000	182,233	67,767	73%
Council of State Court Judges Ret.	207	99,304	2,605,508	1,788,256	817,252	69%
Council of Municipal Court Judges	142		16,185	14,741	1,444	91%
Legal Services for Domestic Violence	103		2,306,875	2,260,737	46,138	98%
Other Judicial Council Subprograms		**70,438**	**5,635,183**	**4,557,103**	**1,078,080**	**81%**
Council of Accountability Court Judges	195		446,319	174,952	271,367	39%
Appellate Resource Center	500		800,000	600,000	200,000	75%
Judicial Qualifications Commission	400		530,423	280,882	249,541	53%
Inst of Continuing Jud Ed Operations	300		471,789	329,951	141,839	70%
Separate Judicial Council Programs			**2,248,531**	**1,385,784**	**862,747**	**62%**
CMPAC	184		609,367	609,367	0	100%
Georgia Commission on Family Violence	700		374,981	374,981	0	100%
Transferred to DCS by Amendment			**984,348**	**984,348**	**0**	**100%**
TOTAL JUDICIAL COUNCIL			**15,398,472**	**11,793,201**	**3,605,271**	**77%**
Adjusted - Transfers to DCS Excluded			**14,414,124**	**10,808,853**	**3,605,271**	**75%**

Amended FY 2016 Judicial Council Enhancement Requests

HB 750 (Section 6)

	All Programs
Continuation	$ 15,411,761
less CMPAC/GCFV*	$ (984,348)
Subtotal	$ 14,427,413
AFY 2016 Final	$ 14,414,124
Difference	$ (13,289)

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

Changes	Continuation	Adjustments	AFY 16
Judicial Council Program and Subprograms	$ 13,163,230		$ 13,149,941
Adjustment. Judicial Retirement System (Council of State Court Judges)		$ 54,617	
Adjustment. Employees Retirement System (Council of State Court Juges)		$ 44,687	
Adjustment. Teamworks: Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act		$ 1,049	
Adjustment. Reduce funds for personnel to meet projected expenditures		$ (113,642)	
Council of Accountability Court Judges	$ 446,319		$ 446,319
No Changes			
Resource Center	$ 800,000		$ 800,000
No Changes			
Judicial Qualifications Commission	$ 530,423		$ 530,423
No Changes			
Inst of Continuing Jud Ed (Operations)	$ 471,789		$ 471,789
Request for position not funded			
less CMPAC/GCFV*	$ (984,348)		$ (984,348)
TOTAL JUDICIAL COUNCIL	**$ 14,427,413**	**$ (13,289)**	**$ 14,414,124**

3/31/2016

FY 2017 Judicial Council Enhancement Requests

HB 751 (Section 6)

	All Programs
Continuation	$ 14,427,413
FY 2017	$ 14,751,818
Difference	**$ 324,405**

Changes	Continuation	Enhancements	Adjustments	FY 2017
Judicial Council program and Subprograms	**$ 12,178,882**			**$ 12,290,942**
Cold Case Program		$ 75,000		
Civil Legal Services to Victims of Domestic Violence		$ 193,125		
10 Parental Accountability Court Coordinators		CC: Yes. DHS Budget		
Georgia Council of Court Administrators		$ 7,500		
Adjustment. Reduction in Judicial Retirement			$ (199,470)	
Adjustment. Merit-based pay/recruitment/retention			$ 153,733	
Adjustment. Merit system assessments			$ 1,795	
Adjustment. DOAS insurance programs			$ (27,510)	
Adjustment. TeamWorks billings			$ (582)	
Adjustment. ERS contributions 3% to retirees			$ 4,469	
Reduction. E-Filing Portal one time funding (FY15)			$ (96,000)	
Probate Court Records Statewide Repository		CC: no		
Council of Municipal Court Judges Operating Funds		CC: no		
Accountability Courts	$ 446,319			$ 611,070
Adjustment. Merit-based pay/recruitment/retention			$ 8,026	
Adjustment. Merit system assessments			$ 94	
Transfer of funds from CJCC for personal services		$ 156,631		
Resource Center	$ 800,000			$ 800,000
No Changes				
Judicial Qualifications Commission	$ 530,423			$ 534,149
Adjustment. Merit-based pay/recruitment/retention			$ 3,683	
Adjustment. Merit system assessments			$ 43	
Inst of Continuing Jud Ed (Operations)	$ 471,789			$ 515,657
Merit based pay		$ 19,868		
IT Equipment Replacement		$ 24,000		
Events Air Software Update		CC: Yes. Use existing funds		
Electronic Media Curriculum Designer		CC: no		
TOTAL JUDICIAL COUNCIL	$ 14,427,413	$ 476,124	$ (151,719)	$ 14,751,818

3/31/2016

Conference Committee (CC)

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, Division Director

RE: Communications, Children, Families and the Courts Division

DATE: April 29, 2016

The Communications, Children, Families and the Courts Division of the AOC serves as the hub of all communications 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, currently awaiting the appointment of a new Chair; and the Access, Fairness, Public Trust and Confidence Committee of the Judicial Council, co-chaired by Justice Robert Benham and Justice Carol Hunstein; as well as any grant funded work related to children and families. Seeking grants for courts is a new service just added within this division and may expand if the return on investment is deemed to be positive.

In addition, this staff also serves as a liaison to the Georgia Commission on Family Violence (GCFV), chaired by Holly Tuchman, and the Council of Accountability Courts with Judge Jason Deal as its current President.

Following is a brief synopsis of the work.

- **Committee on Justice for Children (J4C)**: The staff of the J4C are working in partnership with many executive branch agencies on the Cold Case Project (reviews of foster children's cases by lawyers) which is now being institutionalized as a project with state funding as opposed to grant funding. The J4C Committee met on April 22, 2016, to decide the funding priorities of the new federal grant and to discuss improvements for Georgia's child welfare system. Implementation of those discussed and decided plans will drive the work in 2016/2017.

- **Communications**: Improving communications for internal and external judicial branch audiences is a priority under the Judicial Council Strategic Plan. A communication plan created in 2015 is now being implemented. Daily and periodic tasks within Communications include working on 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 materials; providing substantive content for our Facebook/Twitter and georgiacourts.gov; taking photos and drafting daily messages for events and communications. For the month of March, which was Women's History Month, the staff posted profiles of women judges. See: https://www.facebook.com/GACourts and some examples below.

- **Child Support Commission**: Most recently, the Child Support Commission supported legislation seeking to repeal administrative legitimation, which is now before the Governor. 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. Pat Buonodono and Elaine Johnson serve on the Parental Accountability Court Subcommittee of the Accountability Courts Advisory Council. Current work also includes development of a new on-line child support calculator along with user guides; training throughout the state on child support, income deduction, and other related subjects; and responding to questions from judges, attorneys and the public on a daily basis.

- **Access, Fairness, and Public Trust and Confidence Committee**: Contract attorney, Karlise Grier, is preparing to staff the next Committee meeting to be held on May 11, 2016. Topics will include: a new Georgia ADA handbook; a (2017) National Association of Women Judges conference; a submitted grant proposal to host a Human Trafficking and the Courts Summit; a recent letter from the U.S. Department of Justice regarding fines and fees by courts and continuing discussions around the Ferguson report and court-based self-help programs.

- **Family Violence:** In addition to serving as liaison to the GCFV as mentioned above, the staff in this division is managing grants related to family violence, including the Federal Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) and Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grants. The OVW grant supports the DeKalb County Domestic Violence Court by supporting the costs of its coordinator and two legal advocates. The CJCC grant supports domestic violence courts throughout the state with training and follow up visits. This division has taken over the administration of civil legal services grants for victims of domestic violence with legal leadership on these grants provided by AOC attorney Christine Butcher and budget and compliance leadership provided by AOC Budget and Grants Compliance Officer, Ashley Garner.

Administrative Office of the Courts
Published by Ashley Gresham Stollar [?] · March 30 at 1:12pm ·

In 1994, Judge Hulane Evans George was appointed to the Superior Court bench in the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit, the first woman to hold a judgeship in the circuit's 187 year history. Prior to her judicial career, Judge George was in private practice for 16 years.

Read more about Judge George at http://bit.ly/1T5XYf0

3,770 people reached

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JulieBelle Bishop, Johnnie Mae Welch and 78 others

Top Comments

1 share

Write a comment...

Bonnie Rice Schubert Great Judge! I was in her Courtroom many times representing Children with DFCS! The Best

Like · Reply · Message · March 30 at 7:43pm

Hulane George Just saw this post and am humbled by it. I only looked good because of the great people who worked with me. Thanks for making my job so enjoyable.

Like · Reply · Message · April 2 at 12:11am

Administrative Office of the Courts
Published by Ashley Gresham Stollar [?] · March 25 at 8:31am ·

Judge Debra Bernes served on the Court of Appeals for just six years. Prior to her time on the bench, she was a prosecutor in Cobb County, then a private attorney. In 2004, Judge Bernes ran for an open seat on the Court of Appeals and endured a primary election and two run-off elections. She earned her JD from the University of Florida College of Law in 1978.

Read more about Judge Bernes at http://bit.ly/1T5XYf0

1,709 people reached

Boost Post

Like Comment Share

Paige Reese Whitaker, Michael S. Neuren and 12 others

Top Comments

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Philip Brown She is fondly remembered.
Like · Reply · Message · March 25 at 8:40am

Ralph J Villani We all miss her professionally and personally What a great human being RIP
Like · Reply · Message · March 25 at 7:00pm

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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
April 2016

The Council of Superior Court Judges will meet for its semi-annual conference and continuing education seminars on St. Simons Island, Georgia, July 25-28, 2016. The conference will provide training seminars on such topics as judicial administration, including chief judge duties; case law updates; medical privacy laws; evidentiary issues in complex divorce cases; and several other divorce and custody related topics. Approximately 225 superior court judges and senior judges are expected to attend the conference. State Senator John Kennedy is expected to be the keynote speaker.

Over 20 active superior court judges did not qualify for re-election this year. Including those who have already retired, approximately 25 new judges will take office within the next year. For this reason, a special new judge orientation will be held in Athens for three days in December 2016.

CSCJ also elected new council officers to take office on May 1, 2016. Judge Horace Johnson will become President of the council. Judge Tripp Self will become President-Elect, and Judge Kathy Palmer will become Secretary-Treasurer.

Several new Administrative Judges will also take office this year. Judge Stephen Scarlett will become Administrative Judge for the First Judicial Administrative District; Judge Stephen Goss will become Administrative Judge for Second Judicial Administrative District; Judge Arthur Lee Smith, III will become Administrative Judge for the Third Judicial Administrative District; Judge Jack Partain will become the new Administrative Judge for the Seventh Judicial Administrative District; Judge Donald W. Gillis will become Administrative Judge for the Eighth Judicial Administrative District; and Judge Carl C. Brown will become the new Administrative Judge for the Tenth Judicial Administrative District. A new Administrative Judge will also be elected for the Sixth Judicial Administrative District.

Superior Courts now have over 100 accountability courts, with more planned to begin throughout the remainder of 2016. Currently, accountability courts are operating in 46 of 49 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

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)

Staff

Bob Bray
Executive Director

Report of the Council of State Court Judges
Judicial Council Meeting
April 29, 2016

The Council has received great positive feedback since unveiling its online State Court Benchbook. The Chapter on *Appointing Qualified Interpreters* has been shared with the other Councils and the Georgia Council of Court Administrators. The Chapters will be updated within the next month by the several authors.

We concluded a very successful Legislative Session this year. DUI Accountability Courts were defined under a new Code Section: O.C.G.A. § 15-1-19 and misdemeanor probation practices and policies were updated as part of Governor Deal's Criminal Justice Reform initiative for 2016. Also, Electronic Filing of documents in state courts was authorized under Senate Bill 262. Senate Bill 255 updates the law on garnishments in Georgia in reaction to a decision by a federal district court judge in Atlanta.

One of the main contributors to this year's success with the General Assembly was the spirit of cooperation and hard work of the staff of each of the trial councils and the hard work of the staff of the Administrative Office of the Courts – in particular, Christine Butcher and Tracy Mason. The weekly telephone conferences and the sharing of resources and assistance was directly responsible for helping the Judicial Council to act with one powerful voice for all of us. Constant and open communications with our Director and those of the other Councils made all of us shine this year.

Rule 43 of the Uniform Rules for State Courts was recently approved and makes significant changes to the education requirements of judges and senior judges. Since its passage, we have cooperated with inquiries from other Councils who are also interested in making similar changes as they relate to senior judges.

We send congratulations to the Jonesboro High School Mock Trial Team. Coached for years by Chief Judge John Carbo of the State Court of Clayton County, the Jonesboro High School competed all the way to the State Championships and will compete in Boise, Idaho this May for the National Championship.

Of our 128 judges, 86 are up for election this year. Judge Morris Braswell of the Clayton County State Court recently took senior status. Judge Billy Folsom with Brooks County State Court; Judge Jack Carney with Bryan County State Court; Judges Melodie Clayton, Kathryn Tanksley, Irma Glover with Cobb County State Court; Judge George Floyd from

Decatur County State Court; Judge Charlie Wynne, Chief Judge of the Hall County State Court; and Judge Sid Esary with the Spalding County State Court will be retiring at the end of their terms this December.

Our Spring Conference will be from May 17th – 20th this year and much of our discussions will focus on the anticipated discussions this summer on misdemeanor sentencing along with enforcement of fines and fees in light of recent Department of Justice guidelines.

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
April 29, 2016

The Council of Juvenile Court Judges will meet at its annual conference and continuing education seminar May 2-4. Our topics will include Nuts and Bolts in Establishing an Accountability Court, Hon. Jason Deal, D.F.C.S. updates with Director Bobby Cagle, Immigration law, and Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative overview.

We are honored to have the First Lady of Georgia appear at our conference in conjunction with the “Get Georgia Reading” program.

Judge Ben Brinson of Evans County will be sworn in as President with his term to begin June 1.

The Juvenile Court of Cherokee County was honored with a site visit by Cynthia Clanton, Director, Administrative Office of the Courts. She experienced a full day of dependency cases.

The following judges have retired over the past year: Velma Tilley of Bartow County. Neil Brunt was sworn in as her replacement.

CJCJ continues to work on its legislative initiative regarding the amount, structure, and formula for judicial salary grants and expects to have it finalized this summer.

Respectfully submitted

Hon. John Sumner
President
Council of Juvenile Court Judges

Council of Probate Court Judges of Georgia

Judge Alice W. Padgett
President (Columbia)

Judge Rooney Bowen, III
President Elect (Dooly)

Judge Sarah Harris
First Vice President (Bibb County)

Judge Darin McCoy
Secretary-Treasurer (Evans)

Judge Don Wilkes
Immediate Past President (Emanuel)

Report to Judicial Council of Georgia
April 29, 2016

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

Annual Spring Conference
The Council's spring conference was held last week at Sea Palms Resort & Conference Center. The Probate Judges Retirement Board, Probate Judges Training Council, and the CPCJ Executive Committee all held meetings before ICJE training began. The 14 district directors also met regarding ways to strengthen their district organizations and encourage judges to participate with the Council.

At Wednesday's luncheon and awards ceremony, the following 2016-17 officers were sworn in by Superior Court Judge Wade Padgett:

- President: Judge Alice Padgett.
- President-Elect: Judge Rooney Bowen.
- First Vice-President: Judge Sarah Harris.
- Secretary-Treasurer Judge Darin McCoy.
-

Immediate Past President Don Wilkes received the Outstanding Probate Judge of the Year Award. Secretary-Treasurer Darin McCoy received the Special Recognition Award.

Workload Reporting
At least 155 counties have submitted their workload reports to the AOC, making us the most compliant council.

New CPCJ Benchbook and Handbook
This year, first drafts of both a new Probate Judges' Benchbook and Handbook have been posted on our Council's website. They will be updated regularly by retired probate judge Jim Clarke to reflect new law. These resources will greatly assist our judges and improve uniformity in the administration of probate law across the state.

Upcoming Events
Probate judges with traffic jurisdiction will have training June 2-3, in Athens. There will be a leadership retreat June 15-17, in Evans, Georgia.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Padgett
Alice Padgett
President, Council of Probate Court Judges

244 Washington Street SW • Suite 300 • Atlanta, GA 30334
Phone: 404-656-5171 • Fax: 404-651-6449

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
April 2016

The Council of Accountability Court Judges (CACJ), in coordination with the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, released the FY17 Accountability Court Grant Solicitation on February 15, 2016. The CACJ received a total 138 responses by the grant solicitation deadline date of March 25, 2016. The total amount of funds that were requested by the courts totals $27,523,252.08. Within the total number of applications, there were forty-nine (49) Adult Felony Drug Court applications; twenty-eight (28) Mental Health Court applications; fifteen (15) Veterans Treatment Court applications; twenty-two (22) DUI Court applications; eleven (11) Family Dependency Treatment Court applications; and thirteen (13) Juvenile Drug and/or Mental Health Court applications. The CACJ Funding Committee is scheduled to meet on April 27 and April 28 to review applications and make grant award decisions. Further, the CACJ recognizes 131 established Accountability Courts within the State, and at this time, anticipates seven new courts opening their doors in FY17.

Additional Council updates include:

- The CACJ Training Committee and staff continue to work with the Institute if Continuing Judicial Education (ICJE) to plan and execute the Statewide Accountability Court Training Conference for September 2016. Additionally, the Training Committee has recommended the FY17 Accountability Training Calendar to the CACJ Funding Committee for consideration and approval. The CACJ will continue to provide evidence-based practice and treatment trainings to the courts; examples include: Risk/Need Assessment facilitation, Moral Recognition Therapy (MRT), National Drug Court Institute (NDCI) Tune-Up and Drug Court Planning Initiative training.
- The CACJ Standards & Certification Committee met on April 22, 2016 to review the Adult Felony Drug Court, and Mental Health Court certification applications in preparation for the CACJ Funding Committee meeting. Additionally, the Standards & Certification Committee is scheduled to meet on June 6, 2016, to review the Adult Felony Drug Court and Mental Health Court applications for re-certification.
- The CACJ Nominations Committee met on March 10, 2016 to begin preparation for the FY17 Executive Committee elections, and has a recommended FY17 ballot to present to the CACJ Executive Committee.
- The CACJ Executive Committee is scheduled to meet on May 23, 2016, at the State Bar of Georgia. The Committee will work to amend the Council's Constitution & By-Laws to account for HB 367, to include Family Dependency Treatment Court divisions, and OUI Court divisions within the membership of the Council. Additionally, the Executive Committee will prepare for the Council's annual meeting that is to be held in June 2016.