

**Judicial Council of Georgia**  
**Emergency Session**

**By Conference Call**

**Monday, June 8, 2020**  
2:00 p.m.

- 1. Preliminary Remarks**  
(Chief Justice Harold D. Melton, Est. Time – 5 Min.)
- 2. Roll Call of Judicial Council Members**  
(Cynthia Clanton, Judicial Council Secretary and AOC Director, Est. Time – 2 Min.)
- 3. Adoption of Minutes from Emergency Session on June 1, 2020**  
(Chief Justice Harold D. Melton, Est. Time – 2 Min.)
- 4. COVID-19 Update and Discussion of Statewide Judicial Emergency Orders by Judicial Council Members**  
(Chief Justice Harold D. Melton, Est. Time – 15 Min.)
  - A. Judicial COVID-19 Task Force Update (Judge Shawn LaGrua)
- 5. Reports from Courts, Councils, State Bar, and AOC (Est. Time – 20 min.)**
  - A. Supreme Court
  - B. Court of Appeals
  - C. Business Court
  - D. Council of Superior Court Judges
  - E. Council of State Court Judges
  - F. Council of Juvenile Court Judges
  - G. Council of Probate Court Judges
  - H. Council of Magistrate Court Judges
  - I. Council of Municipal Court Judges
  - J. State Bar of Georgia
  - K. Administrative Office of the Courts

**6. Reports from additional Judicial Branch Agencies (Est. Time – 10 Min.)**

- A. Council of Accountability Court Judges**
- B. Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution**
- C. Council of Superior Court Clerks**
- D. Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism**
- E. Georgia Council of Court Administrators**
- F. Institute of Continuing Judicial Education**
- G. Judicial Qualifications Commission**

**7. Old/New Business**

(Chief Justice Harold D. Melton, Est. Time – 5 Min.)

**8. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment**

(Chief Justice Harold D. Melton, Est. Time – 5 Min.)

**Next Judicial Council Meetings – General Session**

Friday, August 14, 2020	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Columbus Convention & Trade Center/Columbus, GA
Friday, December 11, 2020	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	The Carter Center/Atlanta, GA

**Judicial Council Meeting Calendar – 2021**

Friday, February 12, 2021	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	The James H. “Sloppy” Floyd Building/ Atlanta, GA
Friday, April 23, 2021	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	The Classic Center/Athens, GA
Friday, August 13, 2021	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Location TBD
Friday, December 10, 2021	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	The Carter Center/Atlanta, GA

*Please continue to check [www.georgiacourts.gov](http://www.georgiacourts.gov) (the Judicial Gateway) for the latest updates and information. Thank you and continue to be safe!*

**Judicial Council of Georgia  
Emergency Session  
Conference Call  
June 1, 2020 • 2 p.m.**

**Members Present**

Chief Justice Harold D. Melton, Chair  
Presiding Justice David Nahmias  
Chief Judge Brian Amero  
Chief Judge Berryl Anderson  
Chief Judge Jeffrey Bagley  
Judge Michael Barker  
Chief Judge Christopher S. Brasher  
Chief Judge Carl C. Brown, Jr.  
Chief Judge Geronda V. Carter  
Judge Kerri Carter  
Judge Walter W. Davis  
Chief Judge Donald W. Gillis  
Chief Judge Asha Jackson  
Judge Lisa C. Jones  
Judge Jeffrey H. Kight  
Chief Judge T. Russell McClelland  
Chief Judge Christopher J. McFadden  
Judge J. Wade Padgett  
Judge C. Gregory Price  
Vice Chief Judge Brian Rickman  
Judge Dale “Bubba” Samuels  
Judge W. James Sizemore  
Mr. Darrell Sutton  
Judge Wesley B. Taylor  
Judge James G. Tunison, Jr.  
Judge Ralph Van Pelt  
Judge Willie C. Weaver  
Chief Judge Kelli Wolk

**Staff Present**

Ms. Cynthia Clanton, Director  
Ms. Michelle Barclay  
Mr. Jorge Basto  
Ms. Jessica Farah  
Mr. Christopher Hansard  
Ms. Stephanie Hines  
Ms. Cheryl Karounos  
Ms. Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez  
Ms. Tynesha Manuel  
Ms. Tracy Mason  
Ms. Lashawn Murphy  
Ms. Tiffanie Robinson

**(Guest Appended)**

**Call to Order and Welcome**

The meeting of the Judicial Council of Georgia (Council) was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chief Justice Harold Melton. The Chief Justice administered the oath to Judge Kerri Carter and Judge Gregory Price as the newest Council members. Ms. Clanton called roll for Council members; staff and guests were instructed to submit their attendance to Ms. Robinson for the purposes of the minutes.

### **Adoption of Minutes – May 18, 2020**

Chief Justice Melton directed the Council's attention to the minutes of the Emergency Session on May 18, 2020. A motion to approve the minutes was offered by Judge Weaver, with a second from Judge Jackson. No discussion was offered, and the motion was approved without opposition.

### **COVID-19 Update and Discussion of Statewide Judicial Emergency Order by Judicial Council Members**

Chief Justice Melton recognized Judge Shawn LaGrua, Chair of the Judicial COVID-19 Task Force, to provide an update on its work. The Task Force conducted the first meeting on May 19, 2020, at 10 a.m. The Strategic Plan Committee is working in conjunction with the Task Force, resulting in the production of a guide for courts as they move forward. Judge LaGrua recognized the Director of the AOC and staff for assisting in the creation of the Georgia Court Reopening Guide. The Council discussed the broad suggestions within the guide, and how to appropriately address the versatility in Georgia courts and circuits.

The Council discussed the continued tolling of deadlines. Presiding Justice David Nahmias provided clarification regarding the latest order to extend the Statewide Judicial Emergency, noting judges have the authority to reinstate deadlines as deemed appropriate. Chief Justice Melton advised Council members to share any concerns or forward those concerns to Ms. Clanton to ensure they are addressed. The Council discussed options to restart deadlines, requesting feedback from each council's leadership.

Chief Justice Melton reported the Statewide Judicial Emergency is anticipated to be extended again with authority to reset timelines given to judges, excluding statute-based timelines. The Council discussed ways to address the tolling of deadlines, including dispossessory filings in magistrate courts and how to further classify cases related to tolling deadlines.

Judge Anderson reported that an employee in the Dekalb County Magistrate Court has tested positive for COVID-19, and the Chief Justice noted the closure of the Floyd County courthouse for sanitization following a positive case in that court. Chief Justice Melton requested information be made available for Council members regarding subcommittee leadership for the COVID-19 Task Force.

### **Reports from Courts, Councils, State Bar, and AOC**

Supreme Court. No report was provided.

Court of Appeals. No report was provided.

Business Court. No report was provided.

Council of Superior Court Judges. No report was provided.

Council of State Court Judges. No report was provided.

Council of Juvenile Court Judges. Judge Jones reported Judge Lindsay Burton is working on a subcommittee report for the COVID-19 Task Force.

Council of Probate Court Judges. No report was provided.

Council of Magistrate Court Judges. No report was provided.

Council of Municipal Court Judges. Judge Samuels reported many municipal courts are operating with few challenges; additional information will be forthcoming next week. He further noted the inclusion of language in the next order to encourage remote proceedings is appreciated.

State Bar of Georgia. Mr. Sutton reported notice was sent to Bar membership concerning damage sustained to the State Bar building on Friday night. The Business Court proposed rules were disseminated for comment on behalf of the State-wide Business Court. He further noted the Bar is available to assist in disseminating notice to Bar members for each class of court.

Administrative Office of the Courts. Director Clanton recognized Justice Boggs for his participation in the Judicial Council budget presentation.

### **Reports from additional Judicial Branch Agencies**

Council of Accountability Court Judges. Mr. Josh Becker reported that the Council is working on implementing the annual meeting, which will be virtual. The Council is also working on implementing virtual technical assistance and peer review at the end of the month.

Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution. No report was provided.

Council of Superior Court Clerks. No report was provided.

Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism. Ms. Karlise Grier reported there will be a free CLE on June 11. She encouraged the Council to share the information with the respective classes of court.

Georgia Council of Court Administrators. No report was provided.

Judicial Qualifications Commission. No report was provided.

### **Old Business**

No old business was offered.

**New Business**

No new business was offered.

**Concluding Remarks**

Chief Justice Melton announced that the next Emergency Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 8, 2020.

**Adjournment**

Hearing no further business, Chief Justice Melton adjourned the meeting at 2:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Tynesha Manuel  
Assistant Director, Judicial Council/AOC  
For Cynthia H. Clanton, Director and Secretary

The above and foregoing minutes  
were approved on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of  
\_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Harold D. Melton  
Chief Justice

**Judicial Council of Georgia  
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June 1, 2020 • 2 p.m.**

**Guest Present**

Ms. Therese Barnes, Supreme Court of Georgia  
Mr. Josh Becker, Council of Accountability Court Judges  
Judge R. Violet Bennett, State Court of Wayne County  
Mr. Chuck Boring, Judicial Qualifications Commission  
Mr. Bob Bray, Council of State Court Judges  
Ms. Samantha Cannon, Juvenile Court of Muscogee County  
Ms. Mazie Lynn Causey, Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers  
Judge Melanie B. Cross, Tifton Judicial Circuit  
Mr. Richard F. Denney, First Judicial Administrative District  
Judge Lori B. Duff, Council of Municipal Court Judges  
Mr. Steve Ferrell, Ninth Judicial Administrative District  
Mr. Travis Glahn, Glahn Law, P.C.  
Chief Judge Reuben Green, Superior Court, Cobb Judicial Circuit  
Ms. Karlise Grier, Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism  
Ms. Christine Hayes, State Bar of Georgia  
Ms. Stephanie Hines, Georgia Council of Court Administrators  
Mr. Michael Holiman, Council of Superior Court Clerks  
Mr. Eric John, Council of Juvenile Court Judges  
Ms. Tracy Johnson, Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution  
Judge Quinn M. Kasper, Cobb County Magistrate Court  
Judge Stephen Kelley, Superior Court, Brunswick Judicial Circuit  
Ms. Anne Kirkhope, Council of Juvenile Court Judges  
Judge Shawn LaGrua, Superior Court of Fulton County  
Ms. Cathy McCumber, Fourth Judicial Administrative District  
Mr. David Mixon, Second Judicial Administrative District  
Mr. Bob Nadekow, Eighth Judicial Administrative District  
Ms. Sharon Reiss, Council of Magistrate Court Judges  
Ms. Jimmonique Rodgers, Georgia Public Defender Council  
Ms. Melinda Ryals, Georgia Capital Defender Office  
Ms. Claudia Saari, State Court of Dekalb County  
Judge J. Stephen Schuster, Superior Court of Cobb County  
Ms. Kate Skeehan, The Sonoda Law Firm  
Judge Arthur Lee Smith, Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit  
Ms. Christina Smith, Court of Appeals of Georgia  
Mr. Robert W. Smith, Jr., Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia  
Ms. Jill Travis, Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers  
Ms. Kristen Wallace, Council of Juvenile Court Judges  
Ms. Cindy Wang, Department of Juvenile Justice  
Ms. Karen Wilkes, GPDC, Rome Conflict Defender Office  
Ms. Delisa Williams, The Law Office of Delisa Williams, P.C.  
Judge Alvin T. Wong, State Court of Dekalb County