

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

**By Conference Call**

**Monday, July 6, 2020**  
2:00 p.m.

- 1. Preliminary Remarks & Swearing In of New Members**  
(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 29, 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.	By Zoom Conferencing
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 QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION**  
**State of Georgia**

June 29, 2020

The Administrative Office of the Courts  
244 Washington Street SW  
Suite 300  
Atlanta, GA 30334

Re: JQC Office Relocation – For Distribution to Judicial Council Members

To Whom it May Concern,

Effective Wednesday, July 1, 2020, the JQC will no longer be located at 244 Washington Street in Atlanta. Our new physical and mailing address is:

**1995 North Park Place SE**  
**Suite 570**  
**Atlanta, GA 30339**

Please update our address for your records. Our main telephone number will remain the same, at **(404) 558-6940**, and you can also reach us via the same email addresses, listed below.

Chuck Boring, Director: [cboring@gajqc.com](mailto:cboring@gajqc.com)  
Courtney Veal, Deputy Director: [cveal@gajqc.com](mailto:cveal@gajqc.com)  
Phyllis Motes, Case Manager: [phyllis@gajqc.com](mailto:phyllis@gajqc.com)

Sincerely,

Charles Boring  
Director  
Judicial Qualifications Commission

**Judicial Council of Georgia**  
**Emergency Session**  
**Conference Call**  
**June 29, 2020 • 2 p.m.**

**Members Present**

Chief Justice Harold D. Melton, Chair  
Presiding Justice David Nahmias  
Chief Judge Brian Amero  
Chief Judge Berryl Anderson  
Judge Michael Barker  
Judge James G. Blanchard, Jr. (for Judge Carl C. Brown, Jr.)  
Chief Judge Christopher S. Brasher  
Chief Judge Geronda V. Carter  
Judge Kerri B. Carter  
Judge Walter W. Davis  
Judge Lori B. Duff  
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 W. James Sizemore, Jr.  
Judge Wesley B. Taylor  
Judge James G. Tunison, Jr.  
Judge Ralph Van Pelt, Jr.  
Chief Judge Willie C. Weaver  
Chief Judge Kelli M. Wolk

**Members Absent**

Chief Judge Jeffrey S. Bagley  
Ms. Dawn Jones  
Judge J. Wade Padgett  
Judge C. Gregory Price  
Vice Chief Judge Brian Rickman

**Staff Present**

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

**(Guests 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 Lori B. Duff as the newest Council member. Ms. Clanton called roll for Council members; staff and guests were instructed to submit their attendance for the purposes of the minutes.

**Adoption of Minutes – June 15, 2020**

Chief Justice Melton directed the Council's attention to the minutes of the Emergency Session on June 15, 2020. A motion to approve the minutes was offered by Presiding Justice Nahmias, with a second from Chief Judge McFadden. 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 provided an update on the work of the Judicial COVID-19 Task Force. Reporting the work of the Task Force continues and drafts of the work of the subcommittees are in circulation within the Task Force.

Chief Justice Melton reminded the Council of the provision in the Third Extension of the Statewide Judicial Emergency to adhere to social distancing guidelines. Council members were asked to remind the judges of the need to accommodate for social distancing guidelines, as there are reports of judges not adhering to the provision. The Council discussed the need for grand jury tolling. Chief Justice Melton recognized the ability of chief judges to impose a local judicial emergency, which is the best vehicle to impose additional restrictions not issued in the Extension of Statewide Judicial Emergency. Chief Justice Melton reported the Task Force draft guidance documents will be circulated to the Council this week to allow for comments to aid in the identification of needs for an additional extension of the statewide judicial emergency. Chief Justice Melton directed the Council to the deadline provision in the latest judicial emergency order, and requested all comments be forwarded for consideration.

Chief Justice Melton reported the legislative session ended and directed the Council to language included in the Fiscal Year 2021 budget calling for a unified payroll, human resources, and cybersecurity plan for the appellate, superior court, superior court clerks, probate and juvenile courts to be administered by the Administrative Office of the Courts. He stated the judiciary will continue to identify the objective of the language.

### **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. Judge McClelland offered to begin six-person jury trials in his court to aid in the testing of the guidelines to reinstate jury trials. He also recognized Judge Taylor as the incoming president of the Council of State Court Judges.

Council of Juvenile Court Judges. No report was provided.

Council of Probate Court Judges. No report was provided.

Council of Magistrate Court Judges. No report was provided.

Council of Municipal Court Judges. Judge Weaver welcomed President-elect Duff and reminded the Council of their ability to assist as needed.

State Bar of Georgia. No report was provided.

Administrative Office of the Courts. Director Clanton reported the AOC remains fully functional with reduced staff physically in the office. The legislative session concluded Friday and the final weekly legislative summary will be posted on the website. She reminded Council members to continue to forward reopening guidelines to the COVID email address, as they are being posted on the Administrative Office of the Courts' website.

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

Council of Accountability Court Judges. Ms. Taylor Jones reported the Council hosted two successful virtual executive board meetings. The Council was pleased to see no reductions in the final budget to the accountability court grants.

Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution. No report was provided.

Council of Superior Court Clerks. Mr. Holiman reported there was one piece of legislation passed to codify the ability of the Clerk of Superior Court acting as the appeal administrator for Board of Equalization hearings to hold hearings remotely at the discretion of the appeal administrator and the consent of the parties.

Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism. Ms. Karlise Grier reported the staff will be in the office during the coming weeks to wrap up the fiscal year. The work of the subcommittee continues.

Georgia Council of Court Administrators. No report was provided.

Institute of Continuing Judicial Education. No report was provided.

Judicial Qualifications Commission. Mr. Chuck Boring reported the Judicial Qualification Commission (JQC) hired a deputy director as of March 2020. JQC will be moving its physical address, with a letter of notice forthcoming. He thanked Director Clanton and her staff for their administrative support of the JQC.

### **Old Business**

No old business was offered.

### **New Business**

No new business was offered.

**Concluding Remarks**

Chief Justice Melton recognized outgoing members for their service on the Council. Chief Justice Melton announced that the next Emergency Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 6, 2020.

**Adjournment**

Hearing no further business, Chief Justice Melton adjourned the meeting at 2:39 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  
Emergency Session  
Conference Call  
June 29, 2020 • 2 p.m.**

**Guest Present**

Mr. Joseph Baden, Third Judicial Administrative District  
Mr. Josh Becker, Council of Accountability Court Judges  
Mr. Tracy J. BeMent, Tenth District Court Administrator  
Mr. Chuck Boring, Judicial Qualifications Commission  
Mr. Bob Bray, Council of State Court Judges  
Ms. Samantha Cannon, Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit  
Judge Melanie Cross, Tifton Judicial Circuit  
Mr. Steve Ferrell, Ninth Judicial Administrative District  
Ms. Kathlene F. Gosselin, Northeastern Judicial Circuit  
Ms. Karlise Grier, Chief Justice's Commission on Professional  
Ms. Christine Hayes, State Bar of Georgia  
Mr. Kevin Holder, Council of Probate Court Judges  
Mr. Michael Holiman, Council of Superior Court Clerks  
Mr. Eric John, Council of Juvenile Court Judges  
Ms. Taylor Jones, Council of Accountability Court Judges  
Judge Stephen Kelley, Brunswick Judicial Circuit  
Ms. Cathy McCumber, Fourth Judicial Administrative District  
Mr. David Mixon, Second District Court Administrator  
Mr. Bob Nadekow, Eighth District Court Administrator  
Ms. Debra Nesbit, Association County Commissioners of Georgia  
Ms. Sharon Reiss, Council of Magistrate Court Judges  
Ms. Karlie Sahs, Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution  
Judge Fletcher Sams, Fayette County Superior Court  
Mr. William T. Simmons, Sixth District Court Administrator  
Judge Arthur Lee Smith, Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit  
Ms. Christina Cooley Smith, Court of Appeals  
Mr. David Summerlin, Fifth District Court Administrator  
Ms. Jill Travis, Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers  
Ms. Kirsten Wallace, Council of Juvenile Court Judges  
Ms. Cindy Wang, Department of Juvenile Justice  
Judge Alvin T. Wong, Council of State Court Judges