



**Presiding Justice David Nahmias, Chairperson**

Presiding Justice Nahmias was appointed to the Supreme Court of Georgia in August 2009 by Governor Sonny Perdue. In November 2010, after a statewide campaign against two opponents, Presiding Justice Nahmias was elected to a full six-year term on the Court. In 2016, he was re-elected to another six-year term without opposition.



**Justice Charles Bethel, Vice Chairperson**

Justice Bethel was elected to the Supreme Court of Georgia by the people of Georgia in 2020 after having been appointed to fill a vacancy by Governor Nathan Deal on September 4, 2018. Prior to his service on the Supreme Court, Charlie served on the Georgia Court of Appeals and as a member of the Georgia Senate and Dalton City Council.



**Ms. Kim Anderson**

Ms. Anderson is the CEO of Families First, a \$10 million nonprofit with over 20 programs and 130 employees impacting over 35,000 annually. Prior to Families First, Ms. Anderson served as Senior Director for BoardWalk Consulting, a leading non-profit consulting firm. She also served as Executive Director of AID Atlanta, the southeast's largest AIDS service organization. Ms. Anderson began her career as an attorney with Alston & Bird and was subsequently appointed as the first General Counsel of Grady Health System. She also served as senior legal counsel for the Atlanta Housing Authority, the nation's fourth largest public housing agency.



**Representative Mandi Ballinger**

Representative Ballinger represents the citizens of District 23, which includes portions of Cherokee County. She was elected to the House of Representatives in 2012 and currently serves as Chairman of the Juvenile Justice Committee and as Secretary of the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Oversight Committee. She also serves on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Public Safety and the Information and Audits, Judiciary Non-Civil, Rules and Transportation committees.



**Commissioner Candice Broce**

Candice Broce is Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Human Services. Broce holds a bachelor's degree in Management from the Georgia Institute of Technology and law degree from the Georgia State University College of Law with a health law certificate. Commissioner Broce most recently served as Chief Operating Officer, Chief Deputy Executive Counsel, and Communications Director in the Governor's Office. A Bartow County native, Candice now lives in Cherokee County with her husband, Jason, and two sons. She is a member of the State Bar of Georgia and Georgia Board of Nursing.



**Ms. Emma Brown-Bernstein**

Emma Brown-Bernstein has been a staff attorney at the Public Defender, Atlanta Judicial Circuit since 2013. Ms. Brown-Bernstein specializes in the representation of parents in dependency cases. A graduate of Emory Law School and a Child Welfare Law Specialist, Ms. Brown-Bernstein has presented at numerous conferences on issues related to parent representation and is a frequent contributor to various online child welfare publications.



**Director Jerry Bruce**

Jerry Bruce was appointed by Governor Brian Kemp on June 15, 2021, as the Director of the Office of the Child Advocate. Mr. Bruce has 26 years of experience in child welfare and juvenile justice law. Since 2015 he has worked as Georgia's Court Improvement Program Director and as Program Attorney for the Georgia Supreme Court Committee on Justice for Children. Previously, he served as a Juvenile Courts Judge in the Enotah Judicial Circuit, and as a Special Assistant Attorney General representing the Department of Family and Children Services in Union, Towns, and Rabun Counties. Mr. Bruce received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Georgia in 1993, as well as a Master of Arts degree in English Literature from Louisiana State University in 1990.



**Mr. W. Bradley Bryant**

Mr. Bryant is the current Executive Director of Georgia Foundation for Public Education. In 2010, Brad was appointed by Governor Sonny Perdue to serve as State School Board Superintendent. Prior to his appointment, Brad served seven years as the 4th District representative on the State Board of Education.



**Judge Lindsay H. Burton**

Judge Burton serves as the Chief Judge of the Hall County Juvenile Court.



**Attorney General Chris Carr**

Attorney General Carr was appointed by Governor Nathan Deal and sworn into office as Georgia's 54th Attorney General on November 1, 2016. On November 6, 2018, Carr was elected by the people of Georgia to serve a full four-year term.



**Judge Stephen Dillard, Court of Appeals**

Presiding Judge Dillard was appointed as the 73rd judge of the Court of Appeals of Georgia on November 1, 2010, by Governor Sonny Perdue. Prior to his appointment, Judge Dillard was in private practice with James, Bates, Pope & Spivey in Macon, serving as chairman of the firm's appellate practice group. Judge Dillard was elected and reelected by his fellow Georgians in 2012 and 2018.



**Representative Chuck Efstration**

Representative Efstration represents House District 104, which includes Dacula, Lawrenceville, Auburn, Buford, and Hoschton addresses in Gwinnett County. Chuck has served as a member of the Georgia House of Representatives since December 13, 2013.



**Mr. Louis Erste**

Louis Erste is State Schools Chief Policy Officer and Title IX Coordinator at the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE). He served as Associate State Superintendent for District Flexibility, Charter Schools, Policy, and Government Affairs from 2011-2020 and as Charter Schools Division Director from 2010-2011. Prior to GaDOE, Erste served as Chief Operating Officer and Regional Vice President at Mosaica Education, Inc.; Chief Operating Officer of the District of Columbia Public Schools; Consultant to the Council of the Great City Schools; and Chief Executive Officer and other executive roles at the Cleveland Municipal School District. He also served as Research Director, Survey Research Consultant, Senior Research Analyst, and Computer Programmer in the non-profit and private sectors, and in various teaching, research, management, and computer programming roles at the University of Michigan and Cleveland State University.



**Ms. Laurie-Ann Fallon**

Laurie-Ann Fallon is the Special Assistant Attorney General (SAAG) for Barrow County Department of Family and Children Services. Ms. Fallon has worked as an Associate and as an Appointed SAAG since the Fall of 2005. She has received certification from the National Association of Council for Children as a Child Welfare Law Specialist. Ms. Fallon serves on the Advisory Board for the Barton Child Law and Policy Center and is a graduate of Emory School of Law.



**Ms. Darice Good**

Ms. Good is an attorney representing families and children in juvenile court through her firm, Good Legal Firm, LLC. She is a member of the Steering Committee for the National Alliance for Parent Representation at the American Bar Association and a member of the Georgia Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) Panel.



**Judge Britt Hammond, Superior Court**

Judge Hammond was sworn in as Superior Court Judge for Toombs Judicial Circuit on December 2, 2016. Previously, Judge Hammond served as judge for the Toombs County Juvenile Court for 13 years.



**Judge Render Heard, Jr., Juvenile Court**

Judge Heard, Jr. is the Juvenile Court Judge for the Tifton Judicial Circuit where he has presided over cases involving children in Tift, Worth, Turner and Irwin Counties since 2012.



**Judge Amanda Heath**

Judge Heath was appointed on September 17, 2021, to fill a vacancy for the Augusta Judicial Circuit. Prior to this appointment, she was the first African-American woman judge to be appointed to the Juvenile Court for the Augusta Judicial Circuit on October 1, 2016. Before becoming a Judge, she ran her own family law firm and worked in the District Attorney's office.



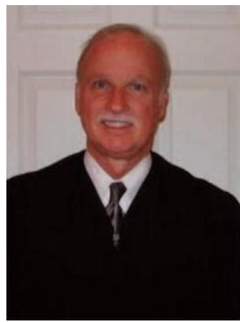
**Dr. Sharon Hill**

Dr. Hill is a Clinical Associate Professor in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies. She holds a BA in Psychology from Delta State University (Cleveland, MS), an MPA from the University of Illinois (Chicago), an MA in Guidance and Counseling from Northeastern Illinois University (Chicago), and a Ph.D. in Public and Urban Administration from the University of Texas (Arlington). Her current committee work includes the Georgia Supreme Court Committee on Justice for Children and the Georgia Conference on Children and Families.



**Judge Warner Kennon**

Judge Kennon was appointed to the Juvenile Court of Muscogee County, Georgia on November 4, 1994. He is now a Judge in the Juvenile Courts of the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit.



**Judge Michael Key**

Judge Key is the Juvenile Court Judge for Troup County, Georgia, and a past president of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. He previously served as chairman of the Georgia Commission on Family Violence, and as president of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.



**Ms. Jennifer King**

Ms. King became the Executive Director of Georgia CASA in October 2018, after working with the organization since 2002. Prior to her role as Executive Director, Ms. King served in various positions with CASA, most recently as Operations Director.





**Chief Nealie McCormick**

Chief McCormick is the chief of police for the City of Pelham and has more than four decades of experience in law enforcement. He is a Muskogee Creek Indian and a member of the Lower Muskogee Creek Tribe. McCormick is an advisor for federal, state and local agencies on Indian Affairs.



**Representative Mary Margaret Oliver**

Representative Oliver is a resident of District 82 in Dekalb County, and has served in the Georgia General Assembly in both the House of Representatives (1987 – 1992; and 2003 – present), and the Senate (1993 – 1998). Representative Oliver currently sits on the House Appropriations, Judiciary, Governmental Affairs, Juvenile Justice, and Science and Technology Committees.



**Commissioner Tyrone Oliver**

Commissioner Oliver was appointed DJJ Commissioner on July 25, 2019, by Governor Brian Kemp. Prior to his appointment, Commissioner Oliver served for over twenty years in law enforcement, most recently as Chief of Police and Deputy City Manager for the City of Social Circle.



**Ms. Jacqueline L. Payne**

Jacqueline L. "Jacki" Payne has spent most of her 40-year legal career as a lawyer for the Atlanta Legal Aid Society where she has devoted time and talents to helping low-income, vulnerable, and often minority families and to protecting victims of domestic violence. She presently serves as Managing Attorney for the Kinship Care Project at Atlanta Legal Aid, assisting non-parent caregivers. Jacki received her B.A. in Sociology/Criminology, cum laude, from Spelman College in May 1977, and her J.D. from the University of Georgia School of Law in 1980.



**Judge Gregory Price**

Judge Price is the Chief Presiding Juvenile Court Judge for the Rome Judicial Circuit. He holds bachelor, master and Doctorate Degrees from the University of Georgia and Western Michigan university. He began his legal career in 1980 in the District Attorney's Office of the Rome Judicial Circuit where he was assigned as the Juvenile Court Prosecutor. From there he expanded his career into the private practice of law culminating in decade's long involvement with the Law partnerships of Smith, Price and Wright attorneys. During the entirety of his law practice, Judge Price continued his involvement with Juvenile Law as a Guardian Ad Litem and Child's attorney as well as a Juvenile Judge Pro Tem beginning in the early 1990's until 2008 when he was appointed as the Associate Judge for the Juvenile Court of Rome-Floyd County, Georgia. In 2012 he became the Chief Presiding Juvenile Judge for the Rome Judicial Circuit. Judge Price is Georgia's ONLY elected Juvenile Court Judge. Judge Price serves as the President of the Council of Juvenile Court Judges.



**Senator Freddie Powell Sims**

Senator Sims was elected to the State Senate in 2008 to represent the 12th Senatorial District. Sen. Sims serves as secretary of the Education and Youth Committee, Vice Chairwoman of Interstate Cooperation and is a member of the Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, Appropriations and Natural Resources and the Environment committees.



**Ret. Judge Juanita Stedman**

Judge Stedman is the Executive Director of Together Georgia an alliance of both public and private Child Welfare Providers. She previously served sixteen years as a Cobb County Juvenile Court Judge.



**Senator Blake Tillery**

Senator Tillery, a Republican, was elected to Georgia's 19th district in 2016. Sen. Tillery represents Appling, Jeff Davis, Long, Montgomery, Telfair, Toombs, Treutlen, Wayne, Wheeler and portions of Liberty and Tattnall counties. Prior to his service in the Georgia Senate, Sen. Tillery was Chairman of the Toombs County Commission. He has previously served on the Heart of Georgia-Altamaha Regional Commission, Heart of Georgia Workforce Investment Board, Toombs County Boys and Girls Club Board, and cochaired the Leadership Toombs-Montgomery program.



**Mr. Michael Waller**

Mr. Waller is the Executive Director of Georgia Appleseed Center for Law and Justice, starting as the center's Director of Projects in 2018. Prior to joining Georgia Appleseed, Michael was a consumer protection attorney in the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) Division of Enforcement and staff attorney at Atlanta Legal Aid. He is a frequent speaker on the devastating consequences of exclusionary school discipline, poor school climate, and unhealthy housing on marginalized children.



**Bishop Robert Wright**

The Right Rev. Wright is the 10<sup>th</sup> bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta, which covers north and middle Georgia and embraces 110 worshipping communities. At the time of his election in June 2012, he had served 10 years as rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Atlanta. Prior to that, he was a school chaplain and on the staff of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York City.