

Welcome!

I'd like to take a moment to welcome you to the website of the Council of Juvenile Court Judges of Georgia.

The CJCJ is a judicial branch agency which supports, informs, and speaks for the body of Georgia's 163 juvenile court judges. Former Council President J. Lane Bearden best described the Council as "the central core for our judges – a place to exchange ideas, learn about the most advanced and progressive practices, interact with other levels of courts, share news about new legal rulings and case precedents, and consider the impact of new and proposed legislation affecting today's youth."

Juvenile court judges preside over a wide variety of cases involving children and families which include cases where children are alleged to have been abused or neglected (dependency cases), cases where children are alleged to have committed one or more delinquent acts (delinquency cases), and cases where children are alleged to be in need of services offered by the state (CHINS cases). In addition, juvenile courts are empowered with jurisdiction to hear certain child custody cases transferred to the juvenile courts by the Superior Courts of this state, certain guardianship cases, and certain cases involving legitimation of children by biological fathers. In extreme cases of abuse or neglect, juvenile courts exercise jurisdiction over cases involving the termination of the parental rights of parents who have subjected children to that abuse or neglect.

While full-time judges make up the majority of CJCJ's membership, members include both full-time and part-time judges from across the state all working toward the goal of ensuring that outcomes achieved for our children are in their best interests. The Council is governed by an Executive Committee consisting of six executive officers and ten district representatives, one from each judicial district across the state. The primary work of the Council is accomplished through numerous committees and their volunteer members which you will find listed herein.

For more than 27 years, the Council has been guided by its current Executive Director, Eric John, and his dedicated staff. Executive Director John and his staff provide advice, training, accounting, and other resources to support Council members in their efforts to administer justice through the juvenile courts of our state. They have long been the backbone of the Council.

On behalf of our Executive Committee, the 163 members of our Council, our Executive Director and his staff, we thank you for your interest in the work of our juvenile courts. We welcome you to our website and invite you to explore it to learn more about the work we do for the children and families of our State.

Very truly yours,

Render M. Heard, Jr.
President, Council of Juvenile Court Judges of Georgia and
Judge of the Juvenile Courts of the Tifton Judicial Circuit