



Judicial Council of Georgia Access to Justice Committee Meeting

August 31, 2022
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://georgiacourts-gov.zoom.us/j/88325051614?pwd=NWYzN0RLbUFlZlZlHhTNXlZm01RzJmUT09>

Meeting ID: 883 2505 1614

Passcode: 408812

One tap mobile

+13092053325,,88325051614#,,, *408812# US

+13126266799,,88325051614#,,, *408812# US (Chicago)

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Welcome and Introductions – Justice Verda Colvin- 10 mins

Written Reports- Summary of June 30th, 2022

SAVE THE DATES – Upcoming Events

Pro Bono Upcoming Clinics:

Savannah Kinship Care Clinic (09-10-2022)

Athens Pride Name Change Clinic (09-16-2022)

Macon Credit and Identify Clinic (09-20-2022)

[Location TBD] Coca-Cola Wills Clinic (10-24-2022)

Q4 Record Restriction Clinic in discussion for Liberty County

Access to Justice Virtual Webinars Series- TBA

Upcoming A2J Committee Meetings Dates: November 9th, 2022

A2J Committee Project and Community Updates

- I. **White Paper Update** - Justice Colvin -10 mins
- II. **CALER Committee Update** – Tabitha Ponder – 5 mins
- III. **SRL Forms Working Group Update (Legitimation and Custody)** - Judge LaTisha Dear Jackson - 10 mins
- IV. **Deaf and Hard of Hearing Working Group CJCP Grant Update** – Jana Edmondson-Cooper 10 mins
- V. **Legal Record Restriction Clinic** - Tabitha Ponder- 3 mins

- VI. Law Library Project update - Gerald Williams – 5 mins**
- VII. ROI w/ Georgia State - Michelle Barclay – 5 mins**
- VIII. A2J Webinar Series –Tabitha Ponder – 5 mins**
- IX. Old Business**
- X. New Business**



June 30th, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Committee Members: Justice Verda Colvin, Tabitha Ponder, Mike Monahan, Tracy Johnson, Judge Cassandra Kirk, Judge LaTisha Dear Jackson, Judge Bill Adams, Judge Cynthia Adams, Judge Maureen Wood, Nancy Long, Karlise Grier, Judge Leisa G. Blount, Judge Clarence Cuthpert, Cathy Waddell, M.J. Blakely, Judge Sara Doyle, Belinda Edwards, Mazie Lynn

Guests: Judge Larry Mims, Jeannie Ashley, Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez, Michelle Barclay, Anne Kirkhope, Alexis Bauman, Adara Walker, LaShawn Murphy, Maria C. Wallis, Ellie Lanier, Paul D. Panusky, Rachel Tobin, Latoinna Lawrence

Tabitha Ponder called the meeting to order. The Caler Committee Members, who were in attendance, introduced themselves first. This committee will soon become a subcommittee, Justice Boggs will make this official.

Written Reports

Mike Monahan attended the Equal Justice Conference. The Diversity of bars meeting was success. And hopefully Justice Colvin be available to talk about that at the end of this meeting. The Valdosta Town Hall was on June 18; they held a Juneteenth Celebration. Around 100 people signed up. The next record restriction will be in Wilcox County, GA. The Town Hall will take place July 7th and the clinic on August 20th. There was also a clinic in Valdosta GA that took place July 29th.

A2J & State Bar's ATJ joint retreat

The A2J Retreat took place in Alabama. Judge Salinas reported that the Access to Justice Committee for the State Bar is working on improving communication. They've been trying to recognize the lawyers and paralegals and organizations around the state doing good work. They are working on improving their website and giving out pro bono awards. Michelle Barclay reported out for the ATJ Committee. This committee produced a lot of products in the last four or five years, including a toolkit serving self-represented litigants, an unauthorized practice of law and laminated cards which have been approved by the State Bar of Georgia. Tabitha helped Albany acquire state funding at a federal level and at the state level, to get their self-help center and their all their law library going which started in 2018. There was a good report from Nancy about the self-help center. Nancy is working on an impact report, which I will share with all of you when it becomes available. It includes a breakdown by years, and a summary of what that center has been doing. There were conversations about doing a better job of promoting our works, so a PR firm was hired, Rachel Tobin Inc. The committee discussed standardized court forms, how they're good for subgroups and litigants. We discussed using technology to assist with those forms. The next step is ensuring public education among ourselves. At the retreat we decided that we should write a white paper about sustainable funding and start putting that conversation and proposal out there,

which was completed. A2J has engaged the Georgia State University economics department to do a Return-on-Investment Survey regarding the Southwestern Self-Help Center. There was also discussion about talking to the Georgia State Access to Justice Center about doing a series of virtual classes. We'd like to do six, one every other month starting in August.

Additionally, we discussed possibly bringing in people who run the Tennessee faith-based initiative with improving access to justice to Georgia in one of our classes. Mike Monahan spoke on the State of Bars Committee that met on June 22. The DueJusticeDoFifty.org website is aimed at lawyers telling their story of what pro bono is and why they participate. The committee decided to move forward with incorporating a statewide pro bono case listing service called joinpaladin.com. The pro bono subcommittee is working on a potential grant as a funding source, the Georgia Power Foundation, which can help with expenses. The bar would offer this program to all the public interest programs in Georgia as a platform to advertise available pro bono cases, clinics, and events. There are three programs currently using Georgia Legal Services Program, Atlanta Volunteer, Loras Foundation, and the Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta. The State Bar awards will be held soon. It will be advertised as September 15th is the deadline. Mike provided more information regarding the map of GA lawyers statistics. The state bar does not track types or titles of lawyers in Georgia. Another interesting note about the map. something we really need to talk about in our legal community. is that a large percentage of Georgia Bar members, approximately 60%, are baby boomer lawyers who are retiring in the next couple of years. The challenge is there will be fewer lawyers available to provide access to justice. The benefit is that younger lawyers will have a lot of opportunities. Some Kinship Care clinics are coming up and Vicky Kimbrell is a driving force behind their kinship care work.

A2J Landlord Tenant Working Group

Judge Casandra Kirk asked for assistance in getting the Landlord Tenant flyer rolling out to the public. The flyer tells the public where they can receive rental assistance. Tabitha has reached out with the Georgia Association of paralegals, and they have offered to provide services to help parties upload applications. It takes months for DCAA to distribute the funds in Fulton County, and Fulton County is about to run out of funding. Although the state has a lot of money, the delivery is slow due to people having difficulty uploading applications. A suggestion was made to see if anyone who works in the Magistrate Court can help to distribute electronic flyers.

CALER Committee

This committee was created for us to look at the law libraries within the state of Georgia to see how they are set up. They are now the second phase of their initiative. The survey designed to ask financial questions for each center has been approved and was sent out the last week of June. They are trying to determine the financial status of each library in the state of Georgia. The survey will allow us to capture financial information from law libraries across the state, which should be around 46 law libraries.

SRL Forms Working Group

The divorce forms and videos for the self-represented litigants and subcommittee are online on our Judicial Portal. They are looking at outreach issues and how to get the word out to more people. Vicky provided update to the Council of Superior Court Judges Summer Conference and plans to mention the forms to the superior court judges and provide the link. They would like to add the divorce forms link to the domestic violence bench book. Judge Tabitha Ponder and Judge Bill Adams talked to the State Bar ATJ committee about the divorce forms on the website to further our collaboration with that committee. The forums and other progress of the committee was reported in an interview that was done with Justice Colvin and the Georgia Courts Journal. The next project for the committee will be Child Custody forms.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Working Group

A possible grant was discussed. They would like to conduct virtual webinars or CLE as it relates to deaf and hard of hearing issues around the state to bring awareness to lawyers and the judges. The grant cycle is open now, applications are due by July 15.

Law Library Model Project/ White paper

Nancy Long reported first on the Law Library Project. They served over 40,000 people and moved into their new facility. Technology allows the Law Library to hold conferences, depositions, hearings and help patrons complete their work. They participated in the expungement clinics and have an expungement clinic scheduled in Valdosta on the 29th of July. Director, Gerald Williams, said Southwest Georgia Self-Help Center will continue with our oral and written efforts to secure funding from the Law Library Board of Directors and trustees. These efforts will continue quarterly through the end of the fiscal year which ends June 2023.

Michelle Barclay reported on the White Paper. She will send the white paper to the “soon to be created” expanded listserv. The white paper is a requirement for law libraries, it focuses on rural areas to receive priority funding. This particular white paper is modeled after a series of grant funds given out for domestic violence. Judge Weaver in North Georgia has some state funding of about \$35,000. Judge Weaver has spoken to Michelle and is interested in setting up a meeting and would make a pitch.

Legal Record Restriction Clinic

Latoinna Lawrence shared a PowerPoint presentation from the Dougherty County restriction clinic. This working group will eventually turn the baton over to Georgia Legal Services to figure out a way to keep the clinics; soon the efforts will run out of funds.

Old Business

A pivotal moment from the Diversity of Bars meeting was about the diversity in the profession. African American attorneys have dwindled. They are brainstorming ways in which to make the numbers grow within the profession. Mr. Foster has visited colleges, universities, and talked with students about the trajectory to law school and encouraging them.

There were some members from the Caler Committee in attendance during this meeting. They talked to partners with the State Government about obtaining funding.

New Business

Rachel Tobin is with Tobin Inc., and she collaborated on a child welfare justice campaign. Recently, she and Michelle Barclay worked together on hashtag #justicethesejurors. Next, Rachel Tobin provided an update. Michelle advised Rachel that 10 Georgia counties have no lawyers. Rachel could bring a lot of light to this topic. She wants to use a two-part tactic of using earned media and owned media to promote our message. She and Michelle could create a social media playbook that could be shared with this committee. It would include a sample tweet, Facebook message, and or graphics. A third tactic is a white paper that lives on the website for judicial council or AOC. Mike Monahan would like to get on board with Rachel regarding her efforts.

The newest Hispanic Judge in DeKalb County, Judge Martinez, has a group that she's been working in partnership with A2J to complete our translations. On our website, some documents (toolkit), have already been translated as a volunteer service.

An advisor on the Caler Committee, Paul Panusky, spoke on the Dead and Hard of Hearing Committee. He is the only attorney in the state fluent in sign language. He stated when translating closed captioning's from Spanish to English, the words are completely different. He asked the committee to keep this in mind.

Meeting adjourned.



Judicial Council of Georgia
Access to Justice

The Cordele Judicial Circuit presents a

RECORD RESTRICTION CLINIC

for Ben Hill, Crisp, Dooly and Wilcox counties

What is a Record Restriction/Expungement

"In Georgia, record restriction (expungement) and sealing means that eligible records on your official criminal history report are restricted from public view but remain accessible to law enforcement for criminal justice purposes.

Record restriction helps individuals gain better employment, join the military, enroll in schools, and obtain housing. Society also benefits through public revenue, reduced recidivism, and improved public safety.

We are hosting a free record restriction to inform rural Georgia residents what charges may be eligible for record restriction under existing Georgia law. Additional information will be provided about how individuals can possibly receive legal assistance in the future."

2nd step, after you have pre-registered, come to the location below to attend the Record Restriction Clinic!

August 20th, 2022
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**W.N. (Newt) Hudson
Agricultural Center
630 East County Farm Road
Rochelle, GA 31079**



Interested?
1st step, pre-register
in person at the address below
starting now until August 3rd
please visit the Wilcox County Court House
between the times of
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
103 N. Broad Street
Ableville, GA 31001

Or you can pre-register online by scanning the QR code below

SCAN ME



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