



## Council of State Court Judges of Georgia

*“Impartial Courts – Judicial Excellence – Accessible and Efficient Justice”*

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### **2023-2024 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS** **(as of July 1, 2023)**

#### **EXECUTIVE**

President	John Kent Edwards, Jr. (Lowndes)
President Elect	Jeffrey B. Hanson (Bibb)
Secretary:	Greg V. Sapp (Chatham)
Treasurer:	Susan E. Edlein (Fulton)
Past President:	R. Violet Bennett (Wayne)
District 1:	Billy Tomlinson (Bryan)
District 2:	Shawn Rowland (Jeff Davis)
District 3:	Ellen S. Golden (Lowndes)
District 4:	Tammi L. Hayward (Clayton)
District 5:	Monique Walker (Richmond)
District 6:	John G. Breakfield (Hall)
District 7:	Eric A. Richardson (Fulton)
District 8:	Michelle H. Helhoski (Cherokee)

#### **BENCH/CHARGE BOOK**

Chair: Susan Edlein (Fulton)  
Vice-Chair Wes Tailor (Fulton)

- |                               |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Kimberly Anderson (DeKalb) | 6. Jay Roth (Fulton)           |
| 2. Jason Ashford (Houston)    | 7. John Stephenson (Dougherty) |
| 3. Steve Campbell (Habersham) | 8. Ben Studdard (Sr. Henry)    |
| 4. Maria Golick (Cobb)        | 9. Josh Thacker (Spalding)     |
| 5. Jeff Hanson (Macon/Bibb)   | 10. Erica Tisinger (Carroll)   |

#### **BUDGET**

Chair: Maria Golick (Cobb)  
Vice-Chair: Billy Mullinax (Walker)

- |                                     |                              |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Vi Bennett (Wayne)               | 6. Russ McClelland (Forsyth) |
| 2. John Edwards (Lowndes)           | 7. Allison Salter (Cobb)     |
| 3. Greg Fowler (Sr. Chatham)        | 8. Greg Sapp (Chatham)       |
| 4. Ellen Golden (Lowndes) – JRS Rep | 9. Wes Tailor (Fulton)       |
| 5. Jeff Hanson (Bibb) - Treasurer   | 10. Al Wong (DeKalb)         |

**CASE COUNTING STANDARDS**

Chair: Michelle Helhoski (Cherokee)

Vice-Chair: Jane Morrison (Fulton)\*

- |                                  |                               |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Kimberly Alexander (DeKalb)*  | 9. Sharell Lewis (Bibb)*      |
| 2. Robert Alexander (Jackson)*   | 10. Russ McClelland (Forsyth) |
| 3. Jason Ashford (Houston)*      | 11. Bill Mills (Early)        |
| 4. Larry Baldwin (Hall)          | 12. Greg Sapp (Chatham)*      |
| 5. Vi Bennett (Wayne)*           | 13. Jason Thompson (Fayette)  |
| 6. Eric Brewton (Cobb)*          |                               |
| 7. Ronda Colvin (Gwinnett)*      | *Needs Assessment members     |
| 8. Clarence Cuthpert (Rockdale)* |                               |

**CONFERENCE VENUE SITE COMMITTEE**

Chairs: Margaret Spencer (Clayton)

Vice-Chair (Vacant)

- |                                      |                               |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Leslie Abernathy-Maddox (Forsyth) | 8. Marsha Lake (Cobb)         |
| 2. Charles Auslander (Clarke)        | 9. Donny Peppers (Sr. Walker) |
| 3. Carla Brown (Gwinnett)            | 10. Allison Salter (Cobb)     |
| 4. Jason Fincher (Cobb)              | 11. Greg Sapp (Chatham)       |
| 5. Janis Gordon (Sr. DeKalb)         | 12. Doug Ashworth ((ICJE)     |
| 6. John Holland (Turner)             |                               |
| 7. Steve Jenkins (Elbert)            |                               |

**COURT BUSINESS OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION**

**TBD**

**DUI/DRUG COURT COMMITTEE**

Co-Chairs: Eddie Barker (Douglas) and Jason Thompson (Fayette)

Recording Secretary: TBD

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|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Kimberly Anderson (DeKalb)   | 15. Greg Fowler (Sr. Chatham)    |
| 2. Jason Ashford (Houston)      | 16. Ellen Golden (Lowndes)       |
| 3. Charles Auslander (Clarke)   | 17. Jeff Hanson (Bibb)           |
| 4. Larry Baldwin (Hall)         | 18. Michelle Helhoski (Cherokee) |
| 5. Pattie Booker (Sr. Richmond) | 19. Steve Jenkins (Elbert)       |
| 6. Emily Brantley (Gwinnett)    | 20. Alan Jordan (Cherokee)       |
| 7. Shawn Bratton (Gwinnett)     | 21. Wesley Leonard (Troup)       |
| 8. Leon Braun (Sr. Liberty)     | 22. Chaundra Lewis (Henry)       |
| 9. Eric Brewton (Cobb)          | 23. Sharell Lewis (Bibb)         |
| 10. Bridgette Campbell (Cobb)   | 24. Vincent Lotti (Henry)        |
| 11. Melodie Clayton (Sr. Cobb)  | 25. Russ McClelland (Forsyth)    |
| 12. John Dennis (Chattooga)     | 26. Kellie McIntyre (Richmond)   |
| 13. Susan Edlein (Fulton)       | 27. Ana Maria Martinez (DeKalb)  |
| 14. Brian Fortner (Douglas)     | 28. Dee Morris (Cherokee)        |

29. Jeffery Osteen (Liberty)
30. Seay VanPatten Poulakos (Coweta)
31. Ralph Powell (Worth)
32. Greg Sapp (Chatham)
33. Margaret Spencer (Clayton)
34. Kiesha Storey (DeKalb)

35. Wes Tailor (Fulton)
36. Erica Tisinger (Carroll)
37. David Watkins (Richmond)
38. Derek White (Chatham)
39. Al Wong (DeKalb)

### **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**

Co-Chairs: Allison Salter (Cobb) and  
Eric Richardson (Fulton)

1. Kimberly Alexander (DeKalb)
2. Kimberly Anderson (DeKalb)
3. Jason Ashford (Houston)
4. Diane Bessen (Fulton)
5. Eric Brewton (Cobb)
6. Bridgette Campbell (Cobb)
7. John Carbo (Sr. Clayton)
8. Ronda Colvin (Gwinnett)
9. John Edwards (Lowndes)
10. Janis Gordon (Sr. DeKalb)
11. Jeff Hanson (Bibb)
12. Michelle Helhoski (Cherokee)
13. Alan Jordan (Cherokee)

14. Marsha Lake (Cobb)
15. Sharell Lewis (Bibb)
16. Jeannette Little (Sr. Troup)
17. Bob Mock (Sr. Gwinnett)
18. Shalonda Jones-Parker (Clayton)
19. Ashley Palmer (Cobb)
20. Wayne Purdom (DeKalb)
21. Margaret Spencer (Clayton)
22. Pam South (Gwinnett)
23. Kiesha Storey (DeKalb)
24. Ben Studdard (Sr. Henry)
25. Lynne Moore Nelson (ICJE)

### **LEGISLATIVE**

Co-Chairs: Maria Golick (Cobb) and Greg Sapp (Chatham)

1. Jason Ashford (Houston)
2. Larry Baldwin (Hall)
3. Vi Bennett (Wayne)
4. Diane Bessen (Fulton)
5. John Breakfield (Hall)
6. Patricia Booker (Sr. Richmond)
7. Leon Braun (Sr. Liberty)
8. Carla Brown (Gwinnett)
9. Steve Campbell (Habersham)
10. John Carbo (Sr. Clayton)
11. Jack Carney (Sr. Bryan)
12. Ronda Colvin (Gwinnett)
13. David Darden (Sr. Cobb)
14. Neal Dettmering (Sr. Douglas)
15. Susan Edlein (Fulton)
16. John Edwards (Lowndes)
17. Susan Forsling (Sr. Fulton)
18. Brian Fortner (Douglas)
19. Robert Gardner (Barrow)
20. Ron Ginsberg (Sr. Chatham)

21. C. J. Gober (Sr. Cherokee)
22. Ellen Golden (Lowndes)
23. Jeff Hanson (Bibb)
24. Jason Harper (Sr. Henry)
25. John Holland (Turner)
26. Joseph Iannazzone (Sr. Gwinnett)
27. Mike Jacobs (DeKalb)
28. Alan Jordan (Cherokee)
29. Stephen Knights (Henry)
30. Chaundra Lewis (Henry)
31. Jeannette Little (Sr. Troup)
32. Russ McClelland (Forsyth)
33. Jane Manning (Cobb)
34. Jeffery Osteen (Liberty)
35. Wayne Purdom (DeKalb)
36. Ron Ramsey (DeKalb)
37. Eric Richardson (Fulton)
38. Jay Roth (Fulton)
39. Richard Slaby (Richmond)
40. Margaret Spencer (Clayton)

41. Ben Studdard (Sr. Henry)
42. Wes Tailor (Fulton)
43. Billy Tomlinson (Bryan)

44. Al Wong (DeKalb)
45. Charlie Wynne (Sr. Hall)

### **MANDATORY CJE**

Chair: Eric Brewton (Cobb)

Vice-Chair: Billy Mullinax (Walker)

1. John Edwards (Lowndes)
2. Rick Waters (Mitchell)
3. Monique Walker (Richmond)
4. Lynne Moore Nelson (ICJE)

### **MISDEMEANOR MENTAL HEALTH**

Chair: Patsy Porter (Fulton)

1. Eric Brewton (Cobb)
2. Veronica Cope (Gwinnett)
3. Maria Golick (Cobb)
4. Ellen Golden (Lowndes)
5. Michelle Helhoski (Cherokee)
6. Pam South (Gwinnett)
7. John Stephenson (Dougherty)

### **NEW JUDGE EDUCATION AND MENTORING**

Co-Chair: Susan Edlein (Fulton) NJO

and Tammi Hayward (Clayton) Mentoring

Recording Secretary: Allison Salter (Cobb)

1. Charles Auslander (Clarke)
2. Eddie Barker (Douglas)
3. Eric Brewton (Cobb)
4. Carla Brown (Gwinnett)
5. Melodie Clayton (Sr. Cobb)
6. Ronda Colvin (Gwinnett)
7. John Edwards (Lowndes)
8. Ellen Golden (Lowndes)
9. Janis Gordon (Sr. DeKalb)
10. Jeff Hanson (Macon/Bibb)
11. Steve Jenkins (Elbert)
12. Kellie McIntyre (Richmond)
13. Shalonda Jones-Parker (Clayton)
14. Seay Poulakos (Coweta)
15. Josh Thacker (Spalding)
16. Jason Thompson (Fayette)
17. Billy Tomlinson (Bryan)
18. Monique Walker (Richmond)
19. Al Wong (DeKalb)
20. Lynne Moore Nelson (ICJE)

### **NOMINATING**

Chair: Russ McClelland (Forsyth)

1. Greg Fowler (Sr. Chatham)
2. Marica Golick (Cobb)
3. Tammi Hayward (Clayton)
4. Steve Jenkins (Elbert)
5. Wayne Purdom (DeKalb)
6. Wes Tailor (Fulton)
7. Al Wong (DeKalb)

### **PART-TIME JUDGES**

Chair: Sam Edgar (Bacon)  
Vice-Chair: Ralph Powell (Worth)

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|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Vi Bennett (Wayne)      | 5. Hugh McCullough (Tattnall)  |
| 2. Robert Gardner (Barrow) | 6. Hubert Reeves (Sr. Jenkins) |
| 3. James Garner (Treutlen) | 7. Alan Thrower (Sr. Baldwin)  |
| 4. Ron Hallman (Evans)     |                                |

### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Chair: David Darden (Sr. Cobb)

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|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Greg Fowler (Sr. Chatham)  | 4. Wes Tailor (Fulton) |
| 2. Ron Ginsberg (Sr. Chatham) | 5. Al Wong (DeKalb)    |
| 3. Russ McClelland (Forsyth)  |                        |

### **RESOLUTIONS AND AWARDS**

Chair: Jean Bolin (McIntosh)

- |                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Greg Fowler (Sr. Chatham)    | 5. Ralph Powell (Worth)       |
| 2. Janis Gordon (Sr. DeKalb)    | 6. Margaret Spencer (Clayton) |
| 3. Jeannette Little (Sr. Troup) |                               |
| 4. Russ McClelland (Forsyth)    |                               |

### **RETIREMENT**

Chair: Alan Jordan (Cherokee)  
Vice-Chair: Ellen Golden (Lowndes)

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|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Vi Bennett (Wayne)           | 5. James Irvin (Stephens)      |
| 2. Pattie Booker (Sr. Richmond) | 6. Marsha Lake (Cobb)          |
| 3. Sam Edgar (Bacon)            | 7. Eric Richardson (Fulton)    |
| 4. John Edwards (Lowndes)       | 8. John Stephenson (Dougherty) |

### **SENIOR JUDGE/JUDGE EMERITUS COMMITTEE**

Co-Chairs: David Darden (Sr. Cobb) and Melodie Clayton (Sr. Cobb)

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|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Greg Fowler (Sr. Chatham)    | 3. Bob Mock (Sr. Gwinnett)  |
| 2. Jeannette Little (Sr. Troup) | 4. Ben Studdard (Sr. Henry) |

### **STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Co-Chairs: Jeff Hanson (Bibb) and John Edwards (Lowndes)

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|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Kimberly Anderson (DeKalb) | 7. Eric Brewton (Cobb)        |
| 2. Jason Ashford (Houston)    | 8. Melodie Clayton (Sr. Cobb) |
| 3. Eddie Barker (Douglas)     | 9. Ronda Colvin (Gwinnett)    |
| 4. Vi Bennett (Wayne)         | 10. David Darden (Sr. Cobb)   |
| 5. Diane Bessen (Fulton)      | 11. Susan Edlein (Fulton)     |
| 6. John Breakfield (Hall)     | 12. Greg Fowler (Sr. Chatham) |

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|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 13. Michael Gailey (Putnam)      | 26. Allison Salter (Cobb)      |
| 14. Ellen Golden (Lowndes)       | 27. Greg Sapp (Chatham)        |
| 15. Maria Golick (Cobb)          | 28. Danny Shepard (Miller)     |
| 16. Tammi Hayward (Clayton)      | 29. Pam South (Gwinnett)       |
| 17. Michelle Helhoski (Cherokee) | 30. Margaret Spencer (Clayton) |
| 18. James Irvin (Stephens)       | 31. Ben Studdard (Sr. Henry)   |
| 19. Jeannette Little (Sr. Troup) | 32. Wes Tailor (Fulton)        |
| 20. Russ McClelland (Forsyth)    | 33. Josh Thacker (Spalding)    |
| 21. John Murphy III (Jefferson)  | 34. Erica Tisinger (Carroll)   |
| 22. Wayne Purdom (DeKalb)        | 35. Billy Tomlinson (Bryan)    |
| 23. Ron Ramsey (DeKalb)          | 36. Monique Walker (Richmond)  |
| 24. Eric Richardson (Fulton)     | 37. Al Wong (DeKalb)           |
| 25. Shawn Rowland (Jeff Davis)   |                                |

### **TECHNOLOGY**

Chair: Jason Ashford (Houston)  
 Vice-Chair: Diane Bessen (Fulton)

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|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Harold Benefield Sr. Clayton) | 8. Marsha Lake (Cobb)         |
| 2. Pattie Booker (Richmond)      | 9. Sharell Lewis (Bibb)       |
| 3. John Dennis (Chattooga)       | 10. Russ McClelland (Forsyth) |
| 4. Neal Dettmering (Sr. Douglas) | 11. Ben Studdard (Sr. Henry)  |
| 5. John Edwards (Lowndes)        | 12. Wes Tailor (Fulton)       |
| 6. Jason Fincher (Cobb)          | 13. Monique Walker (Richmond) |
| 7. Joe Iannazzone (Sr. Gwinnett) |                               |

### **UNIFORM COURT RULES**

Chair, Greg Sapp (Chatham)  
 Vice Chair: Wes Tailor (Fulton)

- |                                      |                                |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Leslie Abernathy-Maddox (Forsyth) | 6. James Irvin (Stephens)      |
| 2. Larry Baldwin (Hall)              | 7. Russ McClelland (Forsyth)   |
| 3. Melodie Clayton (Sr. Cobb)        | 8. Wayne Purdom (DeKalb)       |
| 4. Greg Fowler (Sr. Chatham)         | 9. John Stephenson (Dougherty) |
| 5. Joe Iannazzone (Sr. Gwinnett)     |                                |

### **Special Appointments to Other Committees:**

**Institute of Continuing Judicial Education Board (ICJE)**

Allison Salter (Cobb) 2 year 6/30/23

**Judicial Council Records Retention Committee**

Kiesha Storey (DeKalb)  
Jeannette Little (Troup)

**Judicial Council Committee on Victims of Domestic Violence**

Maria Golick (Cobb)  
Jeannette Little (Troup)

**State Commission on Family Violence**

Leslie Abernathy (Forsyth) Governor  
Appointment August 2018

**Advisory Council of Board to Department of Community Supervision**

Ralph Powell (Worth)

**Judicial Council Committee on Public Service Announcements - COVID**

Ben Richardson Muscogee)

**Judicial Council Technology Committee**

Jason Ashford (Houston) June 30, 2026

**Judicial Council Committee on Cyber Insurance Implementation**

Diane Bessen (Fulton)

**Judicial Council Committee on Grants**

Eric Richardson (Fulton) June 30, 2021

**Judicial Council Committee on Interpreters**

Jean Bolin (McIntosh) June 30, 2023

**Supreme Court – Board to Determine Fitness of Bar Applicants**

Janis Gordon (Sr. DeKalb)

**Judicial Council Committee on Emergency Preparedness and Continuity of Court Operations**

Eric Richardson (Fulton)  
Bob Bray – Advisory Member

**Pre-Trial Justice in Georgia**

Wes Tailor (Fulton)

**Judicial Council Legislative Committee**

John Edwards (Lowndes)  
Maria Golick (Cobb)  
Greg Sapp (Chatham)  
Bob Bray (Advisory)

**Council of Accountability Courts**

Charles E. Auslander, III (Clarke) –Chair  
Jason Thompson (Fayette) – Exec. Committee  
Margaret Spencer (Clayton) – Advisory Member

**Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution**

Charles E. Auslander, III (Clarke)  
Clarence Cuthpert (Rockdale) – Chair Budget

**Judicial Council Committee on Access to Justice**

Jason Thompson (Fayette)  
Linda Cowen (Clayton)  
Jane Morrison (Fulton)

**Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism**

Russ McClelland - 6/30/2025

**Judicial Council Committee on Improving Access to Legal Resources**

Jason Ashford (Houston)

**Judicial Council Committee on Judicial Security**

Vi Bennett (Wayne)

**Judicial Council COVID-19 Task Force**

Russ McClelland (Forsyth)

**Georgia Board of Court Reporting**

Vi Bennett (Wayne)

**Digital Court Reporting Rules Subcommittee**

Jane Morrison – Chair (Fulton)

**Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Emergency Preparedness**

Eric Richardson (Fulton)

**Judicial Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Salaries**

Al Wong (DeKalb)

**Georgia Judicial Retirement System – Board of Trustees (Governor Appointment – 4 Year Term)**

Ellen Golden (Lowndes) – 7/1/2020

**Judicial Council Workload Assessment Committee (JWAC)**

Michelle Helhoski (Cherokee) Term 6/30/2024

**Judicial Council Budget Committee**

Jeffrey B. Hanson (Bibb)

Maria Golick (Cobb)

**Governor’s Criminal Data Exchange Advisory Board:**

Joseph Cushner (Bulloch)

Bob Bray (Executive Director)

**Judicial Council Automated Data Collection Subcommittee**

Jeff Hanson (Bibb)

**Bench & Bar Committee of State Bar**

Jane Manning (Cobb)

**Bench and Bar Subcommittee on CPA**

Russ McClelland (Forsyth)

John Breakfield (Hall)

Billy Tomlinson (Bryan)

**Judicial Council ARPA Committee**

Vi Bennett (Wayne)

**Region 4 Judicial Outreach Liaison for ABA and NHTSA**

Ron Ramsey (DeKalb)

Judge Bennett has worked very hard on this listing and tried to put everyone who indicated an interest in being on the committee that he or she requested. If he has left someone off, it was not intentional, and he or she will be added to a committee upon request

\*New judges