

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA

General Session

Friday, August 21, 2026

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.



Nathan Deal Judicial Center
Atlanta, GA

Judicial Council of Georgia
General Session

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Atlanta, GA

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10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Livestream at <https://www.youtube.com/judicialcouncilofgeorgia>

Access materials at <https://jcaoc.georgiacourts.gov/judicial-council/>

- 1. Call to Order & Swearing In of New Members**
(Presiding Justice Sarah Hawkins Warren, Est. Time – 5 Min.)
- 2. Roll Call of Judicial Council Members**
(Director Cynthia H. Clanton, Est. Time – 2 Min.)
- 3. Pledge of Allegiance**
(Chief Judge Norman H. Cuadra Est. Time – 1 Min.)
- 4. Approval of Minutes (*Action Item*)** **TAB 1**
(Presiding Justice Sarah Hawkins Warren, Est. Time – 2 Min.)
- 5. Judicial Council Committee Reports**
 - A. Legislation Committee**
(Presiding Justice Sarah Hawkins Warren, Est. Time – 5 Min.)
 - B. Budget Committee (*Action Item*)** **TAB 2**
(Justice Charles J. Bethel, Est. Time – 10 Min.)
 - C. Technology Committee** **TAB 3**
(Judge Stephen D. Kelley, Est. Time – 5 Min.)
 - D. Judicial Workload Assessment Committee (*Action Item*)** **TAB 4**
(Judge Robert D. Leonard, Est. Time – 10 Min.)
 - E. Georgia Case Management System (GA CMS)** **TAB 5**
(Judge Robert D. Leonard, Est. Time – 5 Min.)
 - F. Access to Justice Committee (*Written Report*)** **TAB 6**

G. ARPA Funding Committee <i>(Written Report)</i>	TAB 7
H. Grants Committee <i>(Written Report)</i>	TAB 8
6. Report from Judicial Council/AOC (Director Cynthia H. Clanton, Est. Time – 10 Min.)	TAB 9
7. Reports from Courts, Councils, & State Bar (Est. Time – 10 min.)	TAB 10
A. Supreme Court	
B. Court of Appeals	
C. State-wide Business Court	
D. Georgia Tax Court	
E. Council of Superior Court Judges	
F. Council of State Court Judges	
G. Council of Juvenile Court Judges	
H. Council of Probate Court Judges	
I. Council of Magistrate Court Judges	
J. Council of Municipal Court Judges	
K. State Bar of Georgia	
8. Reports from additional Judicial Branch Agencies (Est. Time – 5 Min.)	TAB 11
A. Council of Accountability Court Judges	
B. Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution	
C. Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism	
D. Georgia Council of Court Administrators	
E. Institute of Continuing Judicial Education	

F. Judicial Qualifications Commission

G. Georgia Association of Juvenile Court Clerks

H. Council of Superior Court Clerks

9. Old/New Business

(Presiding Justice Sarah Hawkins Warren, Est. Time – 3 Min.)

10. Concluding Remarks & Adjournment of Meeting

(Presiding Justice Sarah Hawkins Warren, Est. Time – 3 Min.)

Next Judicial Council Meeting – General Session

Friday, August 21, 2026 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Nathan Deal Judicial Center

CY 2026 & CY 2027 Meeting Calendar – Judicial Council General Session

Friday, December 11, 2026	10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Zoom Conferencing
Friday, April 23, 2027	10 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Nathan Deal Judicial Center
Friday, August 27, 2027	10 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Nathan Deal Judicial Center
Friday, December 10, 2027	10 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Zoom Conferencing

Judicial Council of Georgia

Members as of July 16, 2026



Chief Justice Nels S.D. Peterson Chair	Supreme Court
Presiding Justice Sarah Hawkins Warren Vice-Chair	Supreme Court
Chief Judge Trenton Brown III	Court of Appeals
Vice Chief Judge Elizabeth Gobeil	Court of Appeals
Judge William “Bill” Grady Hamrick III	Georgia State-Wide Business Court
Chief Judge Frank O’Connell	Georgia Tax Court
Judge Dustin Hightower President, CSCJ	Superior Court
Judge D. Jay Stewart President-Elect, CSCJ	Superior Court
Judge Matthew Hube 1st JAD	Superior Court
Chief Judge T. Craig Earnest 2nd JAD	Superior Court
Judge Maureen Gottfried 3rd JAD	Superior Court
Chief Judge Shondeana C. Morris 4th JAD	Superior Court
Chief Judge Ural D. Glanville 5th JAD	Superior Court
Chief Judge Travis Sakrison 6th JAD	Superior Court
Chief Judge John E. Niedrach 7th JAD	Superior Court
Chief Judge Christopher Hughes 8th JAD	Superior Court
Chief Judge Jason J. Deal 9th JAD	Superior Court

Judicial Council of Georgia

Members as of July 16, 2026



Chief Judge Sheryl B. Jolly 10th JAD	Superior Court
Judge Susan E. Edlein President, CStCJ	State Court
Judge Eric Richardson President-Elect, CStCJ	State Court
Judge McCracken Poston President, CJCJ	Juvenile Court
Chief Judge Alison Toller President-Elect, CJCJ	Juvenile Court
Judge Patty Walters Laine President, CPCJ	Probate Court
Judge Joshua L. Suggs President-Elect, CPCJ	Probate Court
Chief Judge B. Shawn Rhodes President, CMCJ	Magistrate Court
Chief Judge Scott Lewis President-Elect, CMCJ	Magistrate Court
Chief Judge Norman H. Cuadra President, CMuCJ	Municipal Court
Judge Pamela D. Boles President-Elect, CMuCJ	Municipal Court
Honorable William C. “Bill” Gentry President, State Bar of Georgia	State Bar of GA



Administrative Office of the Courts

244 Washington St. SW, Suite 300
Atlanta, GA 30334

Cynthia H. Clanton, Director
404-656-5171

As of July 14, 2026

Director's Office

Administration

Front Desk
404-656-5171

Alexis Bauman
404-463-3820

Budget

Andrew Zoll
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Governmental Affairs & Trial

Court Liaison

Tracy Mason
Deputy Director
404-831-8368

LaShawn Murphy
404-654-7807

Abigail Horvath
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Andres Bosque
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Mitchell Redd
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Tiffanie Bacon
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Bruce Shaw
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Administrative Office of the Courts

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As of July 14, 2026

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Celesta Murray
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Cassandra Niblack
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Miya Perrimon
404-989-8501

Andrew Theus
Tax Intercept/Facilities
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Cherecia Kline
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ARPA
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Carolyn Cain-Smith
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CTO/Division Director
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Kristy King
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Dafante Stapleton
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Sharmaine Small
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Chevaughn Facey
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Colton Trent
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Matthew Faler
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Audrianna Smith
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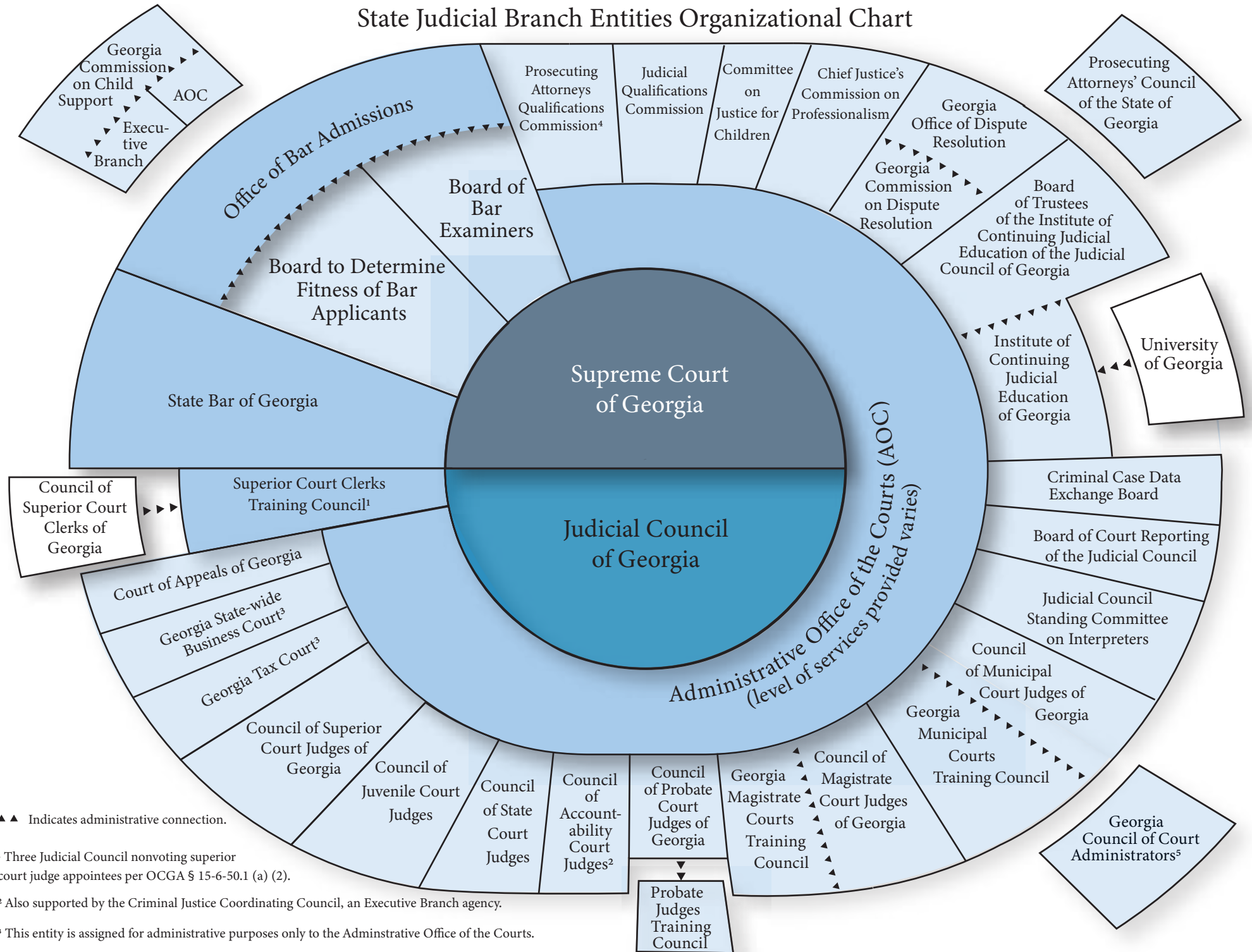
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All email addresses follow this format:
firstname.lastname@georgiacourts.gov

State Judicial Branch Entities Organizational Chart



▲ ▲ Indicates administrative connection.

¹ Three Judicial Council nonvoting superior court judge appointees per OCGA § 15-6-50.1 (a) (2).

² Also supported by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, an Executive Branch agency.

³ This entity is assigned for administrative purposes only to the Administrative Office of the Courts.

⁴ Transferred to the Judicial Council Budget, Section 6, effective 7/01/2025.

⁵ AOC serves as fiscal agent.

TAB 1

**Judicial Council of Georgia
General Session
Nathan Deal Judicial Center Atlanta, GA
Friday, April 17, 2026 • 10:00 a.m.**

Members Present

Chief Justice Nels S.D. Peterson, Chair
Presiding Justice Sarah Hawkins Warren,
Vice Chair
Chief Judge E. Trenton Brown III
Judge Scott Chastain
Chief Judge Robert A. Cowan
Chief Judge Norman C. Cuadra
Chief Judge Jason J. Deal
Chief Judge T. Craig Earnest
Judge Susan E. Edlein
Chief Judge Ural D. Glanville
Judge Maureen Gottfried
Chief Judge Nathan Grantham
Judge William Grady Hamrick
Chief Judge Michelle Harrison
Judge Dustin Hightower
Judge Matthew Hube
Chief Judge T. Christopher Hughes
Chief Judge Sheryl B. Jolly
Judge Patty Walters Laine
Judge Amanda H. Mercier (for Vice Chief
Judge Elizabeth Gobeil)
Chief Judge Shondeana C. Morris
Chief Judge Frank O'Connell
Chief Judge B. Shawn Rhodes
Chief Judge Gregory V. Sapp

Chief Judge D. Scott Smith (for Chief Judge
John E. Niedrach)
Chief Judge Allison Toller (for Judge
McCracken Poston, Jr.)
Chief Judge Thomas H. Wilson
Judge Paige Reese Whitaker

Members Absent Without Designees

Honorable Christopher Twyman

Staff Present

Ms. Cynthia H. Clanton, Director
Ms. Alexis Bauman
Ms. Antarica Boyce
Mr. Sean Golan
Ms. Stephanie Hines
Ms. Emma Hopkins
Ms. Abigail Horvath
Ms. Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez
Mr. Robby Lee
Mr. Ben Luke
Ms. Tracy Mason
Ms. LaShawn Murphy
Mr. Bruce Shaw
Mr. Andrew Zoll

Guests (Appended)

Call to Order and Swearing In of New Members

The meeting of the Judicial Council of Georgia (Council) was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chief Justice Peterson. He welcomed everyone and reminded attendees that the meeting would be recorded, livestreamed, and open to the press and public. Guests were asked to submit their attendance via e-mail for the purpose of the minutes. Chief Justice Peterson then recognized

designees attending for absent members¹ and special guests. Chief Justice Peterson administered the Council oath to Chief Judge O'Connell. Director Cynthia Clanton called roll for members and Chief Justice Peterson then asked Judge Chastain to lead The Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Chief Justice Peterson directed the Council's attention to the minutes of the February 17, 2026, General Session provided in the materials. He then asked if there were any amendments or opposition to the minutes as written; there were none. The minutes were approved as written.

Judicial Council Committee Reports

Access to Justice Committee. Justice Colvin referred members to the written report provided in the materials, including "The Guide for Judge Self-Help Toolkit." She reported that 64 of Georgia's 159 counties have fewer than 25 attorneys and seven counties currently have no attorneys.

Justice Colvin reported that the Landlord-Tenant Committee working group developed statewide landlord/tenant webinars and submitted proposed forms to the Council of Magistrate Court Judges for approval to assist self-represented litigants in accessing and understanding the eviction process from start to finish.

Justice Colvin further reported that the Appalachian Family Law Information Center and the Southwest Georgia Legal Self-Help Center partnered with the Carl Vinson Institute to conduct a study regarding the expansion of Self-Help Law Centers throughout the state. The study yielded insufficient data necessary to continue expansion efforts, however, valuable feedback was obtained to assist with future studies.

Justice Colvin concluded by discussing the use of Self-Help Law Centers and kiosks located in libraries and government agencies to assist self-represented litigants in legal deserts through the use of artificial intelligence and in-person assistance.

Legislation Committee. Chief Justice Peterson referred members to the written report provided in the materials and provided an update on the legislative session. He informed members that the 2026 Legislative Session adjourned Sine Die on April 2 and that all issues supported by the Judicial Council were passed by the legislature.

Chief Justice Peterson discussed HR 251 regarding non-partisan elections for probate judges; HB 530 concerning electronic filing in probate court; HB 304 regarding senior municipal

¹ See Members Present on page 1.

court judges; and legislation creating additional judgeships in the Middle, Gwinnett, Northeastern, Atlanta, and Clayton Judicial Circuits. He noted that the judgeships in the Atlanta and Clayton Judicial Circuits were made contingent upon appropriation but were not funded.

Chief Justice Peterson further reported that issues relating to post-conviction litigation reform will be studied by a legislative study committee during the upcoming year and concluded by asking the Council to continue to share information and legislative initiatives through the committee process so that the judicial branch remains coordinated.

Budget Committee. Justice Bethel referred members to the written report provided in the materials. He highlighted the enhancement funding received for the Georgia Case Management System, the Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution, and the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education. He referenced the interest in possible alternatives to the existing workload study process and expressed confidence in continued conversations and education around this issue. Justice Bethel concluded by highlighting that information regarding the white paper timeline for the next appropriations cycle will be distributed soon and directed members with questions regarding the budget to contact himself or Mr. Andrew Zoll.

Judicial Security Committee. Justice LaGrua referred members to the written report provided in the materials and highlighted that HB 1344, which includes amendments to the Council's judicial security statutes, is awaiting the Governor's signature. She summarized the amendments, relating to the restriction of judges' personally identifiable information (PII), and stressed that judges must actively engage in utilizing these processes. Justice LaGrua explained the filing requirements through the Secretary of State's Office and the Ethics Commission and advised that the AOC has made the required forms available. Further, Justice LaGrua repeated the need for judges to report any threats they may receive and announced the upcoming judicial security symposium scheduled for May 12.

ARPA Funding Committee. Judge Mercier referred members to the written report provided in the materials. Judge Mercier stated that current awards cover the period from January 1, 2026, through September 30, 2026, and that committee members will receive an e-mail in the coming week regarding a possible, final funding opportunity for current grantees. As of April 10, 2026, more than \$73 million in reimbursements for CY23 through CY25 had been issued and would be processed by July 1, 2026.

Judge Mercier concluded by reminding members that all ARPA funds must be expended and invoiced by September 30, 2026, invoices must be submitted no later than October 15, 2026, and expenditures incurred after September 30, 2026, will not be eligible for reimbursement.

Technology Committee. Judge Kelley referred members to the written report provided in the materials. He highlighted the newly created Artificial Intelligence Subcommittee which will be chaired by Judge Kevin Morris of the Alcovy Judicial Circuit. Judge Kelley concluded by discussing both the benefits and concerns associated with the use of artificial intelligence within the judiciary.

Georgia Case Management System Committee. Judge Leonard referred members to the written report provided in the materials. He highlighted that the project is currently in the pilot phase, during which selected courts are being onboarded to test the system.

Judicial Workload Assessment Committee. Judge Leonard reported that the annual caseload reporting process has concluded and is currently in the quality assurance phase. He advised members that judgeships will be addressed at the August Judicial Council meeting, in accordance with the Council's policy which is available online.

Chief Justice Peterson stated there have been some observations that the Council's process automatically creates new judgeships. He clarified that the Judicial Council administers a data driven process that allows informed decision-making regarding judicial resources; the creation of new judgeships is exclusively up to the General Assembly and the Governor. The Council has an obligation to communicate when there are circuits without enough resources, and this is critical to the administration of justice. The process is complicated but based on data and the Council will continue to use the current process. Finally, the Chief Justice reminded the Council that any data-based process is only as good as the data that is available, and the GA CMS is going to help in that regard.

Judicial Emergency Order Task Force. Chief Justice Peterson referred members to the order provided in the materials. He informed members that courts across Georgia have historically implemented judicial emergencies differently and that the purpose of the Task Force is to establish a uniform emergency plan capable of seamless implementation during future judicial emergencies. Chief Justice Peterson concluded by informing members that Judge Wade Padgett will serve as Chair, along with five Chief Judges from Superior Courts throughout the state.

Committee on Court Interpreters. Chief Justice Peterson referred members to the written report provided in the materials.

Report from the Judicial Council/AOC

Director Clanton delivered a report on behalf of the AOC. She opened by recognizing the first anniversary of Chief Justice Peterson and Presiding Justice Warren serving in their respective leadership roles and welcomed Chief Judge Frank O'Connell in his new role as Chief Court Judge of the Georgia Tax Court. Ms. Clanton then recognized recipients of the Justice Benham Community Service Awards and acknowledged the recent fire at the Historic Floyd County Courthouse in Rome, Georgia, expressing continued support for the affected judicial circuit and community.

Director Clanton reported on the work of the Standing Committee on Court Interpreters and the inaugural meeting of the Artificial Intelligence Subcommittee of the Standing Committee on Technology, co-chaired by Judge Kevin Morris and Judge Stephen Kelley. She also discussed the conclusion of the 2026 Legislative Session and congratulated legislative and judicial partners on successful legislative and budgetary efforts.

Director Clanton highlighted the AOC's Communications Team's statewide social media initiative commemorating America's 250th anniversary through courthouse flag photographs from judicial circuits throughout the state and recognized judges who recently spoke at the AOC's all-staff meeting.

Director Clanton further highlighted the continued success of the "Robes Reading Across Georgia" initiative led by Douglas County Superior Court Judge Cynthia Adams, noting statewide participation by judges reading to students across Georgia schools. She also recognized AOC Research Analyst Kate Heidenreich for earning a bronze award at the Data Analytics Olympics hosted by the Carl Vinson Institute of Georgia for her submission about the Judicial Council/AOC Annual Case Count Project dashboard.

Director Clanton reported on legislative outreach events hosted by the Council of Superior Court Judges and the Council of Municipal Court Judges at the State Capitol and recognized Coweta County Probate Court Judge Carrie Markham for assuming leadership as Chair of the Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution. Director Clanton closed her remarks by reiterating the AOC's role as a service agency to the judiciary.

Reports from Courts, Councils, & State Bar

Supreme Court. Chief Justice Peterson referred members to the written report in the materials.

Court of Appeals. Chief Judge Brown referred members to the written report provided in the materials.

State-wide Business Court. Judge Hamrick referred members to the written report provided in the materials.

Georgia Tax Court. Chief Judge O’Connell gave a status update and announced that the Georgia Tax Court will open July 1.

Council of Superior Court Judges. Judge Hightower referred members to the written report provided in the materials.

Council of State Court Judges. Chief Judge Sapp referred members to the written report provided in the materials.

Council of Juvenile Court Judges. Chief Judge Harrison referred members to the report provided in the materials.

Council of Probate Court Judges. Judge Chastain referred members to the report provided in the materials.

Council of Magistrate Court Judges. Chief Judge Grantham referred members to the written report provided in the materials.

Council of Municipal Court Judges. Chief Judge Cowan referred members to the written report provided in the materials.

State Bar of Georgia. A written report provided in the materials.

Reports from Other Judicial Branch Agencies

Council of Accountability Court Judges. Judge Thomas Cole referred members to the written report provided in the materials.

Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution. Judge Carrie Markham referred members to the written report provided in the materials.

Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism. Ms. Karlise Grier referred members to the written report provided in the materials.

Georgia Council of Court Administrators. Mr. Timothy Ezell referred members to the written report provided in the materials.

Institute of Continuing Judicial Education. Ms. Lynne Moore Nelson referred members

to the written report provided in the materials.

Judicial Qualifications Commission. No report was provided.

Georgia Association of Juvenile Court Clerks. Ms. Renee Orr referred members to the written report provided in the materials.

Old Business

No old business was offered.

New Business

No new business was offered.

Adjournment

Chief Justice Peterson thanked everyone for their attendance and for their contribution to the Council and the judicial system. He then recognized the following outgoing members: Chief Judge Wilson, Judge Hightower, Chief Judge Sapp, Chief Judge Harrison, Judge Chastain, Chief Judge Grantham, Chief Judge Cowan, and State Bar President Mr. Twyman. He reviewed the CY 2026 and CY 2027 meeting schedule as printed in the materials and reminded members that the next General Session meeting will be held on Friday, August 21, 2026, at the Nathan Deal Judicial Center. Chief Justice Peterson concluded by informing members that the Supreme Court voted on April 16 to amend the bylaws, reducing the General Session calendar to three annual meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracy Mason and Alexis Bauman
Director's Division, Judicial Council/AOC
For Cynthia H. Clanton, Director and Secretary

The above and foregoing minutes
were approved on the _____ day of
_____, 2026.

Nels S.D. Peterson
Chief Justice

Judicial Council of Georgia
General Session
Nathan Deal Judicial Center Atlanta, GA
Friday, April 17, 2026 • 10:00 a.m.

Guests Present

Ms. Lynn Ansley, Seventh Judicial Administrative District
Mr. Joseph Baden, Third Judicial Administrative District
Justice Charles J. Bethel, Georgia Supreme Court
Mr. Tracy J. BeMent, Tenth Judicial District Court Administrator
Judge Pamela D. Boles, Municipal Court of Cumming
Mr. Bob Bray, Council of State Court Judges
Ms. Lisa Caldwell, Judicial Assistant, Judge Thomas A. Wilson
Judge Thomas L. Cole, Juvenile Court, Eastern Judicial Circuit
Justice Verda Colvin, Georgia Supreme Court
Mr. Timothy Ezell, Georgia Council of Court Administrators
Ms. Karlise Y. Grier, Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism
Mr. Kevin Holder, Council of Probate Court Judges
Mr. Eric John, Council of Juvenile Court Judges
Ms. Tracy Johnson, Georgia Office on Dispute Resolution
Judge Stephen Kelley, Brunswick Judicial Circuit
Justice Shawn Ellen LaGrua, Georgia Supreme Court
Judge Robert D. Leonard, Cobb Judicial Circuit
Ms. Alison Lerner, Council of Accountability Court Judges
Mr. Mark Lukasik
Ms. Tara Lukasik
Judge Carrie Markham, Probate Court of Coweta County
Ms. Grace McGowan, Ninth Judicial Administrative District
Mr. David Mixon, Second Judicial Administrative District
Ms. Lynne Moore Nelson, Institute of Continuing Judicial Education
Ms. Sheila O'Connell
Ms. Renee Orr, Georgia Association of Juvenile Court Clerks
Ms. Sharon Reiss, Council of Magistrate Court Judges
Ms. Renee Orr, Council of Juvenile Court Clerks
Ms. Karlie Sahs, Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution
Ms. Christina Smith, Georgia Court of Appeals
Mr. David Summerlin, Fifth Judicial Administrative District
Ms. Kirsten Wallace, Council of Juvenile Court Judges
Mr. Shannon Weathers, Council of Superior Court Judges
Mr. Randall Weiland, First Judicial Administrative District
Ms. Emily Youngo, Georgia State-wide Business Court

TAB 2



Judicial Council of Georgia

Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Nels S.D. Peterson
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Director

Date: August 10, 2026

To: Judicial Council Members

From: Standing Committee on Budget
Justice Charlie Bethel, Chair

RE: Judicial Council Budget and Financial Report

This report will provide an update on the Judicial Council's Fiscal Year 2026 budget and the Amended Fiscal Year 2027 and Fiscal Year 2028 enhancement requests.

Fiscal Year 2026

The Fiscal Year 2026 Budget closed on July 17, 2026. The Judicial Council Fiscal Year 2026 Financial Report is attached.

Amended Fiscal Year 2027 and Fiscal Year 2028 Judicial Council Enhancement Requests

The Judicial Council Standing Committee on Budget met on August 10, 2026, to consider Amended Fiscal Year 2027 and Fiscal Year 2028 enhancement requests. The White Paper for each enhancement request is attached.

Amended Fiscal Year 2027 (AFY27) Enhancement Requests:

- The Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution has submitted an enhancement request of \$39,000 to fully fund the Schedule ADR case management system while exploring integration with the Gavel system in FY2028
- The Administrative Office of the Courts has requested utilizing \$194,183 in existing funds from the Court Process Reporting System and increasing funds for personnel by \$103,975 to fully fund staffing of the Gavel project. This would represent a \$90,208 reduction in the Amended Budget.
- The Council of Municipal Court Judges has requested \$3,000 for operations for strategic initiatives related to increasing ability for members to travel and meet throughout the state.

- The Georgia Resource Center has submitted an enhancement request of \$31,250 to help offset reductions in other funding sources and to maintain current staffing levels.

If the four enhancement requests totaling (\$16,958) are approved, the Judicial Council budget will decrease from \$28,918,289 to \$28,901,331. This would represent a 0.06% reduction to the Judicial Council's budget.

Fiscal Year 2028 (FY28) Enhancement Requests:

- The Administrative Office of the Courts has requested utilizing \$194,183 in existing funds from the Court Process Reporting System and increasing funds for personnel by \$599,050 to fully fund the staffing of the Gavel project. This would represent a \$404,867 increase in the FY28 budget.
- The Criminal Data Exchange Board has submitted a request for \$147,782 to fund a program coordinator position to provide a full-time staff position to carry out and organize the work of the Board.
- The Judicial Council/AOC has requested \$250,000 for a pilot project to provide jail-based pre-trial psychological evaluations to help alleviate backlogs.
- The Council of Municipal Court Judges has requested \$19,000 for operations for strategic initiatives related to increasing ability for members to travel and meet throughout the state.
- The Georgia Resource Center has submitted an enhancement request of \$125,000 to help offset reductions in other funding sources and to maintain current staffing levels.

If the five enhancement requests totaling \$946,649 are approved, the Judicial Council budget will increase from \$28,918,289 to \$29,864,938. This would represent a 3.37% increase to the Judicial Council's budget.

Attachments:

FY2026 Judicial Council Budget and Financial Report

White Papers for AFY27:

ODR – Schedule ADR

White Papers for AFY27 and FY28:

JC/AOC – Gavel

CMuJ – Increase funds for operations

Georgia Resource Center

White Papers for FY28:

Criminal Data Exchange Board

JC/AOC – Pre-trial Assessment Pilot Project

AFY27 and FY28 Budget Comparison Report

Fiscal Year 2026 - Judicial Council Operations
July 17, 2026

Department	FY 2026 Budget	YTD Expenditures	Remaining	Budget Spent
Administrative Office of The Courts	\$ 10,863,335	\$ 10,260,166	\$ 603,169	94%
Legal Services for Domestic Violence	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,000,000	\$ -	100%
Georgia Council of Court Administrators	\$ 16,389	\$ 16,389	\$ -	100%
Council of Municipal Court Judges	\$ 32,870	\$ 23,319	\$ 9,551	71%
Child Support Collaborative	\$ 139,554	\$ 112,445	\$ 27,109	81%
Council of Magistrate Court Judges	\$ 231,572	\$ 229,114	\$ 2,458	99%
Council of Probate Court Judges	\$ 215,464	\$ 215,397	\$ 67	100%
Council of State Court Judges	\$ 481,296	\$ 481,296	\$ 0	100%
Council of State Court Judges Ret.	\$ 2,396,141	\$ 2,389,011	\$ 7,130	100%
Legal Services for Kinship Care Families	\$ 750,000	\$ 750,000	\$ -	100%
Legal Svc for MLP	\$ 409,500	\$ 319,973	\$ 89,527	78%
Other Judicial Council Subprograms	\$ 7,672,786	\$ 7,536,943	\$ 135,843	98%
Accountability Court Council	\$ 1,196,574	\$ 960,358	\$ 236,216	80%
CACJ-Peer Review Process	\$ 74,374	\$ 50,229	\$ 24,145	68%
GA Office of Dispute Resolution	\$ 2,840	\$ 2,840	\$ -	100%
Inst of Continuing Jud Ed Administration	\$ 861,820	\$ 858,296	\$ 3,524	100%
Judicial Qualifications Commission	\$ 1,603,033	\$ 1,549,110	\$ 53,923	97%
State-wide Business Court	\$ 2,005,712	\$ 1,955,603	\$ 50,109	98%
Resource Center	\$ 900,000	\$ 900,000	\$ -	100%
PAQC	\$ 1,128,525	\$ 888,786	\$ 239,739	79%
Georgia Tax Court	\$ 273,560	\$ 257,214	\$ 16,347	94%
Separate Judicial Council Programs	\$ 8,046,438	\$ 7,422,435	\$ 624,003	92%
TOTAL JUDICIAL COUNCIL	\$ 26,582,559	\$ 25,219,543	\$ 1,363,016	95%



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2027 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2028 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

REQUEST SUMMARY:

For use as talking points during conversations with funding and policy-making bodies to include the Judicial Council, General Assembly, and Office of the Governor.

1. Which Program is requesting this Enhancement?

Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution

2. Enhancement Name/Descriptor: ScheduleADR, Georgia's Statewide Court ADR Case Management System

FISCAL YEAR	Current state funds received	Amount Requesting	If granted, a new state funding level
☒ Amended FY 2027	\$ 39,000	\$ 39,000	\$ 78,000
☐ FY 2028	\$	\$	\$

3. What will the enhancement accomplish?

This amended FY27 request seeks \$39,000 to fully fund the FY27 annual maintenance need for ScheduleADR by covering the balance remaining after the \$39,000 in state appropriations received for FY27. The total annual maintenance cost for 26 participating programs is \$78,000; therefore, an additional \$39,000 is needed to prevent a disruption in Georgia's statewide court-connected alternative dispute resolution case management infrastructure through June 30, 2027.

ScheduleADR is a purpose-built, cloud-based case management system provided at no cost to approved court ADR programs. It assists programs with daily case management, intake and referral tracking, scheduling, notices and email generation, calendar reminders, reporting, and collection of the data elements required by the Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution (GCDR).

ScheduleADR is currently used by 26 court-connected ADR programs serving 91 Georgia counties. GODR anticipates adding another program in the near future, which would increase statewide coverage to approximately 27 programs and 96 counties. This request preserves that infrastructure while GODR continues discussions about potential future integration with the statewide case management system currently being implemented by the Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts.

Although integration with or inclusion in the statewide case management system may ultimately be possible, GODR does not yet have a confirmed implementation timeline. The ADR system will not be part of the statewide system by January 1, 2027, and GODR expects to have an updated timeline by the end of this calendar year.



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4. What is unable to be accomplished without the enhancement?

Without this amended funding, GODR will not have sufficient funds to maintain ScheduleADR through the end of FY27. The partial FY27 funding received last year represented one-half of the annual maintenance request. Absent this additional support, continued maintenance would either fall back on GODR's limited fee-based resources or shift to local court ADR programs, many of which do not have the budget capacity to absorb software maintenance costs.

The consequences of failing to secure this funding may include interruption or discontinuation of ScheduleADR for court programs, fragmented local data practices, reduced compliance with GCDR data collection requirements, increased administrative burden on local courts, and diminished ability to measure the impact of ADR statewide.

Most importantly, the current statewide CMS implementation does not provide an immediate alternative. Even if long-term integration is possible, the transition will not occur by January 1, 2027. This request is therefore necessary to bridge the remaining FY27 period and maintain continuity until a statewide solution is available.

5. Does the enhancement include salaried staff and/or operations, which includes contractors?

☐ Salaried staff

☒ Operating Funds (includes contractors)



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA

FY 2027 AMENDED REQUEST FORM

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Budget Categories	FY 27 Amended Request	FY 28 Enhancement Request
Personnel Services:	\$ -	\$ -
Operating Costs:		
Regular Operating Expenses	\$ -	\$ -
Motor Vehicle Purchases	\$ -	\$ -
Equipment	\$ -	\$ -
IT Expenditures	\$ 39,000	\$ -
Rent	\$ -	\$ -
Voice/Data Communications	\$ -	\$ -
Contracts	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ -	\$ -
Other	\$ -	\$ -
Total Operating Budget	\$ 39,000	\$ -
TOTAL OVERALL BUDGET	\$ 39,000	\$ -
State Funds	\$ 39,000	\$ -
Other Budgeted Funds	\$ -	\$ -
Total Budget	\$ 78,000	\$ -

Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution

Part 1 – Detailed Explanation of Request

- Proposal:** Requesting \$39,000 in amended FY27 IT expenditures to fund the remaining balance of the FY27 annual maintenance and support cost for ScheduleADR. The total FY27 annual cost for 26 participating programs is \$78,000. GODR received \$39,000 in state appropriations, leaving a remaining need of \$39,000 to keep ScheduleADR operational through June 30, 2027.
- Geographic Impact: Where does the request impact the state?**
 - ☒ **Statewide:** ScheduleADR is currently used by 26 approved court ADR programs serving 91 of Georgia's 159 counties, with anticipated expansion to 27 programs and 96 counties. See Attachment A for the program coverage list.



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3. Current Status:

a. What is the budget unit currently doing to address this issue?

GODR currently provides ScheduleADR to approved court ADR programs at no cost to the programs. The system is maintained through a combination of state support and GODR's limited reserve funding. In FY27, GODR received \$39,000, representing one-half of the prior annual maintenance request. The amended FY27 request is necessary to fund the remaining balance of the FY27 annual maintenance cost and ensure continued service through June 30, 2027.

GODR is actively evaluating ways to decrease operating expenditures and reduce pressure on registered neutral fees. Even with these ongoing cost-containment efforts, the amended request remains necessary because GODR continues to rely on dwindling reserve funds to maintain this statewide case management software.

GODR has also continued discussions with the JC/AOC IT Department on whether ScheduleADR can be integrated into, or become part of, the statewide case management system currently being implemented. GODR expects a more updated timeline by the end of the calendar year. However, ScheduleADR will not be included in that statewide system by January 1, 2027.

b. Will those activities continue if this request is funded?

Yes. If funded, GODR will continue providing ScheduleADR to approved court ADR programs without shifting the maintenance burden to local courts or registered neutrals. GODR will also continue working with statewide CMS stakeholders to evaluate long-term integration options and will continue pursuing cost-containment measures that reduce pressure on registration fees.

4. Supporting Data:

a. Provide any supporting data, evaluations, and/or research for this request.

- Current ScheduleADR use: 26 approved court ADR programs serving 91 counties statewide.
- Pending expansion: one anticipated additional program would increase coverage to approximately 27 programs and 96 counties.
- Statewide reach: current coverage represents approximately 57% of Georgia's 159 counties; anticipated coverage would increase to approximately 60%.
- Maintenance cost methodology: \$250 per month per participating court ADR program.
- Amended FY27 need: $\$250 \text{ per month} \times 26 \text{ programs} \times 12 \text{ months} = \$78,000$ annually. After subtracting the \$39,000 granted in state appropriations, the remaining FY27 balance is \$39,000.



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- Annualized planning need: \$78,000 for the current number of participating programs.
 - ScheduleADR functionality: cloud-based access, case management, scheduling, calendar reminders, notices and email generation, reports, outcome tracking, and collection of GCDR-required data.
 - Detailed program coverage is included as Attachment A.
- b. Include information on similar successful programs or evaluations in other jurisdictions that are relevant to this request.**
- Comparable state-supported ADR infrastructure in other states demonstrates the value of centralized support for court-connected dispute resolution. ScheduleADR provides Georgia with a consistent, court-focused system that avoids fragmented local solutions and supports statewide reporting, compliance, and program evaluation.

5. Performance Measures:

- a. What measures are or will be used to evaluate the impact of this change?**
- The primary performance measure for this request is continuity of service. GODR will evaluate the impact of this funding by confirming that ScheduleADR remains operational through June 30, 2027, that participating court ADR programs retain access to the system, and that GODR and GCDR continue receiving the case data necessary for statewide reporting, compliance monitoring, and program evaluation.
- b. If an enhancement, what is the projected cost savings or return on investment?**
- The return on investment is realized through avoided local software costs, reduced duplication of staff effort, more consistent data collection, and preservation of a statewide system that supports efficient scheduling, outcome tracking, and reporting. Continued use of ScheduleADR also supports broader ADR efficiencies by helping courts improve case management, reduce administrative work, support timely referrals, and maintain consistent statewide reporting.
- c. What efficiencies will be realized?**
- Operational efficiencies: ScheduleADR reduces manual tracking by supporting case intake, referrals, scheduling, notices, ADR sessions, and outcome reporting in one platform.
- Data and compliance efficiencies: The system captures GCDR-required data elements and supports consistent statewide reporting without requiring each local program to maintain separate spreadsheets or databases.
- Financial efficiencies: Centralized support avoids redundant local procurement, licensing, and maintenance costs for individual court ADR programs.
- Judicial system efficiencies: Reliable ADR case management supports timely referrals, better use of program staff time, improved communication among courts,



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neutrals, and parties, and stronger data for measuring ADR's impact on court workload.

6. Stakeholders & Constituents:

- a. **Describe the constituent and stakeholder groups affected by this change (e.g., board members, advocates/interest groups, service providers, other agencies, other governmental entities).**

Affected stakeholders include the 26 court-connected ADR programs currently using ScheduleADR, local courts and court staff, judges, ADR program directors and coordinators, registered neutrals, litigants participating in court-connected ADR, the Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution, and the Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts.

- b. **Have any groups voiced support or opposition?**

No known opposition. The principal question raised during the prior budget cycle concerned whether ScheduleADR could be integrated into, or included within, the statewide case management system. GODR has begun those discussions, and integration may ultimately be possible, but no confirmed timeline is currently available, and implementation will not occur by January 1, 2027.

7. Legislation or Rule Change:

- a. **Is legislation or a rule change required if this request is implemented? If so, please explain.**

No. This request does not require legislation or a rule change.

- b. **Is this request a result of legislation or rule change? If so, please explain.**

No. This request is not the result of legislation or a rule change.

8. Alternatives:

What alternatives were considered and why are they not viable?

GODR considered whether the statewide case management system could serve as a replacement or integration point for ScheduleADR. While that may ultimately be possible, the statewide CMS will not include ScheduleADR functionality by January 1, 2027, and no confirmed implementation timeline is currently available.

GODR also considered shifting maintenance costs to local court ADR programs. That is not viable because many programs, particularly smaller and rural programs, do not have the budget capacity to assume ongoing software maintenance costs. Doing so would create inequity among court programs and could reduce access to consistent case management and statewide reporting.

Increasing neutral registration fees is also not a viable or equitable alternative. Neutrals have already absorbed substantial fee increases over time, and many serve court programs at reduced rates or as volunteers. While GODR continues to pursue responsible cost-containment measures, recurring statewide case management infrastructure cannot be sustained through additional pressure on registered neutrals. ScheduleADR primarily supports court program



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operations, compliance, and statewide data collection, rather than serving as a direct benefit to registered neutrals.

Discontinuing ScheduleADR would undermine more than a decade of progress toward statewide ADR data consistency, operational efficiency, and equitable access to court-connected dispute resolution services.

Part 2 - BUDGET

9. Requested and Projected Resources:

- a. **For enhancements and certain base adjustments, describe the additional resources you are requesting. **Ensure descriptions and amounts align with the budget chart on page 2.***

This request is for IT expenditures only and does not include new positions, salary, or personnel services. The requested \$39,000 will fund the remaining balance of the FY27 annual maintenance and support cost for ScheduleADR.

- **Number of Positions and Salary Information:** \$0; no new positions are requested.
- **Operational needs:** \$39,000 in IT expenditures for the remaining balance of FY27 ScheduleADR software maintenance and support.

- b. **What are your out-year projections (budget impact on future years)?**

The annualized maintenance need is expected to be \$78,000 for 26 participating programs, with nominal changes based on the number of approved court ADR programs using the system. Future funding needs may be adjusted depending on the statewide CMS integration timeline.

10. Methodology/Assumptions:

- a. **Provide the methodology and assumptions behind the requested amount and out-year projections.**

The request is based on the current ScheduleADR maintenance rate of \$250 per month per participating court ADR program. The FY27 annual maintenance cost for 26 programs is \$78,000. GODR received \$39,000 in state appropriations, leaving a remaining FY27 balance of \$39,000.

- b. **How did you arrive at the amounts?**

Current FY27 calculation: \$250 per month × 26 programs × 12 months = \$78,000. Deducting the \$39,000 already received in state appropriations leaves a remaining FY27 balance of \$39,000.

- c. **What time period does the request cover (i.e., the number of months)?**

This amended request supports continued service for the remaining six months of FY27, January 1, 2027, through June 30, 2027. The requested amount represents



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the remaining FY27 annual funding balance after accounting for the \$39,000 already received in state appropriations.

11. Federal and Other Funds: Describe the impact on federal and/or other funds related to this request (amount, policy, etc.).

No impact on federal funds has been identified. Without state support, the remaining alternatives would be GODR's limited fee-based resources, dwindling reserve funds, or shifting costs to local court ADR programs, none of which is sustainable or equitable.

Part 3 - OTHER INFORMATION

12. Discuss any historical or other relevant factors that should be considered.

Following the elimination of state funding in 2011, GODR transitioned to a largely fee-based operating model. That model allowed GODR to continue supporting court-connected ADR, but it is not sufficient to sustain statewide infrastructure indefinitely, particularly as program use and data needs continue to grow.

The reserve funds now supporting ScheduleADR were amassed more than 10 years ago. Over the past decade, the Commission has used those funds strategically to support projects that benefit court ADR programs and registered neutrals. Continued reliance on those reserves for recurring software maintenance is not sustainable and would further limit GODR's ability to support future program needs.

ScheduleADR was developed specifically for court-connected ADR programs and remains a superior, purpose-built product for this operational environment. It gives local programs access to cloud-based case management tools that many would not otherwise be able to procure or maintain independently. It also gives GCDR the data infrastructure needed to evaluate program performance, compliance, and statewide ADR impact.

During the prior budget cycle, GODR requested \$78,000 based on 26 participating programs and received \$39,000, or one-half of that request. With the merger of the Ogeechee Judicial Circuit ADR Program into the Atlantic Judicial Circuit ADR Program, the current FY27 annual maintenance need remains \$78,000 for 26 participating programs. This amended request does not duplicate the funds already received; it provides the remaining \$39,000 needed to keep ScheduleADR operational through June 30, 2027.

The prior question regarding the statewide case management system is being addressed. GODR has had initial conversations and will continue participating in those discussions. However, because inclusion in the statewide CMS will not occur by January 1, 2027, this request is necessary to avoid an operational gap while the long-term solution is evaluated.



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Attachment A – ScheduleADR Program Coverage (June 2026)

Current ScheduleADR coverage includes 26 court-connected ADR programs serving 91 counties. The Ogeechee Judicial Circuit ADR Program is merging into the Atlantic Judicial Circuit ADR Program and is therefore counted as part of the Atlantic program for purposes of this request. GODR anticipates adding another program in the near term, which would increase coverage to approximately 96 counties.

#	Program	Counties Served
1	6th Judicial Administrative District ADR Program	8
2	7th Judicial Administrative District ADR Program	11
3	8th Judicial Administrative District ADR Program	4
4	9th Judicial Administrative District ADR Program	13
5	Alapaha Judicial Circuit ADR Program	5
6	Athens-Clarke County ADR Program	1
7	Atlantic Judicial Circuit ADR Program	10
8	Augusta Judicial Circuit ADR Program	2
9	Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit ADR Program	1
10	Brunswick Judicial Circuit ADR Program	5
11	Clayton County ADR Program	1
12	Cobb County Juvenile Court ADR Program	n/a
13	Cobb Judicial Circuit ADR Program	1
14	Columbia Judicial Circuit ADR Program	1
15	Conasauga Judicial Circuit ADR Program	2
16	Coweta Judicial Circuit ADR Program	3
17	Dekalb County ADR Program	1
18	Dougherty Judicial Circuit ADR Program	1
19	Dublin Judicial Circuit ADR Program	4
20	Eastern Judicial Circuit ADR Program	1
21	Fulton County ADR Program	1
22	Gwinnett Judicial Circuit ADR Program	1
23	Piedmont Judicial Circuit ADR Program	3
24	Southern Judicial Circuit ADR Program	5
25	Tift Judicial Circuit ADR Program	4
26	West Georgia Judicial Circuit ADR Program	2
Total current counties served		91
Anticipated counties served after pending expansion		96



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REQUEST SUMMARY:

For use as talking points during conversations with funding and policy-making bodies to include the Judicial Council, General Assembly, and Office of the Governor.

1. Which Program is requesting this Enhancement?

Judicial Council - Administrative Office of the Courts

2. Enhancement Name/Descriptor: Utilize existing funds from the Court Process Reporting System (CPRS) and annualize funds for the continuity of the Gavel statewide case management system project.

FISCAL YEAR	Current state funds received	Amount Requesting	If granted, a new state funding level
☒ Amended FY 2027	\$391,100	(\$ 90,208)	\$495,075
☒ FY 2028	\$391,100	\$404,867	\$990,150

3. What will the enhancement accomplish?

This request would allow the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to utilize savings from bringing the staffing of a legacy technology project (CPRS) in-house and direct those funds to the annualization of staff for the Gavel statewide case management system project.

The AOC is also reducing the staffing in the request from the eight positions requested in the FY 2027 budget to seven positions after an evaluation of staffing needs.

This utilization of internal savings would allow the AOC to return \$90,208 to the State in the Amended FY27 General Budget while fully funding the staffing needs of the Gavel team. In addition with the request for seven positions instead of eight and the utilization of internal savings would reduce the need for annualization in FY28 from \$554,800 to \$404,867.

These seven critical positions provide the foundation for a sustainable, secure, and scalable statewide Court Case Management System (CMS). Each role directly supports the development, deployment, and long-term viability of the CMS and enables the JC/AOC to meet its obligations under recent legislation and strategic initiatives.



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4. What is unable to be accomplished without the enhancement?

Gavel is a transformational project that aims to unify more than 1,000 courts across Georgia on a single, modern platform. The project has made strong progress to date, but its continued success depends on retaining the personnel who have supported it through development and early deployment. These positions are currently funded by time-limited federal grants.

5. Does the enhancement include salaried staff and/or operations, which includes contractors?

- ☒ Salaried staff
- ☐ Operating Funds (includes contractors)



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Budget Categories	FY 27 Amended Request	FY 28 Enhancement Request
Personnel Services:	\$ 103,975	\$ 599,050
Operating Costs:		
Regular Operating Expenses	\$ -	\$ -
Motor Vehicle Purchases	\$ -	\$ -
Equipment	\$ -	\$ -
IT Expenditures	\$ -194,183	\$ -194,183
Rent	\$ -	\$ -
Voice/Data Communications	\$ -	\$ -
Contracts	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ -	\$ -
Other	\$ -	\$ -
Total Operating Budget	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL OVERALL BUDGET	\$ -90,208	\$ 404,867
State Funds	\$ -90,208	\$ -
Other Budgeted Funds	\$ -	\$ -
Total Budget	\$ -90,208	\$ 404,867

Part 1 – Detailed Explanation of Request

1. Proposal:

The AOC IT team has completed a multi-year goal of bringing a legacy technology platform, Court Reporting Process System (CPRS), in-house. In use since 2002, CPRS is a secure web-based platform that connects juvenile courts, the Division of Family and Children Services, the Department of Education, and a range of related stakeholders. The system provides child-specific case plan information to juvenile court stakeholders, and provides administrative tools to help users monitor cases, track permanency progress, and manage information.

The project, which was funded by the legislature, was previously operated through a contract with a third-party provider. Through extensive evaluation, the team brought that platform in-house at minimal cost to the Agency. This transformation was completed without disruption to the system users.



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By utilizing these savings it will allow the AOC IT Team to reduce the cost needed to annualize the funding needed to support the Gavel project as it enters a critical phase of its development and rollout.

In addition to utilizing internal savings the AOC has evaluated its staffing model and reduced its request from eight positions to seven. The positions being requested are:

- 2 Systems Administrators (\$95,000 per position) These staff maintain and monitor the infrastructure that supports Gavel across all environments. They ensure the system runs reliably, securely, and efficiently, and they provide direct support to counties as they onboard and operate the platform.
- 1 Information Security Analyst (\$75,000) This position protects the system and ensures compliance with cybersecurity and criminal justice information standards. Responsibilities include managing access controls, conducting risk assessments, and helping maintain the overall security and integrity of the platform.
- 2 Systems Analysts / Product Owners (\$80,000 per position) These team members work directly with judges, clerks, and other court professionals to gather requirements, translate operational needs into system functionality, and manage product development priorities. Their work ensures the system reflects how courts operate across the state.
- 1 Application Developer (\$85,000) This staff member supports configuration, technical enhancements, and integration with external partners. The role is vital to adapting the platform to statewide requirements and supporting data exchange between justice agencies.
- 1 Program Manager (\$115,000) The program manager coordinates the day-to-day operations of the project. This includes managing timelines and deliverables, facilitating communication between stakeholders, and ensuring project alignment with strategic goals and legislative expectations.

The Gavel

team completed the Build phase of development at the end of CY2025. In that stage, the systems core services, features, and functionalities were developed using Agile engineering methodologies. In this final Enhance phase of development, efforts are now focused on the continuation of onboarding new courts and adding system enhancements. The development team is refining and tailoring according to evolving needs and stakeholder feedback.

There are 30 courts planning to go live during Summer 2026 with the goal of over 200 by the end of the year. The team continues to build interest and momentum to bring additional courts on board beyond the courts included in this initial phase of the project.

2. Geographic Impact: Where does the request impact the state?

☒ Statewide or list counties below:



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3. Current Status:

- a. What is the budget unit currently doing to address this issue?
- b. Will those activities continue if this request is funded?

4. Supporting Data:

- a. Provide any supporting data, evaluations, and/or research for this request.
- b. Include information on similar successful programs or evaluations in other jurisdictions that are relevant to this request.

5. Performance Measures:

- a. What measures are or will be used to evaluate the impact of this change?
 - Court Participation and Onboarding Progress
 - System Utilization and Case Volume
 - Data Transmission and Integration Performance
 - Improved Data Availability for Policymakers
 - Data Completeness and Quality

- b. If an enhancement, what is the projected cost savings or return on investment?

Gavel will deliver reduced filing fees for stakeholders, will reduce costs for counties in annual licensing fees, and will allow the AOC to continue to identify legacy systems that are either no longer necessary due to or can be absorbed by Gavel. CPRS is a good example; now that it has been brought in-house it may end up being integrated with Gavel long term. That example is just the start of that assessment and process.

- c. What efficiencies will be realized?

Gavel will modernize court operations by consolidating fragmented tools and manual processes into a single, statewide platform. This transformation will produce measurable efficiencies across court functions, improve service to the public, and enhance Georgia's judicial infrastructure.

6. Stakeholders & Constituents:

- a. Describe the constituent and stakeholder groups affected by this change (e.g., board members, advocates/interest groups, service providers, other agencies, other governmental entities).



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The project will touch all court staff in courts that adopt the system, as well as practitioners, State Agencies who interface or interact with judicial data, policy makers, the public, and more.

- b. Have any groups voiced support or opposition?

Of the stakeholder groups listed above, all have been supportive of the Gavel project and are actively engaged in its planning and development, with the notable exception of Superior Court Clerks. Outreach efforts have been made to this group.

7. Legislation or Rule Change:

- a. Is legislation or a rule change required if this request is implemented? If so, please explain.

Gavel is designed to support all courts and justice partners across Georgia. Its benefits, such as accurate statewide reporting, consistent public access, and timely data sharing with agencies like GCIC and DDS, are most fully realized when adoption is broad and uniform. Statewide adoption would maximize the return on the state's investment and create a more transparent, efficient, and equitable judicial system for all Georgians.

- b. Is this request a result of legislation or rule change? If so, please explain.

The Gavel project was launched under the leadership of former Chief Justice Michael Boggs and authorized by Governor Brian Kemp. It was not the result of a formal policy or rule change, but rather a strategic initiative to modernize Georgia's judicial system and address long-standing challenges in court technology, data sharing, and public safety.

8. Alternatives:

What alternatives were considered and why are they not viable?

The AOC pledges to continue to seek legacy systems that can be discontinued as well as costing models that will reduce the State's burden for maintaining this system as it has done with CPRS. However, without the additional state funding for these positions that are currently grant funded the project's ability to maintain the current courts going live as well as to continue to add new courts to the project will be reduced. The project's long-term success will require continued adoption of the system so that its ultimate policy goals can be achieved.

Part 2 - BUDGET

9. Requested and Projected Resources:



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- a. For enhancements and certain base adjustments, describe the additional resources you are requesting. **Ensure descriptions and amounts align with the budget chart on page 2.*
- Number of Positions and Salary Information: Seven positions, see above for salary information
 - Operational needs: The AOC is working on a model to recover operational needs without requesting additional funds
- b. What are your out-year projections (budget impact on future years)?
- 10. Methodology/Assumptions:**
- a. Provide the methodology and assumptions behind the requested amount and out-year projections.
- The amount requested captures the internal savings from bringing an IT project in-house (\$194,183) and reducing the amount needed to fund seven positions that are currently grant-funded.
- b. How did you arrive at the amounts?
- The amounts are the reduction in contractor payments factored into the costs of the salary and benefits for seven positions with the FY27 benefit rates.
- c. What time period does the request cover (i.e., the number of months)?
- AFY27 and FY28
- 11. Federal and Other Funds:** Describe the impact on federal and/or other funds related to this request (amount, policy, etc.).

Part 3 - OTHER INFORMATION

12. Discuss any historical or other relevant factors that should be considered.

The AOC requested funding in the FY 2027 Budget for the second half of the Fiscal Year to continue funding for these essential grant-funded positions. We received 2/3rds of our submitted request.

This request presents an updated staffing model of seven positions compared to the eight that were originally requested as well as the redirection of internally generated savings to try to fully fund this transformational project.

Since last session Gavel is in the process of going live in 30 courts with plans for 200 more by the end of CY2026. Gavel has also been adopted as the Case Management System for Georgia's



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Accountability Courts, a major milestone for the project. This continuation in funding will allow the continued momentum as the AOC attempts to bring true transparency into the work of Georgia's Courts and build the data capabilities that can shape its future.



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REQUEST SUMMARY:

For use as talking points during conversations with funding and policy-making bodies to include the Judicial Council, General Assembly, and Office of the Governor.

1. Which Program is requesting this Enhancement? Council of Municipal Court Judges
2. Enhancement Name/Descriptor: Funding for instate travel and support of Strategic Plan's goal of increasing communications between Officers, District Representatives and individual judges.

FISCAL YEAR	Current state funds received	Amount Requesting	If granted, a new state funding level
☒ Amended FY 2027	\$	\$ 3,000	\$
☒ FY 2028	\$	\$ 19,000	\$

3. What will the enhancement accomplish?

The budget amendments will allow for the implementation of the Strategic Plan's goal of increasing communications between Officers, District Representatives and individuals judges. Will increase the attendance at judicial district meetings throughout the state, especially as it relates to rule changes and changes in law both by the General Assembly and through changes in case law. It will improve the quality of judges by allowing them to connect and communicate.

4. What is unable to be accomplished without the enhancement?

The current budget allows funds for Strategic Planning and Executive Committee meetings but do not provide funds for travel expenses associated with District Meetings.

5. Does the enhancement include salaried staff and/or operations, which includes contractors?
☐ Salaried staff
☒ Operating Funds (includes contractors)



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Budget Categories	FY 27 Amended Request	FY 28 Enhancement Request
Personnel Services:	\$ -	\$ -
Operating Costs:		
Regular Operating Expenses	\$ -	\$ -
Motor Vehicle Purchases	\$ -	\$ -
Equipment	\$ -	\$ -
IT Expenditures	\$ -	\$ -
Rent	\$ -	\$ -
Voice/Data Communications	\$ -	\$ -
Contracts	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ -	\$ -
Other	\$ -	\$ -
Total Operating Budget	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL OVERALL BUDGET	\$ -	\$ -
State Funds	\$ -	\$ -
Other Budgeted Funds	\$ -	\$ -
Total Budget	\$ -	\$ -

Part 1 – Detailed Explanation of Request

1. Proposal:

The Council, in keeping with its adopted and approved Strategic Plan is requesting funds to reimburse Council officers and District Representatives for instate travel for District. Will increase the attendance at judicial district meetings throughout the state, especially as it relates to rule changes and changes in law both by the General Assembly and through changes in case law. It will improve the quality of judges by allowing them to connect and communicate. The goal is coordination of policies and procedure and communication across the state for this class of court.

2. Geographic Impact: Where does the request impact the state?

☒ Statewide or list counties below:

3. Current Status:

a. What is the budget unit currently doing to address this issue?



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Not currently funded

- b. Will those activities continue if this request is funded?
Not currently funded

4. Supporting Data:

- a. Provide any supporting data, evaluations, and/or research for this request.
- b. Include information on similar successful programs or evaluations in other jurisdictions that are relevant to this request.

5. Performance Measures:

- a. What measures are or will be used to evaluate the impact of this change?
Evaluations at the end of each fiscal year.
- b. If an enhancement, what is the projected cost savings or return on investment?
Improve the quality of communication between the judges of all the districts and enhance the coordination and quality of communication between the classes of court that deal with traffic violations.
- c. What efficiencies will be realized?

6. Stakeholders & Constituents:

- a. Describe the constituent and stakeholder groups affected by this change (e.g., board members, advocates/interest groups, service providers, other agencies, other governmental entities).

Judges, local constituents, and service providers (e.g. private probation, mental health evaluators, community service providers, etc.).

- b. Have any groups voiced support or opposition?
- c. The Executive Committee of the Council unanimously supports the requests, and individual judges have also expressed support. No group has expressed any opposition.

7. Legislation or Rule Change:

- a. Is legislation or a rule change required if this request is implemented? No. If so, please explain.
- b. Is this request a result of legislation or rule change? No. If so, please explain.



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8. Alternatives:

What alternatives were considered and why are they not viable?

Current budget does not allow for additional expenses.

Part 2 - BUDGET

9. Requested and Projected Resources:

- a. For enhancements and certain base adjustments, describe the additional resources you are requesting. **Ensure descriptions and amounts align with the budget chart on page 2.*

- Number of Positions and Salary Information:
- Operational needs:

- b. What are your out-year projections (budget impact on future years)?

10. Methodology/Assumptions:

- a. Provide the methodology and assumptions behind the requested amount and out-year projections.
- b. How did you arrive at the amounts?
- c. What time period does the request cover (i.e., the number of months)? 12 months

11. Federal and Other Funds: Describe the impact on federal and/or other funds related to this request (amount, policy, etc.). None

Part 3 - OTHER INFORMATION

12. Discuss any historical or other relevant factors that should be considered.

Over the past several years, the Council has made it a priority item to increase the frequency and value of District meetings. As the officers are elected to serve statewide, it allows them to visit districts throughout the state. It also allows for the District Representatives to meet with more of their own judges but to meet and do training with Judges and presenters in other districts around the state.



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REQUEST SUMMARY:

For use as talking points during conversations with funding and policy-making bodies to include the Judicial Council, General Assembly, and Office of the Governor.

1. Which Program is requesting this Enhancement?

Resource Center

2. Enhancement Name/Descriptor:

FISCAL YEAR	Current state funds received	Amount Requesting	If granted, a new state funding level
☒ Amended FY 2027	\$ 900,000	\$ 31,250	\$ 931,250
☒ FY 2028	\$ 900,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 1,025,000

3. What will the enhancement accomplish?

The enhancement will allow the Resource Center to remain at current staffing levels during a time of heavy case demands, a projected budget deficit, and a dramatic decline in other funding sources.

4. What is unable to be accomplished without the enhancement?

Without the enhancement, staffing cuts will likely be unavoidable, as several funding sources have either been eliminated or cut substantially, while the Resource Center's docket has not changed and expenses continue to rise. If the Resource Center has to reduce staffing, it will no longer be in line with the [ABA Guidelines](#) for the Appointment and Performance of Defense Counsel in Death Penalty Cases, which require at least two qualified attorneys per capital case. Without the enhancement, the quality of representation the office provides clients will be negatively impacted.

5. Does the enhancement include salaried staff and/or operations, which includes contractors?
☒ Salaried staff
☐ Operating Funds (includes contractors)



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Budget Categories	FY 27 Amended Request	FY 28 Enhancement Request
Personnel Services:	\$ 31,250 -	\$ 125,000 -
Operating Costs:		
Regular Operating Expenses	\$ -	\$ -
Motor Vehicle Purchases	\$ -	\$ -
Equipment	\$ -	\$ -
IT Expenditures	\$ -	\$ -
Rent	\$ -	\$ -
Voice/Data Communications	\$ -	\$ -
Contracts	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ -	\$ -
Other	\$ -	\$ -
Total Operating Budget	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL OVERALL BUDGET	\$ -	\$ -
State Funds	\$ -	\$ -
Other Budgeted Funds	\$ -	\$ -
Total Budget	\$ -	\$ -

Resource Center

Part 1 – Detailed Explanation of Request

1. Proposal:

Founded in 1988 in partnership with the Georgia Supreme Court, the State Bar of Georgia, the federal judiciary, and Georgia State University College of Law, the Georgia Resource Center directly represents and/or secures *pro bono* representation for people under a sentence of death in Georgia in state and federal habeas proceedings, and in clemency proceedings before the Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles—representation not otherwise guaranteed under Georgia law. Georgia is the only state in the country that does not by law provide at least an opportunity for the provision of counsel to people under a sentence of death in post-conviction proceedings. The Resource Center plays a critical role statewide in Georgia, safeguarding the integrity of Georgia’s capital punishment system. The Resource Center is the sole organization in Georgia responsible for representing all persons sentenced to death in state post-conviction proceedings.

In the FY 2027 budget, the Resource Center requested an enhancement of \$125,00, which was submitted in the Governor’s budget, and initially approved by the House, but did not pass in the



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Senate. Given the importance of these requested funds, the Resource Center respectfully requests a prorated amount of \$31,250 in the amended FY 2027 budget, to offset a sizable projected deficit in the current fiscal year, and to avoid staffing cuts at a critical time. The Resource Center also renews its request for an enhancement of \$125,000 in the FY 2028 budget to sustain the office's staffing levels.

The Resource Center's docket is very active and demanding. While Georgia's death row population has remained steady in recent years, the office's casework remains voluminous, with pleadings filed frequently and hearings and arguments conducted in state and federal courts. There are 35 people under a sentence of death in Georgia, three of whom are pending further proceedings following an appellate reversal.

All of the people on Georgia's death row are indigent and would not otherwise have representation in post-conviction proceedings without the support of the Resource Center. As discussed in more detail below, the Georgia Bar's longtime funding support of the Resource Center has now been eliminated, and another key funding source has been greatly reduced. The requested \$31,250 in the amended FY 2027 budget, and the \$125,000 enhancement for FY 2028, will allow the Resource Center to cover salaries and benefits for its current staff.

The Resource Center currently employs ten people – five capital attorneys, including the Executive Director and Deputy Director who maintain full caseloads along with their administrative duties; two full-time investigators and one part-time investigator; and one operations manager, who functions as the office's only support staff.

The Resource Center provides high-quality representation to the 35 people under a sentence of death in Georgia on a much smaller budget, and with a much smaller staff than other states. In many states, offices that provide post-conviction representation in death penalty cases are state agencies, rather than independent nonprofits. For example, the Mississippi Office of Capital Post-Conviction Counsel, a state agency, has a staff of nine,¹ and is tasked with serving a similarly-sized death row population to Georgia (35 people).² Mississippi funded its agency at almost \$2,000,000 in FY 2026,³ with over \$1,000,000 in personnel costs alone.⁴ Kansas, with a death row population of nine, funds its state habeas office at \$647,181, which excludes operational expenses.⁵ The amount Kansas provides is more than half of the Resource Center's requested total FY 2028 budget, including the enhancement, though the Resource Center serves more than three times the death row population than Kansas, and its budget includes operational expenses. The Resource Center also represents clients at more stages of the appellate process than the other states' agencies. The Resource Center thus provides a similar, if not greater, level of service to those under a sentence of death in Georgia, at a much lower cost than comparable states.

¹ <https://www.pcc.ms.gov/about-us>.

² <https://www.pcc.ms.gov/>.

³ https://www.lbo.ms.gov/pdfs/2025_leg_sesn_sum.pdf (see page 2).

⁴ <https://www.lbo.ms.gov/PublicReports/AllReportsForAgency?FiscalYear=2026&AgencyFileNumber=098-00>.

⁵ <https://budget.kansas.gov/wp-content/uploads/328-BIDS-FY-2026-Budget-Narrative.pdf> (see page 108).



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The Resource Center has traditionally relied on multiple sources of funding. Historically, the Resource Center had funding from the State Bar of Georgia. From 2010 to 2021, the Bar provided funding to the Resource Center each year in an amount between \$100,000 and \$110,000. Starting in FY 2022, the Bar halved the longtime funding it had provided to the office because of shifting priorities in its funding of external programs and has now eliminated the funding altogether. The Bar leadership has strongly encouraged the Resource Center to seek additional funding from the legislature and supports the Resource Center's enhancement request.

As a result of the reduction in Bar funds, the current primary sources of funding are: 1) the state legislature, 2) the Georgia Bar Foundation, and 3) compensation from vouchers under the Criminal Justice Act (CJA) for work in federal court. As discussed below, funding from the Georgia Bar Foundation varies from year to year, and, due to a decreasing number of pending federal habeas cases, funding from the office's work in federal court will dramatically decline and come close to elimination over the next several years. Combined with the loss of funding from the Bar, pressing case demands causing increasing operational expenses, and increasing personnel expenses all causing a ballooning deficit, these substantial changes will leave the Resource Center with little choice but to make staffing cuts impacting the high-quality representation that the office provides to the people under a sentence of death in Georgia.

First, the Resource Center's baseline funding comes from the state legislature, which in the past ten years has comprised approximately 55% to over 70% of overall funding depending on the year. Even with the requested enhancement for FY 2028, state funding would still only comprise approximately 75% of the overall funding. Thus, the proportion of legislative funds the Resource Center receives relative to its overall budget is not increasing but is keeping in step with expenses as they inevitably increase over the decades. For more than 20 years the Resource Center was funded at \$800,000 with slight reductions due to extraordinary circumstances.⁶ In FY 2025, for the first time, the Resource Center received a \$100,000 increase to its funding from the legislature, which allowed the office to hire an attorney and return to staffing levels in line with the [ABA Guidelines](#) for the Appointment and Performance of Defense Counsel in Death Penalty Cases, which require at least two attorneys per capital case. The Resource Center remains extremely grateful for this enhancement from the state legislature, which also helps the State avoid potential litigation for not meeting the ABA Guidelines.

The second source of funding comes from the Georgia Bar Foundation. The Resource Center received grants from the Georgia Bar Foundation from 2006 to 2011. From 2012 to 2018, the Georgia Bar Foundation was unable to provide the Resource Center any funds due to a decrease in IOLTA funds. Thankfully, since 2019, the Georgia Bar Foundation has provided a grant to the

⁶ The Resource Center has received \$800,000 starting in FY 2002 through FY 2008, and then from FY 2013 through FY 2023. From FY 2009 to FY 2012, the Resource Center received a significant reduction in state funding due to the financial crisis, which was eventually restored. In FY 2021 and 2022, the Resource Center saw a small reduction in its funding due to the pandemic cuts experienced across all state agencies and organizations that receive state funding. In those two years, the office received \$775,000 from the State. This reduction was restored in FY 2023.



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Resource Center in amounts varying from year to year depending on availability of funds, and these grants have helped to offset some of the reduction in funds from the State Bar and some of the office's increasing expenses. However, the Resource Center has not made up the total loss of funding from the State Bar of Georgia nor the reduction in federal funds through higher grants from the Georgia Bar Foundation, given its own limited funds.

The third source of funding—compensation from vouchers under the Criminal Justice Act (CJA) for work in federal court—is also in a precarious place. The Resource Center's federal funds have always varied from year to year, depending not only on its docket at the time, but also on the court's discretion in paying those vouchers. Today, due to the decline in death sentences in the state, the office has very few cases in federal court, and very few left in the pipeline. Of the people currently on Georgia's death row, almost 44% have exhausted their federal habeas appeals, 25% are currently in federal habeas, and on the front end of the post-conviction process, about 28% are still in state court. In FY 2023, the Resource Center only received \$156,867.70 in federal compensation, which was the lowest amount in federal funding received in 20 years. In comparison, in the previous three fiscal years, the average annual federal compensation was \$362,871.89. In FY 2026, the office only received \$249,156.20 in federal compensation—while more than FY 2023, still significantly less than in previous years. As the number of cases in federal court decreases, the funds received in FY 2023 is more representative of the amount of federal compensation that the Resource Center can expect in the next few years, though likely even less. For instance, the office projects that funding from federal vouchers in FY 2027 will be a little more than half of the compensation received in FY 2026. Resource Center advocacy also continues beyond federal litigation stages; the office remains responsible for clemency advocacy, litigation regarding warrant eligibility, and related collateral representation. That is, the Resource Center continues to represent clients in stages and advocacy for which it does not receive CJA voucher compensation.

Given these declines in other funding sources, as well as rising costs, including significantly increased costs for benefits and staff salaries in order to remain competitive in the Atlanta public service market, the Resource Center will not be able to maintain the office's current staff under its current budget. The Resource Center continues to lose attorneys to other public-service opportunities, including the federal defender system, metro Atlanta public defender offices, and to larger nonprofit organizations. While some reserves exist, replacing these funding sources over the next few years will be critical to the Resource Center's operations.

Meanwhile, the demands on the office have not changed and may drastically increase, depending on the timing of execution warrants, and the progression of state habeas proceedings. The 35 people facing a death sentence hail from 25 counties in Georgia and are in various stages of the post-conviction process. All of the office's clients are indigent. As noted, 44% of the people on Georgia's death row have completed federal habeas proceedings, which renders them eligible for an execution warrant. On the front end of post-conviction proceedings, many cases have in recent years completed the direct appeal stage (which is generally handled by the Capital Defender within the Georgia Public Defender Council) and entered state habeas proceedings, becoming Resource



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Center clients. Cases in both the early stages of state habeas proceedings and in the late stages, as they near clemency proceedings, place enormous demands on the Resource Center's budget and staff, as they both require extensive investigation, litigation, and expert costs. Keeping the Resource Center staffed is critical to ensuring that every person under a sentence of death in Georgia receives counsel with the expertise to handle these complex cases and ensuring the integrity of Georgia's capital punishment system.

The Resource Center staff zealously defends those under a sentence of death with specialized post-conviction expertise in both state and federal courts and in collateral litigation involving both civil and criminal proceedings. To ensure the death penalty in Georgia is administered efficiently and fairly, the Resource Center explores every avenue of litigation in every court. The Resource Center staff work tirelessly, filing complex pleadings in multiple state and federal courts and appearing in court regularly. In FY 2026, the office's small staff has already had 15 hearings including four oral arguments before the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, and motions hearings, numerous status hearings, a declaratory judgment action hearing, and an evidentiary hearing on an extraordinary motion for new trial in superior courts throughout Georgia. The office is also in active discovery in several cases which involve extensive investigation, record collection, and depositions.

For decades, the Resource Center has provided high-quality representation in a cost-efficient manner. For the first time in its history, given the office's success in halting execution warrants which deferred significant expenses, in recent years, the office was able to put several months' expenses in reserves, but these minimal reserves can only sustain current staffing for a short time, and execution warrants can be expected to resume at some point in the future. In other words, the expenses were postponed but not eliminated. As discussed above, the office operates on a significantly smaller budget and does more casework than sister organizations and government agencies in other states. The Resource Center's budget is a fraction of the funding for those agencies.

Therefore, the Resource Center respectfully requests an enhancement in the FY 2028 budget of \$125,000 and an enhancement in the amended FY 2027 budget of \$31,250—a prorated amount of the requested FY 2028 enhancement—to support current staffing levels despite the elimination of State Bar funding, a significant decrease and uncertainty in federal CJA funding, an increase in case demands, and a ballooning budget deficit.

2. Geographic Impact: Where does the request impact the state?

☒ Statewide or list counties below: Statewide

3. Current Status:

a. What is the budget unit currently doing to address this issue?

The Resource Center has always operated on a very lean budget, as evidenced from its budget compared to other states with similar (or even lower) caseloads, and will continue to look for ways



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to reduce expenses in order to provide more for its clients. The Resource Center for years has operated with only one support staff: the operations manager who handles all administrative needs for the entire office, including accounting, human resources, benefits, file maintenance, IT needs, and much more. The office has taken many steps to decrease expenses in recent years, even in the face of rising costs. For example, the office has re-evaluated certain benefits provided to staff. The office moved to the State Bar headquarters in downtown Atlanta, with below-market rental rates. The Resource Center has sought additional financial support from the Georgia Bar Foundation and grants from other sources. The Resource Center also recruits *pro bono* counsel to co-counsel with the office on cases, which can reduce the demands on staff time, and occasionally involves *pro bono* counsel covering a portion of case expenses.

- b. Will those activities continue if this request is funded?

Yes, the Resource Center will continue to find ways to decrease expenses even if this request is funded, though without additional support, any additional monies secured will still not be enough to overcome the projected deficit. The Resource Center has been applauded in the past for its leanness and efficiency.

4. Supporting Data:

- a. Provide any supporting data, evaluations, and/or research for this request.
- b. Include information on similar successful programs or evaluations in other jurisdictions that are relevant to this request.

The Resource Center has been found to be the most efficient and cost-effective means of moving capital cases to final adjudication. The Resource Center has always operated on a lean budget. A performance audit requested by the Georgia Senate Appropriations Committee and conducted by the Department of Audits in 2005 found that Resource Center attorneys handled more cases and expended less money per case than similar organizations providing post-conviction representation to death-sentenced prisoners in other states. This remains true today, as discussed above. Relative to state employees, too, the Resource Center has a dramatically lower salary-to-benefits ratio for its employees.

5. Performance Measures:

- a. What measures are or will be used to evaluate the impact of this change?

The primary measure will be the Resource Center's ability to continue to provide high-quality representation, given the many demands on its resources. As recent examples, the Resource Center has been successful in its last three state habeas cases to be adjudicated in Superior Court, winning sentencing phase relief for each client, though two of those cases were later reversed by the Georgia Supreme Court. (The State did not appeal in the case of the third client, who was



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resentenced to life in prison.) In 2024, the Resource Center also settled the case of another client, who was resentenced to life, based on his intellectual disability. The Resource Center also successfully litigated, with *pro bono* counsel, *Nance v. Ward*, 142 S. Ct. 2214 (2022), in the United States Supreme Court. The Resource Center also recently settled a § 1983 lawsuit against the Georgia Department of Corrections challenging the Department's denial of its request to video-record a client for clemency and advocacy purposes.

- b. If an enhancement, what is the projected cost savings or return on investment?

The enhancement of funds to support Resource Center staffing as it faces these projected deficits and increased expenses will ensure the Resource Center's ability to provide high-quality representation for people under a sentence of death in Georgia, which will, in turn, help uphold the effectiveness, efficiency, and credibility of Georgia's death penalty system.

- c. What efficiencies will be realized?

Even with current staffing levels, the Resource Center operates at a lower staffing level with less funding than offices in sister states and relative to the state-funded Georgia Capital Defender's Office, and overall, the Resource Center will continue to remain lean and efficient.

6. Stakeholders & Constituents:

- a. Describe the constituent and stakeholder groups affected by this change (e.g., board members, advocates/interest groups, service providers, other agencies, other governmental entities).

Capital habeas litigation is one of the most factually, legally, and procedurally complex areas of the law. Georgia is the only state in the country that has neither a statutory nor a constitutional right to counsel in capital habeas cases. In 1988, recognizing that it was not possible to provide effective assistance of counsel to all of the inmates on death row by relying solely on volunteers, the Supreme Court of Georgia, the State Bar of Georgia, the federal judiciary, and the Georgia State University College of Law partnered together to found the Resource Center to ensure the representation of people on Georgia's death row in post-conviction proceedings. The members of the Board of the Resource Center are appointed by the Georgia Supreme Court and the President of the State Bar of Georgia. The current members are: Amelia Toy Rudolph (Chair) (Atlanta); Bryan Tyson (Vice-Chair) (Marietta); Sarah Gerwig (Secretary) (Macon); Jill Travis (Atlanta) (Treasurer); Sarah Brewerton-Palmer (Atlanta); Matthew Cavedon (North Augusta, SC); Jon Chally (Atlanta); Amanda Clark Palmer (Atlanta); Ronan Doherty (Atlanta); Dr. Whitney B. Edwards (Atlanta); Paul Monnin (Atlanta); Luke Moses (Hinesville); Robert Remar (Atlanta); Claudia Saari (Avondale Estates); and Gary Spencer (Atlanta). The State Bar's Advisory Committee on Legislation, with the support of the Indigent Defense and Access to Justice Committees, has also supported the Resource Center's appropriation requests to the legislature for many years.



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b. Have any groups voiced support or opposition?

The Board of Directors have voiced support for the request. The leadership of the State Bar has voiced support for legislative enhancements to the Resource Center's budget for many years. The State Bar has regularly (and unanimously) supported the Resource Center's legislative appropriation requests, through its Advisory Committee on Legislation.

7. Legislation or Rule Change:

a. Is legislation or a rule change required if this request is implemented? If so, please explain.

No.

b. Is this request a result of legislation or rule change? If so, please explain.

No.

8. Alternatives:

What alternatives were considered and why are they not viable?

N/A

Part 2 - BUDGET

9. Requested and Projected Resources:

a. For enhancements and certain base adjustments, describe the additional resources you are requesting. **Ensure descriptions and amounts align with the budget chart on page 2.*

The Resource Center requests an enhancement to the FY 2028 budget with the addition of \$125,000 and a prorated enhancement to the FY 2027 budget with the addition of \$31,250 in support of personnel services, specifically salary and benefits.

- Number of Positions and Salary Information: Ten positions with a total projected expense of salaries and benefits of \$1,217,729.
- Operational needs: N/A

b. What are your out-year projections (budget impact on future years)?

For the reasons discussed in Part 1, The Resource Center anticipates that it will continue to experience financial difficulty over the long term due to the reduction in federal voucher funding, the loss of State Bar funding, and increasing expenses. The Resource Center is requesting a gradual increase in funding from the legislature to address this long-term budget shortfall.



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10. Methodology/Assumptions:

- a. Provide the methodology and assumptions behind the requested amount and out-year projections.

Salary and benefits for staff at the Resource Center with current budgetary restraints.

- b. How did you arrive at the amounts?

In FY 2027 and FY 2028, the Resource Center will have to tap into the office's limited reserves to remain solvent, and still may not be able to avoid staffing cuts. The \$125,000 request for FY 2028 and the request for an enhancement in the amended FY 2027 budget of \$31,250 (a prorated amount of the requested FY 2028 enhancement) will only partially cover the projected deficits.

- c. What time period does the request cover (i.e., the number of months)?

Three months for the amended FY 2027 budget; Twelve months for the FY 2028 budget

11. Federal and Other Funds: Describe the impact on federal and/or other funds related to this request (amount, policy, etc.).

As mentioned above, the Resource Center receives no outright federal funding. However, the Resource Center receives compensation for its work on federal habeas cases at the discretion of the courts. This is a variable amount from year to year, depending on the status of cases on the Resource Center's docket, and often district court judges do not approve all of the hours that Resource Center attorneys have spent working on a case. As discussed above, this federal funding has dropped significantly and will continue to drop in FY 2027 and beyond. Additionally, the Resource Center has requested an increase in funds from the Georgia Bar Foundation. The Resource Center has requested a grant in the amount of \$250,00 for FY 2027, a significant increase from the FY 2026 grant of \$180,000 the Resource Center received. As mentioned above, the grant amount from the Georgia Bar Foundation has always varied year to year depending on availability of funds. However, the office does not expect that the FY 2027 Georgia Bar Foundation grant, even if granted the full amount requested, will cover the budget deficit or fully replace the funds lost from the State Bar of Georgia.

Part 3 - OTHER INFORMATION

12. Discuss any historical or other relevant factors that should be considered.

The Resource Center provides an essential safeguard against wrongful death sentences in the state, as the risk of error in capital cases remains high. According to a study of error rates in capital cases



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from 1973 to 1995, Georgia had an 80% reversal rate. *See* James S. Liebman et al., A Broken System: Error Rates in Capital Cases, 1973-1995 (June 12, 2000), *available at* https://scholarship.law.columbia.edu/faculty_scholarship/1219/. And the error rate in death sentencing remains high: 63% of death penalty cases have been overturned in the modern death penalty era. Since the 1970s, Georgia has imposed 406 death sentences state-wide, with only 77 people executed. The work of the Resource Center remains critical to ensuring the fairness and efficacy of Georgia's death penalty system.



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REQUEST SUMMARY:

For use as talking points during conversations with funding and policy-making bodies to include the Judicial Council, General Assembly, and Office of the Governor.

1. Which Program is requesting this Enhancement?

Criminal Case Data Exchange (CDX) Board

2. Enhancement Name/Descriptor:

CDX Program Coordinator

FISCAL YEAR	Current State Funds Received	Amount Requesting	If Granted, New State Funding Level
☐ Amended FY 2027	\$0		
☒ FY 2028	\$0	\$147,782.00	\$147,782.00

3. What will the enhancement accomplish?

This enhancement will fund one full-time CDX Program Coordinator to manage the day-to-day operations of the Criminal Case Data Exchange Board, coordinate with partner agencies across the judicial and executive branches, plan and facilitate meetings and working sessions, develop and lead trainings, and further the board's high-impact statutory mission. The CDX Board's work has resulted in tens of thousands of Georgians' criminal histories being corrected and has prevented erroneous submissions in an immeasurable way. This position will ensure this critical work can continue and scale in a sustainable manner.

4. What is unable to be accomplished without the enhancement?

Without dedicated staff, the CDX Board will continue to rely entirely on volunteers from partner agencies who donate their time on top of existing duties. This model is not sustainable. The board risks losing momentum on criminal history data corrections, compliance monitoring, training development, and multi-agency coordination. Meeting planning, rule promulgation, and the annual reporting required under O.C.G.A. § 15-5-24.1 will suffer without a coordinator to manage these ongoing responsibilities. The board currently operates with zero dedicated funding.

5. Does the enhancement include salaried staff and/or operations, which includes contractors?

☒ Salaried Staff

☒ Operating Funds (includes contractors)

Budget Categories	FY 27 Amended Request	FY 28 Enhancement Request
Personnel Services:	\$-	\$142,582.00
<u>Operating Costs:</u>		
Regular Operating Expenses	\$-	\$-
Motor Vehicle Purchases	\$-	\$-
Equipment	\$-	\$3,000.00
IT Expenditures	\$-	\$2,200.00
Rent	\$-	\$-

Budget Categories	FY 27 Amended Request	FY 28 Enhancement Request
Voice/Data Communications	\$-	\$-
Contracts	\$-	\$-
Grants	\$-	\$-
Other	\$-	\$-
Total Operating Budget	\$-	\$5,200.00
TOTAL OVERALL BUDGET	\$-	\$147,782.00
State Funds	\$-	\$147,782.00
Other Budgeted Funds	\$-	\$-
Total Budget	\$-	\$147,782.00

Part 1 – Detailed Explanation of Request

1. Proposal:

The Criminal Case Data Exchange (CDX) Board requests funding for one CDX Program Coordinator position at an annual salary of \$90,000.00, plus \$5,200.00 in operational costs (equipment: \$3,000.00; IT expenditures: \$2,200.00), totaling \$157,300.00 annually.

The CDX Board was reestablished by SB 272 (2023) and codified at O.C.G.A. § 15-5-24.1 as an advisory board attached to the Judicial Council of Georgia and its Administrative Office of the Courts. Its statutory mission is to facilitate compliance with criminal case data transmission requirements across judicial agencies, courts, clerks, and executive branch agencies. The board's membership includes representatives from the Administrative Office of the Courts, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Georgia Technology Authority, Office of Planning and Budget, Department of Corrections, Department of Community Supervision, State Board of Pardons and Paroles, Georgia Sheriff's Association, Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police, and multiple Governor appointees.

Since its reestablishment, the CDX Board has operated with zero dedicated funding, relying entirely on volunteer time from staff at partner agencies. Despite this, the board's work has resulted in tens of thousands of Georgians' criminal histories being corrected and has prevented erroneous submissions in an immeasurable way. This volunteer-driven model is not sustainable if the board's important work is to continue and grow.

The CDX Program Coordinator will:

- Manage day-to-day operations of the CDX Board
- Coordinate with partner agencies across judicial and executive branches
- Plan and facilitate quarterly board meetings and working sessions
- Develop and lead trainings for courts, clerks, and law enforcement on data transmission compliance
- Prepare annual reports as required by O.C.G.A. § 15-5-24.1
- Support the promulgation of rules and uniform standards
- Track compliance and data quality metrics across participating entities
- Further the board's high-impact work of ensuring accurate criminal history data for all Georgians

2. Geographic Impact: Where does the request impact the state?

☒ Statewide

The CDX Board's work impacts all 159 Georgia counties, all superior courts, state courts, applicable clerks' offices, and executive branch agencies that transmit or receive criminal case data.

3. Current Status:

a. What is the budget unit currently doing to address this issue?

The CDX Board currently operates with no dedicated staff or funding. All coordination, meeting planning, training, and compliance work is performed by volunteers from partner agencies who contribute their time on top of existing job duties. The Administrative Office of the Courts provides limited administrative support, but no full-time position is dedicated to CDX Board operations.

b. Will those activities continue if this request is funded?

Yes. All current activities will continue and expand. The coordinator will formalize and improve processes currently handled on an ad hoc basis by volunteers, allowing for more consistent operations, better follow-through on action items, and expanded training and outreach.

4. Supporting Data:

a. Provide any supporting data, evaluations, and/or research for this request.

- The CDX Board's work has resulted in tens of thousands of criminal history corrections for Georgia citizens.

- The board has prevented erroneous criminal history submissions, the full scope of which is immeasurable.
 - All of this has been accomplished with zero dedicated funding, relying entirely on volunteer effort.
 - O.C.G.A. § 15-5-24.1 requires annual reporting on activities and progress, which demands consistent coordination.
 - The board comprises 19 members from across judicial and executive branch agencies, requiring significant logistical coordination.
 - Criminal history accuracy directly impacts citizens' employment, housing, and liberty interests.
- b. Include information on similar successful programs or evaluations in other jurisdictions that are relevant to this request.

Many states fund dedicated staff for criminal justice data exchange and information-sharing boards. These positions are common in states with integrated criminal justice information systems and are typically funded through state appropriations or grant programs administered by state criminal justice coordinating councils. Dedicated program staff have proven essential to achieving and sustaining compliance with federal and state data transmission standards.

5. Performance Measures:

- a. What measures are or will be used to evaluate the impact of this change?
- Number of criminal history records corrected annually
 - Number of erroneous submissions identified and prevented
 - Number of trainings conducted and agencies trained
 - Compliance rates across participating entities
 - Number of quarterly meetings and working sessions held
 - Timeliness of annual reports submitted to the General Assembly
- b. If an enhancement, what is the projected cost savings or return on investment?
- Accurate criminal history data reduces wrongful arrests, avoids costly litigation, and prevents the downstream costs associated with erroneous records impacting citizens' employment and housing. The cost of a single wrongful arrest or civil suit far exceeds the annual cost of this position. Additionally, improved data quality reduces the burden on courts, clerks, and law enforcement who must currently devote time to correcting errors after the fact.
- c. What efficiencies will be realized?
- A dedicated coordinator will eliminate the inefficiency of relying on volunteers who must balance CDX work against their primary duties. Meeting preparation, follow-up, and training development will be handled by one accountable person rather than distributed across multiple agency staff. This will accelerate the pace of compliance improvements and data corrections statewide.

6. Stakeholders & Constituents:

- a. Describe the constituent and stakeholder groups affected by this change.
- All Georgia citizens whose criminal history records are maintained by the state
 - Superior Court Clerks (all 159 counties)
 - Superior Courts, State Courts, Magistrate Courts
 - Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GCIC)
 - Georgia Technology Authority
 - Department of Corrections
 - Department of Community Supervision
 - State Board of Pardons and Paroles
 - Georgia Sheriff's Association and local law enforcement
 - Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police
 - Prosecutors' Attorney Council

- Office of Planning and Budget
- Council of Superior Court Clerks
- Council of Superior Court Judges / Council of State Court Judges

b. Have any groups voiced support or opposition?

The CDX Board membership, representing all the above agencies, supports this request. No opposition has been voiced. The board has unanimously recognized the need for dedicated staff to sustain its operations.

7. Legislation or Rule Change:

a. Is legislation or a rule change required if this request is implemented? If so, please explain.

No. The CDX Board already exists under O.C.G.A. § 15-5-24.1. This request simply funds a staff position to support the board's existing statutory mandate.

b. Is this request a result of legislation or rule change? If so, please explain.

Yes. SB 272 (2023-24 Session) reestablished the CDX Board and expanded its responsibilities, including annual reporting requirements to the General Assembly, promulgation of rules, and oversight of statewide criminal case data transmission compliance. These expanded statutory duties necessitate dedicated staff.

8. Alternatives:

What alternatives were considered and why are they not viable?

The primary alternative — continuing to rely on volunteers — has been the operating model since the board's reestablishment in 2022 and has proven unsustainable. Partner agencies' staff cannot indefinitely absorb CDX responsibilities on top of their primary duties. Federal grant funding was explored but is not available for this type of ongoing operational staffing. Contracting for these services was also considered but would be more costly and would not provide the continuity and institutional knowledge required for this role. A permanent, dedicated state-funded position is the only viable long-term solution.

Part 2 - BUDGET

9. Requested and Projected Resources:

- a. For enhancements and certain base adjustments, describe the additional resources you are requesting.

*Ensure descriptions and amounts align with the budget chart on page 2.

- **Number of Positions and Salary Information:**

One (1) CDX Program Coordinator position. Annual salary: \$90,000.00 plus fringe benefits.

- **Operational needs:**

Equipment: \$3,000.00 (workstation and standard new-hire equipment). IT Expenditures: \$2,200.00 (software licenses and IT setup). Total operational costs: \$5,200.00.

- b. What are your out-year projections (budget impact on future years)?

The position is expected to be ongoing. Out-year costs would reflect standard state merit increases and any changes to fringe benefit rates. Equipment and IT expenditures are one-time startup costs and would not recur at the same level in subsequent years, reducing the ongoing operational cost. No significant growth in total cost is anticipated.

10. Methodology/Assumptions:

- a. Provide the methodology and assumptions behind the requested amount and out-year projections.

The salary of \$90,000.00 is commensurate with a program coordinator role requiring significant inter-agency coordination across judicial and executive branch entities, subject matter expertise in criminal justice data systems, and the ability to develop and deliver training programs.

- b. How did you arrive at the amounts?

The salary was benchmarked against similar coordinator and program manager positions within the judicial branch and state government that require cross-agency coordination and subject matter expertise. Equipment and IT costs reflect standard provisioning for a new state employee.

- c. What time period does the request cover (i.e., the number of months)?

FY 2028 (July 1, 2027 – June 30, 2028) and ongoing thereafter. The request covers a full 12-month fiscal year.

11. Federal and Other Funds: Describe the impact on federal and/or other funds related to this request (amount, policy, etc.).

This request does not impact federal or other funds. The CDX Board currently receives no federal funding. This is a new state fund request to support a position that has never previously existed. The Georgia Crime Information Center has grantmaking authority under SB 272 (subject to conditions), but recurring operational staffing is most appropriately funded through state appropriations.

Part 3 - OTHER INFORMATION

12. Discuss any historical or other relevant factors that should be considered.

- The Criminal Case Data Exchange Board was originally established by SB 407 (2018) under the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC).
- SB 272 (2022) reestablished the board as an advisory board attached to the Judicial Council of Georgia and its Administrative Office of the Courts with expanded responsibilities and membership, codified at O.C.G.A. § 15-5-24.1.
- Since reestablishment, the board has operated entirely through volunteer effort with zero dedicated funding.
- Despite having no budget, the board has achieved significant results: tens of thousands of criminal history corrections and prevention of erroneous submissions that cannot be fully quantified.
- The board's 19 members represent agencies across both the judicial and executive branches, making coordination particularly complex and time-intensive.
- The CDX Board is chaired by Pete Skandalakis, Executive Director of the Prosecutors' Attorney Council.

- Without dedicated staff, the board risks being unable to fulfill its statutory obligations, including annual reporting to the General Assembly and promulgation of rules for criminal data transmission.
- Accurate criminal history data is foundational to the fair administration of justice in Georgia. Inaccurate records affect employment opportunities, housing eligibility, and the civil rights of thousands of Georgians annually.
- The board's work directly supports the integrity of the Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC) database, which is used by law enforcement agencies across the state and nation.



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2027 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2028 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

REQUEST SUMMARY:

For use as talking points during conversations with funding and policy-making bodies to include the Judicial Council, General Assembly, and Office of the Governor.

1. Which Program is requesting this Enhancement?

Judicial Council - Administrative Office of the Courts

2. Enhancement Name/Descriptor:

FISCAL YEAR	Current state funds received	Amount Requesting	If granted, a new state funding level
☐ Amended FY 2027	\$	\$	\$
☒ FY 2028	\$ 0	\$ 250,000	\$

3. What will the enhancement accomplish?

The courts increasingly encounter criminal defendants whose underlying cognitive functioning together with possible mental health and substance use disorders significantly impact case processing, competency to stand trial, and long-term outcomes. Conducting timely and thorough psychological assessments during the pre-trial phase of their interactions in the criminal justice system, often in a jail setting, is critical to ensuring both public safety and fair administration of justice. However, the cost and limited availability of qualified state forensic evaluators create ongoing delays and backlogs that strain judicial resources. The current wait time for an evaluation is over 7 months, and the results are that more than half of the defendants are competent but have other cognitive issues and/or substance abuse or mental health challenges.

To address this gap, we propose the establishment of a pilot jail-based assessment program utilizing supervised psychology doctoral students from the University of Georgia and Augusta University. This model would provide a cost-effective, sustainable, and high-quality means of expanding access to timely assessments. Both universities maintain accredited doctoral training programs with students who must complete supervised practicum and internship experiences in forensic and clinical settings. Partnering with these institutions allows us to leverage their expertise and oversight while providing students with hands-on training opportunities under the supervision of licensed psychologists.

4. What is unable to be accomplished without the enhancement?



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2027 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2028 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Continuation of the lengthy delays with the overburdened state resources as noted above.

5. Does the enhancement include salaried staff and/or operations, which includes contractors?
- ☐ Salaried staff
- ☒ Operating Funds (includes contractors)

Budget Categories	FY 27 Amended Request	FY 28 Enhancement Request
Personnel Services:	\$ -	\$ -
Operating Costs:		
Regular Operating Expenses	\$ -	\$ -
Motor Vehicle Purchases	\$ -	\$ -
Equipment	\$ -	\$ -
IT Expenditures	\$ -	\$ -
Rent	\$ -	\$ -
Voice/Data Communications	\$ -	\$ -
Contracts	\$ -	\$250,000
Grants	\$ -	\$ -
Other	\$ -	\$ -
Total Operating Budget	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL OVERALL BUDGET	\$ -	\$250,000
State Funds	\$ -	\$ -
Other Budgeted Funds	\$ -	\$ -
Total Budget	\$ -	\$250,000

Judicial Council - Administrative Office of the Courts

Part 1 – Detailed Explanation of Request

1. Proposal:

The need for the proposed project is substantial and well documented. Courts throughout Georgia continue to experience significant delays in competency evaluations due to a shortage of qualified forensic evaluators and backlogs exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Current wait times for DBHDD competency evaluations have exceeded seven months, creating substantial delays in criminal case processing and prolonged detention for defendants awaiting evaluation.



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2027 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2028 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

Many defendants referred for competency evaluations are ultimately determined to be competent to stand trial but present with untreated mental health conditions, cognitive impairments, or substance use disorders that contribute to continued justice system involvement. These delays strain local detention resources, increase court backlogs, prolong incarceration, and delay access to meaningful treatment interventions.

The proposed project addresses a critical service gap by providing earlier access to clinically focused mental health and substance abuse assessments designed to identify treatment needs and diversion opportunities before defendants remain unnecessarily on lengthy competency evaluation waitlists. The project is particularly important for misdemeanor and lower-level felony defendants whose cases may be more appropriately resolved through treatment-oriented interventions rather than extended forensic evaluation processes.

2. Geographic Impact: Where does the request impact the state?

☒ Statewide or list counties below:

3. Current Status:

a. What is the budget unit currently doing to address this issue?

A current pilot project was funded with judicial branch ARPA funds that ended in September 2026.

b. Will those activities continue if this request is funded?

No, that project will cease without funds to continue.

4. Supporting Data:

a. Provide any supporting data, evaluations, and/or research for this request.

This will be supplemented with additional data as current pilot project is underway and starting to take referrals from the courts.

b. Include information on similar successful programs or evaluations in other jurisdictions that are relevant to this request.

Numerous other states have similar programs in place. Additional research can be conducted to supplement this answer.

5. Performance Measures:

a. What measures are or will be used to evaluate the impact of this change?



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2027 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2028 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

The primary goal of the proposed project is to improve the timely identification and treatment of justice-involved individuals experiencing mental health and substance use disorders while reducing delays associated with competency evaluation backlogs.

Success will be measured through several performance indicators, including:

- * Number of defendants referred for assessment
- * Average time from referral to completed report
- * Reduction in competency evaluation referrals
- * Number of treatment referrals and diversion placements
- * Participation in accountability courts or community treatment programs
- * Stakeholder satisfaction and program utilization trends
- * Reduction in pretrial detention delays related to behavioral health concerns

The project also creates long-term systemic benefits through workforce development and university partnerships that help expand Georgia's future behavioral health evaluation capacity. By integrating clinical expertise, judicial collaboration, and evidence-based intervention strategies, the pilot project represents a sustainable and innovative response to one of the most pressing behavioral health challenges currently affecting Georgia's criminal justice system.

b. If an enhancement, what is the projected cost savings or return on investment?

The proposed project is expected to generate significant benefits for courts, defendants, detention facilities, behavioral health providers, and the broader community.

Anticipated outcomes include reduced competency evaluation waitlists, faster identification of treatment needs, increased diversion opportunities, and improved access to mental health and substance use treatment services. Earlier intervention is expected to reduce unnecessary incarceration and improve case resolution timelines for participating courts.

The project will also improve allocation of limited forensic psychology resources by allowing licensed forensic evaluators to prioritize defendants with the most serious competency concerns and violent felony charges. This increased efficiency benefits both the courts and DBHDD by reducing pressure on existing evaluation systems.

c. What efficiencies will be realized?

These objectives directly align with the project's mission to improve court efficiency, reduce unnecessary incarceration, and increase access to behavioral health interventions for justice-involved individuals.

1. Reduce delays in pretrial case processing by providing timely behavioral health assessments for eligible defendants.



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2027 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2028 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

2. Increase access to community-based mental health and substance use treatment services through earlier identification of treatment needs.
3. Reduce unnecessary referrals for formal competency evaluations by providing clinically appropriate alternatives for defendants who may not require full forensic examination.
4. Improve judicial decision-making by providing courts with treatment-focused recommendations regarding diversion, treatment placement, accountability court participation, and civil commitment options.
5. Strengthen collaboration between the courts, universities, behavioral health providers, detention facilities, and DBHDD.
6. Expand Georgia's future forensic and clinical psychology workforce through supervised training opportunities for doctoral psychology students.
6. Stakeholders & Constituents:
 - a. Describe the constituent and stakeholder groups affected by this change (e.g., board members, advocates/interest groups, service providers, other agencies, other governmental entities).

The project is built upon strong collaboration among judicial, academic, behavioral health, and criminal justice partners. The pilot has already engaged judges, court administrators, DBHDD representatives, university faculty, detention facility personnel, and behavioral health stakeholders in the project's development and planning process.

Primary academic partners include the University of Georgia and Augusta University, both of which will assist in identifying doctoral psychology students, providing faculty supervision, and ensuring clinical oversight and ethical compliance throughout the assessment process.

The project will also coordinate closely with local detention facilities, accountability courts, community mental health providers, substance use treatment agencies, and pretrial services programs to facilitate referrals and continuity of care. Courts will collaborate with treatment providers to identify appropriate placement options and diversion opportunities based on assessment findings.

In addition, the project complements ongoing coordination with DBHDD by helping prioritize formal competency evaluations for defendants presenting with the most serious forensic concerns while allowing lower-risk cases to receive earlier intervention and treatment recommendations. This collaborative framework strengthens both the behavioral health and criminal justice systems by improving communication, reducing duplication of effort, and enhancing access to services.



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2027 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2028 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

- b. Have any groups voiced support or opposition?

Support from trial courts, Department of Behavioral Health and Development Disabilities, accountability courts and community service boards.

7. Legislation or Rule Change:

- a. Is legislation or a rule change required if this request is implemented? If so, please explain.

Not applicable.

- b. Is this request a result of legislation or rule change? If so, please explain.

The project also supports implementation of Georgia S.B. 132 by assisting courts in conducting informed hearings regarding competency-related concerns and treatment alternatives. By creating a structured pathway for earlier assessment and intervention, the project will help reduce unnecessary incarceration, improve treatment access, and increase the efficiency of court operations throughout the participating jurisdictions.

8. Alternatives:

What alternatives were considered and why are they not viable?

Increased personnel at DBHDD requires significantly more funds and effort.

Part 2 - BUDGET

9. Requested and Projected Resources:

- a. For enhancements and certain base adjustments, describe the additional resources you are requesting. **Ensure descriptions and amounts align with the budget chart on page 2.*

- Number of Positions and Salary Information: Not applicable
- Operational needs:

Mental health and substance abuse evaluations; small contract for administrative staff support at University of Georgia to coordinate assignment of evaluations, etc.; Training of additional faculty and students - Provided as recorded webinar. Costs to reimburse trainers.

- b. What are your out-year projections (budget impact on future years)?

It is hoped that that if the project continues to be successful that DBHDD will seek long-term funds to bring the same effort under its forensic services unit.



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2027 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2028 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

10. Methodology/Assumptions:

- a. Provide the methodology and assumptions behind the requested amount and out-year projections.

Mental health and substance abuse evaluations at \$900 per evaluation. Additional costs as needed for clinical oversight of student evaluations if needed. Funds cover approximately 250+ evaluations.

- b. How did you arrive at the amounts?

Projection of the number of completed evaluations per year.

- c. What time period does the request cover (i.e., the number of months)?

Fiscal year.

11. Federal and Other Funds: Describe the impact on federal and/or other funds related to this request (amount, policy, etc.).

Not applicable.

Part 3 - OTHER INFORMATION

12. Discuss any historical or other relevant factors that should be considered.

The proposed project establishes an innovative jail-based and telehealth-enabled pretrial mental health assessment program utilizing supervised doctoral psychology students from the University of Georgia and Augusta University. The project is designed to provide timely, treatment-focused evaluations for defendants presenting with behavioral health concerns while reducing unnecessary reliance on lengthy competency evaluation processes.

Under the proposed model, concerns regarding a defendant's mental health or substance use are identified during pretrial proceedings, often during S.B. 132 hearings. When appropriate, the court orders a pretrial mental health assessment with agreement from the parties involved.

A program administrator coordinates scheduling, referrals, and communication between the court, evaluator, detention facility, and treatment providers. Assessments are conducted primarily through telehealth platforms to maximize efficiency and access. Licensed psychologists and supervised doctoral students conduct clinical interviews, review available court and medical records, and utilize screening tools when clinically indicated.



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA FY 2027 AMENDED REQUEST FORM FY 2028 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST FORM

The resulting written report provides the referring judge with treatment-oriented recommendations, including possible outpatient services, inpatient treatment, substance use treatment, diversion opportunities, accountability court participation, or civil commitment evaluation where appropriate. The evaluation specifically avoids rendering forensic opinions regarding competency, criminal responsibility, or mens rea, thereby preserving the integrity of the formal forensic evaluation process while still providing actionable clinical information to the court.

The project's structure promotes cost efficiency by leveraging supervised doctoral trainees while maintaining professional oversight and quality assurance through university faculty and licensed psychologists. The approach simultaneously expands assessment capacity, creates workforce development opportunities, and improves the allocation of limited forensic psychology resources statewide.

Amended FY 2027 - Budget Comparison

Judicial Council Standing Committee on Budget Report

Judicial Council Program & Subprograms	FY 2027 Budget	AFY27 Enhancement Requests	AFY 2027 Budget	% Change
Administrative Office of the Courts	\$ 12,084,652		\$ 11,994,444	-0.75%
<i>Utilize existing funds for personnel for continuity of the GA CMS project</i>		\$ (90,208)		
Legal Services for Victims of Domestic Violence	\$ 3,000,000		\$ 3,000,000	
Legal Services for Families of Indigent Patients	\$ 409,500		\$ 409,500	
Legal Services for Kinship Care Families	\$ 750,000		\$ 750,000	
GA Council of Court Administrators	\$ 16,389		\$ 16,389	
Council of Municipal Court Judges	\$ 32,870		\$ 35,870	9.13%
<i>Increase funds for operations to support strategic initiatives</i>		\$ 3,000		
Child Support Collaborative	\$ 136,825		\$ 136,825	
Council of Magistrate Court Judges	\$ 227,458		\$ 227,458	
Council of Probate Court Judges	\$ 215,464		\$ 215,464	
Council of State Court Judges	\$ 2,872,948		\$ 2,872,948	
Judicial Council Programs and Subprograms Total	\$ 19,746,106	\$ (87,208)	\$ 19,658,898	-0.44%
Other Programs				
Accountability Courts	\$ 1,298,689		\$ 1,298,689	
Office of Dispute Resolution	\$ 164,711		\$ 203,711	23.68%
<i>Increase funds to support the Schedule ADR case management system</i>		\$ 39,000		
Inst of Continuing Jud Ed Operations	\$ 907,824		\$ 907,824	
Judicial Qualifications Commission	\$ 1,951,630		\$ 1,951,630	
Resource Center	\$ 900,000		\$ 931,250	3.47%
<i>Increase funds to offset reductions in other funding sources</i>		\$ 31,250		
State-wide Business Court	\$ 2,030,497		\$ 2,030,497	
Prosecuting Attorneys Qualifications Commission	\$ 1,111,283		\$ 1,111,283	
Georgia Tax Court	\$ 807,549		\$ 807,549	
Other Programs Total	\$ 9,172,183	\$ 70,250	\$ 9,242,433	0.77%
Judicial Council Totals	\$ 28,918,289	\$ (16,958)	\$ 28,901,331	-0.06%

FY 2028 - Budget Comparison				
Judicial Council Standing Committee on Budget Report				
Judicial Council Program & Subprograms	FY 2027 Budget	FY28 Enhancement Requests	FY 2028 Budget	% Change
Administrative Office of the Courts	\$ 12,084,652		\$ 12,887,301	6.64%
<i>Utilize existing funds and increase funds for personnel for continuity of the GA CMS project</i>		\$ 404,867		
<i>Increase funds for personnel for one coordinator position for the Criminal Data Exchange (CDX) Board</i>		\$ 147,782		
<i>Increase funds for a competency evaluation pilot project</i>		\$ 250,000		
Legal Services for Victims of Domestic Violence	\$ 3,000,000		\$ 3,000,000	
Legal Services for Families of Indigent Patients	\$ 409,500		\$ 409,500	
Legal Services for Kinship Care Families	\$ 750,000		\$ 750,000	
GA Council of Court Administrators	\$ 16,389		\$ 16,389	
Council of Municipal Court Judges	\$ 32,870		\$ 51,870	57.80%
<i>Increase funds for operations to support strategic initiatives</i>		\$ 19,000		
Child Support Collaborative	\$ 136,825		\$ 136,825	
Council of Magistrate Court Judges	\$ 227,458		\$ 227,458	
Council of Probate Court Judges	\$ 215,464		\$ 215,464	
Council of State Court Judges	\$ 2,872,948		\$ 2,872,948	
Judicial Council Programs and Subprograms Total	\$ 19,746,106	\$ 821,649	\$ 20,567,755	4.16%
Other Programs				
Accountability Courts	\$ 1,298,689		\$ 1,298,689	
Office of Dispute Resolution	\$ 164,711		\$ 164,711	
Inst of Continuing Jud Ed Operations	\$ 907,824		\$ 907,824	
Judicial Qualifications Commission	\$ 1,951,630		\$ 1,951,630	
Resource Center	\$ 900,000		\$ 1,025,000	13.89%
<i>Increase funds to offset reductions in other funding sources</i>		\$ 125,000		
State-wide Business Court	\$ 2,030,497		\$ 2,030,497	
Prosecuting Attorneys Qualifications Commission	\$ 1,111,283		\$ 1,111,283	
Georgia Tax Court	\$ 807,549		\$ 807,549	
Other Programs Total	\$ 9,172,183	\$ 125,000	\$ 9,297,183	1.36%
Judicial Council Totals	\$ 28,918,289	\$ 946,649	\$ 29,864,938	3.27%

TAB 3



Judicial Council of Georgia

Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Nels S.D. Peterson
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Director

Memorandum

TO: Judicial Council

FROM: Judge Stephen Kelley, Co-Chair

RE: JC Standing Committee on Technology Report

DATE: August 7, 2026

The Judicial Council Standing Committee on Technology met on Thursday, July 23, 2026. The following report reflects matters and topics discussed during those meeting.

GA CMS Project –Mr. Bharath Parthasarathy

Mr. Bharath Parthasarathy reported that Gavel is completing month seven of the enhancement phase and thanked the AOC, pilot courts, and judicial partners for their continued collaboration.

Recent enhancements include case editing with audit trails, case sealing, improved search capabilities, expanded financial management, accountability court improvements, enhanced reporting, multiple document processing, and a signature library for judges. The committee also received an update on pilot court deployments. Several courts are now live in production, with positive feedback highlighting the team's responsiveness in addressing issues and delivering enhancements.

AOC Updates – Mr. Ben Luke

Mr. Luke reminded the committee that cybersecurity remains a top priority, noting the continued rise in ransomware, business email compromise, and other attacks targeting state and local governments. He encouraged courts to promptly report suspected security

incidents and emphasized the AOC's ongoing monitoring, vulnerability management, and incident response efforts.

Mr. Ben Luke introduced a proof-of-concept developed by the AOC to automate court reporter backups. Mr. Jon Caiazzo demonstrated the cloud-based solution, which reduces weekly backup effort from approximately 17 hours to about 20 minutes while improving redundancy and monitoring.

Committee members expressed strong interest in broader statewide adoption. The team noted that future AI-powered search and transcription capabilities are technically possible but have not been approved.

Ad Hoc Committee on AI and Courts – Judge Morris

Judge Morris shared updates on the AI Subcommittee and highlighted the Lex AI newsletter as a valuable resource for judges.

Judge Morris also presented a proposal for attorneys to hyperlink legal citations in court filings to improve citation verification and reduce AI-related inaccuracies. Committee discussion focused on implementation considerations, including cybersecurity, accessibility, approved citation sources, and link longevity. Members agreed additional research and refinement are needed before advancing the proposal, with the Business Court identified as a potential pilot venue.

Next Meeting

The next committee meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2026.

TAB 4



Judicial Council of Georgia

Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Nels S.D. Peterson
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Director

Memorandum

TO: Judicial Council of Georgia

FROM: Judge Robert D. Leonard II

RE: Judicial Workload Assessment Committee Report

DATE: August 10, 2026

The Standing Committee on Judicial Workload Assessment met on July 10, 2026, to review and discuss updates to the *Judicial Council Policy on the Study of Superior Court Judgeships and Circuit Boundaries*, *Georgia Court Guide to Statistical Reporting*, Case Initiation Form, and to consider recommendations for new judgeships.

Updates to the *Policy on the Study of Superior Court Judgeships and Circuit Boundaries* reflect clean-up and clarifying language that specifies a request for a circuit boundary study submitted more than five business days after June 1, will not be considered during the current year. This restores discretion to the JWAC chair (with approval of the Chief Justice) to direct AOC staff to conduct a requested workload study request received after that same date.

The *Georgia Court Guide to Statistical Reporting* also features several updates including revisions to general common definitions. Another notable update is to superior court serious felony category that now incorporates Street Gang Terrorism and Prevention Act, as defined in O.C.G.A. § 16-15-4. The committee believes that recategorizing these offenses to serious felonies will more accurately capture the judicial time those cases require.

Additionally, a Working Group chaired by Mr. Bob Bray was established to develop recommendations that define “Units of Count” for municipal courts, as well as “Non-Criminal Traffic Violations” to ensure accurate reporting of red-light, school bus camera, and speed cameras for caseload reporting. Revisions to the Case Initiation Form changed “Medical Malpractice” to “Malpractice Tort,” making it a more general category that will also capture legal and other forms of malpractice. Additionally, “Declaratory Judgment” has been given its own category. The corresponding definitions have also been updated to reflect these changes.

This year, the Committee received workload assessment requests from five circuits. All five circuits meet or exceed the 1.20 threshold of eligibility and qualify for a new judgeship. Additionally, as a precautionary measure, AOC Research Analysts conducted a simulated workload assessment for each circuit, assuming the addition of a new judge and using projected 2026 caseload data. None of the projected analyses reveal a significant decline in workload that would cause the circuit to fall below 0.80, assuming caseload data trends remain steady.

The following circuits (listed in alphabetical order) were reviewed and approved by JWAC and are recommended for consideration by the Judicial Council:

1. Alcovy Judicial Circuit – 1.25
2. Cherokee Judicial Circuit – 1.42
3. Clayton Judicial Circuit – 1.37
4. DeKalb Judicial Circuit – 1.35
5. Griffin Judicial Circuit – 1.27

The Atlanta Judicial Circuit previously qualified for a judgeship in 2025 with a 1.29 value and remains eligible. During the 2026 Legislative Session, the Atlanta Judicial Circuit and the Clayton Judicial Circuit were approved for new judgeships subject to appropriation. Those circuits were not funded by the General Assembly.

During the meeting, staff presented on the 2026 caseload reporting project, gave an overview of 0.80 circuits, and a demo of the newly refreshed dashboard. The Chair advised that clearance rate awards would be discontinued. However, the data is on the AOC's Research webpage at [Data and Statistics – Office of Research and Data Analysis](#).

The next JWAC meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2026.



Judicial Council Policy on the Study of Superior Court Judgeships and Circuit Boundaries

Georgia Judicial Workload Assessment (Appendix A)

Judicial Council Policy on the Submission of Caseload Reports by Trial Courts

Policy on the Study of Superior Court Judgeships and Circuit Boundaries

Section 1 – Policy

1.1 – Introduction

This policy governs the processes, procedures, and methodology used by the Judicial Council when considering requests for additional judgeships and circuit boundary alterations. The Judicial Council recognizes that the addition of a judgeship or circuit boundary alteration is a matter of great gravity and substantial expense to the state’s citizens. Therefore, careful inquiry and deliberate study according to a rigorous methodology will lay the foundation for any recommended changes to circuit judgeships or boundaries.

The Judicial Council acknowledges the National Center for State Courts’ (“NCSC”) subject matter expertise in case processing and workload methodology and its documented best practices for assistance in this policy (see Appendix A).

The Georgia Court Guide on Statistical Reporting is a supplemental publication to the Superior Court Caseload and Workload Policy created to standardize the reporting statistics for Georgia’s trial courts. A copy of the document can be viewed at [Georgia Court Guide to Statistical Reporting](#).

1.2 – Policy Statements

1. The Judicial Council will recommend additional judgeships based only upon need demonstrated through the methodology contained herein.
2. The Judicial Council will recommend circuit boundary alterations based only upon need demonstrated through the methodology contained herein.

Section 2 – Judgeship and Circuit Boundary Study

2.1 – Initiation

1. The governor, members of the General Assembly, and superior court judges have standing to initiate judgeship and circuit boundary studies.
2. The AOC will notify the governor, General Assembly, superior court judges, and district court administrators no later than May 1 that they may request studies in writing by June 1, or the next business day thereafter if June 1 falls on a weekend, prior to the session of the General Assembly during which the judgeship or change in circuit boundaries is sought. Any request received after June 1 will not be considered until the following year except upon approval by the chair of the Judicial Council in consultation with the chair of the Standing Committee on Judicial Workload Assessment for good cause shown. Under no circumstances will a request for a circuit boundary study received more than five business days after June 1 be considered during the current year.

3. Requests for studies will be sent to the director of the AOC. After receiving a request for a judgeship, the AOC will inform all judges within the circuit of the request. After receiving a request for a circuit boundary study, the AOC will inform all judges within the requested circuit, all judges of any adjacent circuits, and their district court administrators by US mail and electronic mail. Any request by any party may be withdrawn by the same party at any time for any reason, and staff will notify all parties impacted by such a withdrawal.
4. The AOC will send the caseload and workload status of their respective circuits to all superior court judges and district court administrators no later than May 1 of each year.

2.1(a) — Circuit Boundary Prescreening

1. The AOC shall inquire of the requestor about the specific circuit alteration desired of a circuit boundary request. The AOC shall conduct an analysis for the specific outcome desired by the requestor to determine its feasibility.¹
2. Upon asking the requestor the desired alteration, the AOC shall send notice to the judges located in the specific circuit that is mentioned in the request.
3. If the desired outcome sought by the requestor is not feasible, the request may be withdrawn. If the request is not withdrawn, the AOC will continue with the study as referenced in Section 2.3. The judges of the circuit will be notified if the request is withdrawn.

2.2 – Judgeship Study Methodology

The Judicial Council approved the NCSC report adopted by the Council on April 21, 2023 (see Appendix A). Appendix B represents commonly used workload assessment definitions.

1. The most recent three-year average of civil case filings and criminal case defendants, for each case type listed in Appendix A, will serve as the *total circuit caseload* for each case type. Each case type's caseload will be multiplied by its respective *case weight*. The resulting figure represents the *total circuit workload*. The *total circuit workload* will be divided by the *judge year value* assigned to the circuit based on its *classification*. The resulting figure represents the *judge workload value (FTE)*. If the *judge workload value* divided by the total number of authorized judgeships in the circuit is not less than 1.20, then the circuit is qualified for an additional judgeship. If the *judge workload value* divided by the total number of authorized judgeships in the circuit is less than 1.20, then the circuit is not qualified for an additional judgeship. For purpose of analysis and reporting under this policy, workload values shall be cutoff at the hundredth of the decimal. When analyzing a circuit for multiple judgeships, the circuit shall first be analyzed to determine a need for one judgeship. If qualified, then the circuit shall be analyzed for one additional judgeship, giving the circuit credit for the additional judgeship need already qualified for. This process shall repeat itself until the circuit is not qualified or the request is exhausted. The Judicial Council may submit a list of all qualifying circuits utilizing the same methodology. In the event the methodology described in this policy or the *Georgia Guide to Statistical Reporting* has changed during a circuit's three-year

¹ A preliminary analysis may include factors such as caseload data and workload analysis. It does not represent or constitute a comprehensive or finalized circuit boundary feasibility study.

qualification period referenced in Section 3, Paragraph 4 below, AOC staff will reanalyze the circuit's workload value per judge utilizing the newest methodology.

2. A circuit that requests and qualifies for an additional judgeship will have its judgeship study prepared and presented at the next Standing Committee on Judicial Workload Assessment Committee meeting. Requestors will be notified of their status and the Committee will process the request no later than June 15. The Standing Committee may forward the recommendation to the Judicial Council for consideration at the first meeting of the fiscal year as described in Section 3. If a majority of the judges in a circuit vote to disagree with a request for a judgeship, the Standing Committee may consider that disagreement in their decisions to recommend new judgeships to the Council. The Committee shall vote on request for multiple judgeships from the same circuit independently.
3. A circuit that requests and is not qualified for an additional judgeship has the right to appeal its status to the Standing Committee on Judicial Workload Assessment. Requestors will be notified of their status and the Committee will process the appeal no later than June 15. If the appeal is approved, then the appealing circuit will have a judgeship study prepared and presented at the next Judicial Council meeting as described in Section 3.
4. The AOC will present annually to the Committee a list of all circuits whose *judge workload value* divided by the total number of authorized judgeships in the circuit is less than 0.80 and whose per judge workload value would not equal or exceed 1.20 upon reduction of a judgeship. The Committee Chair shall invite all judges from such circuits to appear at the next Committee meeting to discuss their caseload and workload data. There shall not be fewer than two judges in each circuit, so the circuits that would have fewer than two judges after a reduction based on judge workload value per judge will not be included.
5. The Committee shall provide technical assistance, with the assistance of the AOC and others so designated, to the affected circuits that may include a manual hand count of cases for a specified period of time, additional training for clerks and staff on proper case documentation, and a review of caseload reports and other case information. The AOC shall provide the Committee prior to the next year's annual reporting, a report of the technical assistance provided and any recommendations for further assistance. Beginning with the 2022 case count, if a circuit's workload is 0.80 or less for three consecutive years, then the Committee may report the same to the Judicial Council.

2.3 – Circuit Boundary Study Methodology

A proposed circuit boundary alteration will cause study of the requesting circuit and all adjacent circuits. A circuit is qualified for a boundary alteration if, after the proposed alteration, the following conditions are met.

1. Caseload and Workload

- a. Caseload is more evenly distributed across all circuits impacted by the alteration.

- b. Workload in altered circuits does not vary significantly from the statewide average workload.
- c. Caseload trend analysis of altered circuits does not project an imbalance in growth rates that would necessitate a reallocation of resources or alteration of circuit boundaries again in the near future.

2. Population

- a. Per judge population is more evenly distributed among circuits impacted by altered boundaries.
- b. Per judge population does not vary significantly from the statewide average in altered circuits.
- c. Population trend analysis of altered circuits does not show an imbalance in growth rates that would necessitate a reallocation of resources or alteration of circuit boundaries again within ten years.
- d. The population of altered circuits is more evenly distributed than the original circuits.

3. Judges

- a. The number of additional judges needed to serve altered circuits is not significantly greater than the original number.
- b. Judges' travel time and/or distance between courthouses decreases in altered circuits.

4. Administrative

- a. The one-time and recurring costs to altered circuits are not overly burdensome to the state or local governments. Changes in cost for personnel services and operations will be considered. These costs include, but are not limited, to the following:
 - i. Salaries and compensation for staff;
 - ii. Cost for items such as furniture, signage, and general startup expenses;
 - iii. Rent or the purchase of new office space;
 - iv. Purchase or lease of a vehicle; and
 - v. Conference and continued education costs.
- b. The operational and case assignment policies are not negatively impacted in altered circuits.
 - i. Any current standing orders regarding case assignment should be submitted to the AOC; and
 - ii. Any item affecting the case assignment not specifically expressed in the Uniform Rules for Superior Courts should be submitted to the AOC.

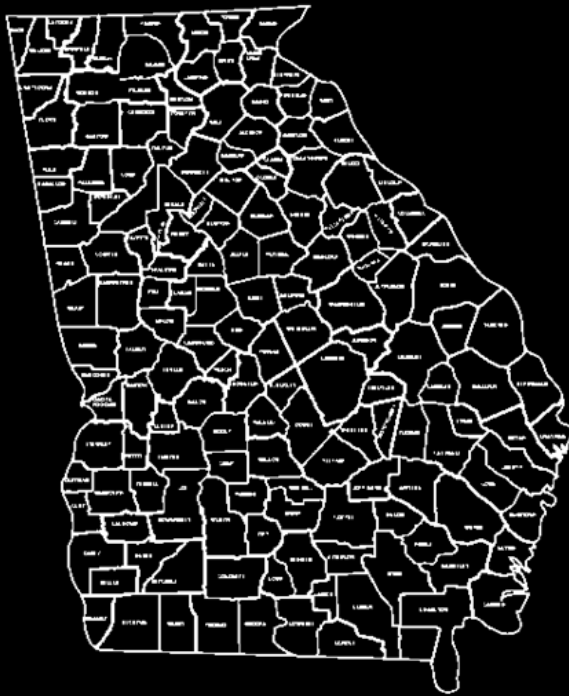
- c. The Circuit Court Administrator and/or District Court Administrator is required to submit the detailed Comprehensive Annual Financial Report to the AOC to be included within the analysis.
5. The preceding conditions (1-4) will be considered for all potential circuit boundary alterations before qualification status is determined.
6. If a circuit meets a significant number of the preceding conditions, then the circuit is qualified for a boundary alteration. If a circuit does not meet a significant number of the preceding conditions, then the circuit is not qualified for a boundary alteration.
7. The AOC will notify the requestor and all potentially affected judges and district court administrators of the circuit's qualification status no later than September 1.
8. A circuit that qualifies for a boundary alteration will have its study prepared and presented no later than the last meeting of the calendar year for the Standing Committee on Judicial Workload Assessment. The Standing Committee may forward the recommendation to the Judicial Council for consideration at its next meeting as described in Section 3. If a majority of the judges in a circuit vote to oppose a request for a circuit boundary alteration, the Standing Committee shall consider the circuit's opposition in their decisions to recommend circuit boundary alterations to the Council.
9. A circuit not qualified for a boundary alteration has the right to appeal its status to the Standing Committee on Judicial Workload Assessment. If the appeal is approved, then the appealing circuit will have a boundary study prepared and presented at the next Judicial Council meeting as described in Section 3. Appeals may not be based upon a circuit's caseload.

Section 3 - Judicial Council Procedure

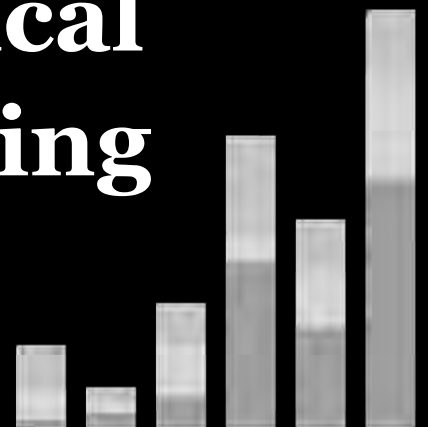
The Judicial Council shares judicial personnel allocation recommendations and approved findings of viability for circuit boundary alterations with the Governor and the General Assembly annually prior to the beginning of the regular session of the General Assembly.

1. The AOC will prepare and present all Committee recommendations on additional judgeships, viability of circuit boundary adjustments, and reduction of judgeships to the Council. Requestors will be notified of the Council's process no later than a month after the matter is heard by the Committee. The report will include the results of the judgeship and/or boundary studies, any letters of support from requesting circuits, any available CourTools data, and other information the AOC may deem beneficial to Judicial Council deliberations.
2. After reviewing the recommendations, the Judicial Council, in open session, may discuss the merits of each recommendation. Any Judicial Council member in a circuit or county affected by a recommendation will be eligible to vote on motions affecting that circuit but will not be present or participate in deliberations regarding the circuit. Non-Judicial Council members offering support or opposition may be recognized to speak by the Chief Justice.

3. After deliberations, the Judicial Council will, in open session, approve or disapprove the recommendations. The Council shall vote on requests for multiple judgeships from the same circuit independently. ~~Votes on such recommendations will be by secret, written or electronic ballot. Each ballot must be complete to be counted. The Vice Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals will oversee ballot counting.~~ If approved, the entire list of circuits qualifying for an additional judgeship will be forwarded to the Governor and General Assembly in the order of highest judicial workload value without any re-ranking.
4. After determining the circuits recommended for an additional judgeship, the Judicial Council will list the circuits by judicial workload value per judge. Tied circuits will be listed alphabetically and with no regard to the Council's opinion of the strength or weakness of any of the recommendations. The recommendation will remain for a period of three years unless: (1) the total caseload of that circuit decreases 10 percent or more; (2) the circuit withdraws the request; or (3) requests an updated workload assessment pursuant to subparagraph (a) below and the resulting workload is lower than a 1.20. If any of these circumstances occur, the circuit must requalify before being considered again by the Judicial Council.
 - a. A circuit can request another workload assessment after receiving a recommendation for a new judgeship from the Judicial Council. The request must follow the same procedure outlined in section 2.1 (2). The circuit will not have its time extended past the initial three-year recommendation.
 - b. If a circuit requests a new workload study, the Committee will report the results to the Judicial Council and the Judicial Council will use only the new data.
5. If the Judicial Council expresses support for the viability of a circuit boundary study, the study will remain valid for a period of one year.
6. The AOC will prepare and distribute letters notifying requestors and chief judges of the Judicial Council's actions and distribute a notice summarizing the Judicial Council's recommendations.



Georgia Court Guide to Statistical Reporting



Georgia Court Guide to Statistical Reporting

A publication of the Judicial Council of Georgia's Administrative Office of the Courts



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Acknowledgments

The *Georgia Court Guide to Statistical Reporting* has existed under various names since the inception of the Judicial Council of Georgia / Administrative Office of the Courts (JC/AOC). While the JC/AOC oversees the collection of data, the efforts of countless state and local officials contribute to the success of annual caseload data collection. These officials include judges, clerks, court administrators, prosecutors, and many others. The Office of Research and Data Analysis is grateful to all who have helped, and we acknowledge their dedication to improving Georgia's judicial data collection.

The annual caseload collection project would not be possible without the leadership of past and present Judicial Council and Judicial Workload Assessment Committee members. Their commitment to the project is crucial to improving Georgia's judiciary through careful research and analysis of court data.

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Overview

The *Georgia Court Guide to Statistical Reporting* (Guide) is a standardized reporting framework for Georgia trial court statistics. The statistics reported through this framework are compiled, analyzed, and published by the Administrative Office of the Courts' Office of Research and Data Analysis (Research).

Since 1976, the JC/AOC has worked with local officials to measure activity in Georgia courts. The ongoing efforts produce statistics for Supreme, Appeals, Superior, State, Juvenile, Probate, Magistrate, Civil, Recorder's, and Municipal courts. Georgia law requires the AOC to "compile statistical and financial data and other information on the judicial work of the courts and on the work of other offices related to and serving the courts, which data and information shall be provided by the courts" (O.C.G.A. §15-5-24 (3)). The AOC serves as the state archive of court statistical information.

The collected data is used to support state and county resource decisions and to assist in policy development. In addition, statewide caseload activity is reported to the National Center for State Courts and other national organizations that inform justice system stakeholders about Georgia's courts. The caseload data serves as a historical description of the courts. The published data is used by judicial branch agencies, state and local executive agencies, project and program managers and grant applicants to support ongoing process and operational improvements. Superior court data is also used in the assessment of judicial workload that can lead to Judicial Council recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly for additional judgeships.

Due to Georgia's non-centralized court system, each class of court and their respective circuits, counties, and cities vary in their administrative structure. Regardless of their organization, the JC/AOC has set for itself the same task: to map caseload data to the reporting framework in this guide. Without common definitions and a standard format for classification, JC/AOC's goal could not be achieved.

The Guide is divided into sections for each class of court in Georgia. Within each section, the Guide contains definitions for how cases should be defined, classified, and counted. Court case management systems should be capable of generating reports that meet the requirements of the Guide. Individual vendors can provide guidance on their specific product capabilities. Research personnel are available to discuss the Guide and assist courts, clerks, and vendors with reporting. Submission instructions can be found in Section 10.

Note that all case categories, case types, case status categories, manners of disposition, and case characteristics are defined as they apply to the Guide. Categories may vary somewhat from other definitions or common usage in any given circuit, county, or municipality.

Guide Goals

As stated previously, the Guide is a standardized framework for accurately reporting caseload data. Though individual practices vary across courts, this guide seeks to establish a uniform language for statistical reporting with the goal of ensuring that Georgia provides the highest data quality possible.

1. To provide caseload elements with unique, mutually exclusive definitions.
2. To write all definitions clearly and concisely, reducing the possibility of confusion among stakeholders.
3. To have a consistent, high-quality aesthetic.
4. To make minimal changes from year to year, adjusting only when necessary to maintain other goals.

Section 1 – Common Definitions

Criminal, civil, and traffic caseloads each have their own units of count which remain standard across all classes of court. In addition, caseload data is reported in three ways: Status Categories, Case Characteristics, and Manner of Disposition. Each caseload section and the elements that comprise each section are outlined below.

Unit of Count

Criminal: The unit of count for criminal cases is determined by defendants. This is defined as a count of the number of individuals that have been charged with a criminal offense. Each defendant is categorized based on the most serious offense regardless of the number of charges on the docket.

Civil: A petition or civil complaint begins a civil case. A civil case with multiple parties or multiple causes of action is counted as one case. The unit of count for civil cases is each complaint/petition that is filed with the clerk of court.

Traffic: The unit of count for traffic cases is by tickets/citations. Each ticket/citation is one case. ~~If a ticket/citation has more than one charge it is still counted as one case and categorized under the most serious offense.~~

~~For example, a driver charged with both a DUI and speeding charges under the same citation will only count as one serious traffic filing.~~

Status Categories

Caseload reporting captures information about case status during the calendar year reporting period. These case status categories are consistent for each trial court.

Cases Open: A count of cases that were filed in any previous year and at the start of the current reporting year and are awaiting disposition.

Cases Filed: A count of cases that have been filed with the court for the first time within the current reporting year.

Cases Disposed: A count of cases for which an original entry of judgment or dead docket order has been entered during the current reporting year. For cases involving multiple parties/issues, the disposition should not be reported until all parties/issues have been resolved.

Case Characteristics

Introduction

The data on case characteristics captures information related to key policy interests on disposed cases. This data provides additional details about cases that have already been counted in the court's disposed caseload. Data is collected on the number of cases with self-represented litigants and cases with interpreters.

Unit of Count

A count of the number of disposed cases that included self-represented litigants and interpreters at any time during the life of the case. The unit of count is the case, not the litigant(s).

- A case should be counted at the point of disposition
- A case with self-represented litigant(s) should be counted as a single case, whether that case has one or more self-represented litigants.
- A case with interpreter(s) should be counted as a single case, whether that case has one or more interpreters.

Cases with Self-Represented Litigants:

A self-represented litigant is a person who advocates on his or her own behalf before a court rather than being represented by an attorney. These litigants are also known as “pro se” or “pro per” litigants if, during the life of the case, one or more parties was self-represented.

For plaintiffs/petitioners, the life of the case is from filing to disposition. For defendants/respondents, the life of the case is from arraignment/answer to disposition. While arraignment procedures may vary, the assumption is that the arraignment is the first opportunity that defendants have to provide the court with their representation status (i.e., to tell the court that an attorney has been retained, to request that the court appoint an attorney, or to inform the court of the defendant’s wish to be self-represented). Therefore, in criminal cases the arraignment (or an equivalent hearing) is considered to be the start of the case for the defendant.

Cases in which the defendant appears at arraignment without defense counsel but requests a court-appointed attorney during the arraignment proceedings should only be included in the self-represented tally if the self-representation continues after arraignment.

Self-represented litigants can take advantage of limited scope legal assistance (also known as limited assistance representation or unbundled legal services) to assist with the preparation of specific documents or to argue certain legal issues in a hearing before a judicial officer. While these self-represented litigants have representation for a specific and limited purpose, they remain fundamentally self-represented.

Thus, cases in which self-represented litigants have obtained limited scope legal assistance are still counted as cases with self-represented litigants.

If a case is disposed by default, do not assume that the non-responding defendant/respondent was self-represented. If the plaintiff/petitioner was self-represented, the case can be correctly counted as one with a self-represented litigant. However, if the plaintiff/petitioner was represented and the defendant/respondent was at default due to a failure to respond at any point during the life of the case, the case is not to be counted as one with self-represented litigants.

Cases with Interpreters:

A case with an interpreter is a case in which an interpreter is appointed by the court to provide interpretation services in any or all three modes of interpretation (consecutive interpretation, simultaneous interpretation, and sight translation) for a Limited English Proficient (LEP) party from that person’s native language to English and vice versa. Sign Language interpretation is included.

Interpreter services can be provided in person, via telephone, or through other audio/visual technologies. The distinction here is between interpretation as ordered by the court and interpretation that may be provided on an ad hoc basis by a family member or friend.

Interpretation ordered by the court may be provided by anyone the court deems qualified (e.g. certified interpreter, registered interpreter); the underlying assumption is that the court has formally taken note of the need for interpreter services and provided them.

Any interpreter ordered by the court, regardless of whether for a party, witness, etc., would be counted for a case with an interpreter.

Manner of Disposition

Introduction

Manner of Disposition classifies disposed cases as trial and non-trial. Understanding trial rates and how they vary by case type is of policy interest to court management and the legal profession.

Unit of Count

For each case type, count the number of disposed cases that were disposed by the disposition type. For cases involving multiple parties/issues, the manner of disposition should not be reported until all parties/issues have been resolved. When there is more than one type of dispositive action in a case, count as the disposition the action requiring the most judicial involvement. Prioritize actions as follows: jury trials, bench/non-jury trials, non-trial dispositions.

Notes Specific to Manner of Disposition

Cases that are deferred to diversion or accountability court dockets (e.g. Drug Court) are not counted as dispositions until they return for final adjudication (e.g. imposition of sentence or dismissal).

Definitions for Manner of Disposition

Jury Trial: Cases in which a jury is impaneled to determine the issues of fact in the case. A jury trial should be counted when the jury has been sworn, regardless of whether a verdict is reached.

Bench/Non-Jury Trial: Cases in which a judge or judicial officer is assigned to determine both the issues of fact and law in the case. A bench/non-jury trial should be counted when the first evidence is introduced, regardless of whether a judgment is reached.

Non-Trial: Cases in which the disposition does not involve either a jury trial or bench trial. This includes but is not limited to:

- Summary judgment
- Settlement
- Alternative Dispute Resolution: If a case was disposed of via a non-trial disposition, and the method of disposition was alternative dispute resolution. Only check if the whole case was resolved via alternative dispute resolution

- Default judgment
- Dismissal
- Transfer to another court
- Bind Over: Transfers (of a case or defendant) to a trial court after a finding of probable cause at a preliminary hearing. Note: include all bind overs, even if the offense is not a felony (**currently collected by the Municipal Courts only**)
- Guilty plea/stipulation
- Nolle Prosequi
- All delinquency and dependency non-trial hearings
- Dead Docket Orders

Section 2 – Superior Court

Introduction

Georgia's 159 superior courts are general jurisdiction trial courts exercising both civil and criminal jurisdiction. Superior court judges hear all felony cases, domestic relations cases, equity cases, and other civil matters. Superior courts have jurisdiction to hear appeals from lower courts as provided by the Georgia Constitution, including appeals of judgments from the probate and magistrate courts that are handled as de novo appeals. The superior courts are organized into 51 judicial circuits made up of one or more counties. Superior court judges are constitutional officers who are elected to four-year terms in circuit-wide nonpartisan elections.

For reporting in the Georgia framework, superior court caseload is divided into three major categories: criminal, domestic relations, and general civil. The superior court reporting framework described in the Guide is used for reporting superior court caseload data.

Superior Court Definitions

Criminal

Death Penalty: A count of cases in which the prosecuting attorney intends to seek the death penalty and has filed with the clerk of court the necessary written notice. These cases are only to be counted for the year in which they are filed.

Serious Felony: Any serious violent felony as defined in O.C.G.A. § 17-10-6.1, and the crimes listed below not contained in 17-10-6.1: Specifically:

- Murder, ~~or~~ felony murder, and murder in the second degree, as defined in O.C.G.A. § 16-5-1;
- Armed robbery, as defined in O.C.G.A. § 16-8-41;
- Kidnapping, as defined in O.C.G.A. § 16-5-40;
- Rape, as defined in O.C.G.A. § 16-6-1;
- Aggravated child molestation, as defined in subsection (c) of O.C.G.A. § 16-6-4(c), unless subject to the provisions of paragraph (2) of subsection (d) of O.C.G.A. § 16-6-4(d)(2);
- Aggravated sodomy, as defined in O.C.G.A. § 16-6-2(a)(2); or
- Aggravated sexual battery, as defined in O.C.G.A. § 16-6-22.2;

- Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization (R.I.C.O.) cases as defined by O.C.G.A. § 16-14-43;
- Home Invasion, as defined in O.C.G.A. § 16-7-5(-b).
- Street Gang Terrorism and Prevention Act, as defined in O.C.G.A. § 16-15-4.

Felony: A count of cases where the offense is punishable by incarceration for one year or more, excluding cases counted as serious felonies.

Serious Traffic: Cases including misdemeanor DUI, reckless driving, homicide by vehicle, aggressive driving, and fleeing, or attempting to elude a police officer.

Misdemeanor: Any offense punishable by incarceration for less than one year, and/or community service, and/or maximum fine of \$1,000.

Probation Revocations: Number of probation revocation petitions filed by either private or public probation officers, including waivers signed by defendants and first offender adjudications.

Domestic Relations

Adoption: Cases involving a request for the establishment of a new, permanent relationship

of parent and child between persons not so biologically related.

Contempt: Any case alleging failure to comply with a previously existing court order.

Dissolution/Divorce/Separate Maintenance: Any case involving the dissolution of a marriage or the establishing of alimony or separate maintenance.

Family Violence Petition: Any case in which a family violence or stalking protective order from a family member or domestic partner is requested.

Modification of Custody: Any case seeking to change the terms of any previously existing court order concerning custody, parenting time, or visitation. This category also includes petitions for third-party custody and equitable caregiver status.

Paternity/Legitimation: Any case not brought by the Department of Child Support Services that involves a determination of biological offspring.

Support- IV-D: Cases filed by the Georgia Department of Human Services to request maintenance of a minor child by a person who is required, under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act of 1973, to provide such maintenance.

Support- Private (non-IV-D): Cases filed to request or modify maintenance of a parent/guardian or a minor child by a person who is required by law, but who is not under the auspices of Title IV-D of the Social Security Act of 1973, to provide such maintenance.

Other Domestic Relations: Domestic relations cases that do not adequately fit into any of the other case types.

General Civil

Automobile Tort: Any tort case involving personal injury, property damage, or wrongful death resulting from alleged negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

Civil Appeal: Any case disrupting the finding

of a limited jurisdiction trial court, department, or administrative agency.

Contract: Any case involving a dispute over an agreement between two or more parties.

Garnishment: Any case where, after a monetary judgment, a third party who has money or other property belonging to the defendant is required to turn over such money or property to the court.

General Tort: Any tort case that is not defined or is not attributable to one of the other torts.

Habeas Corpus: Any case designed to test the legality of the detention or imprisonment of an individual, not the question of guilt or innocence.

Injunction/Mandamus/Other Writ: Cases involving a written court order directed to a specific party, requiring that party to perform or refrain from performing a specific act.

Landlord/Tenant: Any case involving landlord/tenant disputes wherein the landlord removes a tenant and his/her property from the premises or places a lien on tenant property to repay debt.

Medical Malpractice Tort: Any tort case that alleges misconduct or negligence by a person in the medical profession acting in a professional capacity, such as doctors, nurses, physician's assistants, dentists, etc.

Product Liability Tort: Cases alleging that injury is caused by the manufacturer or seller of an article due to a defect in, or the condition of, the article sold or an alleged breach of duty to provide suitable instructions to prevent injury.

Real Property: Any case involving disputes over the ownership, use, boundaries, or value of fixed land.

Restraining Petition: Any petition for a restraining order that does not result from a domestic altercation or is not between parties considered to be in a domestic relationship.

Other General Civil: Any case in which a

plaintiff requests the enforcement or protection of a right or the redress or prevention of a wrong

but does not fit into one of the previously defined case categories.

Section 3 – State Court

Introduction

Georgia's 73 State Courts are county-based courts that exercise limited jurisdiction. State court judges have criminal jurisdiction over misdemeanor offenses, felony preliminary hearings, traffic violations, and application and issuance of search and arrest warrants. Civil matters not reserved exclusively to the superior courts can be adjudicated in state courts. Appeals of judgments from the magistrate courts may be sent to the state court and handled as a de novo appeal. The General Assembly creates state courts by local legislation establishing the number of judges and their status as full-time or part-time. State court judges are elected to four-year terms in countywide, non-partisan elections.

For reporting in the Georgia framework, state court caseload is divided into two major categories: civil and criminal. The state court reporting framework described in the Guide is used for reporting state court caseload data.

State Court Definitions

Civil

Automobile Tort: Any tort case involving personal injury, property damage, or wrongful death resulting from alleged negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

Civil Appeal: Any case disrupting the finding of a limited jurisdiction trial court, department, or administrative agency.

Contract: Any case involving a dispute over an agreement between two or more parties.

Garnishment: Any case where, after a monetary judgment, a third party who has money or other property belonging to the defendant is required to turn over such money or property to the court.

General Tort: Any tort case that is not defined or is not attributable to one of the other torts.

Landlord/Tenant: Any case involving landlord/tenant disputes wherein the landlord removes a tenant and his/her property from the premises or places a lien on tenant property to repay debt.

Medical Malpractice Tort: Any tort case that alleges misconduct or negligence by a person in the medical profession acting in a professional capacity, such as doctors, nurses, physician's

assistants, dentists, etc.

Product Liability Tort: Cases alleging that injury is caused by the manufacturer or seller of an article due to a defect in, or the condition of, the article sold or an alleged breach of duty to provide suitable instructions to prevent injury.

Other General Civil: Any case in which a plaintiff requests the enforcement or protection of a right or the redress or prevention of a ~~wrong~~, but wrong but does not fit into one of the previously defined case categories.

Criminal

Serious Traffic: Cases including misdemeanor DUI, reckless driving, homicide by vehicle, aggressive driving and fleeing, or attempting to elude a police officer.

Non-Traffic Misdemeanor: Cases involving an offense punishable by incarceration for less than a year and/or fines. Use this case type for misdemeanor cases that are not attributable to one of the other previously defined misdemeanor case types, or when all misdemeanor cases are reported as a single case type.

Other Traffic: Criminal cases involving a violation of statutes and local ordinances governing traffic, parking, and violations

involving operation of a motor vehicle. Use this case type for cases of unknown specificity when motor vehicle cases are not attributable to one of the other previously defined motor vehicle case types.

Probation Revocation: Number of probation revocation petitions filed by either private or public probation officers, including waivers signed by defendants.

Post-Judgment

Contempt/Modification: Any case seeking to change the terms of a previously existing final court order.

Section 4 – Juvenile Court

Introduction

Jurisdiction of the juvenile courts extends to individuals under the age of 18 alleged to be dependent, alleged to be a child in need of services (CHINS), or alleged to have committed a juvenile traffic offense. Jurisdiction also extends to individuals alleged to have committed a delinquent act who is under the age of 17. Individuals up to the age of 23 may also be subject to juvenile court jurisdiction under certain circumstances. OCGA § 15-11-2(10).

In addition to matters alleging delinquency, dependency, CHINS, and the commission of a juvenile traffic offense, juvenile courts also have exclusive original jurisdiction over so-called special proceedings including proceedings for obtaining judicial consent to the marriage, employment, or enlistment in the armed services of any child if such consent is required by law; for permanent guardianship brought pursuant to provisions of the juvenile code; for the termination of parental rights when brought pursuant to provisions of the juvenile code; for emancipation; and for obtaining a waiver of the requirement of parental notice of abortion. OCGA § 15-11-10.

Juvenile courts have concurrent jurisdiction with superior courts in certain matters involving legitimation; child custody and support; temporary guardianship when properly transferred from probate court; and any criminal case properly transferred from superior court for the purpose of facilitating a parent's participation in a family treatment court division program. OCGA § 15-11-11 and § 15-11-15(d).

Certain specified violent offenses when committed by an individual under the age of 17 are within the exclusive jurisdiction of the superior court. Other specified offenses or combination of offenses otherwise under the exclusive jurisdiction of the juvenile court may be transferred under certain circumstances for prosecution in the superior court.

As required by Georgia law, detailed information regarding minor abortion petitions is also collected. The juvenile court reporting framework described in the Guide is used for reporting juvenile court caseload data.

Juvenile Court Definitions

Unit of Count

- For delinquency, CHINS, emancipation, traffic, and special proceeding cases count the juvenile and all allegations involved in a single incident as a single case. If the filing document contains multiple juveniles involved in a single incident, count each juvenile as a single and separate case.
- For dependency cases and termination of parental rights, count the petition as a single case. A dependency case that contains multiple parties (e.g. children/siblings) or multiple causes of action is counted as one case.

Children in Need of Services (CHINS):

- (A) A child adjudicated to be in need of care, guidance, counseling, structure, supervision, treatment, or rehabilitation and who is adjudicated to be:
- (i) Truant;
 - (ii) Habitually disobedient, or a child who places himself or herself or others in unsafe circumstances;
 - (iii) A runaway;
 - (iv) A child who has committed a status offense;

- (v) A child who wanders or loiters about the streets of any city or in or about any highway or any public place between the hours of 12:00 Midnight and 5:00 A.M.;
- (vi) A child who disobeys the terms of supervision after adjudication as a child in need of services; or
- (vii) A child who patronizes any bar where alcoholic beverages are being sold, unaccompanied by his or her parent, guardian, or legal custodian, or who possesses alcoholic beverages; or

(B) A child who has committed a delinquent act and is adjudicated to be in need of supervision but not in need of treatment or rehabilitation. OCGA § 15-11-2(11)

Delinquency - Class A Designated Felony: A delinquent act committed by a child 13 years of age or older, which if committed by an adult, would be one or more of the following crimes:

- Aggravated Battery- certain offenses
- Aggravated Assault - certain offenses
- Armed Robbery (without a firearm)
- Arson in the first degree
- Attempted Murder
- Escape – certain circumstances
- Hijacking a motor vehicle in the first degree
- Kidnapping
- Home invasion in the first degree
- Gang activity – certain circumstances such as violent felonies
- Drug trafficking - certain substances
- Specified offenses in combination with a prior record of felony offenses OCGA § 15-11-2(12)

Delinquency – Class B Designated Felony: A delinquent act committed by a child 13 years of age or older, which if committed by an adult, would be one or more of the following crimes:

- Aggravated Assault – certain offenses

- Arson in the second degree
- Attempted Kidnapping
- Battery of a teacher or other school personnel
- Racketeering
- Robbery
- Home invasion in the second degree
- Gang activity – certain offenses such as graffiti or tagging
- Smash & Grab Burglary
- Certain offenses involving destructive devices or hoax destructive devices
- Obstruction of a law enforcement officer
- Possession of a handgun by an individual under the age of 18
- Possession of a weapon on school property or at school sponsored event OCGA § 15-11-2(13)

Delinquency Not Designated: A count of cases not designated as either Class A or Class B felonies.

Dependency: Dependency cases are a subcategory of juvenile cases in which it is alleged that a child has been abused or neglected or is otherwise without proper parental care and/or supervision.

Emancipation: The release of a minor from his or her parents, which entails a complete relinquishment of the right to the care, control, custody, services, and earnings of such child and a repudiation of parental obligations.

Special Proceedings: A child who is the subject of a filing or disposition that does not fall within any of the above case types, e.g. request for permission to marry or join the armed services, notification of abortion, proceedings relating to mental illness, legitimation, guardianship, transfer from probate court, transfers from superior court, and superior court referrals for custody investigations.

Traffic: An individual under 17 years of age who violates any motor vehicle law or local ordinance

governing the operation of motor vehicles on the streets or highways or upon the waterways of the state of Georgia, excluding specified offenses deemed to be delinquent offenses as described by O.C.G.A. §15-11-630.

Termination of Parental Rights: An action on behalf of a child to end the rights and obligations of a parent on the grounds listed in O.C.G.A. §15-11-310.

Parental Notification of Abortion

Total Petitions Filed: A count of petitions filed requesting the waiver of the requirement for parental notification of abortion.

Appointed Guardian Ad Litem: A count of cases involving a petition for waiver of parental notification of abortion in which the juvenile court appointed a guardian ad litem for the minor. **Court Appointed Counsel:** A count of cases involving a petition for the waiver of parental notification of abortion in which the juvenile court appointed an attorney for the minor.

Without Notification: Cases in which the petitioner was granted a waiver of the parental notification requirement after notification was attempted but the parent or legal guardian of the minor could not be located.

Denied: A count of cases in which the court denied the petition to waive parental notification of abortion.

Appealed: A count of cases in which the petitioner appealed the juvenile court's denial of the petitioner's request for waiver of parental notification of abortion.

Affirmed: A count of cases appealed in which the juvenile court's denial of a petition for waiver of parental notification of abortion was affirmed.

Reversed: A count of cases appealed in which the juvenile court's denial of a petition for waiver of parental notification of abortion was reversed.

Juvenile Manners of Disposition

Delinquency, or CHINS, and Traffic Dispositions

Adjudicated: A count of cases in which the court finds the child committed the offense (by admission or after trial).

Dismissed: A count of cases in which the complaint or petition is dismissed for any reason prior to trial or the court finds at trial that the child is not delinquent or a CHINS.

Examples: (1) If the court found the child delinquent but found that the child was not in need of rehabilitation and dismissed the case. (2) If the court held the disposition open for a period of time and eventually dismissed the case. (3) If the court diverted the case.

Transferred to Another Juvenile Court: A count of cases in which the court transfers the case to another juvenile court for trial.

Transferred to Superior Court: A count of cases in which the court transfers the case to superior court for trial

Informal Adjustment: A count of cases in which the offense is disposed of informally. If this option is selected, the "case disposition" will also be "informally adjusted."

CHINS Protocol: A count of cases in which the offense is handled through the CHINS protocol and no petition is filed. If this option is selected, the "case disposition" will also be "CHINS protocol."

Dependency Dispositions

Adjudicated: A count of cases in which the court finds the child is dependent.

Dismissed: A count of cases in which the court dismisses the case for any reason prior to trial or finds that the child is not dependent at trial.

Order entered: A count of orders following any hearing, other than the adjudication hearing, on a dependency case.

**Special Proceedings, Termination of
Parental Rights, and Emancipation
Dispositions**

Granted: A count of cases in which the court grants the petition.

Denied: A count of cases in which the court denies the petition.

Dismissed: A count of cases in which the court dismisses the case for any reason prior to trial.

Order entered: A count of orders following any hearing.

Juvenile Case Characteristics

Dependency Case Characteristics

Case Entries Filed (Number of Juveniles):

Count **each child who receives their own case number**, even if several children are listed on one petition.

- If one petition lists **one child**, count **one case entry**.
- If one petition lists **three children**, count **three case entries** (one per child).

The total number of **case entries** will usually be the **same as** or **higher than** the number of **petitions filed**, because some petitions include more than one child.

Section 5 – Probate Court

Introduction

Probate courts exercise exclusive, original jurisdiction in the probate of wills, administration of estates, appointment of guardians, and involuntary hospitalization of incapacitated adults and other individuals. Probate court judges are constitutional officers who are elected to four-year terms. All probate court judges administer oaths of office and issue marriage licenses. In some counties probate judges may hold habeas corpus hearings or preside over criminal preliminary hearings. Unless a jury trial is requested, a probate court judge may also hear certain misdemeanors, traffic cases, and violation of state game and fish law in counties where there is no state court. In counties with a population of 90,000 or greater, the probate judges must be an attorney meeting the qualifications of a superior court judge. In those counties, jurisdiction is expanded or enhanced to include the right to a jury trial, with appeals directly to the Court of Appeals or Supreme Courts. When authorized by local statute, probate judges serve as election supervisors and make appointments to certain local public offices.

For reporting in the Georgia framework, probate court caseload is divided into four major categories: general probate, mental health, criminal, and administrative actions. The probate court reporting framework described in the Guide is to be used for reporting probate court caseload data.

Unit of Count

The unit of count for general probate cases is by petitions. General probate petitions are categorized by case type and filing categories.

General Probate Case Categories

Estates: Cases that deal with managing the assets, liabilities, and property of decedents.

Guardianship Minor: Cases that involve establishing a temporary or permanent legal guardian for a child.

Conservatorship Minor: Cases that appoint a person to manage a minor's property.

Guardianship/Conservatorship Adult: Cases that involve either the establishment of a guardian for an adult ward or for a manager/conservator of an adult ward's property.

Trusts: Cases that create a legal entity that allows one person to hold legal title to property

for the benefit of another person.

Other Filings: Any case that does not fall within the previous categories.

General Probate Filing Categories

Initial Petition: The petition or other document that creates an entirely new case. All initial petitions must be disposed before other petitions can be filed.

Secondary Petition: Any subsequent petition that is filed in the same case created by an initial petition.

Motion: A written application for an order.

Objection/Caveat: Pleading to the court and petitioners opposing the performance of certain acts requested in a petition (may be in response to an initial or secondary petition).

Discharge (Uncontested): A petition that seeks final closure of a case and is not contested by any relevant party.

Discharge (Contested): Any discharge that is contested by a relevant party and requires adjudication.

Set to Review: A count of cases that, following an initial Entry of Judgment and at the end of the reporting period, are awaiting regularly scheduled reviews involving a hearing before a judicial officer. For Example, a Guardianship case is filed with the court (counted as a New Filing), and the court makes its initial finding to appoint the guardian, thus disposing the case through this judgment (counted as an Outgoing case in the Entry of Judgment column). At that time, the court schedules a review 6 months in the future and an additional review 12 months in the future. This case gets counted in the Set for Review column, and not as part of the court's End Pending–Active caseload. In some states reviews of Guardianship or Conservatorship cases do not require a judicial hearing and may only call for a hearing if there is a concern after staff or clerks first review case files. For guardianship and conservatorship cases ONLY, if cases are scheduled for administrative or audit reviews, count in the Set for Review section, even if they do not always result in a judicial hearing.

Other General Probate Actions

Inventory and Asset Management Plan: A description of all assets and liabilities of the decedent, including a list of all personal and real property owned by the decedent at the time of death that is subject to administration of an estate's personal representative or in the event of a conservatorship of a minor or adult, a list of personal and real property owned by the ward and subject to management by a conservator, which includes a plan to manage the property and income for the following year.

Personal Status: A report pertaining to the status of an adult ward or a minor child.

Annual/Final Return: Accounting, under oath, of the receipts and expenditures on behalf of a decedent's estate or adult or minor

conservatorship during the year preceding the anniversary date of appointment, together with a statement of all other assets or transfers of assets which are necessary to show the true condition of the Estate. The final return is due with a petition for discharge or petition for dismissal.

Bond: A count of the number of surety bonds issued.

Guardian ad Litem (GAL): A count of the number of times a court has to appoint someone to investigate and represent the best interest of a minor child, alleged incapacitated adult, or missing or unknown heirs at law with regard to a particular matter pending before the court.

Indigent Affidavit: A count of the number of times an affidavit of indigence is filled in which a court waives filing fees for citizens unable to afford the fees.

Mental Health

Involuntary Treatment: Petitions that order a person, or drug addiction to be committed into a treatment facility. This category includes both inpatient and outpatient treatment orders.

Order to Apprehend: A legal order allowing law enforcement officers to apprehend a person who is suffering from mental illness or drug addiction.

Other Mental Health: Any mental health petitions or orders that are not included in the previous two categories.

Criminal

Unit of Count: The unit of count for criminal cases heard by the probate court is by defendant.

Serious Traffic: The following cases are considered misdemeanor serious traffic offenses: DUI, reckless driving, aggressive driving, and evading a police officer.

Non-Serious Traffic: All traffic cases other than the ones included in the serious traffic category.

Other Criminal Citations: All non-traffic misdemeanor cases handled by the probate courts.

Manner of Disposition

Transfer: A case disposed by sending it to a higher court.

Bench Trial: A trial held in front of a judge without a jury.

Non-Trial: Any form of disposition that does not involve a formal trial.

Administrative Actions

Firearms: A count of all the weapons carry permits filled in a probate court along with a count of all the permit denials and revocations.

Vital Records: Certificates or reports of birth, death, and data related thereto.

- Birth Certificates- A count of all the birth certificates issued by a probate court.
- Death Certificate- A count of all the death certificates issued by a probate court.

Marriage: A count of all marriage licenses issues by a probate court.

- License Issued- A count of all original marriage licenses issued by the probate court.
- Certified Copies-All certified copies of marriage licenses issued by the probate court.

Passports: A count of all passport applications processed by a probate court.

~~**Elections:** First, indicate whether or not the court oversees elections by selecting “yes” or “no”. If a court does handle elections, it will then show the number of voting precincts found within the county along with the number of election cycles handled in that calendar year. An election cycle refers to the number of election rounds not the number of candidates or offices being voted upon. For example, a county that experiences a primary, general, and runoff election in a single calendar year would be considered to have three election cycles regardless of the number of candidates or offices involved.~~

Miscellaneous Administrative: All other administrative actions that do not fall within one of the previous categories.

Section 6 – Magistrate Court

Introduction

Magistrate court jurisdiction includes: civil claims of \$15,000 or less, certain minor criminal offenses, distress warrants, dispossessory writs, county ordinance violations, deposit account fraud, preliminary hearings, summonses, arrest, and search warrants. A chief magistrate, who may be assisted by one or more magistrates, presides over each of Georgia's 159 magistrate courts. Chief magistrates are elected in partisan and non-partisan, countywide elections to four-year terms. Terms for other magistrate judges run concurrently with that of the chief magistrate.

For reporting in the Georgia framework, the magistrate court caseload is divided into four major categories: criminal, civil, warrants, and hearings. The magistrate court reporting framework described in the Guide is to be used for reporting magistrate court caseload data.

Magistrate Court Definitions

Criminal

Ordinance Violations: Cases alleging violations of local regulations passed by county, city, or other local governing bodies.

Misdemeanors: A count of violations of state laws that include: Possession of less than one ounce of marijuana (O.C.G.A. §16-13-2), Theft by shoplifting (O.C.G.A. §16-8-14), Furnishing alcoholic beverages to and purchase and possession of alcoholic beverages by a person under 21 years of age (O.C.G.A. §3-3-23.1), Criminal trespass (O.C.G.A. §16-7-21), Refund fraud (O.C.G.A. §16-8-14.1), Deposit account fraud/issuance of bad checks (O.C.G.A. §16-9-20).

Civil

Abandoned Motor Vehicles: a count of cases where abandoned and unclaimed vehicles from public rights of way and private or public property.

Claims: Any cases where the amount demanded or the value of the property claimed does not exceed \$15,000.

Dispossessory and Distress Warrants: Proceedings involving landlords and tenants either for removal of the tenant from the

property or for seizure of the property for non-payment of rent.

Garnishments: A proceeding in which the property or money in possession or control of another person are applied to pay a debt or judgment to a third person. This is most commonly an action in which a creditor garnishes a person's wages from the employer.

Foreclosures and Attachments: A means of enforcing payment of a debt by selling the property upon which the debt is owed.

Attachment is a process in which the court is asked to have property seized in order to satisfy a debt (to satisfy the court judgment in post-judgment actions).

Warrants

Felony Arrest: A type of arrest warrant that authorizes the arrest of a person suspected of committing a felony crime.

Misdemeanor Arrest: A type of arrest warrant that authorizes the arrest of a person suspected of committing a misdemeanor crime.

Good Behavior: A type of warrant against a person whose conduct indicates that the safety of another person may be at risk.

Search: A type of warrant that authorizes law enforcement officers to conduct a search of a person, location, or vehicle for evidence of a crime and to confiscate evidence if it is found.

Hearings

Warrant Application: This is a hearing to determine if there is probable cause for issuance of an arrest warrant when application has been made by a person other than a peace officer or law enforcement officer and for commission of an offense against the penal laws.

First Appearance: The purpose of this hearing is to inform the defendant of the charges, the defendant's rights, and to set a bond to guarantee the defendant's appearance at court for the next proceeding.

Commitment: This is a pre-trial or preliminary hearing to determine if there is sufficient evidence (probable cause) for the case to proceed to trial.

Good Behavior: The purpose of this proceeding is to determine if there is sufficient cause to require the defendant to post a good behavior bond and to set the amount of the bond.

Section 7 – Municipal Court

Introduction

Georgia's municipal courts hear traffic and ordinance violation cases in towns and cities. Municipal court judges hear municipal ordinance violations, issue criminal warrants, conduct preliminary hearings, and sometimes have concurrent jurisdiction over shoplifting cases and cases involving possession of one ounce or less of marijuana.

For reporting in the Georgia framework, municipal court caseload is divided into eight major criminal categories: traffic, ordinances, serious traffic, drugs/marijuana, misdemeanors, and ~~bindovers~~[bind overs](#). The municipal court reporting framework described in the Guide is used for reporting municipal court caseload data.

Municipal Court Definitions

Criminal

Serious Traffic (DUI): Cases alleging driving a motor vehicle while intoxicated, driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or driving while impaired.

Serious Traffic (Other): All fingerprintable criminal traffic offenses except driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs (e.g. reckless driving, and operating a commercial vehicle without a CDL).

Misdemeanor Traffic: Criminal traffic violations involving the operation of a motor vehicle. Use this case type for motor vehicle cases that are not attributable to one of the other previously defined case types (e.g. speeding, failure to obey stop sign, failure to use turn signal, and seat belt violations).

Misdemeanor Drugs: Any drug-related misdemeanor criminal charges (e.g. possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia).

Misdemeanor (Other): Any criminal violations punishable by a maximum fine of \$1,000 or 12 months confinement. Also includes any violations that do not fit within aforementioned categories (e.g. vandalism and shoplifting valued less than \$300).

Parking Violation: Cases alleging parking a motor vehicle in violation of a state statute or local ordinance.

Ordinance: Cases alleging violations of local regulations passed by county, city, state, or other local governing bodies (e.g. animal control violations, solid waste violations, solicitation without a permit, and zoning violations).

Civil

Non-Criminal Traffic Violations: Non-criminal cases involving operation of a motor vehicle (e.g. Red light camera violations, and school bus camera violations).

Section 8 – Civil Court and Recorder’s Court

Introduction

For reporting in the Georgia framework, civil court and recorder’s court caseloads are divided into criminal and civil categories. The civil court and recorder’s court reporting framework described in the *Guide* is used for reporting civil court and recorder’s court caseload data.

Definitions

Criminal

Serious Traffic (DUI): Cases alleging driving a motor vehicle while intoxicated, driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or driving while impaired.

Serious Traffic (Other): All fingerprintable criminal traffic offenses except driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs (e.g. reckless ~~driving, and~~ driving and operating a commercial vehicle without a CDL).

Misdemeanor Traffic: Criminal traffic violations involving the operation of a motor vehicle. Use this case type for motor vehicle cases that are not attributable to one of the other previously defined case types (e.g. speeding, failure to obey stop sign, failure to use turn signal, and seat belt violations).

Misdemeanor Drugs: Any drug-related misdemeanor criminal charges (e.g. possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia).

Misdemeanor (Other): Any criminal violations punishable by a maximum fine of \$1,000 or 12 months confinement. Also includes any violations that do not fit within aforementioned categories (e.g. vandalism and shoplifting valued less than \$300).

Parking Violation: Cases alleging parking a motor vehicle in violation of a state statute or local ordinance.

Ordinance: Cases alleging violations of local regulations passed by county, city, state, or other local governing bodies (e.g. animal control violations, solid waste violations, solicitation without a permit, and zoning

violations).

Civil

Claims: Any cases where the amount demanded or the value of the property claimed does not exceed the limit set by local legislation.

Dispossessory and Distress Warrants: Proceedings involving landlords and tenants either for removal of the tenant from the property or for seizure of the property for non-payment of rent.

Garnishments: A proceeding in which the property or money in possession or control of another person are applied to pay a debt or judgment to a third person. This is most commonly an action in which a creditor garnishes a person’s wages from the employer.

Foreclosures and Attachments: A means of enforcing payment of a debt by selling the property upon which the debt is owed.

Attachment is a process in which the court is asked to have property seized in order to satisfy a debt (to satisfy the court judgment in post-judgment actions).

Non-Criminal Traffic Violations: Non-criminal cases involving operation of a motor vehicle (e.g. Red light camera violations and School bus camera violations).

Section 9 – Accountability Courts

Introduction

For reporting in the Georgia framework, the accountability court caseload includes accountability and parental accountability court data. The accountability court data described in the Guide is used for reporting new participants in Adult Felony Drug Courts, Adult Mental Health Courts, and Veterans Treatment Courts programs. The parental accountability court data described in the Guide is used for reporting new participants in parental accountability court programs.

Definitions

Accountability Court: A count of new participants enrolled in Adult Felony Drug Courts, Adult Mental Health Courts, and Veterans Treatment Courts programs.¹

Parental Accountability Court: A count of new participants enrolled in a parental accountability court program designed to help non-custodial parents avoid incarceration.²

¹ Accountability Court data is reported by Council of Accountability Court Judges staff.

² Parental Accountability Court data is reported by the Department of Human Services Division of Child Support Services.

Section 10 – User Instructions

Creating an Account

If you have not previously registered as a caseload reporting site user, follow the instructions below:

1. Enter <https://casecount.georgiacourts.gov/> into your web browser.
2. Select “Register” to create an account.
3. Enter your “Email, First and Last name, Phone Number, and Role.”
4. Next, enter a password.
5. Then, click “Sign Up”.
6. Once you sign up, you will receive an email acknowledging your account creation. Our Analysts will review your account and confirm. Once confirmed, you will receive an email confirmation, and you will then be able to log into your account.

Registering a Court

Now that your account is confirmed, you are now able to register your court. Follow the instructions below:

1. Enter <https://caseload.georgiacourts.gov/aocportal/> into your web browser.
2. Select “Login” and enter your email address and password.
3. Once logged in, select your name at the top right corner, and it should bring you to “Your Profile”.
4. Select “Register New Court”. This should appear towards the bottom of the screen in blue. To register a court, you will be asked to input the Court Type, Court Name, and your Title related to the specified court. Once all fields are answered, select “Register”.

Data Submission

1. Now that your court is registered, you can now submit your caseload data by following the instructions below:
2. Enter <https://casecount.georgiacourts.gov/> into your web browser.
3. Select “Login” and enter your email address and password.
4. You will land on the Casecount home page and your registered court should be visible.

If you experience any technical issues with the portal, please contact the Office of Research and Data Analysis via email at casecount@georgiacourts.gov.

Please note: Mailed, emailed, and faxed forms will no longer be accepted.

Data Verification

The Research staff will review all data submitted through the caseload reporting site for completeness and compare it with data from prior years to identify potential questions and issues addressing data reliability. Clerks are notified of any questions or concerns to allow editing or additional verifications before data is certified as final. It is important that data is submitted during the collection period to ensure the integrity of the data published.

Section 11 – Reporting Timeline

Below are the dates of various events in the caseload reporting process. Please be mindful of these dates to allow ample time for verification and subsequent analysis.

All dates are in ~~2026~~2027.

January ~~2nd~~4th Caseload reporting begins.

~~February 24th~~ ~~15-day reminder sent to courts that have not submitted.~~

March ~~3rd~~5th 10-day reminder sent to courts that have not submitted.

March 10th 5-day reminder sent to courts that have not submitted.

~~Status report sent to council presidents, judges, court administrators, and clerks~~

March ~~13th~~12th 2-day reminder sent to courts that have not submitted.

March ~~16th~~15th On-time reporting ends. Portal closes.

March ~~17th~~16th Caseload data is past due. ~~First late notice is sent to courts that have not submitted.~~ Status report sent to council presidents, judges, court administrators, and clerks

March ~~20th~~19th ~~Second-Final~~ late notice sent to unresponsive courts.

April ~~16th~~14th All submitted data are final. Any submissions after this date must be submitted through JWAC with a written letter from the chief judge.

Section 12 – Contact Information

If you have any comments, questions, or concerns, please contact the staff below by phone at (404) 463-3808 or by e-mail at casecount@georgiacourts.gov.

Andres Bosque	Lead Data Analyst
Mitchell Redd	Data Analyst II
Kate Heidenreich	Data Research Analyst II
Erie Miner	JCIP Analyst
Shimike Dodson	Assistant Director of Research
Stephanie Hines	Judicial Services Division Director

General Civil and Domestic Relations Case Filing Form Instructions

1. Provide the class of court and county in which the case is being filed.
2. Provide the plaintiff's and defendant's names.
3. Provide the plaintiff's attorney's name and Bar number. If you are self-represented, provide your own name and check the self-represented box.
4. Provide the type of case by checking only *one* appropriate box. Cases can be either general civil or domestic relations and only *one* type of case within those categories. Check the case type that most accurately describes the primary case. If applicable, check one sub-type under the primary case type. If you are making more than one type of claim, check the case type that involves the largest amount of damages or the one you consider most important. See below for definitions of each case type.
5. Provide an answer to the four questions by checking the appropriate boxes and/or filling in the appropriate lines.

Case Type Definitions

General Civil Cases

Automobile Tort: Any tort case involving personal injury, property damage, or wrongful death resulting from alleged negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

Civil Appeal: Any case disputing the finding of a limited jurisdiction trial court, department, or administrative agency.

Contract: Any case involving a dispute over an agreement between two or more parties.

Contempt/Modification/Other Post-Judgment: Any case alleging failure to comply with a previously existing court order, seeking to change the terms of a previously existing court order, or any other post-judgment activity in a general civil case.

Garnishment: Any case where, after a monetary judgment, a third party who has money or other property belonging to the defendant is required to turn over such money or property to the court.

General Tort: Any tort case that is not defined or is not attributable to one of the other torts.

Habeas Corpus: Any case designed to test the legality of the detention or imprisonment of an individual, not the question of guilt or innocence.

Injunction/Mandamus/Other Writ: Cases involving a written court order directed to a specific person, requiring that person to perform or refrain from performing a specific act.

Declaratory Judgement: Any case seeking a court order that officially defines the legal rights, duties, or status of parties in a dispute.

Landlord/Tenant: Any case involving landlord/tenant disputes wherein the landlord removes a tenant and his/her property from the premises or places a lien on tenant property to repay debt.

Malpractice Tort: Any tort case that alleges misconduct, including legal malpractice, or negligence by a person in the medical profession acting in a professional capacity, such as doctors, nurses, physician's assistants, dentists, etc.

Product Liability Tort: Any tort case that alleges injury is caused to a person by the manufacturer or seller of an article due to a defect in, or the condition of, the article sold or an alleged breach of duty to provide suitable instructions to prevent injury.

Real Property: Any case involving disputes over the ownership, use, boundaries, or value of fixed land.

Please note: This form is for statistical purposes only. It shall have no legal effect in the case. The information collected on this form is used solely for court administration purposes. This form does not supplement or replace the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law or court rules. Information on this form cannot be entered into evidence.

Restraining Petition (Non-Domestic): Any petition for a restraining order that does not result from a domestic altercation or is not between parties considered to be in a domestic relationship.

Other General Civil: Any case in which a plaintiff requests the enforcement or protection of a right or the redress or prevention of a wrong but does not fit into one of the other defined case categories.

Domestic Relations Cases

Adoption: Cases involving a request for the establishment of a new, permanent relationship of parent and child between persons not so biologically related.

Contempt: Any case alleging failure to comply with a previously existing court order. If the contempt action deals with non-payment of child support, medical support, or alimony, check the sub-type box as well.

Dissolution/Divorce/Separate Maintenance/Alimony: Any case involving the dissolution of a marriage or the establishment of alimony or separate maintenance.

Family Violence Petition/Stalking: Any case in which a family violence or stalking protective order from a family member or domestic partner is requested.

Modification of Custody: Any case seeking to change the terms of any previously existing court order concerning custody, parenting time, or visitation. This category also includes petitions for third-party custody and equitable caregiver status.

Paternity/Legitimation: Cases involving the establishment of the identity and/or responsibilities of the father of a minor child or the determination of biological offspring.

Support – IV-D: Cases filed by the Georgia Department of Human Services to request maintenance of a minor child by a person who is required, under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act of 1973, to provide such maintenance.

Support – Private (non-IV-D): Cases filed to request or modify maintenance of a parent/guardian or a minor child by a person who is required by law, but who is not under the auspices of Title IV-D of the Social Security Act of 1973, to provide such maintenance.

Other Domestic Relations: Domestic relations cases, including name changes, that do not adequately fit into any of the other case types.

General Civil and Domestic Relations Case Filing Information Form

☐ Superior or ☐ State Court of _____ County

For Clerk Use Only

Case Number _____

Date Filed _____
MM-DD-YYYY

Judge's Name _____

Plaintiff(s)

Last	First	Middle I.	Suffix	Prefix
____	____	____	____	____
____	____	____	____	____
____	____	____	____	____
____	____	____	____	____

Defendant(s)

Last	First	Middle I.	Suffix	Prefix
____	____	____	____	____
____	____	____	____	____
____	____	____	____	____
____	____	____	____	____

Plaintiff's Attorney _____

Bar Number _____

Self-Represented ☐

Check one case type and, if applicable, one sub-type in one box.

General Civil Cases

- ☐ Automobile Tort Civil
- ☐ Appeal Contract
- ☐ Contempt/Modification/Other Post-Judgement
- ☐ Garnishment
- ☐ General Tort
- ☐ Habeas Corpus
- ☐ Injunction/Mandamus/Other Writ
- ☐ Declaratory Judgment
- ☐ Landlord/Tenant
- ☐ Malpractice Tort
- ☐ Product Liability Tort
- ☐ Real Property
- ☐ Restraining Petition (Non-Domestic)
- ☐ Other General Civil

Domestic Relations Cases

- ☐ Adoption
- ☐ Contempt
 - ☐ Non-payment of child support, medical support, or alimony
- ☐ Dissolution/Divorce/Separate Maintenance/Alimony
- ☐ Family Violence Petition/Stalking
- ☐ Modification of Custody concerning custody, parenting time, or visitation
- ☐ Paternity/Legitimation
- ☐ Support – IV-D
- ☐ Support – Private (non-IV-D)
- ☐ Other Domestic Relations

- ☐ Check if the action is related to other action(s) pending or previously pending in this court involving some or all the same parties, subject matter, or factual issues. If so, provide a case number for each.

Case Number

Judge's Name

- ☐ I hereby certify that the documents in this filing, including attachments and exhibits, satisfy the requirements for redaction of personal or confidential information required by O.C.G.A. § 9-11-7.1.
- ☐ Check if a foreign language or sign language interpreter is needed in this case? If so, provide the language(s) required.

Language(s) Required

- ☐ Do you or your client need any disability accommodations? If so, please describe the accommodation request.

General Civil and Domestic Relations Case Disposition Form Instructions

1. Provide the class of court and county in which the case is being disposed.
2. Provide the plaintiff's and defendant's names.
3. Provide the reporting party who is the individual completing the form.
4. Provide the attorneys' names and Bar numbers. If parties represented themselves, provide their names and check the self-represented box.
5. Provide the manner of disposition by checking the appropriate box. See below for definitions.
6. Provide an answer to the three questions by checking the appropriate boxes.

Manner of Disposition Definitions

Jury Trial: Cases in which a jury is impaneled to determine the issues of fact in the case. A jury trial should be counted when the jury has been sworn, regardless of whether a verdict is reached.

Bench/Non-Jury Trial: Cases in which a judge or judicial officer is assigned to determine both the issues of fact and law in the case. A bench/non-jury trial should be counted when the first evidence is introduced, regardless of whether a judgment is reached.

Non-Trial Disposition: Cases in which the disposition does not involve either a jury trial or a bench trial.

Alternative Dispute Resolution: If a case was disposed of via a non-trial disposition and the method of disposition was alternative dispute resolution. If this box is checked, then the Non-Trial Disposition box must also be checked. Only check if the whole case was resolved via alternative dispute resolution.

Dismissal: A case that was disposed by court order or procedural action before a trial or hearing that results in a final decision. If this box is checked, then the Non-Trial Disposition box must also be checked. Only check if the whole case was resolved via dismissal.

General Civil and Domestic Relations Case Disposition Information Form

☐ Superior or ☐ State Court of _____ County

For Clerk Use Only

Case Number _____

Date Disposed _____
MM-DD-YYYY

Judge's Name _____

Case Style _____

Plaintiff(s)

Last	First	Middle I.	Suffix	Prefix
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Defendant(s)

Last	First	Middle I.	Suffix	Prefix
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Reporting Party _____

Plaintiff's Attorney _____ **Bar Number** _____ **Self-Represented** ☐

Defendant's Attorney Bar Number _____ **Self-Represented** ☐ **Reporting Party's Attorney**

Signature _____

Manner of Disposition

Check Only One

- ☐ **Jury Trial**
- ☐ **Bench/Non-Jury Trial**
- ☐ **Non-Trial Disposition**
 - ☐ **Alternative Dispute Resolution**
 - ☐ **Dismissal**
 - ☐ **Other** _____

- ☐ Check if any party was self-represented at any point during the life of the case.
- ☐ Check if the court ordered an interpreter for any party, witness, or other involved individual.
- ☐ Check if the case was referred/ordered to an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) process?

TAB 5



Judicial Council of Georgia

Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Nels S.D. Peterson
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Director

Memorandum

TO: Judicial Council

FROM: Judge Robert Leonard, Co-Chair

RE: Ad Hoc Committee on Georgia Case Management System (GA CMS)

DATE: August 7, 2026

The Ad Hoc Committee on GA CMS met on Thursday, June 25, and Thursday, July 23rd, 2026. The following report reflects matters and topics discussed during these meeting.

GA CMS Project –Mr. Bharath Parthasarathy, Mr. Ben Luke, and Mrs. Shelia Studdard

Mr. Bharath Parthasarathy provided a comprehensive status update on the Gavel Case Management System, noting that the first wave of participating courts are now live and operational. He shared that the past eight months have focused on expanding the platform's capabilities, delivering new features, and successfully supporting court go-lives. Mr. Parthasarathy outlined progress across four major work streams and introduced Gavel's new branding identity, developed in collaboration with Wendy Klare. He emphasized the continued partnership between the AOC and participating courts, noting that ongoing collaboration and user feedback remain essential to refining the system and supporting its statewide implementation.

Looking ahead, Mr. Parthasarathy reported that the second and third waves of courts are scheduled to go live in September and October. During the same timeframe, several waves of accountability courts are also expected to begin using the system. He noted that the remainder of the year will focus on continued feature development, additional court deployments, and planning efforts to support the 2027 implementation roadmap.

Mrs. Sheila Studdard requested clarification regarding the scope of historical data that will be migrated into Gavel. Mr. Parthasarathy, Mr. Ben Luke, and Mrs. Studdard discussed the varying approaches being taken by participating courts, explaining that migration strategies differ based on each court's operational needs and legacy systems. The group agreed that historical data migration should continue to be evaluated on a court-by-court basis to ensure both data integrity and operational effectiveness.

Mr. Parthasarathy also highlighted several recent enhancements developed in partnership with participating courts. These improvements include expanded document and financial management capabilities, enhanced standard and custom reporting, and continued improvements to the user acceptance testing process to ensure new functionality meets court needs prior to production deployment.

Additional updates focused on accountability court functionality developed in collaboration with the Council of Accountability Court Judges (CACJ) and court partners. Enhancements include improved participant information management, expanded case status options, automated invoicing and restitution tracking, and enhanced staff assignment and task management capabilities. These improvements are intended to streamline daily operations, improve case oversight, and better support accountability court programs statewide.

Next Meeting

The next committee meeting is scheduled for August 27th, 2026

TAB 6



Judicial Council of Georgia

Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Nels S.D. Peterson
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Director

TO: Judicial Council of Georgia

FROM: Tabitha Ponder, Contract/Staff Attorney

RE: Standing Committee on Access to Justice

Date: August 7, 2026

- **Access to Justice Committee (A2J):** The mission of the Access to Justice Committee (A2J) is to improve the public's trust in the judicial branch by promoting meaningful and effective access to courts and fairness for all. The A2J Committee is currently working on several projects and initiatives.
 - The A2J Committee's **Landlord/Tenant Working Group**, which includes Chief Judge Cassandra Kirk (Magistrate Court of Fulton County), Chief Judge Shawn Rhodes (Magistrate Court of Wilcox County), and Executive Director Tracy Johnson (Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution), worked on research into the current state of Georgia's housing crisis and the creation of possible statewide landlord/tenant rental assistance webinars. This project was completed by Georgia State University students, and the scorecard regarding Georgia's landlord/tenant laws may be viewed at [Georgia-Eviction-Policy-Report.pdf](#). This Group has submitted its final edited Eviction Forms to the Council of Magistrate Court Judges for review, and we are awaiting confirmation from the Council.
 - The A2J Committee continues to partner with and has adopted the Access to Justice Committee of the State Bar of Georgia's **Justice for All (JFA) Strategic Plan** and suggested projects. A local-level model for assisting self-represented litigants was created through work assisting the Southwest Georgia Legal Self-Help Center. Currently, the Self-Help Center is undergoing a change in leadership and will shortly be advertising for a new director. Judge Ingrid Driskell has been serving as the Interim Director until a permanent director is hired. A record restriction clinic was hosted by the Self-Help Center and sponsored by the Gate City Bar Association in August 2024. The Gate City Bar Association has agreed to partner with the Center in sponsoring two additional clinics this year. The A2J Committee is focused on a combination of strengthening local law libraries, creating online forms for self-filing, hosting local pop-up legal clinics, and facilitating low-pro bono models of attorney representation. The SWGA Legal

Self-Help Center has requested our assistance with another pop-up clinic after acquiring funding for the project from the Georgia Civil Justice Foundation.

- We have received a final draft of Georgia State University's ***ROI Study***, which was instrumental in the recent local fundraising efforts of Dougherty County's Law Library/Southwest Georgia Legal Self-Help Center. The final report may be viewed at [GSU Economic Impact Report](#). Unfortunately, the SWGA Legal Self-Help Center is still searching for sustainable funding. On July 21, 2023, the Center celebrated its fifth anniversary, measured from when Georgia first received the NCSC seed grant. On February 14, 2024, we held a joint meeting with the State Bar of Georgia's ATJ Committee to discuss the most recent Carl Vinson Institute of Government's Access to Justice study and to brainstorm potential ways to move forward with Georgia's access to justice efforts. The Carl Vinson Institute of Government's report may be viewed at [Civil Access to Justice Report](#). Additional funds were obtained from the Georgia Legislature in 2024, and a new study has begun to demonstrate a return on investment. We have now received the final draft of this report which may be viewed at [2025 Civil Access to Justice Benefits and Efficiencies of Two Self-Help Centers in Georgia.pdf](#).
- The A2J Committee's ***Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) Working Group*** collaborated with several Americans with Disabilities Act attorney specialists to create a Best Practices for DHH Courthouse Accessibility counter card. This counter card is for all court personnel, and its purpose is to instruct on the ADA-required steps that must be taken when someone presents with a DHH need. The third draft was submitted for final review, and changes were suggested by the Commission on Interpreters. We collaborated with GTA and Georgia Tech to have the 159 Counter Cards translated into Braille format. The DHH Braille cards were sent to all district court administrators for dissemination to every county in Georgia. This Group has identified a grant opportunity with the National Center for State Courts and will be applying for it. In our continuing efforts to become ADA-compliant, funds are needed to secure hearing devices. The devices will be strategically placed in every judicial administrative district so that all courts will have access to hearing devices, as needed. This Group also applied for a CJCP grant to fund several DHH teaching modules on ADA compliance for judges, court staff, and Georgia Bar members. CJCP granted the proposal and awarded the Committee \$15,000. We then successfully held four classes. The webinars, as well as class materials, may be found via ICJE and ICLE and at [DHH Webinar 1 of 4.mp4](#), [DHH Webinar 2 of 4.mp4](#), [DHH Webinar Part 3 of 4.mp4](#), and [DHH Webinar Part 4 of 4.mp4](#). In 2024, new ADA regulations regarding DHH requirements were adopted. Accordingly, we have contracted to have our DHH Counter Card updated. A few months ago, we successfully updated the Counter Card which may be viewed at [FINAL-Judicial-Council-of-GA-Standing-A2J-Committee -DHH-Benchcard_Rev.2025.pdf](#).
- The A2J Committee's ***Self-Represented Litigants (SRL) Forms Working Group*** continues its work on the most frequently used family law forms. This Group will ensure that all forms may be completed via pdf and will be translated into "plain

language.” This Group is creating several self-help family law videos to accompany the related forms. The first set of forms, “Divorce without Children,” along with a “how-to” video is currently available on georgiacourts.gov. Also recently completed and uploaded to the website is the “Divorce with Children” forms and accompanying materials. The next set of forms will be custody and record restriction dispositions. We are very grateful to the Council of Superior Court Judges for its approval to use these forms. Through a partnership with the Appalachian Family Law Information Center (FLIC) and the Dougherty County Law Library/Southwest Georgia Legal Self-Help Center, the approved family law forms have been tested over a period of several months. Testing the family law pro se forms went well. Legitimation forms were submitted to and approved by the A2J Committee of the Council of Superior Court Judges. We await final approval by the full Council. Most recently, we met with a group of law students from Georgia State University while on their Rural Justice Alternative Spring Break, and they agreed to render assistance in creating an accompanying video for the legitimation forms with the use of AI.

- The A2J Committee has revised the ***Georgia Self-Help Toolkit***, originally printed by the AOC in 2019. In furtherance of this endeavor, Jana Edmondson-Cooper, an A2J Committee member, was hired as a consultant contractor to provide support in making those revisions. The Committee solicited comments and edits regarding the draft edition through December 3, 2025. The draft edition was provided to all Judicial Council members at the April 2026 meeting. Hard copies of the final version will be distributed at the August Judicial Council meeting and may be found online here: [Self-Help Resources – Georgia Courts](#)
- A relatively new working group was formed to research how court notices are dispersed, common problems with the current system, and more efficient ways to improve court appearance rates across Georgia. Specifically, the ***Court Notices Working Group*** will investigate best practices for gathering electronic contact information, i.e., telephone numbers and email addresses, at time of citation, booking, and arraignment, as well as implementation of electronic notifications from all classes of Georgia courts. The Group will build on local and national best practices to develop a proposal for the integration of electronic notifications with both statewide and local case management systems. Recommendations for this project may be viewed at [A2J Court Notices One-Pager](#).
- The A2J committee has collaborated with their community partner, Georgia Legal Service Program (GLSP), on the **Legal Kiosk Project**. GLSP was awarded the Legal Kiosk Grant from the Legal Service Corporation (LSC) and A2J Tech has provided the software for the legal kiosk stations. As of August, four legal kiosk stations have been installed in selected host sites across the state to include Dougherty, Hancock, Lanier, and Lowndes Counties with anticipation for more to be installed soon. These legal kiosk stations will aid self-represented litigants by streamlining access to virtual hearings, legal assistance, and court forms.

- A relatively new working group was established to analyze Georgia's regulation of pro bono practice in comparison to national pro bono practices. States like Tennessee and Alabama have implemented within their pro bono regulation the incentive to earn CLE credit for conducting pro bono work with an approved pro bono provider. This working group in collaboration with staff from Georgia's Commission on Continuing Lawyer Competency (CCLC) created a **Pro Bono for CLE Rule Proposal** for practicing attorneys within the state to earn 1 CLE credit for 3 hours of Pro Bono work with an approved Pro Bono provider with a maximum of 6 CLE credits earned from pro bono work. This proposal was presented before CCLC during the State Bar Annual meeting and approved with edits from the commission.
- Most recently, the A2J Committee met on May 06, 2026, and held its Annual Diversity of Bars meeting on June 13, 2026. The Committee's next meeting will be on **August 19, 2026, on zoom**. Judges who are interested in learning about or participating in any Access to Justice projects may contact Tabitha Ponder at tabitha.ponder@georgiacourts.gov.

TAB 7



Judicial Council of Georgia

Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Nels S.D. Peterson
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Director

Memorandum

TO: Judicial Council Members

FROM: Judge Amanda H. Mercier
Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on American Rescue Plan Act Funding

RE: Committee Report

DATE: August 11, 2026

Following the closeout of the CY 2023-2025 performance period, all unspent funds were returned to the Committee. Subsequently, the Committee made available to approved CY 2026 grantees a portion of the newly available funds, effective June 1, 2026, for expenses through September 30, 2026.

As a reminder, the federal ARPA program will end on December 31, 2026. The performance period for CY 2026 awards will expire on September 30. All funds awarded for CY 2026 must be **spent and invoiced by September 30**, and **all invoices must be submitted for reimbursement by October 15, 2026**. Under no circumstances will funds spent after the September 30, 2026, deadline be reimbursed or untimely requests for reimbursement be considered. **No exceptions will be made**. This will allow AOC ARPA staff the time necessary to complete closeout by December 31, 2026.

As of Friday, August 7, over \$78m has been reimbursed for the CY 2023-2025 performance period, and approximately \$1.6m has been reimbursed for the CY 2026 performance period.

Circuits are asked to please monitor their award dashboard and reach out to ARPA staff with questions or concerns.

TAB 8



Judicial Council of Georgia

Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Nels S.D. Peterson
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Director

Memorandum

TO: Judicial Council of Georgia

FROM: Judge Melanie Cross, Chair

RE: Standing Committee on Grants Report

DATE: August 3, 2026

The Judicial Council Standing Committee on Grants met on June 24, 2026, and awarded \$2,910,000 in grants to eight nonprofit agencies for the Legal Assistance to Families Victimized by Domestic Violence Project (Domestic Violence Grant), \$727,500 to Atlanta Legal Aid Society, in partnership with Georgia Legal Services Program, for the Legal Assistance to Kinship Care Families Project (Kinship Care Grant), and \$397,215 to three nonprofit agencies for the Civil Legal Assistance to Families of Indigent Patients Project (Medical Legal Partnership Grant).

For Fiscal Year 2027, the following nonprofit agencies received Domestic Violence Grant funds:

Atlanta Legal Aid Society, Inc.	\$788,198.00
Cherokee Family Violence Center, Inc.	\$29,660.00
Gateway House, Inc.	\$24,480.00
Georgia Legal Services Program, Inc.	\$1,951,732.00
N.O.A.'s Ark, Inc./NOA/	\$42,805.00
Northwest Georgia Family Crisis Center, Inc.	\$42,500.00
Tranquility House	\$10,000.00
Wayne County Protective Agency	<u>\$20,625.00</u>
TOTAL FUNDS AWARDED	\$2,910,000.00

For Fiscal Year 2027, the following nonprofit agencies received Medical Legal Partnership Grant funds:

Atlanta Legal Aid Society, Inc.	\$279,115.00
Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation, Inc.	\$50,000.00
Georgia Legal Services Program, Inc.	<u>\$68,100.00</u>
TOTAL FUNDS AWARDED	\$397,215.00

The Georgia General Assembly first appropriated funds to the Judicial Council for its Domestic Violence Grant in 1999, and funding has continued each subsequent legislative session. This is the sixth year the General Assembly has appropriated funds to the Judicial Council for its Kinship Care Grant. The Domestic Violence Grant funds are used to provide direct civil legal assistance to low-income victims of domestic violence and their children. The Kinship Care Grant funds are used to provide civil legal services to kinship caregivers and children living with caregivers who need support to maintain stable homes and care. This is the fourth year the General Assembly has appropriated funds to the Judicial Council for its Medical Legal Partnership Grant. The Medical Legal Partnership Grant funds are used to provide civil legal services to patients and families with low incomes who are being treated at Georgia hospitals through Medical-Legal Partnerships.

TAB 9



Judicial Council of Georgia

Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Nels S.D. Peterson
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Director

Memorandum

TO: Judicial Council of Georgia

FROM: Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez, Division Director

RE: AOC's Communications, Children, Families, and the Courts Division

DATE: August 21, 2026

The Communications, Children, Families, and the Courts Division of the Judicial Council/AOC serves four missions:

1. Provides communications services to Georgia's Judicial Branch
2. Staffs the Georgia Child Support Commission, chaired by Troup County Juvenile Court Senior Judge R. Michael Key and viced chaired by Macon Judicial Circuit Superior Court Judge Connie Williford
3. Staffs the Supreme Court of Georgia Committee on Justice for Children, chaired by Justice Charlie Bethel
4. Staffs the Judicial Council Standing Committee on Access to Justice, chaired by Justice Verda Colvin and vice-chaired by Georgia Court of Appeals Presiding Judge Sara Doyle

For questions about any of our four missions, please contact me at noelle.lagueux-alvarez@georgiacourts.gov.

An update on the Work of the Judicial Council Standing Committee on Access to Justice may be found *supra* alongside similar reports from other Judicial Council committees. The following is a brief synopsis of the current work from our three other programs:

- **Communications:** Enhancing communication fosters the administration of justice in all Georgia courts by promoting collaboration and sharing information. Our Division produces the [Judicial Council's Annual Report](#) and manages the **Georgia Courts Directory** at <http://georgiacourts.knack.com/gcd2/>. One of our key tools is our **monthly publication—the Georgia Courts Journal**—which is distributed to all Georgia judges statewide via email and archived online at <https://georgiacourtsjournal.org/>. In addition to back issues of the *Georgia Courts Journal*, that website also features dedicated **webpages on wellness and civics for community engagement**, offering a wide range of resources—from chair yoga and tips for managing decision fatigue on the wellness page, to lists of civics-themed, read-aloud books organized by grade level and subject matter on the civics page. We continue to curate and promote positive content about Georgia's judicial branch—every class of court—via our accounts on the following major **social media** platforms: [X \(f/k/a Twitter\)](#), [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), and [Instagram](#). In October 2025, we produced a social media series featuring [success stories from Georgia's Model Drug Courts](#) all over the state. In November 2025, we ran a similar feature series on [success stories from Georgia's Model Veterans Treatment Courts](#). In June and July 2026, we produced a pictorial series in honor of our nation's 250th anniversary, showcasing the U.S. flag at courthouses all over Georgia.

Our ongoing goal is to **instill faith in Georgia's court system and the rule of law**. To **increase community engagement**, we anchor our community outreach around three civic holidays: Law Day (May 1st), Constitution Day (September 17th), and Bill of Rights Day (December 15th), by working with judges and schools to host events—in person or virtually as needed. In December 2025, we updated our [Bill of Rights Day Video](#) that features members of the Judicial Council of Georgia each reading one of the ten Amendments that comprise the Bill of Rights. That video was then shared with social studies teachers statewide.

Most recently, we've worked to **support the new Georgia Tax Court** in several ways, including: creating a logo and a one-pager for the court, providing updated language for Georgia.gov, and drafting two informative articles published in the *Georgia Courts Journal*. We also work to **support communications for Gavel—Georgia's new court case management system**—including website updates, a monthly newsletter, and weekly roundtables.

- **Georgia Child Support Commission:** Through a contract with Georgia's Department of Human Services (DHS), our Child Support Team provides support services to the Georgia Child Support Commission. Such services include staffing all Commission and Subcommittee meetings and handling technical logistics for meetings to ensure compliance with Georgia's Open Meetings Act. Staff also maintains an online child support calculator for court and public use at <https://csc.georgiacourts.gov/>; provides training on the child support guidelines statute, O.C.G.A. § 19-6-15; provides training on the child support calculator for courts, lawyers, and the public; supports the Parental Accountability Courts (PAC) by providing evaluations of those programs; provides self-represented litigants and the courts with resources on Georgia's Income Withholding

Order (IWO) process in private cases; and generally supports the process and the law related to Georgia's child support system.

- The Child Support Commission's last meeting was held on May 8, 2026. Updates from all subcommittees were provided. The next Commission meeting will be held in fall 2026.
- ***Subcommittees:***
 - ***Economic Subcommittee*** – Chair Dr. Roger Tutterow. The Subcommittee last met on June 12, 2025. The 2026 Economic Study has commenced, and two listening sessions were held to obtain public comments. The first session, held in Macon, occurred on August 27, 2025, and the second session, held virtually via Zoom Webinar, occurred on August 28, 2025. The Subcommittee made the appropriate selections for county sampling and Commission staff reviewed court filings for the 2026 Economic Study in accordance with state and federal law. The data has since been provided to economist Dr. Jane Venohr for evaluation.
 - ***Statute Review Subcommittee*** – Co-Chairs Katie Connell, Esq. and Judge Connie L. Williford. During its meeting on August 1, 2025, the Commission approved the Subcommittee's recommendation to move dental and vision insurance from Schedule E to Schedule D of the child support worksheet and to remove the 7% test in the deviation for special expenses for child rearing, expressly providing that extraordinary expenses for child rearing may be handled outside of the worksheet. Commission staff subsequently drafted the language for potential legislation to amend O.C.G.A. § 19-6-15, in accordance with the recommendation, and such changes were approved by the Commission. The Commission will explore introducing these changes to the Georgia General Assembly during the 2027 Legislative Session.
 - ***Technology and Calculator Subcommittee*** – Chair Regina Quick, Esq. The Subcommittee last met on October 22, 2025. At that meeting, the Subcommittee members discussed the new parenting time and low-income adjustments that became effective on January 1, 2026, in accordance with Senate Bill 454, passed during the 2024 legislative session. Commission staff and the JC/AOC IT staff have developed a Parenting Time Calendar Tool for child support calculator users. This tool will be shown to the Subcommittee at the next scheduled meeting on August 8, 2026.
- ***Legislation:*** SB 454 was signed into law by the Governor on May 6, 2024. Its passage entailed four (4) substantial changes to O.C.G.A. § 19-6-15. Changes effective July 1, 2024, included the updating of Georgia's Basic Child Support

Obligation (BCSO) table and the addition of a Veteran's Affairs disability credit for benefits paid to the custodial parent for the benefit of the child due to the noncustodial parent's VA disability. Changes effective January 1, 2026, include the new parenting time and low-income adjustments. On January 2, 2026, the JC/AOC IT Division successfully launched these statutory changes within the child support calculator.

- ***Child Support Calculator:*** Courts, attorneys, mediators, and the public alike use the child support calculator that was deployed on August 8, 2016. (The original calculators, web-based and Excel versions, were initially deployed at the end of December 2006.) All Excel versions of the child support calculator were permanently retired on October 1, 2018. Staff continue to provide training to court personnel, attorneys, mediators, the Division of Child Support Services (DCSS), and the public on a routine basis. Training includes, but is not limited to, use of the child support calculator generally, steps to impute income, and the avoidance of common mistakes identified in the 2022 case sampling. Online training has been well received and has consistently strong attendance across all sessions, with the last training session held on June 17, 2026. Staff has also produced training videos for parents (self-represented litigants) that are available on demand on the Child Support Commission website. In addition, staff has created a training video for DCSS that utilizes the Self-Employment Calculator in calculating child support. Most recently staff traveled to Dalton, Athens, the State Bar Building in Atlanta, and Hinesville to provide training as requested by various stakeholder groups, including judicial staff attorneys and ADR programs.
- **Committee on Justice for Children (J4C):** The Georgia Court Improvement Program (CIP) has been approved by the U.S. Children's Bureau for FFY 2026 funding.
 - J4C continues work on its ***Joint Project*** with the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) which is focused on reducing the time from removal to reunification for children in Georgia's foster care system. The teams for the four pilot counties (Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton, and Gwinnett) will continue working with CIP and DFCS to address barriers to timely reunification in their jurisdictions and will participate in quarterly all-site meetings throughout 2026.
 - The ***Cold Case Project*** began as a joint project of J4C and DFCS. Using a computer model, the Project identifies children in foster care with cases that are not moving towards permanency and convenes stakeholders in roundtable meetings to review the substantive due process rights of the children and brainstorm ways to navigate roadblocks to permanency. In addition to this case-specific work, J4C is focused on using lessons learned via the Project to inform child welfare policies and practices.

- Georgia has 63 attorneys and 15 judges who are certified as ***Child Welfare Law Specialists*** (CWLS). J4C remains focused on the recruitment and retention of professionals having the CWLS certification and offers financial assistance for application fees as well as annual renewal and recertification fees. Due to funding uncertainties, J4C did not hold a CWLS meeting in 2025 or 2026, but plans to resume this annual meeting in 2027.
- J4C, the Office of the Child Advocate, and Georgia CASA held their ninth annual statewide ***Child Welfare Law Summit*** on December 3 – 5, 2025, which included a pre-conference training session for new Juvenile Court judges and a pre-conference meeting for attorneys who represent parents in dependency cases. Additional Summit hosts now include the Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), Georgia Appleseed Center for Law & Justice, the University of Georgia Law School's Wilbanks Child Endangerment and Sexual Exploitation (CEASE) Clinic, and the Barton Child Law and Policy Center at Emory University School of Law. This year's Summit is scheduled for December 2 –4, 2026.
- J4C sponsors the ***Justice P. Harris Hines Awards*** for outstanding advocacy for children in dependency proceedings. Justice Charlie Bethel presented the 2026 Hines Awards at the State Bar of Georgia's Annual Meeting in June 2026 to attorney Andrew Powell of the Whitfield County Juvenile Court and Social Services Specialist Keosha Pettigrew of the Rockdale County Division of Family and Children Services.
- Most recently, the Committee on Justice for Children met virtually on July 15, 2026 and meetings are scheduled for September 18th (virtual) and December 7th (in-person at the Nathan Deal Judicial Center).



THE COURT OF APPEALS
OF THE
STATE OF GEORGIA
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

CHAMBERS OF
TRENTON BROWN
CHIEF JUDGE

(404) 656-3453
brownt@gaappeals.gov

August 3, 2026

Honorable Nels Peterson
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Georgia
Nathan Deal Judicial Center
330 Capitol Ave, S.E.
1st Floor, Suite 1100
Atlanta, GA 30334

Re: Judicial Council of Georgia Standing Committee On Court Reporting Matters

Dear Justice Peterson,

Pursuant to the November 2023 order issued by the Supreme Court regarding the chair appointment for the Court Reporting Matters Committee, I am appointing Judge Paige Reese Whitaker as chair. She has graciously agreed to serve as chair and understands that it is a four year appointment.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

Trenton Brown
Chief Judge, Court of Appeals of Georgia

cc: Cynthia Clanton, AOC Director
Cynthia.Clanton@georgiacourts.gov

TAB 10



SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

NATHAN DEAL JUDICIAL CENTER

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

FROM THE CHAMBERS OF
NELS S.D. PETERSON
CHIEF JUSTICE

(404) 463-1267

SUPREME COURT REPORT

August 21, 2026

Since the April meeting, the Supreme Court approved new and amended rules. The approval orders are available for download on the Court's website: <https://www.gasupreme.us/rules/amendments-to-rules/>.

Supreme Court Rules: Effective 7/2/26

Part II. Rule 12 (Extensions of Time) amended to allow motions for extensions of time for petitions for certiorari, responses to petitions for certiorari, along with briefs in merits cases to be considered without a showing of unusual circumstances.

Georgia State-Wide Business Court - Digital Take Down: Effective 6/11/26

Rule 16-7 - Allows the State-wide Business Court to use digital recording systems for certain proceedings, with standards for how recordings are made, stored, and turned into transcripts.

State Bar Rules: Effective 7/23/26

Chapter 2, Rule 4-221 - Clarifies hearing procedures, venue for hearings, and options for Special Masters to deal with disruptive parties.

Chapter 2, Rule 4-227 - Allows petitions for voluntary surrender of license to come directly to the Supreme Court rather than going through the Special Master process.



THE COURT OF APPEALS
OF GEORGIA
330 CAPITOL AVE., S.W., STE. 1601
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

CHAMBERS OF
CHIEF JUDGE TRENTON BROWN

(404) 656-3453
brownt@gaappeals.gov

Report to the Judicial Council of Georgia
August 21, 2026 Meeting

The Court of Appeals of the State of Georgia has had a busy quarter, which also saw the retirement of one of our longest-serving judges, Presiding Judge Brian M. Rickman.

On July 17, the Court bid farewell to Presiding Judge Rickman. For more than a decade, Judge Rickman served the Court and the people of Georgia with dedication, fairness, and an unwavering commitment to the rule of law. During his tenure as Chief Judge, he steadily led the Court through the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring our continued operations. Judge Rickman has since returned to private practice in Cornelia, Georgia, and we wish him every success on the journey ahead.

This summer, Vice Chief Judge Elizabeth Gobeil hosted the fifth annual intern engagement program. She collaborated with various judges, justices, and state organizations to provide learning and networking opportunities for our appellate interns, externs, and term clerks. We acknowledge her hard work in continuing this endeavor for law students, and we applaud her on another successful year. The Court was also proud to host the 2026 Judge Herbert E. Phipps Fellow, in continued recognition of Judge Phipps' enduring legacy and contributions to the Court of Appeals.

We are pleased that two judicial vacancies on the Court have been filled. In July, the Court welcomed Judge Paige Reese Whitaker to the bench, which was followed by the appointment of Judge Brian K. Epps, who was sworn in as the newest member of the Court on August 11.

On July 24, my colleagues and I met with members of the House Judiciary Committee at the University of North Georgia in Dahlonega. We convened to discuss issues facing the Court, chief of which is staff retention and recruitment. We are grateful for a successful meeting, during which the committee members heard from several Court of Appeals judges, our Clerk of Court, and lawyers from both the public and private sectors.

Trenton Brown
Chief Judge
Court of Appeals of Georgia

GEORGIA STATE-WIDE BUSINESS COURT

Serving Georgia's small and large businesses by providing active case management and specialized expertise to facilitate the prompt and efficient resolution of complex business disputes.



Contributing to Georgia's Distinction as a Great State for Doing Business

EFFICIENT WITH GOVERNMENT FUNDS



1183

Orders issued

319 days

average disposition time for the 114 cases closed to date

10 days

Average wait time for an order on a ripe motion/request

SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE IN BUSINESS LAW



145

Cases filed since inception

129

Hearings

111

Case conferences conducted

4

Jury trials

RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF GEORGIA BUSINESSES



\$1.2 Billion

Approximate amount in controversy

18,698

online views of Court proceedings



14,106

online hours watched

*All data as of August 1, 2026.



SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

FILED
Administrative Minutes
June 25, 2026

Thérèse S. Barnes
Clerk/Court Executive
SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

The Honorable Supreme Court met pursuant to adjournment.

The following order was passed:

IN RE: INTERIM RULES FOR THE GEORGIA TAX COURT.

It is hereby ordered that the Uniform Rules for the Superior Courts shall be applicable on an interim basis in the Georgia Tax Court, except that wherever the words “superior court” or “superior courts” appear in the Rules, the words “Georgia Tax” shall apply in lieu of the word “superior.”

Such Rules shall remain applicable until they are superseded by final approval of permanent Uniform Rules for the Georgia Tax Court.

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

Clerk's Office, Atlanta

I certify that the above is a true extract from the minutes of the Supreme Court of Georgia.

Witness my signature and the seal of said court hereto affixed the day and year last above written.

 , Clerk



Council of Superior Court Judges of Georgia

Suite 104, 18 Capitol Square, Atlanta, Georgia 30334

(404) 656-4964 Fax (404) 651-8626

Council of Superior Court Judges Report to Judicial Council August 2026

The Council of Superior Court Judges (CSCJ) held its semi-annual meeting and summer training conference at Jekyll Island at the end of July. The educational seminar presented by the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education (ICJE) included topics such as a humanities immersion; a discussion of recent trends led by Justice Shawn Ellen LaGrua, Justice John J. Ellington, and former Court of Appeals Judge Brian Rickman; an adoption law update and review; family violence intervention programs and temporary protective order statutes including dating violence; the Georgia Survivor Justice Act; a UCCJEA primer; special needs trusts in family law cases; mediation in civil cases; the role of the chief judge; deescalating techniques; diversity/implicit bias training; AI and synthetic media evidence; jury trials in gang cases; a Judicial Qualifications Commission update; judicial wellness; a caselaw update; and an evidence update with an emphasis on hearsay and character evidence.

As a result of the appointment of former President-Elect Judge Paige Reese Whitaker to the Court of Appeals, Judge D. Jay Stewart of the Atlantic Judicial Circuit assumed the office of President-Elect. CSCJ congratulates Judge Whitaker and wishes her well. Judge LaTisha Dear Jackson of the DeKalb Judicial Circuit was elected to fill the vacant office of Secretary-Treasurer for the term ending April 30, 2027.

CSCJ welcomes our newest judges appointed by Governor Brian Kemp: Judge Tyler J. Browning of the Cobb Judicial Circuit, Judge W. Michael Burnham, II of the Southern Judicial Circuit, Judge Charles B. Dixon and Judge Billy Joe Nelson, Jr. of the Atlantic Judicial Circuit, Judge David H. Emadi and Judge Debbie-Ann R. Rickman of the Atlanta Judicial Circuit, Judge Joshua M. Geller of the DeKalb Judicial Circuit, Judge Matthew M. McCord of the Griffin Judicial Circuit, and Judge Randal M. McGinley of the Alcovy Judicial Circuit. CSCJ also congratulates Judge Timothy R. Walmsley of the Eastern Judicial Circuit on his retirement from the bench.

CSCJ is sad to report the deaths of Judge Deborah R. Fluker of the Gwinnett Judicial Circuit, Judge Howard C. Kaufold, Jr. of the Oconee Judicial Circuit, and Senior Judge Loring A. Gray, Jr. of the Dougherty Judicial Circuit.



Council of State Court Judges
Impartial Courts • Judicial Excellence • Accessible and Efficient Justice

Executive Committee

Judge Susan E. Edlein
President (Fulton)

Judge Eric A. Richardson
President-Elect (Fulton)

Judge Jason B. Thompson
Secretary (Fayette)

Judge Allison Barnes Salter
Treasurer (Cobb)

Judge Gregory V. Sapp
Immediate Past-President (Chatham)

District 1
Judge Billy E. Tomlinson (Bryan)

District 2
Judge R. Violet Bennett (Wayne)

District 3
Judge Ellen S. Golden (Lowndes)

District 4
Judge Vincent A. Lotti (Henry)

District 5
Judge Monique Walker (Richmond)

District 6
Judge Kelley M. Robertson (Hall)

District 7
Judge Mike Jacobs (DeKalb)

District 8
Judge Michelle H. Helhoski
(Cherokee)

Chair, Part-Time Judges Committee
William J. Edgar (Bacon)

244 Washington Street, S.W.
Suite 300
Atlanta, GA 30334
404-651-6204 • FAX 404-463-5173

Staff

Bob Bray
Executive Director

Report of the Council of State Court Judges
Judicial Council Meeting
August 21, 2026

On July 16th, Governor Brian Kemp swore in Judge Mercedes G. Ball as a new State Court Judge for the State Court of DeKalb County. Her appointment fills the vacancy left by the passing of Judge Ronald E. Ramsey last Fall. On August 3rd, Governor Kemp swore in Judge Brent C. Carter to the State Court of Candler County to fill the vacancy left by Judge J. Kendall Gross who was elected to the Superior Court of the Middle Circuit. Judge Gross served as a State Court Judge since December 2011.



Judge Mercedes G. Ball



Judge Brent C. Carter

This year's Judicial Educational Conference was held May 13th – 15th at Brasstown Valley Resort in Young Harris, Georgia. Over 90 Judges attended the conference. The Dinner Banquet speech was given by the incoming President of the State Bar William C. Gentry. Presentations included Judge Kathy Gosselin and Dr. Julie Oliver with Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities on Criminal and Response Competency in State Courts. The Legislative Update was presented by Ms. Abigail Horvath from the AOC. Other presentations were: Judicial Retirement System Updates by Ms. Amy Ley; Tort Reform and Negligence Security Reforms by Attorneys Michael D'Antignac and Matt Nanninga; Appointment During Bifurcated Trials by Attorneys Jane Vincent and Chris Steinmetz; Best Practices with Domestic Violence Cases by Judge Sharell Lewis; Civil Case Update by Attorneys Barbara Marschalk and Darren Summerville; an Evidence Law Update by Professor Paul Milich; and two presentations around the topic of Artificial Intelligence. Judges Tammi Hayward and Judge Diane Bessen discussed AI in legal briefs and court reporting; and, Attorney Russell Willard spoke about Attorney conduct and emerging issues with AI related challenges.

The General Membership of the Council held its annual election of Officers and elected Judge Susan E. Edlein (Fulton) as President; Judge Eric A. Richardson (Fulton) as President-Elect; Judge Jason B. Thompson (Fayette) as Secretary; and, Judge Allison Barnes Salter (Cobb) as Treasurer. Judge Gregory V. Sapp (Chatham) will serve as Immediate Past-President. Judge Vincent A. Lotti was elected Chair of District 4; and Judge William J. Edgar (Bacon) will serve as Chair of the Part-Time Judge Committee.

The Bob Bray Award honors a judge, court administrator, or public official who has assisted the work of the State Courts and the Council of State Court Judges by improving the quality of justice that they deliver to the citizens in the communities they serve. This year the award was presented to McIntosh County State Court Judge C. Jean Bolin. Judge Bolin's steadfast service, thoughtful leadership, and deep commitment to the people of McIntosh County exemplify the values the award honors. Her colleagues describe her as someone who works tirelessly behind the scenes, offering guidance, support, and a steady presence without seeking recognition, qualities that echo the spirit of the award's namesake.



*Executive Director Bob Bray
with Judge Jean Bolin
(McIntosh) Spring
Conference 2026.*

Congratulations to Senior Judge Ronald E. Ginsberg who was celebrated last month with the unveiling of his portrait to be displayed at the State Court of Chatham County! Chief Judge Greg Sapp and Judge Libby Coolidge (Chatham) are pictured here with Judge Ginsberg.

Judge Ginsberg served as President of the Council during the 2009 – 2010 term and was a member of the Judicial Council from 2008 – 2010. He served in the Georgia House of Representatives from Savannah from 1980 – 1984. Before leaving the General Assembly, Judge Ginsberg was part of the effort to rewrite the state's Code of Laws, rewrite the state's constitution, helped establish Chatham's county manager form of government and consolidated the county's three sheriff's departments into one. Judge Ginsberg was appointed to the State Court of Chatham County by Governor Zell Miller in 1995 and upon retirement, took Senior Judge status in 2011.



During this year's celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the United States and the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. As part of the celebration in Hall County, Judge Kelley Robertson and Judge Tripp Wingate read parts of the Declaration of Independence to a gathering of citizens and dignitaries in Gainesville on July 4th.



Judge Jason Thompson (Fayette), Judge Kimberly Anderson (DeKalb) and Judge Jason Ashford (Houston) take a break from classes at the National Judicial College this past month to enjoy a hike at Zion National Park.



Respectfully submitted,

Susan E. Edlein

Judge Susan E. Edlein, President



COUNCIL OF JUVENILE COURT JUDGES OF GEORGIA

Judge McCracken Poston, *President*
Judge Alison Toller, *President-Elect*
Judge Thomas L. Cole, *Vice-President*
Judge Amber Patterson, *Secretary*
Judge Donald Oswald Sheppard, III, *Treasurer*
Judge Michelle Harrison, *Immed. Past President*

Associate Judge Laura Singleton, District 1
Judge Brian Bellamy, District 2
Judge Monica Wilburn, District 3
Judge John Timothy McGuire, District 4
Judge T. Natasha Crawford, District 5
Judge Janelle J. Johnson, District 6
Associate Judge Joshua Earwood, District 7
Judge Stephanie Burton, District 8
Judge Richard Jones, District 9
Judge Charles Eugene Evans, District 10

Eric J. John, Director

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF JUVENILE COURT JUDGES JUDICIAL COUNCIL MEETING August 2026

Since the Council's last report, three new judges have been appointed to the juvenile court bench of the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit. Judge Amy Walters, Judge Chris Williams, and Judge Tom Tebeau, III, were appointed to succeed Judge Warner Kennon, Judge Andrew Dodgen, and Judge Joey Loudermilk. Judge Kennon was the Council's second longest serving judge having been appointed in 1994.

In addition, former Chief Justice Michael Boggs was appointed as a part-time Juvenile Court Judge in the Waycross Judicial Circuit. Also, joining him on the Juvenile Court bench is former Court of Appeals Judge Brian Rickman, who was appointed as an Associate Juvenile Court Judge in the Mountain Judicial Circuit.

At our Spring Conference held in May, Chairlady of the House Juvenile Judiciary Committee, Representative Beth Camp attended our Legislative Committee meeting and assisted Judge Donald Sheppard with the CJCJ Legislative Update. It was a very refreshing to have this connection with her, and we all believe we have a great relationship with her going forward.

Part of her legislative work this past session was made in conjunction with Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick with the passage of Senate Resolution 622. This resolution creates a joint study committee on Evaluating Escalating Costs in Georgia's Foster Care System. Rep. Camp believes that there will be 3 Study Committee meetings beginning in August and concluding around the end of November. Rep. Camp gave us several suggestions on how we can play an active role on this Committee.

Honorable McCracken Poston, Jr., President, 2026-27



Council of Probate Court Judges of Georgia

Judge Patty Walters Laine
President (Hall)

Judge Josh Suggs
President-elect (Miller)

Judge Edie Haney
Vice President (Carroll)

Judge Darin McCoy
Secretary-Treasurer (Evans)

Judge Scott Chastain
Immediate Past President (Gilmer)

Kevin D. Holder
Executive Director

Report to Judicial Council of Georgia August 21, 2026

The following is a summary of activities and current initiatives by the Council of Probate Court Judges:

2026 Spring Conference

Our annual Spring Conference was held April 27-30, 2026 at the Legacy Lodge at Lake Lanier in Buford. We are thankful to the staff of the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education for ensuring that we had another successful conference.

2026-2027 Council Officers

During our conference, we formally nominated and elected our 2026-2027 slate of officers. Our new slate of elected officers are as follows: Judge Patty Walters Laine, President (Hall); Judge Josh Suggs, President-elect (Miller); Judge Edie Haney, Vice President (Carroll); and Judge Darin McCoy, Secretary-Treasurer (Evans).

2025-26 Council Award Honorees

This year, during our annual Spring Conference awards luncheon, the following individuals were honored: Friend of the Council Award – Mr. Jim Poulakos; Rising Star Award – Judge Kristin Stanley (Union); District Director of the Year – Judge Kristy Harris (Houston); Meritorious Service Award – Judge Kathy Martin (Lamar); Instructor of the Year – Patty Walters Laine (Hall); Executive Committee Member of the Year – Judge Christy Anderson (Walker); Legislative Recognition Award – Former Governor Roy Barnes, Former Governor Nathan Deal, State Representative Chuck Efrstration, State Senator Russ Goodman, and State Senator Brian Strickland; Special Recognition Award – Judge Kenya Johnson (Fulton), Judge Kelli Wolk (Cobb), and Judge Keith Wood (Cherokee); and Outstanding Probate Judge of the Year – Judge Marc D'Antonio (Muscogee).

Respectfully submitted,

Judge Patty Walters Laine
President, Council of Probate Court Judges of Georgia



Council of Magistrate Court Judges

244 Washington St., S.W., Suite 300, Atlanta, GA 30334-5900
(404) 656-5171 • Fax (404) 651-6449
Georgiamagistratecouncil.com

Executive Director
Sharon Reiss

President
Judge Shawn Rhodes
Wilcox County

President-Elect
Judge Scott Lewis
Effingham County

Vice-President
Judge Heather Culpepper
Irwin County

Secretary
Judge Berry A. Anderson
DeKalb County

Treasurer
Judge Jennifer Lewis
Camden County

Immediate Past President
Judge Nathan Grantham
Ware County

District One
Judge Chris Davenport
Judge Michael McGirt

District Two
Judge Carol Durrance
Judge Pat Pollock

District Three
Judge Jim Thurman
Judge Jennifer Webb

District Four
Judge Phinia Aten
Judge September Guy

District Five
Judge Todd Ashley
Judge Cassandra Kirk

District Six
Judge Charity Bridgewater
Judge Andrea Boyd

District Seven
Judge Quinn Kasper
Judge Connie Reed

District Eight
Judge Sydney Hollinshead
Judge Chase Sherrod

District Nine
Judge Tricia Hise
Judge Alex Myers

District Ten
Judge Mike Burke
Judge Ben Makin

August 2, 2026

Judicial Council Report

After a busy session, the Council of Magistrate Court Judges spent the summer planning and preparing for all meetings and training in the fall. Since the last meeting, the Council has had its elections and annual meeting. The spring training was excellent, and the Training Council continues to review and prepare classes that address current issues in addition to the basics.

In June, we had a lunch and learn put on by a professor who specializes in 1st Amendment rights. The class itself dealt with 1st Amendment auditors and best practices for judges and their staff. The zoom class was well attended and recorded to be shared with our membership.

We are adjusting to new changes in law effective July 1 and starting to assist our courts in preparation for the jurisdictional increases effective in January. As we move toward these changes, the Council wants to ensure our members have the support and training needed to be successful.

We are planning for our New Judge's Civil 40 hour at the end of August and then our bi-annual meeting and training will be held in Athens in early October. The Officers had their annual planning meeting in early August as they continue to plan for the yearly committees. One of the discussed topics was judicial security and how to better help our courts plan for that.

Respectfully submitted,

Judge B. Shawn Rhodes
President, Council of Magistrate Court Judges



Council of Municipal Court Judges

August 11, 2026

Chief Judge Norman Cuadra, President
City of Suwanee
323 U.S. 23
Suwanee, GA 30024
770-814-8022
norman@cuadrapatel.com

Judge Pamela Boles, President-Elect
City of Cumming
pambo98@msn.com

Chief Judge Gregory T. Williams, Vice President
Cities of Camila, Dawson & Leslie
gregwms12@gmail.com

Chief Judge Brian Huffman, Secretary
Chatham Records Court
Joe.Huffman@Savannahga.Gov

Judge James Baker, Treasurer
City of LaGrange
jgbaker@jgbpc.com

Chief Judge Robert Cowan, Immediate Past President
City of Dalton
robcowan@cowanlawoffice.com

District One
Judge Crystal Harmon
Judge Jennifer Davenport

District Two
Chief Judge Willie Weaver Sr.
Chief Judge Jeremy Baker

District Three
Judge Chimere Trimble
Judge Wesley Beamon

District Four
Judge Denise VanLanduyt
Judge Janet Scott

District Five
Judge Roberta Cooper
Judge Allyson Pitts

District Six
Judge James Dalton II
Chief Judge Wanda Dallas

District Seven
Judge Chris Jackson
Chief Judge Chad Plumley

District Eight
Judge Thomas Bobbitt III
Micheal Gailey

District Nine
Chief Judge William Brogdon
Chief Judge Margaret Washburn

District Ten
Chief Judge Dale "Bubba" Samuels
Judge Samuel Barth

Report to the Judicial Council of Georgia – August 2026

The following is an overview of recent events, programs, and activities of the Council of Municipal Court Judges (CMuCJ):

Council Meeting Endeavors

The Council's full Executive Committee met on June 9, 2026, in conjunction with the Law and Practice Update seminar in Savannah. The Council also held its annual Summer Business Meeting and Awards & Recognition Ceremony on June 11, 2026, where the Membership approved of the FY 2026-27 Council Budget and received pertinent updates to the Council.

Honorable R. Matthew Reeves, House of Representatives, District 99, attended the Business Meeting as the Council's guest speaker and Pastor Chuck Allen, Sugar Hill Church, administered the oath of office to the newly elected officers. Honors were also bestowed during that time for various achievements. Judge Matthew McCord, Superior Court (formerly Chief Judge, Municipal Court of Stockbridge) received the Frost Ward Lifetime Achievement Award, which recognizes a municipal court judge who has made significant contributions to the Council of Municipal Court Judges over a long period of time.

Chief Judge David Will was recognized with the Glen Ashman Education Achievement Award which honors judges that exemplify judicial education through extensive time and efforts towards educating municipal court judges and clerks.

Judge Lori Duff, CMuCJ Past President, was bestowed the Washburn-Oliver Award by its namesakes, Chief Judge Margaret Washburn and Chief Judge Rashida Oliver. This award honors women whose extraordinary commitment to the Council is evident in years of self-sacrifice for the betterment of the council, wise advice, thoughtful leadership, and championing the development and mentoring of new leaders.

Chief Judge Bryan Ramos received the Special Recognition Award for the Hearts of the Haven Program and Chief Judge Kenneth Wickham & Maurice Shepherd, Court Administrator, for their B.E.A.S.T Service ingenuity. The 6th District Representatives, Chief Judge Wanda Dallas and Judge James Dalton II, were recognized by the President for excellent representation and efforts.

The Council's President's Award, on behalf of Chief Judge Robert

Council of Municipal Court Judges

Cowan, was awarded to Chief Judge David Will, Judge Lori Duff, Judge Richard Sanders and Judge Jennifer Baxter for their efforts and contributions in the advancement of the Council in addition to the support shown to the immediate past president.

Lastly, the Council officers convene for monthly check-ins for updates and to discuss matters concerning the membership. Additionally, the Vice-President convenes monthly check-ins with the District Directors.

Continuing Judicial Education

The Council's Fall Law and Practice Update Seminar is scheduled for September 30-October 2, at the Georgia Center in Athens, Georgia. Conducted through the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education (ICJE), the three-day program provides accreditation for those serving as of January 1, 2026 (New Judges), in addition to recertifying sitting judges. The curriculum, a duplicate of the summer conference, will include plenary sessions on: First Amendment Auditors & Sovereign Citizens, Code Enforcement & Local Ordinance Including Squatters, Rules on Conflict - Leave of Absence and Appeals, Ethical Considerations for Political Campaigns & Part-Time Judges Updates on Caselaw & Evidence, Court Security and Immigration Issues: Deportation & Bond Forfeiture. The New Judges Orientation will also be presented at conference.

Leadership Session

As a critical component in assuring continuity in leadership and the yearly development of the CMuCJ and the services and representation it provides its membership, representatives from the Council met August 6-7, in Buford, Georgia, for a day and a half session. Held annually following the election of new leadership, the meeting's purpose is for the President to share their vision of the upcoming year with officers and key members and to hold discussions regarding past initiatives and plans for moving forward.

Legislation

Presently, for the 2027 session of the General Assembly, the Council has not solidified any legislative initiatives. Any proposed legislation being sought will be formally presented at the next meeting of the Judicial Council Standing Committee on Legislation.

Judge Charles Barrett, Chair, CMuCJ Legislative Committee, and I plan to be fully engaged in the weekly Judicial Council legislative calls.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council of Municipal Court Judges Executive Committee is scheduled for September 29, 2026, in conjunction with the Law & Practice Update seminar in Athens. The annual fall business meeting will also be held during the conference.

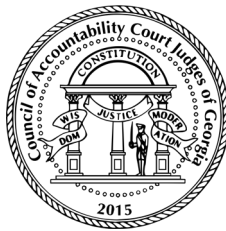
Respectfully submitted,

Chief Judge Norman Cuadra

Chief Judge Norman Cuadra

President, Council of Municipal Court Judges

TAB 11



Council of Accountability Court Judges

Chief Judge Cynthia C. Adams
Executive Committee Chair

Taylor Jones
Executive Director

Council of Accountability Court Judges Report to Judicial Council August 2025

Since its last report to the Judicial Council, the Council of Accountability Court Judges (CACJ) held its annual meeting on June 26, 2026. During this meeting, CACJ elected its Fiscal Year 2027 Executive Committee members, listed below.

Chief Judge Cynthia C. Adams, Douglas Judicial Circuit, Superior Court – **Chair**
Judge Robert C.I. McBurney, Atlanta Judicial Circuit, Superior Court – **Vice Chair**
Presiding Judge Thomas L. Cole, Chatham County, Juvenile Court - **Immediate Past Chair**
Chief Judge Jason J. Deal, Northeastern Judicial Circuit, Superior Court
Judge Michelle G. Harrison, Douglas Judicial Circuit, Juvenile Court
Judge Rachel R. Krause, Atlanta Judicial Circuit, Superior Court
Judge Shana Rooks Malone, Clayton Judicial Circuit, Superior Court
Presiding Judge Amber N. Patterson, Cobb Judicial Circuit, Juvenile Court
Judge William “Trey” Taylor, Dublin Judicial Circuit, Superior Court
Judge Don W. Thompson, Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit, Superior Court
Judge Jason B. Thompson, Fayette County, State Court
Judge Maureen E. Wood, Rockdale Judicial Circuit, Superior Court

In April 2026, CACJ’s Funding Committee, in coordination with the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and several District Court Administrators, convened to review Fiscal Year 2027 Accountability Court Operating Grant applications. The following amounts were awarded by type of accountability court:

Adult Felony Drug Courts (State Funds) - \$6,576,319
Adult Felony Drug Courts (Opioid Settlement Funds) - \$11,111,500
Adult Mental Health Courts (State Funds) - \$6,311,936
Veterans Treatment Courts (State Funds) - \$789,808
DUI, Misdemeanor Mental Health, and Veterans Treatment Courts (State Funds) - \$2,594,952
Family Treatment Courts (State Funds) - \$3,786,049
Juvenile Treatment Courts (Opioid Settlement Funds) - \$1,271,049

CACJ is actively preparing for the 2026 Accountability Courts Training Conference, scheduled for September. Also, to stay current with evolving best practices, CACJ released updated standards for Adult Felony Drug Court, Mental Health Court, and Veterans Treatment Court on July 1, 2026. Courts renewing their certification in 2027 will utilize these updated standards. Certification season opens on November 2, 2026, and closes on December 31, 2026. A copy of the new standards is here: [CACJ Standards for Accountability Courts | Council of Accountability Court Judges](#).



GEORGIA COMMISSION ON DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The following provides an update on the initiatives and activities of the Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution ("GCDR").

Chair

Judge Carrie B. Markham

Executive Director

Tracy B. Johnson

Deputy Director

Karlie A. Sahs

Commission Members

Justice John J. Ellington

Presiding Judge Sara L. Doyle

Crystal T. Cooper

Judge Rebecca Crumrine

Rieder

Herbert H. (Hal) Gray III, Esq.

Donald S. Horace, Esq.

Judge Quinn M. Kasper

Rep. Rob Leverett, Esq.

Chief Judge M. Cindy Morris

Patrick T. O'Connor, Esq.

Judge Pandora E. Palmer

Sr. Judge Jack Partain

Judge Vic Reynolds

Peggy Roth

Judge Jason B. Thompson

Chief Judge Renata D. Turner

Randall Weiland

2026 Neutral Registration Renewal

The on-time registration renewal period opens October 1 and continues through December 31, 2026. The late renewal period will run from January 1 through February 28, 2027. All registered neutrals must complete an online renewal application and submit documentation of the required three hours of continuing education. As a reminder, all CJE hours will be accepted for the annual continuing education requirement for registered neutrals.

Registration categories include General Civil Mediation, Domestic Relations Mediation, Specialized Domestic Violence Mediation, Probate Mediation, Juvenile Delinquency Mediation, Juvenile Dependency Mediation, Early Neutral Evaluation, and Non-Binding Arbitration.

Neutrals must be registered in the appropriate category to serve in court-referred cases in Georgia. Registration helps ensure that those serving Georgia's courts satisfy established training, ethical, and continuing education requirements, while promoting accountability, consistent professional standards, and public confidence in the dispute resolution process.

33rd Annual ADR Institute

The 33rd Annual ADR Institute will take place on Thursday, November 19, 2026, at the State Bar of Georgia. Co-sponsored by the Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution ("GODR") and the State Bar of Georgia Dispute Resolution Section, the event will offer both in-person and livestream attendance options.

Early bird registration opened August 1. Tickets may be purchased at <https://godr.org/adr-institute/>.

The program is approved for six hours of continuing education credit for registered neutrals and is expected to be approved for six hours of CLE credit by the State Bar of Georgia, including ethics and trial practice hours.

This year's plenary speaker is Derrick Chevalier, an author, negotiation consultant, trainer, certified mediator, and creator of the CNSUF™ negotiation framework. With more than 25 years of experience, Mr. Chevalier has conducted negotiations, mediations, presentations, and workshops worldwide in areas including leadership, procurement, real estate, sales, and conflict resolution.



GEORGIA COMMISSION ON DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Upcoming Meeting Dates

The GCDR will meet on the following dates:

- **2026:** December 9, in person
- **2027:** February 24, in person; May 19, remote; August 25, remote; and December 8, in person

Meeting information and minutes from past meetings are available on the GODR website at www.godr.org.

CHIEF JUSTICE'S COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONALISM

Hon. Nels S.D. Peterson, Chief Justice
Supreme Court of Georgia, Chair



Karlise Y. Grier
Executive Director

Memorandum

TO: Judicial Council of Georgia

FROM: Karlise Y. Grier, Executive Director

RE: Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism

DATE: August 21, 2026

The Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism (Commission), the first body of its kind in the nation, was created in 1989 by the Supreme Court of Georgia with the primary charge to enhance professionalism among Georgia's judges and lawyers. **Chief Justice Nels S.D. Peterson** serves as the current Chair of the Commission. Other judges who serve on the Commission are as follows: **Judge Elizabeth Gobeil** for the Court of Appeals of Georgia; **Judge Benjamin S. Richardson** (Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit) for the Council of Superior Court Judges; and **Chief Judge Jeffrey B. Hanson** (State Court of Bibb County) for the Council of State Court Judges. **Judge Steven D. Grimberg** serves on the Commission for the federal judiciary. **Justice Shawn Ellen LaGrua** is the Supreme Court of Georgia advisor to the Commission. **Judge Charity Bridgewater**, Clayton County Magistrate Court, and **Mr. Jeffrey M. Smith**, Shareholder, Greenberg Traurig, LLP, began serving initial three-year terms on July 1, 2026, as designees of the State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors. A brief update of some of the Commission's activities as of August 7, 2026, is as follows.

COMMISSION ASSISTANCE WITH BAR ASSOCIATION AND SECTION PROFESSIONALISM CLE PROGRAMS

The Commission's Executive Director is available to assist State Bar of Georgia sections, local and voluntary Bar associations, and other law-related organizations with their professionalism CLE programming. Please contact the Commission's Executive Director if you would like assistance in planning a professionalism CLE program or if you would like to have the Commission's Executive Director to make a professionalism presentation to your organization. Please contact the Commission's Executive Director, Karlise Y. Grier, via e-mail at kygrier@cjcpga.org for information or assistance.



Pictured from left to right: Hon. William S. Duffley, Jr., Judge (Retired), United States District Court, N.D.G.A.; Commission Member, Ms. Lauren Shubow, Founder, Shubow Law; Ms. Karlise Y. Grier, Executive Director, Chief Justices Commission on Professionalism.



NOMINATIONS FOR THE 27TH ANNUAL JUSTICE ROBERT BENHAM AWARDS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE AND CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR THE 26TH ANNUAL JUSTICE ROBERT BENHAM AWARDS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Commission will accept **nominations** for the 27th Annual Justice Robert Benham Awards for Community Service (CSA27) from approximately **September 14, 2026, through 11:59 p.m. on November 11, 2026**. Judges and lawyers meet the criteria for these prestigious state-wide awards if they have combined a professional career with outstanding service and dedication to their communities through voluntary participation in community organizations, government-sponsored activities, or humanitarian work outside of their professional practice or judicial duties. Information on the nomination eligibility criteria and a link to nominate a deserving lawyer or judge will be available in September 2026 at: <http://cjcpga.org/nominationsbenhamcsa/>.

Congratulations to the award recipients for the 26th Annual Justice Robert Benham Awards for Community Service who are pictured below.



First Row (L to R): Bess Thompson for the late Frank W. “Sonny” Seiler (Judicial District 1); Justice Robert Benham (Retired); Mrs. Nell Benham; U cho “Joe” Lee for Alina Lee (Judicial District 5); Dorothy “Dodie” Sachs (Judicial District 9); Judge Willie E. Lockette (Judicial District 2). **Second Row (L to R):** Joseph Bruce Alonso (Judicial District 5), Hon. Nels S.D. Peterson, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Georgia; Virgil L. Adams (Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient from Judicial District 3), Alyssa Baskam (Judicial District 4), Karlise Y. Grier, Executive Director, Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism.

COMMISSION 2026 CONVOCATION ON PROFESSIONALISM AND THE RULE OF LAW

The Commission will hold a Convocation on ***Professionalism and The Rule of Law*** on **October 30, 2026**, at the State Bar of Georgia, Atlanta Headquarters. **Ms. Lauren Shubow**, Shubow Law, is the Program Chair. **Save**

the Date and additional details will follow soon.

Report On PROFESSIONALISM IS CONTAGIOUS: AN INTERVIEW WITH DEAN A. JAMES ELLIOTT, “JIM ELLIOTT” (1941-2024) FILMED JULY 21, 2023

On July 23, 2026, from **12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.**, the Commission held a CLE entitled *Professionalism Is Contagious: An Interview with Dean A. James Elliott, Filmed July 21, 2023*. The CLE was held in partnership with the Georgia Legal History Foundation (“GLHF”) and with the assistance of GLHF Trustee, John C. Sammon. The CLE was approved for 1 hour of professionalism CLE credit. According to the Zoom report generated for the CLE, the CLE was attended by 451 “Unique Viewers.” The Commission reported CLE attendance for 438 Georgia attorneys. To view the evaluations from the CLE, please visit https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-0jfUku5ZZ9UOe3v1DDaoMQ_3D_3D/.

CLE PROGRAMS AND EVENTS BY THE STATE BAR OF GEORGIA COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONALISM AND STAFFED BY THE COMMISSION

The Commission staffs the State Bar of Georgia Committee on Professionalism (Committee), which was chaired by **Mr. Carlos Vilela** for the 2025-2026 Bar year. **Ms. J. Maria Waters** served as Vice-Chair of the 2025-2026 Committee. Some of the Committee’s initiatives are summarized below.

2026 LAW SCHOOL ORIENTATIONS ON PROFESSIONALISM

The Commission funds in part and provides staff support for the Committee’s work on the Law School Orientations on Professionalism. **Ms. Samantha Beskin-Schemer** was the Chair of the 2025-2026 Law School Orientations on Professionalism sub-committee that planned the August 2026 law school orientations. **Ms. Margaret Riley Schweizer** was the Vice Chair of the sub-committee. The 2026 orientations were held at each of Georgia’s five law schools on dates as follows: August 7, 2026; August 8, 2026; August 11, 2026; August 13, 2026; and August 19, 2026. The Commission will provide a complete report regarding the orientations for the December Judicial Council meeting.

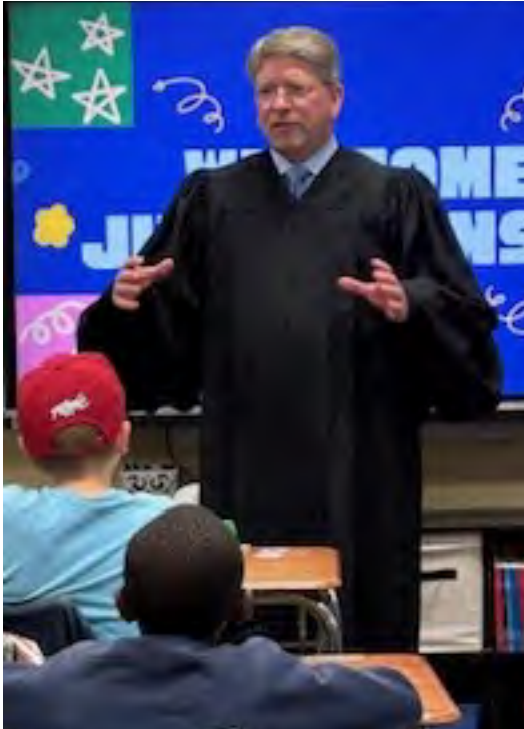
LAW DAY 2026

Each year, the State Bar, along with many other bar associations and legal organizations, partner with the American Bar Association to promote Law Day. **The 2026 Law Day Theme is *The Rule of Law and the American Dream***. The leaders for the State Bar’s 2026 Law Day initiative were **the Honorable Ashley Palmer**, Judge, State Court of Cobb County; **Attorney Denise Warner**, Senior Staff Attorney to the Honorable Brian E. Lake, Superior Court of DeKalb County; and **Attorney Marlan J. Eller**, Staff Attorney to Judge Howard C. Kaufold, Jr., Oconee Judicial Circuit.

In the Third Judicial District, **Chief Judge Jeff Hanson** of the State Court of Bibb County and a member of the Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism, spoke with 3rd Graders at the Academy for Classical

Education in Macon. He discussed how the Rule of Law guarantees that everyone has a chance to succeed. Chief Judge Hanson also talked to the students about what it means to apply the law evenly to everyone.

In the Eighth Judicial District, Oconee Circuit **Juvenile Court Judge Stephanie Burton** and **Circuit Public Defender Ashley McLaughlin** spoke to 5th graders at Dodge County Elementary School in conjunction with career day. Judge Burton and Mr. McLaughlin spoke about what it means to be lawyer and what it takes to work in the legal profession.



Judge Hanson spoke to Third Graders at the Academy for Classical Education, which is a public charter school in Macon. He spoke on the Law Day Theme: *The Rule of Law and the American Dream*. The students had lots of questions for Judge Hanson, and he reports that he had a great time with them.



Juvenile Court Judge Stephanie Burton and Circuit Public Defender Ashley McLaughlin spoke to each 5th Grade class at Dodge County Elementary School on May 7, 2026. Judge Burton and Mr. McLaughlin spoke about this year's Law Day theme in connection with the school's Career Day.

Additionally, in 2025, the Law Day Subcommittee implemented a pilot project for Georgia high school students in connection with Law Day. With the assistance of **Judge Cheveda McCamy**, the Law Day subcommittee began in 2025 with one school, Newton High School, to test proof of concept, and it was a great success! In 2026, the Law Day Subcommittee expanded the pilot project to include two high schools – Dodge County High School in Eastman, Georgia, and Newton High School in Covington, Georgia. In partnership with educators from both schools, student groups were encouraged to submit short video presentations in connection with this year's Law Day theme, *The Rule of Law and the American Dream*.

First, Second, and Third place winners received cash prizes and certificates of excellence for their hard work and participation. The First, Second, and Third place winners of the contest were as follows:

- 1) Newton High School - Parker Group # 18 (Christopher Ford-Wilson, Bailey Stover, Alivia Jones, Asia Lanham)
- 2) Dodge County High School - Spivey Group (Colt Rogers, Usher Northern, Sylvie Steinmann, Parker Mock, Nicholas Drake)
- 3) Newton High School - Parker Group # 13 (Kaylee Huynh)

Winning submissions from this year's contest will be published for a short time on various social media outlets for the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism. To see the winning videos, for which the Commission has student releases on file, visit <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQV837Gd6caw>.



Mr. Marlan Eller (Far left), Ms. Denise Warner (second from right), and Ms. Karlise Y. Grier (far right) pose with the First Place Law Day Social Media Contest Winners from Newton High School (student releases are on file).

CONNECT WITH A COLLEAGUE CONTEST

The Committee's 2025-2026 Connect With A Colleague Sub-Committee was co-chaired by **Ms. Cathy Hampton** and **Mrs. Samantha M. Mullis** with staff support from the Commission. The Connect With A Colleague sub-committee held its 3rd Connect With A Colleague Contest from March 6, 2026, through April 30, 2026, to encourage attorneys to make new connections with their colleagues to advance professionalism in our legal community. On May 20, 2026, the Committee held a random drawing to select the contest winners from among all the entries in the contest. The contest winners were as follows: **Kimberly Puckett Mullins**, First Place Contest Winner; **Kelsie J. Mattox**, Second Place Contest Winner; and **Andrea L. Alabi**, Third Place Contest Winner. The Committee was also grateful to the sponsors of the 2026 Connect With A Colleague Contest who were as follows: **Jeffrey M. Smith**, Principal Shareholder, Greenberg Traurig, LLP (Atlanta Hawks ticket donor);

Kevin Patrick, Founder, Kevin Patrick Law (Atlanta United Ticket donor); and **Past Presidents of the State Bar of Georgia and the Young Lawyers Division** (Chateau Elan Golf & Spa Resort & Winery \$875 Gift Certificate).



2026 Connect With A Colleague Contest Winners (from Left to Right): Andrea L. Alabi, Third Place Contest Winner; Kimberly Puckett Mullins, First Place Contest Winner; and Kelsie J. Mattox, Second Place Contest Winner.

For more information about the Connect With A Colleague contest, visit: <https://cjcpga.org/cwac/>.



SPEAKERS AND WRITERS BUREAU

The Speakers and Writers Bureau sub-committee of the State Bar of Georgia's Committee on Professionalism was co-chaired by **Mr. Kevin Patrick** and **Mr. Michael Perez** during the 2025-2026 Bar year. A recent sub-committee activity was as follows.

Report On JOINT CLE PROGRAM WITH STATE BAR OF GEORGIA COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONALISM AND STATE BAR OF GEORGIA YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION

The Commission and the State Bar of Georgia Committee on Professionalism and the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia held a CLE on **June 25, 2026, from 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.** via Zoom entitled *Mastering Professionalism, Ethics and Public Office* to encourage Georgia Lawyers to consider public service in all branches and at all levels of government. **Judge Mike Jacobs**, **Ms. Cathy Cox**, **Mr. Christopher S. Cohilas**, **Mr. Byung J. "BJay" Pak**, and **Ms. Andreea Morrison** were the panelists. **Mr. Edward Lindsey** served as moderator. The Program Chairs were **Mr. Kevin Patrick**, **Ms. Meghan Golden**, and **Ms. Meagan Hurley**. Former Commission member and YLD Immediate-Past President, **Ms. Victoria Cox**, also assisted with the program. Written materials for the program are available here: <https://cjcpga.org/mastering-professionalism-ethics-and-public-office-cle-presentation-on-06-30-26/>. The CLE was approved for 2 hours of CLE credit, including 1 hour of professionalism CLE credit and 1 hour of ethics CLE credit. According to the Zoom report

generated for the CLE, the CLE was attended by 946 “Unique Viewers.” The Commission reported CLE attendance for 882 Georgia attorneys. To view the evaluations from the CLE, please visit https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-vI2gqnid0RPIq6l8RyXrOg_3D_3D/.

PROFESSIONALISM PAGE ARTICLES

The Commission communicates with lawyers and judges through the Professionalism Page that appears in each issue of the Georgia Bar Journal, which is published four times per year. The Spring 2026 Georgia Bar Journal Professionalism Page entitled *Thank You To My Colleagues for Your Concern for My Welfare* is attached as “Exhibit A.” Many of the Commission’s Professionalism Page articles are available on the Commission’s website at the link here: <https://cjcpga.org/georgia-bar-journal-articles/>.

COMMISSION WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

We invite you to visit the Commission website, www.cjcpga.org. The Commission also enjoys communicating with judges and lawyers about #professionalism on the Commission’s social media platforms. Connect with us!

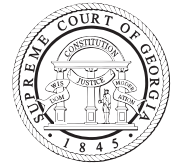
X (f/k/a Twitter): <https://x.com/CJCPGA>

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Thank You to My Colleagues for Your Concern for My Welfare

One tenet of A Lawyer's Creed and the Aspirational Statement on Professionalism reads: "To my colleagues in the practice of law, I

BY KARLISE Y. GRIER

In July 2025, a doctor told me she suspected I had uterine cancer. In September 2025, after having abdominal surgery and spending two nights in the hospital, I was diagnosed with Stage III uterine cancer. It sounded scary and it felt scary—especially then. As I understood my diagnosis in laymen's terms, I had an aggressive form of

cancer that was treatable since it had not metastasized. The doctors don't like to use the word "cure," but the hope is that they can treat this first appearance of cancer so it does not reoccur.

Initially, I tried to keep my illness to a close few because I did not want pitying looks or people thinking I was headed to

an early grave. Since I have no hair now, after usually having quite a bit of hair, secrecy is really impossible. As a result, I thought I would use this opportunity to discuss an aspect of A Lawyer's Creed and the Aspirational Statement on Professionalism from a personal viewpoint and to remind lawyers about the State Bar of Georgia's SOLACE Committee, of which I am a founding member.

One tenet of A Lawyer's Creed and the Aspirational Statement on Professionalism reads: "To my colleagues in the practice of law, I offer concern for your welfare. I will strive to make our association a professional friendship."¹ I've watched this tenet come to life for me in many different ways since I learned of my illness, but I want to highlight three in particular.² First, I was diagnosed after I had previously committed to moderating a professionalism CLE panel for the Solo and Small Firm Institute on Sept. 19, 2025, eight days after my surgery. I obviously could not fulfill the commitment. So, one of the first people I contacted about my illness was one of my former opposing counsels, Karen Brown Williams. I first got to know and admire Karen from watching her present at the Family Law Institute. Eventually, we had family law cases where we were counsel for opposing parties, and thereafter, we developed a "professional friendship." Earlier in the summer of 2025, we'd actually gotten together for a catch-up lunch before I



knew I'd need her help. The professionalism we both demonstrated when working through our clients' cases for them was the foundation of that professional friendship.³ We did not always agree about case resolution, and we were both, I believe, appropriately diligent, prepared and "zealous" (although I personally detest that word) on behalf of our clients. Our professionalism was the reason I could call on a former opposing counsel and get the help I needed when I needed it. Karen said yes without hesitation, and ensured the Sept. 19, 2025, professionalism panel ran smoothly without me.

After learning of my illness, I also made another call to a close personal friend, Cathy Scarver. I first met Cathy when I was a solo family law practitioner and she was a law student. One of her family members needed representation, and one of her law professors referred her

to me. I represented Cathy's family member, and along the way, Cathy graduated from law school and became a bankruptcy trustee and we moved from professional acquaintances to professional friendship to just good friends. I like to think the professionalism I displayed throughout my representation of her family member played a role in the development of that friendship. More importantly, since I sometimes see my former client about once a year when Cathy and her family come to the State Bar's Annual Meeting, I'm grateful and humbled to have a former client who values my work as their family law attorney highly enough that they welcome me when I hang out with their family.⁴ Can an attorney ask for anything better? Nor can a person ask for a better friend than someone who volunteers to pick you up from your home somewhere around 4:45 a.m. to get you to the hospital

by 5:30 a.m. Cathy also spent the day at the hospital with me while I was in surgery and was one of the first folks I saw in my hospital room after surgery. And this kindness grew out of my representation of a family law client whom I believe I represented with professionalism. Cathy's actions are another example of the aspect of professionalism of showing concern for the welfare of our colleagues.

A third call I made was to friend, former mentee and now also mentor, and former State Bar President Dawn Jones. Although Dawn has far surpassed me in her Bar work, she really was a former mentee. I initially met Dawn through my work with the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys (GABWA). I was one of several people to encourage Dawn to get involved with the State Bar of Georgia and to help introduce her to the "Annual Meeting." As president of GABWA in 2001, one of



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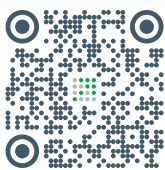
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When life doesn't make sense.

The SOLACE program is designed to assist any member of the legal community (lawyers, judges, law office and court staff, law students and their families) in Georgia who suffer serious loss due to a sudden catastrophic event, injury or illness. Visit www.gabar.org/solace for more information, or email solace@gabar.org.

SOLACE
Support of Lawyers, All Concern Encouraged

my first assignments for Dawn, however, was to ask her to represent GABWA at a meeting that was being convened by then-Atlanta Bar Association president, Seth Kirschenbaum. Seth organized a meeting of a group of lawyers who later formed the Atlanta Bar's Multi-Bar Leadership Council. Dawn went to this initial meeting on behalf of GABWA, and her Bar career is now, of course, part of Georgia legal history. As an aside, please note that Dawn's service really highlights the tenet of A Lawyer's Creed, which says, "As a professional, I should ... [a]ssist in organized bar activities."⁵ Dawn has taken that professionalism tenet to a unique level all her own that even I have not been able to emulate. She, nevertheless, made time when I needed her—my former critical care nurse with her Masters in Nursing friend—to also come spend the day with me at the hospital on Sept. 11 while I was in surgery and to stay with me until I returned to my hospital room and met with my doctor after surgery. She also took me to my appointment two weeks later when I met with my doctor to review my pathology report and get my formal diagnosis. From mentee, to colleagues in Bar work, to mentor. It's another remarkable demonstration of what it means to show concern for a colleague in the practice of law and to live out a tenet of professionalism.

Thus far, I have been fortunate that I have received all that I have needed from my personal village. But, if I had needed to reach beyond my personal village, I am comforted to know that I could have done so with the help of the State Bar of Georgia's SOLACE Committee. So, I also want to take a moment to share about this Bar program. SOLACE stands for Support of Lawyers/Legal Personnel, All Concerned Encouraged. There may come a time when I may have a need that someone in my village cannot meet, and if and when that happens, I will call on SOLACE. Founded in Georgia under the leadership of former State Bar President Ken Shigley, SOLACE is designed

to assist those in the legal community who have experienced some significant, potentially life-changing event in their lives. The sole purpose of the program is to allow the legal community to reach out in meaningful and compassionate non-monetary ways to judges, lawyers, court personnel, paralegals, legal secretaries and their families who experience deaths or other catastrophic illnesses, sickness or injury. SOLACE is voluntary, simple and straightforward. SOLACE does not solicit monetary contributions but assistance or donations in kind. SOLACE has helped many Georgia lawyers, and is ready and willing to also help you should you need it. To learn more about SOLACE, visit the State Bar of Georgia's website.⁶ We are here for you!

I am not a Pollyanna, and admittedly not every lawyer who has been made aware of my circumstances has been kind, supportive or helpful. But 99.9999% of the Georgia lawyers who have learned of my illness have been *wonderful* and have embodied for me the meaning of professional friendship. I am so grateful to each and every one of them. Georgia lawyers have made this healing journey possible, and I appreciate you. In part, because of my Georgia lawyer professional friends, I am claiming for myself a "cure"—a full recovery. I, therefore, look forward to continuing to serve Georgia lawyers for many years to come.



Karlise Y. Grier
Executive Director
Chief Justice's Commission
on Professionalism
kygrier@cjcpga.org

Endnotes

1. Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism, *Lawyer's Creed, A Lawyer's Creed and the Aspirational Statement on Professionalism*, <http://cjcpga.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/2-Lawyers-CreedAspStatement-v-2013-Line-Number-with-new-logo-and-seal-v07-25-19.pdf> at lines 145, 147 (last visited March 9, 2026).

Line-Number-with-new-logo-and-seal-v07-25-19.pdf at lines 13-15 (last visited March 9, 2026).

2. Thank you to Karen Brown Williams, Cathy Scarver and Dawn Jones for proofreading this article and for giving me their permission to share these experiences with the members of the State Bar of Georgia.
3. As a result of emulating the professionalism ideal that follows, Karen and I developed a professional friendship. "To the opposing parties and their counsel, I offer fairness, integrity, and civility. I will seek reconciliation and, if we fail, I will strive to make our dispute a dignified one." Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism, *Lawyer's Creed, A Lawyer's Creed and the Aspirational Statement on Professionalism*, <http://cjcpga.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/2-Lawyers-CreedAspStatement-v-2013-Line-Number-with-new-logo-and-seal-v07-25-19.pdf> at lines 6-9 (last visited March 9, 2026).
4. Perhaps, having a former client welcome you at their family gatherings is what is meant by: "To my clients, I offer faithfulness, competence, diligence, and good judgment. I will strive to represent you as I would want to be represented and to be worthy of your trust." Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism, *Lawyer's Creed, A Lawyer's Creed and the Aspirational Statement on Professionalism*, <http://cjcpga.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/2-Lawyers-CreedAspStatement-v-2013-Line-Number-with-new-logo-and-seal-v07-25-19.pdf> at lines 2-5 (last visited March 9, 2026).
5. Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism, *Lawyer's Creed, A Lawyer's Creed and the Aspirational Statement on Professionalism*, <http://cjcpga.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/2-Lawyers-CreedAspStatement-v-2013-Line-Number-with-new-logo-and-seal-v07-25-19.pdf> at lines 145, 147 (last visited March 9, 2026).
6. State Bar of Georgia, Center for Lawyer Wellbeing, SOLACE, <https://www.gabar.org/programs/lawyer-wellbeing/mental-wellbeing/solace>.



Georgia Council of Court Administrators

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The Georgia Council of Court Administrators (GCCA) continues its mission to provide court administrators and managers with the education, training, and networking opportunities necessary to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of Georgia's courts. Below is an update on our ongoing initiatives and upcoming events.

2026 Fall Conference

The GCCA Fall Conference will be held **August 30 – September 2, 2026**, at Jekyll Island Convention Center on Jekyll Island, Georgia. Court leaders from across the state will come together to exchange best practices, discuss emerging challenges, and work collaboratively on initiatives aimed at strengthening Georgia's court system.

Centered on the theme "*Holding the Line: Ethics, Purpose, and the Promise of Justice*" the conference will feature educational sessions, interactive workshops, and facilitate discussions emphasizing ethical decision-making, effective leadership, and sound court management. Brian Carter will serve as the keynote speaker. Carter is a Best-Selling Author and CEO of the Brian Cater Group, presenting "*Holding the Line Without Burning Out: Purpose-Driven Leadership for the People Who Keep Justice Running.*"

GCCA Partners with DeKalb County Superior Court and NCSC

GCCA, in Partnership with DeKalb County Superior Court and the National Center for State Courts, Presents the Institute for Court Management for GCCA Members on the topic of Purposes and Responsibilities of the Courts. In this course, participants explore the foundation of the third branch of government through an overview of colonial history, the rule of law, and other important historical and current-day events and practices. This course is an opportunity for participants to consider how and why courts often conduct their business differently from each other, despite sharing the same principles. Throughout the course, participants will reflect on whether the performance, structure, operations, and processes of their courts align with the purposes and responsibilities of courts. Dates for the course will be announced later.

GCCA'S Commitment to Judicial Ethics and Purposes and Responsibilities

The Georgia Council of Court Administrators is firmly committed to upholding the highest ethical standards while advancing the core purposes and responsibilities of the courts. Through education, collaboration, and the sharing of best practices, GCCA supports court leaders in making principled decisions that ensure equal access to justice and the consistent application of the rule of law. By emphasizing ethical leadership and a clear sense of purpose, the Council strengthens the capacity of Georgia's courts to serve the public with professionalism, efficiency, and respect.

Lindsay Mobley

Lindsay Mobley, President



To: Judicial Council of Georgia

From: Lynne Moore Nelson, Esq. 
Executive Director, Institute of Continuing Judicial Education

RE: Executive Director Monthly Report – June 2026 Financials

Date: August 4, 2026

This report provides a financial overview and program updates for ICJE and its fifteen constituent groups.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Attached is the Financial Report, a PDF outlining year-to-date revenues and expenditures for all ICJE constituent groups.

In partnership with a CPA firm, AOC Fiscal Office, and UGA Law School Business Office, this report addresses four key questions:

1. How much funding did ICJE receive on behalf of the Councils?
2. From whom was the funding received?
3. How were the funds allocated and spent?
4. What is the remaining balance?

The report details all revenue sources, including appropriations, CJE support fees, contracted fees, and grants, along with related expenditures. The AOC fiscal manager has verified the report's accuracy.

MONTHLY PROGRAM OVERVIEW



NEW ICJE TEAM MEMBER – Accounting Analyst, Paula Pereyra

Ms. Paula Pereyra joined ICJE on July 20, 2026, and her addition strengthens our financial unit in support of ICJE's mission. For our learners, Ms. Pereyra will serve as the primary point of contact for travel reimbursements and processing paper training registration payments. She will also be responsible for financial data entry, account reconciliations, and process improvement initiatives.

Ms. Pereyra holds a bachelor's degree in finance management and Audit from the Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra in the Dominican Republic, providing a strong academic foundation for her role. In her previous position as an Accounting Technician, she maintained financial records, processed vendor payments, performed bank reconciliations, prepared tax documentation, generated audit reports, and supported internal control processes.



During the interview process, Paula demonstrated a strong foundation in accounting principles by discussing her bookkeeping expertise and professional certification, further highlighting her qualifications for this position.

An updated ICJE Points of Contact sheet is attached for your reference and distribution.

JULY TRAINING SUMMARY

ICJE delivered three training sessions this month, totaling 5,198 continuing education hours.

- Judicial Staff Attorneys' Annual Conference was held at the UGA Center in Athens, with 135 learners representing Superior, State, Probate, Juvenile, and the Statewide Business Courts. This year's training included instructors from Georgia's Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Superior Court, State Court, Judicial Qualifications Council, Administrative Office of the Courts, University of Georgia School of Law, and others.
- ICJE welcomed 80 learners to the Probate Court Clerks' Licenses, Wills, Estates, Guardianships (LWEG), which transitioned to the Probate Court Clerks' Traffic training with 33 learners – both held at the Brasstown Valley Resort in Young Harris.
- Superior Court Judges are preparing for their Summer Conference with 234 judges expected.



ICJE IN PICTURES



Deputy Chief of Appeals – August Judicial Circuit District Attorney’s Office Linda J. Dunikoski led the Motions for Mistrial training



Hall County Probate Court Judge Patty Walters Laine increased learner engagement by having learners use colored paper to respond to questions, allowing Judge Laine to quickly gauge consensus and identify areas that needed further clarification or improvement.

On behalf of the ICJE team, we would like to express our appreciation for your continued support.

I look forward to seeing you in class.

ICJE Staff — Points of Contact

(Updated July 2026)

CONSTITUENT GROUPS	ICJE TEAM MEMBERS	OFFICE PHONE NO.	EMAIL ADDRESS
Superior Court Judges Superior Court Clerks Magistrate Court Judges Magistrate Court Clerks Multi-Class (Synchronous & Asynchronous) USCR Rule 43.6	Susan Blount Event Coordinator & Thomas Erwin Event Planner	706-542-1129 706-542-1150	susan.blount@uga.edu terwin21@uga.edu
State Court Judges Probate Court Judges (Non-Traffic) Probate Court Judges (Traffic) Probate Court Clerks Accountability Court Judges International Groups	Laura Kathryne Hogan Event Coordinator & Virginia Kerrigan Event Planner	706-542-1126 706-542-1128	lhogan@uga.edu virginia.kerrigan@uga.edu
Juvenile Court Judges Juvenile Court Clerks Municipal Court Judges Municipal Court Clerks Judicial Staff Attorneys	Annelle Berry Event Coordinator &  Haynes Baker Event Planner	706-542-1164 706-542-1158	awberry@uga.edu haynes.baker@uga.edu
Travel Reimbursement Support Financial Support Administrative Support	 Paula Pereyra Accounting Analyst	706-542-0339	paula.pereyra@uga.edu
Budget/Financial Management Vendor Management/Purchasing Office Support	 Kelly Reinke Brown Business Operations Associate	706-542-1160	kelly.brown2@uga.edu
ICJE Executive Director	Lynne Moore Nelson, Esq.	706-542-1124	lynnemoore.nelson@uga.edu

 = New staff member



FY2026 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS

June 1-30, 2026

FOR REVENUE AND EXPENSES ADMINISTERED BY ICJE OF GEORGIA*

COMPILED BY

Lynne Moore Nelson, Esq., ICJE Executive Director

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Direct: 706.542.1124

Kelly Reinke Brown, ICJE Business Operations Associate

Email: kelly.brown2@uga.edu

Direct: 706.542.1160



REVIEWED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

Peterson David, AOC – Chief Financial Officer

**To promote constituent confidence and to foster transparency, this information is made available to all ICJE constituent groups. These reports include ICJE-administered expenses only. For ICJE – administered expenses, any ICJE-maintained document (e.g., contract, invoice, travel reimbursement claim, etc.) is available for review upon request. These expenditures do not include any event expense authorized or administered by a constituent group's leadership or educational apparatus that was not administered by ICJE.*

This financial reporting template was developed in collaboration with the AOC Fiscal Staff and the UGA School of Law Business Office.

INSTITUTE OF CONTINUING JUDICIAL EDUCATION

AOC - Fund Source: 01 Project Code: 301

UGA - Project RADOC000197980A

1	BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 844,596.00	\$ 844,596.00	\$ 745,858.26	\$ 686,829.82	\$ 626,797.45	\$ 552,468.12	\$ 494,689.88	\$ 437,018.98	\$ 370,990.45	\$ 309,601.63	\$ 238,367.36	\$ 200,628.52	\$ 80,950.04	\$ 844,596.00
2	PERSONNEL	FY2026 Budget	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD
3	Salaries & Benefits	\$ 683,766.00	\$ 43,185.64	\$ 54,692.81	\$ 54,693.17	\$ 71,197.05	\$ 54,919.82	\$ 54,976.29	\$ 55,378.76	\$ 56,017.84	\$ 48,518.38	\$ 51,725.23	\$ 72,486.05	\$ 56,249.64	\$ -
4	Total Personnel	\$ 683,766.00	\$ 43,185.64	\$ 54,692.81	\$ 54,693.17	\$ 71,197.05	\$ 54,919.82	\$ 54,976.29	\$ 55,378.76	\$ 56,017.84	\$ 48,518.38	\$ 51,725.23	\$ 72,486.05	\$ 56,249.64	\$ 674,040.68
5	OPERATING	FY2026 Budget	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD
6	Board of Trustees' Meetings	\$ 1,800.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
7	IT - Communications - AOC	\$ 60,085.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 304.08	\$ 152.04	\$ -	\$ 152.04	\$ 152.04	\$ 152.04	\$ 152.04	\$ 152.04	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,216.32
8	IT - Communications - UGA		\$ 51.86	\$ 51.86	\$ -	\$ 37.44	\$ 37.45	\$ 37.45	\$ 37.45	\$ 37.45	\$ 74.90	\$ -	\$ 37.43	\$ 37.44	\$ 440.73
9	IT - Internet		\$ -	\$ 2,965.86	\$ 1,482.93	\$ 1,482.93	\$ 1,482.93	\$ 1,482.93	\$ 1,482.93	\$ 1,482.93	\$ 1,482.93	\$ 1,482.93	\$ 1,482.93	\$ 1,482.93	\$ 17,795.16
10	IT - Copier		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 166.30	\$ 166.30	\$ 83.15	\$ -	\$ 83.15	\$ 166.30	\$ 83.15	\$ 83.15	\$ 83.15	\$ 83.15	\$ 997.80
11	IT - Copier Overages		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1.19	\$ 6.91	\$ 29.74	\$ -	\$ 4.03	\$ 2.05	\$ 6.05	\$ 2.01	\$ 3.82	\$ 10.43	\$ 66.23
12	IT - Equipment		\$ 1,818.72	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 134.99	\$ -	\$ 149.99	\$ 2,313.92	\$ 2,245.99	\$ 6,663.61
13	IT - Equipment Materials		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
14	IT - Software Mgmt Renewal		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 143.50	\$ 153.79	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 343.00	\$ -	\$ 178.50	\$ 178.50	\$ 40,000.00	\$ -	\$ 40,997.29
15	IT - Software Subscriptions		\$ 147.90	\$ 125.40	\$ 3.30	\$ 100.00	\$ 169.80	\$ 166.20	\$ 6,010.00	\$ 62.00	\$ 741.30	\$ -	\$ 178.50	\$ 391.30	\$ 8,095.70
16	IT - Miscellaneous		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
17	Office Supplies	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 157.58	\$ 158.17	\$ 346.70	\$ 12.16	\$ 204.23	\$ 79.42	\$ 2,111.23	\$ 1,821.41	\$ 236.71	\$ 197.20	\$ 646.65	\$ 669.30	\$ 6,640.76
18	Professional Fees	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,000.00
19	Publications & Printing	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 232.99	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,732.99
20	Rent	\$ 52,536.60	\$ 52,536.60	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 52,536.60
21	Travel	\$ 6,700.00	\$ -	\$ 106.40	\$ 2,148.41	\$ 208.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ 1,017.16	\$ 1,114.06	\$ 5,044.03
22	Utilities	\$ 10,208.00	\$ 830.49	\$ 927.94	\$ 742.79	\$ 812.71	\$ 827.48	\$ 776.57	\$ 411.25	\$ 1,202.34	\$ 600.84	\$ 979.79	\$ 795.88	\$ 786.22	\$ 9,694.30
23	Other	\$ 500.40	\$ 8.95	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23.64	\$ -	\$ 14.69	\$ 9.47	\$ 9.47	\$ (17,212.00)	\$ 400.00	\$ 5.78	\$ (16,740.00)
24	Total Operating	\$ 160,830.00	\$ 55,552.10	\$ 4,335.63	\$ 5,339.20	\$ 3,132.28	\$ 2,858.42	\$ 2,694.61	\$ 10,649.77	\$ 5,370.98	\$ 22,715.89	\$ (13,986.39)	\$ 47,192.43	\$ 9,326.60	\$ 155,181.52
25	Monthly Personnel & Operating Totals		\$ 98,737.74	\$ 59,028.44	\$ 60,032.37	\$ 74,329.33	\$ 57,778.24	\$ 57,670.90	\$ 66,028.53	\$ 61,388.82	\$ 71,234.27	\$ 37,738.84	\$ 119,678.48	\$ 65,576.24	\$ 829,222.20
26	Total Remaining Funds		\$ 745,858.26	\$ 686,829.82	\$ 626,797.45	\$ 552,468.12	\$ 494,689.88	\$ 437,018.98	\$ 370,990.45	\$ 309,601.63	\$ 238,367.36	\$ 200,628.52	\$ 80,950.04	\$ 15,373.80	\$ 15,373.80

* A total of \$2,436.89 of reserve funding was used to cover unexpected expenses not included in the annual budget. \$1,482.92 for IT- Internet and \$953.97 for office supplies in the months of September & October 2025.

STATE COURT JUDGES

Fund Source: 42006 Project Code: 319

Training Mandates: These training events are mandated by Uniform State Court Rule 43.1(A) & 43.1(B). The venues are contracted in collaboration with the CSCJ Educational Programs Committee; CSCJ NJO & Mentoring Committee; and, the CSCJ Executive Committee.

1	BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 272,336.16	\$ 238,856.56	\$ 239,856.56	\$ 240,686.56	\$ 238,699.40	\$ 198,430.36	\$ 198,430.36	\$ 198,066.90	\$ 208,005.90	\$ 241,078.43	\$ 242,636.28	\$ 233,872.47	\$ 272,336.16
2	REVENUES	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD
3	CJE Support Fees	\$ 415.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 830.00	\$ 623.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ -	\$ 1,038.00	\$ 9,939.00	\$ 35,620.00	\$ 2,830.00	\$ 3,030.00	\$ 1,238.00	\$ 57,763.00
4	Additional Revenues	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5	Refunds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (400.00)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (400.00)
6	Processing Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
7	Total:	\$ 415.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 830.00	\$ 623.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ -	\$ 638.00	\$ 9,939.00	\$ 35,620.00	\$ 2,830.00	\$ 3,030.00	\$ 1,238.00	\$ 57,363.00
8	EVENTS	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD
9	Fall Conference	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,593.20	\$ 8,998.48	\$ 32,470.56	\$ 1,001.14	\$ -	\$ 153.02	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45,216.40
10	New Judges Orientation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,394.45	\$ 1,272.15	\$ 8,928.58	\$ -	\$ 12,595.18
11	Spring Conference	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,865.23	\$ 23,521.02	\$ 26,386.25
12	Multi-Class/Online	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.32	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.32
13	Past & Future Events	\$ 33,894.60	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 38,894.60
14	Encumbrances	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 32,470.56	\$ (32,470.56)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
15	Total:	\$ 33,894.60	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,593.20	\$ 41,469.04	\$ -	\$ 1,001.46	\$ -	\$ 2,547.47	\$ 1,272.15	\$ 11,793.81	\$ 28,521.02	\$ 123,092.75
16	MISC. EXPENDITURES	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD
17	Council Meetings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
18	NJO Council Meetings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
19	Quarterly Postage	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16.96	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16.96
20	Additional Supplies	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
21	Misc. Adjustments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
22	Total:	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16.96	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16.96
23	ENDING BALANCE	\$ 238,856.56	\$ 239,856.56	\$ 240,686.56	\$ 238,699.40	\$ 198,430.36	\$ 198,430.36	\$ 198,066.90	\$ 208,005.90	\$ 241,078.43	\$ 242,636.28	\$ 233,872.47	\$ 206,589.45	\$ 206,589.45

JUVENILE COURT JUDGES

Fund Source: 42003 Project Code: 308

Training Mandates: These training events are mandated by OCGA §15-11-59(d); §15-11-62; Uniform Juvenile Court Rule 4.3; 4.4; & CJCJ Executive Committee Protocol. The venues are contracted in collaboration with CJCJ Educational and Certification Committee; and, the CJCJ Executive Committee.

1	BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 122,851.73	\$ 123,240.78	\$ 127,080.78	\$ 126,651.83	\$ 124,242.55	\$ 104,059.32	\$ 104,059.32	\$ 104,047.32	\$ 110,415.32	\$ 149,067.32	\$ 152,935.32	\$ 147,445.27	\$ 122,851.73
2	REVENUES	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD
3	CJE Support Fees	\$ 398.00	\$ 3,840.00	\$ -	\$ 796.00	\$ 6,144.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,368.00	\$ 38,652.00	\$ 4,266.00	\$ 3,100.00	\$ 782.00	\$ 64,346.00
4	Additional Revenues	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5	Refunds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (384.00)	\$ -	\$ (384.00)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (398.00)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,166.00)
6	Processing Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
7	Total:	\$ 398.00	\$ 3,840.00	\$ (384.00)	\$ 796.00	\$ 5,760.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,368.00	\$ 38,652.00	\$ 3,868.00	\$ 3,100.00	\$ 782.00	\$ 63,180.00
8	EVENTS	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD
9	Fall Conference	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,205.28	\$ 22,943.23	\$ -	\$ 12.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,160.51
10	Spring Conference	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,590.05	\$ 25,980.98	\$ 34,571.03
11	Multi-Class/Online	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
12	Past & Future Events	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 44.95	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,044.95
13	Encumbrances	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
14	Total:	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 44.95	\$ 3,205.28	\$ 25,943.23	\$ -	\$ 12.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,590.05	\$ 25,980.98	\$ 63,776.49
15	MISC. EXPENDITURES	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD
16	Council Meetings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
17	Quarterly Postage	\$ 8.95	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8.95
18	Additional Supplies	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
19	Misc. Adjustments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
20	Total:	\$ 8.95	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8.95
21	ENDING BALANCE	\$ 123,240.78	\$ 127,080.78	\$ 126,651.83	\$ 124,242.55	\$ 104,059.32	\$ 104,059.32	\$ 104,047.32	\$ 110,415.32	\$ 149,067.32	\$ 152,935.32	\$ 147,445.27	\$ 122,246.29	\$ 122,246.29

JUVENILE COURT CLERKS

Fund Source: 42000 Project Code: 306

Training Mandates: These training events are mandated by OCGA §15-11-65. The venues are contracted in collaboration with the Georgia Association of Juvenile Court Clerks.

1	BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 28,966.60	\$ 28,966.60	\$ 28,966.60	\$ 28,966.60	\$ 28,966.60	\$ 28,966.60	\$ 28,966.60	\$ 28,966.60	\$ 38,918.60	\$ 52,695.75	\$ 45,679.77	\$ 25,561.66	\$ 28,966.60
2	REVENUES	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD
3	CJE Support Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,952.00	\$ 16,599.00	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,851.00
4	Additional Revenues	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5	Refunds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (933.00)	\$ (933.00)
6	Processing Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
7	Total:	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,952.00	\$ 16,599.00	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ (933.00)	\$ 25,918.00
8	EVENTS	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD
9	Fall Conference	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
10	Spring Conference	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,821.85	\$ 7,315.98	\$ 20,118.11	\$ -	\$ 30,255.94
11	Past & Future Events	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
12	Encumbrances	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
13	Total:	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,821.85	\$ 7,315.98	\$ 20,118.11	\$ -	\$ 30,255.94
14	MISC. EXPENDITURES	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD
15	Council Meetings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
16	Quarterly Postage	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
17	Additional Supplies	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
18	Misc. Adjustments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
19	Total:	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
20	ENDING BALANCE	\$ 28,966.60	\$ 28,966.60	\$ 28,966.60	\$ 28,966.60	\$ 28,966.60	\$ 28,966.60	\$ 28,966.60	\$ 38,918.60	\$ 52,695.75	\$ 45,679.77	\$ 25,561.66	\$ 24,628.66	\$ 24,628.66

PROBATE COURT JUDGES : NON-TRAFFIC

Fund Source: 42005 Project Code: 315

Training Mandates: These training events are mandated by OCGA §15-9-1.1(a); §15-9-1.1(b); §15-9-2.1(c)(2); Uniform Probate Court Rule 14.2(A) & 14.2(B); & Probate Judges Training Council Policy. The venues are contracted in collaboration with the Probate Judges Training Council.

1	BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 160,891.71	\$ 160,891.71	\$ 163,314.99	\$ 163,825.98	\$ 163,354.38	\$ 167,714.98	\$ 167,631.25	\$ 168,411.59	\$ 204,828.59	\$ 293,301.24	\$ 298,264.49	\$ 284,994.42	\$ 160,891.71
2	REVENUES	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD
3	CJE Support Fees	\$ -	\$ 2,424.00	\$ 2,424.00	\$ 1,818.00	\$ 7,626.00	\$ -	\$ 2,424.00	\$ 36,417.00	\$ 89,757.00	\$ 5,328.00	\$ 4,221.00	\$ 57.50	\$ 152,496.50
4	Additional Revenues	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5	Refunds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (585.00)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (585.00)
6	Processing Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
7	Total:	\$ -	\$ 2,424.00	\$ 2,424.00	\$ 1,818.00	\$ 7,626.00	\$ -	\$ 2,424.00	\$ 36,417.00	\$ 89,172.00	\$ 5,328.00	\$ 4,221.00	\$ 57.50	\$ 151,911.50
8	EVENTS	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD
9	Fall COAG	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,542.00	\$ 2,289.60	\$ 3,265.40	\$ -	\$ 1,378.60	\$ -	\$ 675.35	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,150.95
10	New Judge Orientation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
11	Spring Conference	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24.00	\$ 44.55	\$ 17,491.07	\$ 74,913.64	\$ 92,473.26
12	Multi-Class/Online	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2.40	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2.40
13	Past & Future Events	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 318.20	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 318.20
14	Encumbrances	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
15	Total:	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,542.00	\$ 2,289.60	\$ 3,265.40	\$ -	\$ 1,381.00	\$ -	\$ 699.35	\$ 362.75	\$ 17,491.07	\$ 74,913.64	\$ 101,944.81
16	MISC. EXPENDITURES	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD
17	Council Meetings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
18	Certificate Program	\$ -	\$ 0.72	\$ 371.01	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 544.50	\$ 262.66	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,180.89
19	Mentoring	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
20	Quarterly Postage	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
21	Additional Supplies	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
22	Misc. Adjustments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (460.77)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (460.77)
23	Total:	\$ -	\$ 0.72	\$ 371.01	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 83.73	\$ 262.66	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 720.12
24	ENDING BALANCE	\$ 160,891.71	\$ 163,314.99	\$ 163,825.98	\$ 163,354.38	\$ 167,714.98	\$ 167,631.25	\$ 168,411.59	\$ 204,828.59	\$ 293,301.24	\$ 298,264.49	\$ 284,994.42	\$ 210,138.28	\$ 210,138.28

PROBATE COURT JUDGES : TRAFFIC

Fund Source: 42005 Project Code: 352

Training Mandates: These training events are mandated by OCGA §15-9-1.1(a); §15-9-1.1(b); §15-9-2.1(c)(2); Uniform Probate Court Rule 14.2(A) & 14.2(B); & Probate Judges Training Council Policy. The venues are contracted in collaboration with the Probate Judges Training Council.

1	BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 44,113.05	\$ 39,166.05	\$ 38,390.05	\$ 38,379.10	\$ 34,798.30	\$ 35,383.30	\$ 35,293.31	\$ 36,391.17	\$ 59,419.17	\$ 94,563.05	\$ 94,565.05	\$ 97,574.05	\$ 44,113.05
2	REVENUES	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD
3	CJE Support Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 585.00	\$ -	\$ 1,212.00	\$ 23,028.00	\$ 35,289.00	\$ -	\$ 3,009.00	\$ 1,191.00	\$ 64,314.00
4	Additional Revenues	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5	Refunds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
6	Processing Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
7	Total:	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 585.00	\$ -	\$ 1,212.00	\$ 23,028.00	\$ 35,289.00	\$ -	\$ 3,009.00	\$ 1,191.00	\$ 64,314.00
8	EVENTS	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD
9	Annual Conference	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 54,429.14	\$ 54,429.14
10	New Judge Orientation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
11	Multi-Class/Online	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
12	Past & Future Events	\$ 4,947.00	\$ 776.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,580.80	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 145.12	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,448.92
13	Encumbrances	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,580.80	\$ (3,580.80)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
14	Total:	\$ 4,947.00	\$ 776.00	\$ -	\$ 3,580.80	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 145.12	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 54,429.14	\$ 63,878.06
15	MISC. EXPENDITURES	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD
16	Council Meetings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
17	Certificate Program	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 175.00	\$ 114.14	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (2.00)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 287.14
18	Mentoring	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
19	Quarterly Postage	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
20	Additional Supplies	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
21	Misc. Adjustments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10.95	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (85.01)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (74.06)
22	Total:	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10.95	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 89.99	\$ 114.14	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (2.00)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 213.08
23	ENDING BALANCE	\$ 39,166.05	\$ 38,390.05	\$ 38,379.10	\$ 34,798.30	\$ 35,383.30	\$ 35,293.31	\$ 36,391.17	\$ 59,419.17	\$ 94,563.05	\$ 94,565.05	\$ 97,574.05	\$ 44,335.91	\$ 44,335.91

PROBATE COURT CLERKS

Fund Source: 42004 Project Code: 314

Training Mandates: These training events are not mandated by statute, uniform rule, or educational apparatus policy. ICJE is pleased to provide them as an accommodation for this group. The venues are contracted in collaboration with the Probate Judges Training Council.

1	BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 95,090.65	\$ 97,148.65	\$ 83,043.69	\$ 82,953.02	\$ 79,425.02	\$ 81,067.02	\$ 81,581.52	\$ 81,752.38	\$ 87,874.38	\$ 102,391.88	\$ 105,882.88	\$ 107,830.52	\$ 95,090.65
2	REVENUES	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD
3	CJE Support Fees	\$ 2,058.00	\$ 6,144.00	\$ 857.50	\$ -	\$ 1,663.00	\$ 514.50	\$ 171.50	\$ 6,122.00	\$ 14,517.50	\$ 3,491.00	\$ 2,184.00	\$ 4,565.50	\$ 42,288.50
4	Additional Revenues	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5	Refunds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
6	Processing Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
7	Total:	\$ 2,058.00	\$ 6,144.00	\$ 857.50	\$ -	\$ 1,663.00	\$ 514.50	\$ 171.50	\$ 6,122.00	\$ 14,517.50	\$ 3,491.00	\$ 2,184.00	\$ 4,565.50	\$ 42,288.50
8	EVENTS	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD
9	Annual Conference	\$ -	\$ 20,248.96	\$ 707.75	\$ 3,528.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24,484.71
10	Multi-Class/Online	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.64	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.64
11	Past & Future Events	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
12	Encumbrances	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
13	Total:	\$ -	\$ 20,248.96	\$ 707.75	\$ 3,528.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.64	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24,485.35
14	MISC. EXPENDITURES	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD
15	Council Meetings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
16	Certificate Program	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 240.42	\$ -	\$ 21.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 236.36	\$ 405.83	\$ 903.61
17	Quarterly Postage	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
18	Additonal Supplies	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
19	Misc. Adjustments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
20	Total:	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 240.42	\$ -	\$ 21.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 236.36	\$ 405.83	\$ 903.61
21	ENDING BALANCE	\$ 97,148.65	\$ 83,043.69	\$ 82,953.02	\$ 79,425.02	\$ 81,067.02	\$ 81,581.52	\$ 81,752.38	\$ 87,874.38	\$ 102,391.88	\$ 105,882.88	\$ 107,830.52	\$ 111,990.19	\$ 111,990.19

MAGISTRATE COURT JUDGES														
Fund Source: 42001 Project Code: 337														
Training Mandates: These training events are mandated by OCGA §15-10-25; §15-10-131; §15-10-136(2); §15-10-137(a); §15-10-137(c)(1); §15-10-233; & Magistrate Court Training Council Policy. The venues are contracted in collaboration with the Executive Council of the Council of Magistrate Court Judges of Georgia.														
1	BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 216,369.57	\$ 217,583.06	\$ 225,360.06	\$ 223,497.43	\$ 218,609.20	\$ 158,155.56	\$ 157,721.06	\$ 159,335.92	\$ 248,871.42	\$ 317,207.30	\$ 333,338.42	\$ 263,966.20	\$ 216,369.57
2	REVENUES	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD
3	CJE Support Fees	\$ 1,228.50	\$ 8,777.00	\$ 2,047.50	\$ 409.50	\$ 3,555.00	\$ 409.50	\$ 1,623.50	\$ 89,535.50	\$ 71,491.50	\$ 17,786.00	\$ 9,741.25	\$ 7,313.00	\$ 213,917.75
4	Additional Revenues	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5	Refunds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
6	Processing Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
7	Total:	\$ 1,228.50	\$ 8,777.00	\$ 2,047.50	\$ 409.50	\$ 3,555.00	\$ 409.50	\$ 1,623.50	\$ 89,535.50	\$ 71,491.50	\$ 17,786.00	\$ 9,741.25	\$ 7,313.00	\$ 213,917.75
8	EVENTS	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD
9	40 Hr. Basic Civil	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,972.58	\$ 429.32	\$ 35,904.84	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 39,306.74
10	Fall Recertification	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 4,619.81	\$ 28,094.85	\$ 844.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 34,558.66
11	40 Hr. Criminal Cert.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,155.62	\$ -	\$ 19,883.39	\$ -	\$ 23,039.01
12	Chiefs Update	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
13	Spring Recertification	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,509.28	\$ 57,730.08	\$ 706.85	\$ 59,946.21
14	Multi-Class/Online	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8.64	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8.64
15	Past & Future Events	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 937.55	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 145.60	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 2,583.15
16	Encumbrances	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
17	Total:	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 3,910.13	\$ 5,049.13	\$ 63,999.69	\$ 844.00	\$ 8.64	\$ -	\$ 3,155.62	\$ 1,654.88	\$ 79,113.47	\$ 706.85	\$ 159,442.41
18	MISC. EXPENDITURES	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD
19	MCTC Meetings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 180.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 80.34	\$ 260.34
20	National Trainings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
21	Mentoring	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 68.60	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 68.60
22	Benchbook	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
23	Quarterly Postage	\$ 15.01	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8.95	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23.96
24	Additional Supplies	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
25	Misc. Adjustments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
26	Total:	\$ 15.01	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 248.60	\$ 8.95	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 80.34	\$ 352.90
27	ENDING BALANCE	\$ 217,583.06	\$ 225,360.06	\$ 223,497.43	\$ 218,609.20	\$ 158,155.56	\$ 157,721.06	\$ 159,335.92	\$ 248,871.42	\$ 317,207.30	\$ 333,338.42	\$ 263,966.20	\$ 270,492.01	\$ 270,492.01

MAGISTRATE COURT CLERKS

Fund Source: 42008 Project Code: 331

Training Mandates: These training events are not mandated by statute, uniform rule, or educational apparatus policy. ICJE is pleased to provide them as an accommodation for this group. The venues are contracted in collaboration with the Executive Council of the Council of Magistrate Courts Clerks Incorporated.

1	BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 56,470.59	\$ 55,025.76	\$ 57,792.78	\$ 57,207.78	\$ 30,657.49	\$ 57,207.78	\$ 57,207.78	\$ 57,207.78	\$ 69,186.78	\$ 90,272.53	\$ 91,380.38	\$ 96,734.38	\$ 56,470.59
2	REVENUES	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD
3	CJE Support Fees	\$ -	\$ 3,500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,979.00	\$ 21,454.00	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 6,080.00	\$ 1,815.00	\$ 46,578.00
4	Additional Revenues	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5	Refunds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (726.00)	\$ (1,089.00)	\$ (1,815.00)
6	Processing Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
7	Total:	\$ -	\$ 3,500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,979.00	\$ 21,454.00	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 5,354.00	\$ 726.00	\$ 44,763.00
8	EVENTS	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD
9	Annual Conference	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 368.25	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,484.78	\$ 26,853.03
10	Multi-Class/Online	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
11	Past & Future Events	\$ 1,444.83	\$ 708.80	\$ 585.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 642.15	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,380.78
12	Encumbrances	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
13	Total:	\$ 1,444.83	\$ 708.80	\$ 585.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 368.25	\$ 642.15	\$ -	\$ 26,484.78	\$ 30,233.81
14	MISC. EXPENDITURES	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD
15	Council Meetings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
16	Quarterly Postage	\$ -	\$ 24.18	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24.18
17	Additional Supplies	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
18	Misc. Adjustments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,550.29	\$ (26,550.29)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
19	Total:	\$ -	\$ 24.18	\$ -	\$ 26,550.29	\$ (26,550.29)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24.18
20	ENDING BALANCE	\$ 55,025.76	\$ 57,792.78	\$ 57,207.78	\$ 30,657.49	\$ 57,207.78	\$ 57,207.78	\$ 57,207.78	\$ 69,186.78	\$ 90,272.53	\$ 91,380.38	\$ 96,734.38	\$ 70,975.60	\$ 70,975.60

MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGES														
Fund Source: 42002 Project Code: 344														
Training Mandates: These training events are mandated by OCGA §36-32-27 (b) & (c); Municipal Court Training Council Policy. The venues are contracted in collaboration with the Municipal Court Training Council.														
1	BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 93,878.90	\$ 95,045.90	\$ 108,469.82	\$ 106,956.82	\$ 78,469.38	\$ 92,900.06	\$ 94,067.06	\$ 94,783.06	\$ 100,424.06	\$ 159,554.06	\$ 165,596.06	\$ 172,486.06	\$ 93,878.90
2	REVENUES	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD
3	CJE Support Fees	\$ 1,167.00	\$ 14,292.00	\$ 3,487.00	\$ 3,112.00	\$ 14,639.00	\$ 1,167.00	\$ 1,167.00	\$ 9,641.00	\$ 62,130.00	\$ 6,042.00	\$ 6,890.00	\$ 5,292.00	\$ 129,026.00
4	Additional Revenues	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5	Refunds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (375.00)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (375.00)
6	Processing Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
7	Total:	\$ 1,167.00	\$ 14,292.00	\$ 3,487.00	\$ 3,112.00	\$ 14,639.00	\$ 1,167.00	\$ 792.00	\$ 9,641.00	\$ 62,130.00	\$ 6,042.00	\$ 6,890.00	\$ 5,292.00	\$ 128,651.00
8	EVENTS	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD
9	Fall Recert / L&P	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,928.18	\$ 208.32	\$ -	\$ 48.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 31,184.50
10	Summer Recert / L&P	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,124.17	\$ 6,124.17
11	National Trainings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
12	Multi-Class/Online	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 28.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 28.00
13	Past & Future Events	\$ -	\$ 868.08	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 671.26	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,539.34
14	Encumbrances	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
15	Total:	\$ -	\$ 868.08	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 31,599.44	\$ 208.32	\$ -	\$ 76.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,124.17	\$ 43,876.01
16	MISC. EXPENDITURES	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD
17	Council Meetings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
18	Benchbook	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,000.00
19	Quarterly Postage	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
20	Additional Supplies	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
21	Misc. Adjustments/PO	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
22	Total:	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,000.00
23	ENDING BALANCE	\$ 95,045.90	\$ 108,469.82	\$ 106,956.82	\$ 78,469.38	\$ 92,900.06	\$ 94,067.06	\$ 94,783.06	\$ 100,424.06	\$ 159,554.06	\$ 165,596.06	\$ 172,486.06	\$ 171,653.89	\$ 171,653.89

MUNICIPAL COURT CLERKS

Fund Source: 42009 Project Code: 345

Training Mandates: These training events are mandated by OCGA §36-32-13(b)(1); §36-32-13(b)(2); & Municipal Court Training Council Policy. The venues are contracted in collaboration with the Georgia Municipal Court Clerks Council.

1	BEGINNING BALANCE	\$	109,303.77	\$	110,600.60	\$	128,170.60	\$	120,568.50	\$	108,035.01	\$	116,237.27	\$	78,437.77	\$	81,817.77	\$	110,307.77	\$	147,722.00	\$	146,119.97	\$	143,657.81	\$	109,303.77
2	REVENUES		July		August		September		October		November		December		January		February		March		April		May		June		YTD
3	CJE Support Fees	\$	1,560.00	\$	17,570.00	\$	1,038.75	\$	2,600.00	\$	15,520.00	\$	1,040.00	\$	3,380.00	\$	28,490.00	\$	42,080.00	\$	7,500.00	\$	6,550.00	\$	8,290.00	\$	135,618.75
4	Additional Revenues	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
5	Refunds	\$	(250.00)	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	(500.00)	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	(250.00)	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	(1,000.00)
6	Processing Fees	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
7	Total:	\$	1,310.00	\$	17,570.00	\$	1,038.75	\$	2,600.00	\$	15,020.00	\$	1,040.00	\$	3,380.00	\$	28,490.00	\$	41,830.00	\$	7,500.00	\$	6,550.00	\$	8,290.00	\$	134,618.75
8	EVENTS		July		August		September		October		November		December		January		February		March		April		May		June		YTD
9	September Certification	\$	-	\$	-	\$	2,307.85	\$	14,818.95	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	17,126.80
10	November Recertification	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	6,817.74	\$	27,369.50	\$	-	\$	-	\$	1,034.10	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	35,221.34
11	February Certification	\$	-	\$	-	\$	5,333.00	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	3,381.67	\$	7,913.39	\$	82.66	\$	-	\$	16,710.72
12	April Recertification	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	1,188.64	\$	5,929.50	\$	26,473.63	\$	33,591.77
13	Past & Future Events	\$	-	\$	-	\$	1,000.00	\$	-	\$	-	\$	11,470.00	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	3,000.00	\$	-	\$	15,470.00
14	Encumbrances	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
15	Total:	\$	-	\$	-	\$	8,640.85	\$	14,818.95	\$	6,817.74	\$	38,839.50	\$	-	\$	-	\$	4,415.77	\$	9,102.03	\$	9,012.16	\$	26,473.63	\$	118,120.63
16	MISC. EXPENDITURES		July		August		September		October		November		December		January		February		March		April		May		June		YTD
17	Council Meetings	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	314.54	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	314.54
18	Quarterly Postage	\$	13.17	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	13.17
19	Additional Supplies	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
20	Misc. Adjustments	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
21	Total:	\$	13.17	\$	-	\$	-	\$	314.54	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	327.71
22	ENDING BALANCE	\$	110,600.60	\$	128,170.60	\$	120,568.50	\$	108,035.01	\$	116,237.27	\$	78,437.77	\$	81,817.77	\$	110,307.77	\$	147,722.00	\$	146,119.97	\$	143,657.81	\$	125,474.18	\$	125,474.18

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES

Fund Source: 42007 Project Code: 323

Training Mandates: Training expenses are addressed by OCGA §15-6-32; training is mandated by Uniform Superior Court Rule 43; and, by CSCJ MCJE Committee Protocol. The venues are contracted in collaboration with CSCJ MCJE Committee; and, CSCJ Executive Committee.

1	BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 20,544.64	\$ 846,842.20	\$ 369,093.70	\$ 302,546.46	\$ 296,615.37	\$ 291,986.83	\$ 286,996.88	\$ 284,545.58	\$ 173,086.83	\$ 8,881.12	\$ 4,981.75	\$ 4,259.68	\$ 20,544.64
2	REVENUES	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD
3	CJE Support Fees	\$ 835,120.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 835,120.00
4	Additional Revenues	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5	Refunds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
6	Processing Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
7	Total:	\$ 835,120.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 835,120.00
8	EVENTS	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD
9	Summer Conference	\$ 8,822.44	\$ 477,748.50	\$ 66,510.30	\$ 5,931.09	\$ 4,628.54	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 563,640.87
10	Winter NJO	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,989.95	\$ 951.30	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,941.25
11	Winter Conference	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 111,458.75	\$ 163,795.12	\$ 3,899.37	\$ 332.96	\$ -	\$ 280,986.20
12	Past & Future Events	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 410.59	\$ -	\$ 389.11	\$ -	\$ 799.70
13	Encumbrances/Adjust.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
14	Total:	\$ 8,822.44	\$ 477,748.50	\$ 66,510.30	\$ 5,931.09	\$ 4,628.54	\$ 4,989.95	\$ 2,451.30	\$ 111,458.75	\$ 164,205.71	\$ 3,899.37	\$ 722.07	\$ -	\$ 851,368.02
15	MISC. EXPENDITURES	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD
16	Council Meetings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
17	Quarterly Postage	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36.94	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36.94
18	Additional Supplies	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
19	Misc. Adjustments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
20	Total:	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36.94	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36.94
21	ENDING BALANCE	\$ 846,842.20	\$ 369,093.70	\$ 302,546.46	\$ 296,615.37	\$ 291,986.83	\$ 286,996.88	\$ 284,545.58	\$ 173,086.83	\$ 8,881.12	\$ 4,981.75	\$ 4,259.68	\$ 4,259.68	\$ 4,259.68

JUDICIAL STAFF ATTORNEYS

Fund Source: 42006 Project Code: 367

Training Mandates: These events fulfill Continuing Legal Education Requirements promulgated in State Bar of Georgia Rule 8-104. The venues are contracted in collaboration with the Superior Court Judges' MCJE Committee; and, the State Court Judges' Educational Programs Committee.

1	BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 16,197.64	\$ 39,686.95	\$ 37,127.92	\$ 31,757.81	\$ 31,525.81	\$ 28,492.81	\$ 28,492.81	\$ 28,492.81	\$ 29,740.81	\$ 32,956.81	\$ 33,364.81	\$ 35,964.81	\$ 16,197.64
2	REVENUES	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD
3	CJE Support Fees	\$ 23,504.00	\$ 4,008.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,248.00	\$ 3,216.00	\$ 408.00	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 36,384.00
4	Additional Revenues	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5	Refunds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (200.00)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (200.00)
6	Processing Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
7	Total:	\$ 23,504.00	\$ 4,008.00	\$ -	\$ (200.00)	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,248.00	\$ 3,216.00	\$ 408.00	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 36,184.00
8	EVENTS	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD
9	Annual Conference	\$ -	\$ 6,567.03	\$ 5,370.11	\$ 32.00	\$ 3,233.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,202.14
10	Past & Future Events	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
11	Encumbrances	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
12	Total:	\$ -	\$ 6,567.03	\$ 5,370.11	\$ 32.00	\$ 3,233.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,202.14
13	MISC. EXPENDITURES	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD
14	Educational Meetings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
15	Quarterly Postage	\$ 14.69	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14.69
16	Additional Supplies	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
17	Misc. Adjustments/PO	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
18	Total:	\$ 14.69	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14.69
19	ENDING BALANCE	\$ 39,686.95	\$ 37,127.92	\$ 31,757.81	\$ 31,525.81	\$ 28,492.81	\$ 28,492.81	\$ 28,492.81	\$ 29,740.81	\$ 32,956.81	\$ 33,364.81	\$ 35,964.81	\$ 37,164.81	\$ 37,164.81

GEORGIA COMMISSION ON FAMILY VIOLENCE

Fund Source: 42012 Project Code: 353

1	BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (9,000.00)	\$ (9,000.00)	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
2	REVENUES	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD
3	VAWA Grant Funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,000.00
4	Total:	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,000.00
5	EXPENDITURES	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD
6	Attorney Payment #1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,000.00
7	Attorney Payment #2	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
8	Benchcard Payment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
9	Future Adjustments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
10	Total:	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,000.00
11	ENDING BALANCE	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (9,000.00)	\$ (9,000.00)	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

ADJUSTMENTS / NOTES

JULY 1 - 31, 2025

1. ICJE (UGA: RADO000197980A) - The University of Georgia Sponsored Projects Administration has not sent the July 2025 invoice for all personnel and operating expenditures. These expenses will be included in the financial reports once the invoice is received and submitted for payment.

AUGUST 1 - 31, 2025

1. ICJE (UGA: RADO000197980A) - The expenditures for all July 2025 salaries and benefits were included in the August 2025 invoice and are reflected in the August 2025 financial reports.

SEPTEMBER 1 - 30, 2025

1. Municipal Court Judges (42002-344): There is a \$0.50 revenue difference that was found in the September data. This has been submitted to the AOC to be adjusted and will be reflected in the financial reports once it has been corrected accordingly.

OCTOBER 1 - 31, 2025

1. Magistrate Court Judges (42001-337): An expense of \$132.46 for printing materials was charged for the Fall Recertification Conference. The total amount owed was \$1,392.46. The remaining balance of \$1,260.00 was brought to the AOC's attention in November 2025 and will be reflected in the financial reports once it has been corrected accordingly.

2. Magistrate Court Clerks (42008-331): An venue expense of \$26,550.29 was incorrectly charged to the Magistrate Court Clerks that should have been charged to the Magistrate Court Judges (42001-337). This has been submitted to the AOC to be adjusted and will be reflected in the financial reports once it has been corrected accordingly.

3. Georgia Commission on Family Violence (42012-353): A request was made in September 2025 to have the grant funds moved internally to the 42012-353 account to pay the contracted attorney for services on the domestic violence benchbook. The funds will be reflected in the financial reports once they have been moved by the AOC accordingly. The attorney has been paid the first portion of the contract per the MOU. The remaining balance of the MOU will be paid out at the end of December 2025/early January 2026 once all services have been rendered.

DECEMBER 1-31, 2025

1. ICJE (UGA - RADO000197980A): At the beginning of FY26, ICJE's cellphone expenses for the director were \$51.86/month and listed in the "Communications-UGA" category. Unbeknownst to ICJE, UGA labeled the category of the cellphone as well as changed the expense rate in the month of October. Since ICJE was unaware of these changes, it listed these charges in the "Miscellaneous" category in the months of October - December. The UGA Law School Business Office informed ICJE of these new changes in January 2026, and ICJE corrected the expenses in the January 2026 financial reports to reflect the accurate category and expense rate.

2. Probate Court Judges (NTRF) (42005-315): There were 2 previous open PO's from FY24 that were closed out in December 2025. The remaining funds from the PO's were put back into 42005-315 as increased revenue since the submitted invoices were lower than the PO's.

3. Probate Court Judges (TRF) (42005-352): An adjustment of \$85.01 was made in December 2025 to reflect the mistake found during the FY24 audit review. Once corrected, the funds were put back into 42005-352 as revenue.

JANUARY 1-31, 2026

1. Georgia Commission on Family Violence (42012-353): The AOC did an internal transfer of funds in December 2025 in the amount of \$18,000.00 to 42012-353. There are currently \$9,000.00 remaining in an open PO to pay the contracted attorney. Once the attorney submits the 2nd invoice for their services, the PO will be closed out and there will be no more funds remaining.

MARCH 1-31, 2026

1. Georgia Commission on Family Violence (42012-353): The AOC did an internal transfer of funds in December 2025 in the amount of \$18,000.00 to 42012-353. The attorney submitted the 2nd invoice for their services and the PO will be closed out. There are now no more funds remaining.



SUPERIOR COURT CLERKS OF GEORGIA

REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA

Council of Superior Court Clerks of Georgia

August 21, 2026

Presented by Hon. Erica L. Woodford, President, and Mr. Evan Gross, Executive Director.

I. Officers of the Council

The Council of Superior Court Clerks of Georgia elected its officers at the annual spring business meeting, and those officers commenced their terms on July 1, 2026. The Executive Committee of the Council is comprised of the elected officers and the Immediate Past President.

Office	Name	County
President	Hon. Erica L. Woodford, Esq.	Bibb County
First Vice-President	Hon. Kristin Hall	Emanuel County
Second Vice-President	Hon. Alan Lee	Carroll County
Secretary-Treasurer	Hon. Kye Gibson	Meriwether County
Immediate Past President	Hon. Grant Walraven	Gordon County

II. 2026 Statewide Master Jury List

The Council of Superior Court Clerks of Georgia compiled the 2026 Statewide Master Jury List in accordance with the Supreme Court Jury Composition Rule, making the County Master Jury Lists available for jury clerks to download on July 1, 2026.

The Council's certification of compliance with the process and business rules of the Supreme Court Jury Composition Rule has been filed with the Supreme Court.

The Council calculated inclusiveness according to the Rule. One hundred fifty-three counties meet the 85% inclusiveness threshold; six counties fall below that threshold. The Council's role under the Rule is compilation, distribution, and calculation of inclusiveness. The Council will continue to support jury clerks through accurate data compilation, modern technology, and training. In turn, this will assist Georgia courts in the administration of justice.