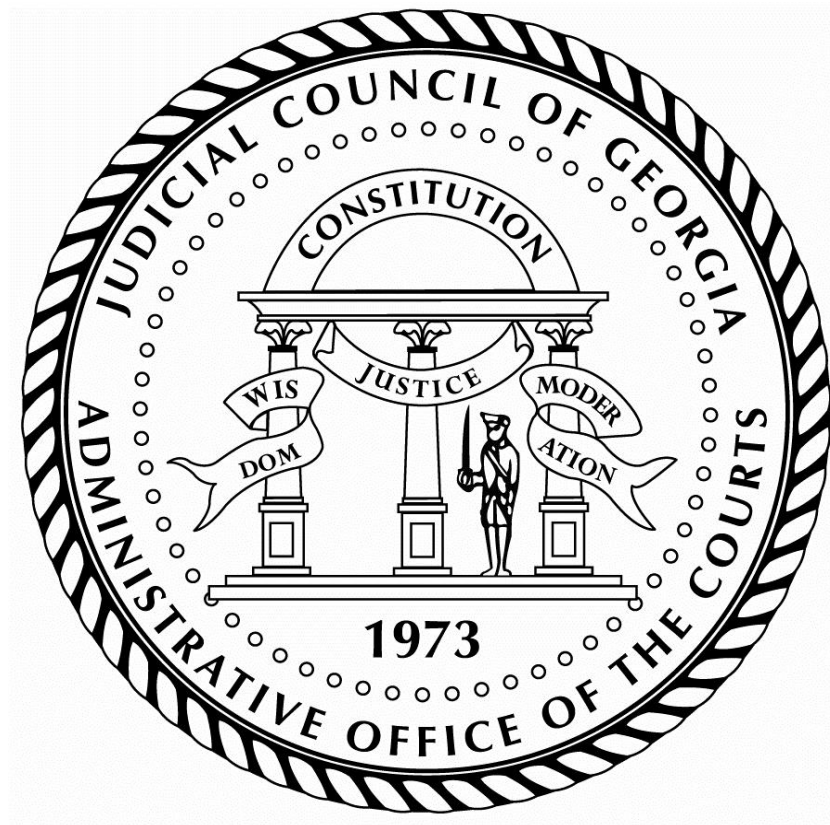


# JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA

**General Session**  
Supplemental Materials

**February 10, 2023**  
10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.



**By Remote Conferencing**

**Judicial Council of Georgia**  
**General Session**  
**Remote Conferencing**  
**Friday, December 9, 2022 • 10:00 a.m.**

**Members Present**

Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs, Chair  
Presiding Justice Nels S.D. Peterson, Vice  
Chair  
Judge JaDawnya C. Baker  
Judge Chris Ballar (for Judge B. Shawn  
Rhodes)  
Judge R. Violet Bennett  
Chief Judge Joseph H. Booth  
Chief Judge W. Fletcher Sams  
Chief Judge Lindsay H. Burton  
Chief Judge Brandon Bryson  
Judge Melanie B. Cross  
Chief Judge John Kent Edwards, Jr.  
Judge William “Bill” Grady Hamrick III  
Judge Robert Flournoy III  
Chief Judge Ural D. Glanville  
Judge R. Timothy Hamil  
Judge Render M. Heard, Jr.  
Chief Judge Asha F. Jackson  
Chief Judge Rebecca J. Pitts  
Judge D. Jay Stewart  
Judge Danielle McRae  
Vice Chief Judge Amanda H. Mercier  
Judge Matthew M. McCord

Judge Ann Harris (for Judge John E. Morse)  
Chief Judge Brian M. Rickman  
Judge W. James Sizemore, Jr.  
Judge Arthur Lee Smith III  
Chief Judge Sarah Wall

**Staff Present**

Ms. Cynthia H. Clanton  
Mr. Peterson David  
Ms. Shimike Dodson  
Mr. Darron Enns  
Ms. Stephanie Hines  
Ms. Cheryl Karounos  
Ms. Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez  
Mr. Ben Luke  
Ms. Tracy Mason  
Ms. Lashawn Murphy  
Ms. Shirley Roberts  
Mr. Bruce Shaw  
Mr. Jeffrey Thorpe  
Ms. Alexis Bauman  
Mr. Andrew Zoll  
Ms. Shirley Roberts

**Guests (Appended)**

**Call to Order and Welcome**

The meeting of the Judicial Council of Georgia (Council) was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chief Justice Boggs. 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 Boggs then recognized new members of the Council and administered the oath of office to the following: Presiding Justice Peterson, Judge Hamrick, and Chief Judge Glanville. Chief Justice Boggs also recognized

designees attending for absent members<sup>1</sup> and special guests. Members and guests introduced themselves for the purpose of roll call. At its conclusion, Chief Justice Boggs asked Chief Judge Burton to lead The Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Chief Justice Boggs directed the Council's attention to the minutes of the August 12, 2022, General Session, provided in the materials. The minutes were approved without opposition.

### **Presentation: Atlanta Judicial Circuit Familiar Faces Program**

Chief Justice Boggs recognized Ms. Kristin Stoycheff Schillig, Director of Planning and Development for the Atlanta Judicial Circuit, for a special presentation. Ms. Schillig shared the history and importance of the task force. She reported that many familiar faces, previously referred to as repeat offenders, are often in the cycle because they suffer from mental illnesses and there is a lack of treatment available to them. Ms. Schillig described the extensive process required to collect data pertaining to familiar faces from both the county jail as well as surrounding hospitals. The data showed that a majority of familiar faces were charged with non-violent charges and, because of that, the goal is to reduce the amount of contact this demographic is having with the justice system. Lastly, Ms. Schilling shared a brief summary of the outcome of these cases and how the information is being used to better plan alternative ways to decrease this problem both short and long term. Ms. Schillig concluded by thanking Chief Justice Boggs for the invitation to join the meeting.

### **Judicial Council Committee Reports**

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Committee. Chief Justice Boggs referred members to the written report provided in the materials. He highlighted that an administrative meeting was held on August 26 to finalize preparation for the second year of the three-year grant program. Revisions were adopted to the application, including the addition of a section for circuits to provide data on what they were doing with the funding and the outcomes seen thus far. He reminded members that funds awarded in CY 2022 will expire on December 31 and each circuit will have 60 days after that to submit reimbursement requests as those funds will not transfer. He informed members that the committee met again to consider applications for CY 2023 (with those applications accepted from September 15 to September 30) and awarded over \$39 million to 37 judicial circuits. Those grants will be effective January 1, 2023. To date, 43 of 50 judicial circuits

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<sup>1</sup> See Members Present on page 1.

have been awarded grants since the beginning of this program in January 2022. He informed members that the committee will next accept applications April 1 until April 15 and, as of November 30, \$7.5 million has been reimbursed to circuits. In addition, the Committee has adopted a one-time waiver for administrative budget revisions for CY 2022, the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget has approved audio-visual equipment modernization for existing courtrooms as an eligible expense, and the \$2 million award cap has been increased to \$2.5 million per calendar year.

Legislation Committee. Presiding Justice Peterson referred members to the written report provided in the materials. He highlighted that the Committee met twice in November in preparation for the General Assembly to convene January. He noted that there are three items that require voting, with two of them being reported out of the Committee unanimously and the third by divided vote.

The first item comes from the Council of State Court Judges, proposing that state courts be permitted to use six-person juries for claims less than \$100,000, instead of the current \$25,000 threshold. Presiding Justice Peterson recognized Judge Bennett, who deferred to Judge Al Wong, for further comment. Judge Wong explained that this request is to accommodate the current dollar value while also assisting state court judges in completing many civil trials. Chief Justice Boggs opened the floor to any additional questions or comments. Hearing none, he called for a motion. A motion to accept the Committee's recommendation of support was offered by Presiding Justice Peterson, with a second from Judge Bennett. The motion passed without opposition.

The second item proposed comes from the Judicial Council and the Council of Municipal Court Judges, for technical and conforming cleanup amendments as a result of the passage of House Bill 916 (2022). Chief Justice Boggs opened the floor to questions and comments. Hearing none, he called for a motion. A motion to accept the Committee's recommendation of support was offered by Judge Baker, with a second from Judge McCord. The motion passed without opposition.

The third and final item proposed comes from the Council of Magistrate Court Judges as it relates to its civil jurisdiction. At present, the jurisdictional limit on civil cases in Magistrate Court is at \$15,000, the proposal is to increase that amount to \$25,000. Presiding Justice Peterson recognized Chief Judge Pitts, who deferred to Judge Brendan Murphy, for any additional comments. Judge Murphy explained that the Council characterizes the proposed legislation as a one-time inflation adjustment and not an increase. The original jurisdiction was set at \$15,000 in

1999, which translates to \$26,000 - \$27,000 today. Judge Murphy assured the Council that magistrate court judges have the capacity to fully handle these cases and by law nearly every appointment of a magistrate judge in the state has been approved by the superior court.

Chief Justice Boggs opened the floor to any additional questions or comments in favor or opposed to the proposed legislation. On behalf of the Council of Superior Court Judges, Judge Smith voiced opposition to the proposal on the grounds that the expansion of judgeships within the Superior Courts is determined by case counts and the superior courts' concern is that the expansion of the monetary jurisdiction of the magistrate court will negatively impact case filings in the superior court. Judge Smith acknowledged that the role of the magistrate court is vital to the judicial system to handle smaller claims and while magistrates are well-trained and dedicated, not all are members of the Bar. For these reasons, the Council of Superior Court Judges will oppose this legislation. Judge Stewart agreed with Judge Smith regarding judgeships and expressed his concern about previous legal issues involving a local magistrate judge stating that those situations erode public trust in the judiciary. Judge Bennett also opposed this proposal on behalf of the Council of State Court Judges. Chief Judge Bryson commented that he believes this proposal is not about the courts but about Georgia residents who may not have the resources needed to take their cases to superior or state court and, in response to Judge Stewart, noted that legal issues occur with judges across many classes of court. Chief Judge Pitts echoed Chief Judge Bryson and delivered remarks on behalf of the Council of Magistrate Court Judges; she expressed that magistrates, including non-lawyer magistrates, are ready, willing, and able to handle these cases and apply the law as necessary to each individual case. Chief Justice Boggs thanked Chief Judge Pitts for her comments on behalf of all judges serving citizens in magistrate courts. Finally, Judge McCord voiced his support, stating the rules of evidence do not change based on the monetary value of a case.

With no further discussion, a motion to accept the Committee's recommendation of support was offered by Presiding Justice Peterson, with a second from Chief Judge Pitts. Chief Justice Boggs opened the floor for additional discussion. Hearing none, the motion failed by a vote of 17-8.

Lastly, Presiding Justice Peterson asked that everyone continue to share information and legislative initiatives through the committee even if they seem to only effect one class of court and

informed members that the weekly legislative calls will resume in January when the legislative sessions begin.

Judicial Workload Assessment Committee. Chief Judge Leonard began by informing members that he has created a subcommittee, chaired by Senior Judge David Emerson, to look at policies and ensure that they align with everything that has been approved by the Committee and Council, as well as making future policy recommendations. Chief Judge Leonard then withdrew the Committee's request for action on the updates to Judicial Council Policy on Judgeships and Circuit Boundary Studies to allow the subcommittee to complete its work. He reported that the committee discussed and voted on an item regarding the classification of abandoned motor vehicle cases, but since there was not a magistrate representative present at the meeting Chief Judge Leonard tabled any action on this update as well to allow for magistrate court input on the discussion. As a third and final item, Chief Judge Leonard presented updates to the Statistical Reporting Guide for the 2023 caseload reporting period, to be voted on. Chief Justice Boggs opened the floor to any questions or comments and stated a second would not be necessary. Hearing none, he called for all opposed. The motion passed unanimously.

Finally, Chief Judge Leonard informed the members of a request from Representative Christopher Erwin for a Banks County Circuit Boundary feasibility study. The study was completed, and feedback was heard from each affected circuit at the Committee's last meeting. Chief Judge Leonard reported this is an informational item and no recommendation or position is being reported from the Committee.

Court Reporting Matters Committee. Vice Chief Judge Mercier reported one action item for the Council's consideration. The committee is presenting recommendations for appointments to four open seats on the Board of Court Reporting for the term effective November 1. The vacant seats consist of one Superior Court judge, one State Bar representative and two court reporters, and the recommendations were made by the president of each judge's Council, the State Bar, and the Georgia Court Reporters Association. The two certified court reporter recommendations are Ms. Jennifer Pope, who is a certified court reporter and currently the Vice President of the Georgia Court Reporters Association, and Ms. Deborah Nagy, who is the official court reporter for the Honorable Gregory Voyles in the Southern Judicial Circuit. The State Bar Representative recommendation, Mr. Harold T. Daniel, was admitted to the Bar in 1970 and has served on the Board since 2020. Mr. Daniel would be a reappointment while Ms. Pope and Ms. Nagy would be

new appointments. The Honorable Chief Judge Brenda Trammell, of the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit, is recommended to serve as the member of the judiciary and is also a reappointment. Chief Justice Boggs clarified that these come as a recommendation from the committee and therefore do not need a second. Chief Justice stated that the motion has been moved and then opened the floor for any discussion. Hearing none, the recommendations were approved without opposition. all four were unanimously appointed.

Judicial Salaries and Supplements Committee. Justice Bethel referred members to the written report provided in the materials, informing members that this initial report from the Committee serves to update, expand, and develop a more accurate picture of Georgia judicial compensation. The second report, expected in the Spring, is to look for potential structural opportunities to change the way compensation is done in the judicial branch going forward. Justice Bethel expressed how difficult it is to find information on exactly how public officials are compensated and while the report does have more accurate data than what was previously provided, there is still incomplete data. He provided an overview of the three sections of the report, and closed by stating the committee will attempt to finalize the data set and explore all options to acquire information as it shifts towards the final report. Chief Judge Russell Smith commented that the disparity between superior court judges and appellate court judge pay has grown since the 2016 report.

Technology Committee. Judge Stephen Kelley provided a brief update on behalf of the Technology Committee, informing the members that the committee meets every other month and receives reports from various groups, subcommittees, and joint subcommittees. He highlighted the increasing interest in the Gateway website ([www.georgiacourts.gov](http://www.georgiacourts.gov)) and one of the next projects will be making the website more user-friendly for those the judiciary serves in the state. Judge Kelley reported that the Automated Data Collection Subcommittee has received a federal grant to help with the work on the virtual calendar call program. One of the committee's goals is to do an IT Strategic Plan because it is important to make data easily available.

Judicial COVID-19 Task Force Committee. Justice LaGrua reported that the Task Force is finishing up the rewrite of the Pandemic Bench Book, hopefully in time to be presented at the April meeting.

Budget Committee. Chief Justice Boggs referred members to the written report provided in the materials.

Strategic Plan Committee. Chief Justice Boggs referred members to the written report provided in the materials. He informed the members that the current Strategic Plan is closing out and there has been discussion regarding the next phase.

Judicial Emergency Preparedness Committee. Chief Justice Boggs referred members to the written report provided in the materials.

Presentation: Appointments to Superior Court Clerks Training Council. Mr. Enns referred members to the organizational chart that was created for an unrelated Judicial Council initiative. The chart was created by reviewing the creation statutes of certain state government entities for a legal or operational connection to the Supreme Court of Georgia, Judicial Council, or AOC. It was identified by OCGA § 15-6-50.1 that the Superior Court Clerks Training Council has three members who are Superior Court Judges and non-voting members. These positions are currently vacant; President of the Council of Superior Court Judges, Judge Smith, has submitted three nominees for these positions: Judge Cynthia Adams from the Douglas Judicial Circuit; Judge Michael Johnson from the Oconee Judicial Circuit; and Judge Stacey Hydrick from the Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit. They would all be serving on the council as nonvoting members. Chief Justice Boggs called for a motion to adopt these three judges as appointees. A motion to approve was offered by Judge McCord and seconded by Judge Harris. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Report from the Judicial Council/AOC**

Ms. Clanton delivered a report on behalf of the JC/AOC. She welcomed Chief Judge Glanville and Judge Hamrick to the Judicial Council and extended a sincere thank you and farewell to all outgoing members. She spoke to the work of the ARPA Committee as the program closes out their first year. Ms. Clanton reminded members that the AOC's Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2022 has been completed and an electronic version will be sent out for review before distribution.

The Judicial Council's Access to Justice Committee led a records restriction clinic in Wilcox County, where Council member Judge Rhodes serves as the probate and magistrate court judge. On September 16 the Court of Appeals hosted a CLE, led by Chief Judge Rickman, about the murder of Colonel Lemuel Penn. Speakers included Senior Judge Herbert Phipps, DeKalb County CEO Michael Thurman, family members of prosecutor Clete Johnson, as well as Colonel Penn's daughter. Ms. Clanton introduced the new Judicial Council/AOC CFO, Mr. Peterson David. Ms. Clanton congratulated retiring Reporter of Decisions for the Georgia Appellate Courts



Jean Ruskell as she was recognized with an amicus curiae award. On September 17, the AOC celebrated Constitution Day with an online event titled #JudgesReadMeaningfulTweets. Monday, January 9 will be the first day of 2023 legislative session and Ms. Clanton extended her condolences on the passing of Speaker David Ralston. Judge Al Wong, Judge Heard, and Judge McCord participated in a wellness panel discussion discussing work, life balance, decision fatigue, compassion, and much more. Ms. Clanton highlighted the Conasauga Bar's use of the main court room in the Whitfield County Courthouse to recognize Chief Judge William T. Boyett on his long legacy of judicial service. Mid-September through mid-October marked Hispanic Heritage Month and it was celebrated with a collage of Georgia judges of Hispanic descent. Ms. Clanton informed members of very well attended conferences held by the Georgia Council of Court Administrators, the Council of Accountability Court Judges, and other court councils. AOC Staff has continued to participate in a court observation program to observe court operations and proceedings to better understand the needs of our courts. Ms. Clanton thanked Chief Judge Sams, Judge Morse, and Judge Hamrick for speaking at the AOC All Staff meetings and informed the members that 2023 will be the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Judicial Council AOC. Judge Tain Kell has been asked to be the Judicial Fellow to help celebrate the anniversary all year long. Ms. 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 Boggs referred members to the written report provided in the materials.

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

State-wide Business Court. Judge Hamrick highlighted that through October the Business Court held 66 hearings, 75 case conferences with attorneys, and a trial in the Nathan Deal Judicial Center, with another one scheduled Monday in Cobb County. Judge Hamrick thanked Chief Judge Leonard and the Cobb judges for all accommodations that have been made.

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

Council of Juvenile Court Judges. Judge Heard congratulated Chief Judge Burton on her election to the Superior Court bench and informed everyone that Judge Walter Kennon will be replacing her as President-Elect.

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

Council of Probate Court Judges. Judge McRae spoke to the passing of Judge Bagwell.

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

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

State Bar of Georgia. Chief Justice Boggs informed members that they will be receiving a report on the behalf of Ms. Sally Akins.

### **Reports from Other Judicial Branch Agencies**

Council of Accountability Court Judges. Ms. Taylor Jones referred members to the written report provided in the materials.

Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution. Ms. Tracy Johnson congratulated Judge Charles Auslander for receiving the Chief Justice Harold Clarke Award, as well as thanked Judge Andy Fuller for his time with the Commission prior to his retirement this year.

Council of Superior Court Clerks. Mr. Michael Holiman shared that the Council had nothing new to report.

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

Georgia Council of Court Administrators. Ms. Lynne Ansley thanked Chief Justice Boggs for swearing in newly elected board at their annual business meeting on September 12.

Institute of Continuing Judicial Education. Ms. Lynne Moore Nelson referred members to the written report provided in the materials.

Judicial Qualifications Commission. Mr. Boring shared that the Commission had nothing new to report.

### **Old Business**

No old business was offered.

### **New Business**

Chief Justice Boggs announced that he would be reaching out to the leadership of each class of court to meet about anything that can be done to help each court in the future, beyond the immediate concerns that are addressed by the Judicial Council.

## Adjournment

Chief Justice Boggs recognized outgoing members Chief Judge Jackson, Chief Judge Brasher, Judge Flournoy, and Chief Judge Burton and, on behalf of the entire Judicial Council, thanked them for their service.

Chief Justice Boggs noted the CY 2023 meeting schedule at the bottom of the agenda in the meeting materials, noting that the Council would continue to meet by Zoom in February but would meet in person for April and August. He reminded members the next General Session will be held on Friday, February 10, 2023, via Zoom Conferencing.

Respectfully submitted:

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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  
\_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

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Michael P. Boggs  
Chief Justice

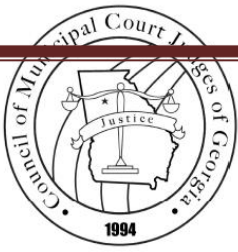
**Judicial Council of Georgia**  
**General Session**  
**Remote Conferencing**  
**Friday, December 9, 2022 • 10:00 a.m.**

**Guest Present**

Mr. Joseph Baden, Third Judicial Administrative District  
Mr. Charles “Chuck” Boring, Judicial Qualifications Commission  
Mr. Bob Bray, Council of State Court Judges  
Mr. Richard Denney, First Judicial Administrative District  
Judge Sara L. Doyle, Court of Appeals of Georgia  
Judge Ann Harris, Superior Court, Cobb Judicial Circuit  
Ms. Christine Hayes, State Bar of Georgia  
Mr. Kevin Holder, Council of Probate Court Judges  
Mr. Michael Holiman, Council of Superior Court Clerks  
Ms. Taylor Jones, Council of Accountability Court Judges  
Judge Stephen Kelley, Superior Courts, Brunswick Judicial Circuit  
Chief Judge Robert D. Leonard, Superior Court, Cobb Judicial Circuit  
Mr. David Mixon, Second Judicial Administrative District  
Ms. Grace McGowan, Ninth Judicial Administrative District  
Mr. Bob Nadekow, Eighth Judicial Administrative District  
Mr. Jay Neal, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council  
Ms. Debra Nesbit, Council of Superior Court Judges  
Ms. Jody Overcash, Seventh Judicial Administrative District  
Ms. LeNora Hawkins Ponzo, Fourth Judicial Administrative District  
Ms. Sharon Reiss, Council of Magistrate Court Judges  
Ms. Karlie Sahs, Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution  
Dr. William T. Simmons, Sixth Judicial Administrative District  
Mr. David Summerlin, Fifth Judicial Administrative District  
Mr. Shannon Weathers, Council of Superior Court Judges  
Judge Robert Wolf, Council of Magistrate Court Judges  
Ms. Emily Youngo, Supreme Court of Georgia  
Chief Judge Russell Smith, Superior Courts, Mountain Judicial Circuit  
Chief Judge T. Russell McClelland, State Courts, Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit  
Ms. Courtney Veal, Georgia Judicial Qualifications Commission  
Mr. Eric John, Council of Juvenile Court Judges  
Judge Jeff Kight, Superior Courts, Waycross Judicial Circuit  
Chief Judge Alvin T. Wong, State Courts, Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit  
Judge Amanda Petty, Superior Courts, Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit  
Judge Brendan Murphy, Magistrate Court of Cobb County  
Judge Megan Kinsey, Magistrate Courts of Butts County  
Judge Shakara Barnes, Georgia Office of State Administrative Hearings  
Chief Presiding Judge Juliette Scales, Juvenile Courts, Atlanta Judicial Circuit  
Justice Verda M. Colvin, Georgia Supreme Court  
Ms. Kristin Stoycheff, Fulton Superior Court  
Ms. Lynette Jimenez, Georgia State-wide Business Court

Ms. Lynn Ansley, Georgia Council of Court Administrators  
Ms. Natasha Macdonald, Council of Superior Court Judges  
Judge Trea Pipkin, Georgia Court of Appeals  
Judge Quinn Kasper, Magistrate Court of Cobb County  
Senator Bo Hatchett, Senate District 50  
Ms. Tracy Johnson, Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution  
Lalaine Briones, Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia

DRAFT



## COUNCIL OF MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGES

February 8, 2023

**Judge JaDawnya Baker, President**  
Atlanta Municipal Court  
Judge, Atlanta Municipal Court  
150 Garnett Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
(404)588-5970  
[JCBaker@AtlantaGa.Gov](mailto:JCBaker@AtlantaGa.Gov)

**Chief Judge Matthew McCord**  
**President-Elect**  
City of Stockbridge  
[matt@mmccordlaw.com](mailto:matt@mmccordlaw.com)

**Judge David Will, Vice President**  
City of Clarkston  
[dwill@rovallaw.net](mailto:dwill@rovallaw.net)

**Chief Judge Robert Cowan, Secretary**  
City of Dalton  
[robcowan@cowanlawoffice.com](mailto:robcowan@cowanlawoffice.com)

**Chief Judge Ryan Hope, Treasurer**  
Athens -Clarke County  
[Ryan.Hope@accgov.com](mailto:Ryan.Hope@accgov.com)

**Judge Lori B. Duff**  
**Immediate Past President**  
City of Monroe  
[duff@jonesandduff.com](mailto:duff@jonesandduff.com)

**District One**  
Judge Joe Huffman  
Judge Richard Sanders

**District Two**  
Chief Judge Willie Weaver Sr.  
Judge Gregory T. Williams

**District Three**  
Judge Chimere Trimble  
Judge Bill NeSmith

**District Four**  
Judge Michael Nation  
Judge Jennifer Mann

**District Five**  
Judge Gary E. Jackson  
Judge Roberta Cooper

**District Six**  
Judge James Dalton II  
Judge Wanda Dallas

**District Seven**  
Judge Robert Cowan  
Chief Judge Luke Mayes IV

**District Eight**  
Judge Joseph Sumner  
Judge Dexter Wimbish

**District Nine**  
Judge Pamela Boles  
Judge William Brogdon

**District Ten**  
Judge Dale "Bubba" Samuels  
Judge Ryan S. Hope

### Report to the Judicial Council of Georgia – February 2023

The following is an overview of recent events, programs, and activities of the Council of Municipal Court Judges (CMuCJ):

#### Council Meeting Endeavors

I was humbled by the opportunity to be the guest speaker for the Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts (JC/AOC) December End-of-Year All Staff meeting. There has been a flutter of activity since December to start the year. Council officers attended the unofficial kick-off to the legislative session, the 60th Annual Wild Hog Supper, January 8, at the Georgia Freight Depot. It was great to visit with legislators before they got to business the following day. The State Bar of Georgia 2023 Midyear Meeting convened January 12-14 in Atlanta, where I served as Council representative and attended the Board of Governors meeting.

Lastly, the Officers thoroughly enjoyed engaging with Chief Justice Boggs and Presiding Justice Peterson at our January 18 meeting. It was enlightening and the highlight of the month!

#### Continuing Judicial Education

The first session of the Council's New Judge Orientation (NJO), conducted through the Municipal Judges Training Council, will be presented via Zoom March 21. Two additional offerings by the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education (ICJE) will be presented in conjunction with the Law & Practice Updates at the Summer and Fall conferences. The program provides accreditation for those serving as of January 1, 2023. The curriculum includes sessions such as Introduction to the Municipal Benchbook, Municipal Court Uniform Rules, Practical Procedures, and the Fundamentals in Municipal Court e.g., Probation Revocation & Bench Trials, How to Handle Plea Agreements, Judicial Demeanor and more.

#### Legislation

For the 2023 session of the General Assembly, the CMuCJ plans to support the general omnibus bill sponsored by the Judicial Council to conform language in HB 1275 to HB 916 the [Superior-and-State-Court-Appellate-Practice-Act, both passed in 2022](#). Additionally, Judge Charles Barrett, Chair of the CMuCJ Legislative Committee, and I are actively participating in the Judicial Council Standing Committee on Legislation weekly meetings during the 2023 session.

#### Legislative Breakfast and Day at the Capitol

The Council is happy for the return of this event. The 2023 [event](#) is scheduled to take place Wednesday, March 8, 2023 from 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. in Room 230 of the Georgia State Capitol. In addition to Council members, invitations will be extended to the Georgia General Assembly, Judicial Council members, the Appellate Courts and some special guests.

## COUNCIL OF MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGES

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Council of Municipal Court Judges Executive Committee will be scheduled in conjunction with the Legislative Day at the Capitol, March 8, at the JC/AOC office.

Respectfully submitted,

*Judge JaDawnya Baker*

President, Council of Municipal Court Judges