

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA

General Session

Friday, December 9, 2022

10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.



By Remote Conferencing

Judicial Council of Georgia
General Session

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

- 1. Preliminary Remarks & Swearing In of New Members**
(Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs, Est. Time – 5 Min.)
- 2. Roll Call of Judicial Council Members**
(Ms. Cynthia H. Clanton, Est. Time – 2 Min.)
- 3. Pledge of Allegiance**
(Chief Judge Lindsay H. Burton, Est. Time – 1 Min.)
- 4. Approval of Minutes (*Action Item*)** **TAB 1**
(Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs, Est. Time – 2 Min.)
- 5. Presentation: Atlanta Judicial Circuit Familiar Faces Program**
(Ms. Kristin Stoycheff Schillig, Est. Time – 10 Min.)
- 6. Judicial Council Committee Reports**
 - A. ARPA Funding Committee** **TAB 2**
(Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs, Est. Time – 2 Min.)
 - B. Legislation Committee (*Action Item*)** **TAB 3**
(Presiding Justice Nels S.D. Peterson, Est. Time – 5 Min.)
 - C. Judicial Workload Assessment Committee (*Action Item*)** **TAB 4**
(Chief Judge Robert D. Leonard, Est. Time – 7 Min.)
 - D. Court Reporting Matters Committee (*Action Item*)** **TAB 5**
(Vice Chief Judge Amanda H. Mercier, Est. Time – 5 Min.)
 - E. Judicial Salaries and Supplements Committee** **TAB 6**
(Justice Charles J. Bethel/Chief Judge Russell Smith, Est. Time – 5 Min.)
 - F. Technology Committee** **TAB 7**
(Justice Shawn Ellen LaGrua/Judge Stephen D. Kelley, Est. Time – 5 Min.)
 - G. Judicial COVID-19 Task Force** **TAB 8**
(Justice Shawn Ellen LaGrua/Chief Judge T. Russell McClelland, Est. Time – 5 Min.)
 - H. Budget Committee (*Written Report*)** **TAB 9**

I. Strategic Plan Committee <i>(Written Report)</i>	TAB 10
J. Judicial Emergency Preparedness Committee <i>(Written Report)</i>	TAB 11
7. Appointments to Superior Court Clerks Training Council <i>(Action Item)</i> (Mr. Darron J. Enns, Est. Time – 5 Min.)	TAB 12
8. Report from Judicial Council/AOC (Ms. Cynthia H. Clanton, Est. Time – 10 Min.)	TAB 13
9. Reports from Courts, Councils, & State Bar (Est. Time – 15 min.)	TAB 14
A. Supreme Court	
B. Court of Appeals	
C. State-wide Business Court	
D. Council of Superior Court Judges	
E. Council of State Court Judges	
F. Council of Juvenile Court Judges	
G. Council of Probate Court Judges	
H. Council of Magistrate Court Judges	
I. Council of Municipal Court Judges	
J. State Bar of Georgia	
10. Reports from additional Judicial Branch Agencies (Est. Time – 10 Min.)	TAB 15
A. Council of Accountability Court Judges	
B. Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution	
C. Council of Superior Court Clerks	
D. Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism	
E. Georgia Council of Court Administrators	
F. Institute of Continuing Judicial Education	
G. Judicial Qualifications Commission	

11. Old/New Business

(Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs, Est. Time – 3 Min.)

12. Recognition of Outgoing Members

(Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs, Est. Time – 3 Min.)

13. Concluding Remarks & Adjournment of Meeting

(Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs, Est. Time – 3 Min.)

Next Judicial Council Meeting – General Session

Friday, February 10, 2023 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Zoom Conferencing

CY 2023 Meeting Calendar – Judicial Council General Session

Friday, April 21, 2023	10 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Columbus Convention & Trade Center / Columbus, GA
Friday, August 18, 2023	10 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Location TBD
Friday, December 8, 2023	10 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Zoom Conferencing

Judicial Council of Georgia

Members as of December 2, 2022

<p>Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs Chair</p>	<p>Supreme Court</p>	<p>Nathan Deal Judicial Center 330 Capitol Avenue, S.E. 1st Floor, Suite 1100 Atlanta, GA 30334</p>	<p>P: 404-657-3470 F: 404-656-2253</p>	<p>boggs@gasupreme.us</p>
<p>Presiding Justice Nels S.D. Peterson Vice-Chair</p>	<p>Supreme Court</p>	<p>Nathan Deal Judicial Center 330 Capitol Avenue, S.E. 1st Floor, Suite 1100 Atlanta, GA 30334</p>	<p>P: 404-656-3470 F: 404-656-2253</p>	<p>petersonn@gasupreme.us</p>
<p>Chief Judge Brian M. Rickman</p>	<p>Court of Appeals</p>	<p>Nathan Deal Judicial Center 330 Capitol Avenue, S.E. Suite 1601 Atlanta, GA 30334</p>	<p>P: 404-656-3450 F: 404-651-6187</p>	<p>rickmanb@gaappeals.us</p>
<p>Vice Chief Judge Amanda H. Mercier</p>	<p>Court of Appeals</p>	<p>Nathan Deal Judicial Center 330 Capitol Avenue, S.E. Suite 1601 Atlanta, GA 30334</p>	<p>P: 404-656-3450 F: 404-651-6187</p>	<p>merciera@gaappeals.us</p>
<p>Judge William “Bill” Grady Hamrick III</p>	<p>Georgia State-Wide Business Court</p>	<p>Nathan Deal Judicial Center 330 Capitol Avenue, S.E. Suite BC320 Atlanta, GA 30334</p>	<p>P: 404-656-3080</p>	<p>hamrickb@gsbc.us</p>
<p>Judge Arthur L. Smith III President, CSCJ</p>	<p>Superior Court</p>	<p>Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit PO Box 1340 Columbus, GA 31902</p>	<p>P: 706-321-7355</p>	<p>arthursmith@columbusga.gov</p>
<p>Judge John E. Morse President-Elect, CSCJ</p>	<p>Superior Court</p>	<p>Chatham Judicial Circuit Chatham County Courthouse 133 Montgomery St., Suite 213 Savannah, GA 31401</p>	<p>P: 912-652-7236</p>	<p>jemorse@chathamcounty.org</p>
<p>Judge D. Jay Stewart 1st JAD</p>	<p>Superior Court</p>	<p>Atlantic Judicial Circuit Evans County Courthouse P.O. Box 842 Claxton, GA 30417</p>	<p>P: 912-739-4922 F: 912-739-4950</p>	<p>jaystewart217@hotmail.com stewart_judicial.assistant@gmail.com</p>
<p>Judge Melanie B. Cross 2nd JAD</p>	<p>Superior Court</p>	<p>Tifton Judicial Circuit PO Box 7090 Tifton, GA 31793</p>	<p>P: 229-386-7904</p>	<p>melanie.cross@tiftcounty.org</p>
<p>Judge W. James Sizemore, Jr. 3rd JAD</p>	<p>Superior Court</p>	<p>Southwestern Judicial Circuit PO Drawer 784 Americus, GA 31709</p>	<p>P: 229-924-2269 F: 229-924-1614</p>	<p>wjsizemorejr@gmail.com</p>

Chief Judge Asha F. Jackson 4th JAD	Superior Court	Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit DeKalb County Courthouse 556 N. McDonough Street Suite 6230 Decatur, GA 30030	P: 404-371-2344 F: 404-371-2002	afjackson@dekalbcountyga.gov
Chief Judge Ural D. Glanville 5th JAD	Superior Court	Atlanta Judicial Circuit T-8905 Justice Center Tower 185 Central Avenue SW STE T-8905 Atlanta, GA 30303	P: 404-612-8591 F: 404-893-6605	ural.glanville@fultoncountyga.gov
Chief Judge W. Fletcher Sams 6th JAD	Superior Court	Griffin Judicial Circuit Fayette County Justice Center One Center Drive Fayetteville, GA 30214	P: 770-716-4282 F: 770-716-4862	fletcher@fayettecountyga.gov
Judge Robert Flournoy, III 7th JAD	Superior Court	Cobb Judicial Circuit 70 Haynes Street Marietta, GA 30090	P: 678-581-5400 F: 678-581-5407	robert.flournoy@cobbcounty.org
Chief Judge Sarah Wall 8th JAD	Superior Court	Oconee Judicial Circuit PO Box 1096 Hawkinsville, GA 31036	P: 478-783-2900 F: 478-783-2902	walls@eighthdistrict.org
Judge R. Timothy Hamil 9th JAD	Superior Court	Gwinnett Judicial Circuit 75 Langley Drive Lawrenceville, GA 30046	P: 770-822-8672 F: 770-822-8536	tim.hamill@gwinnettcounty.com
Chief Judge Joseph H. Booth 10th JAD	Superior Court	Piedmont Judicial Circuit 5000 Jackson Parkway Suite 330 Jefferson, GA 30549	P: 706-387-6392	jbooth@jacksoncounty.gov
Judge R. Violet Bennett President, CStCJ	State Court	Wayne County 392 E. Walnut Street Jesup, GA 31546	P: 912-427-4240	singinglawyer@bennett-lindsey.com
Judge John Kent Edwards, Jr. President-Elect, CStCJ	State Court	Lowndes County P.O. Box 1661 Valdosta, GA 31603	P: 229-671-2600	jedwards@lowndescounty.com
Judge Render M. Heard, Jr. President, CJCJ	Juvenile Court	Tifton Judicial Circuit 225 Tift Avenue North Suite C-1 Tifton, GA 31793	P: 229-386-7909	render.heard@tiftcounty.org

Judicial Council of Georgia

Members as of December 2, 2022

<p>Chief Judge Lindsay H. Burton President-Elect, CJCJ</p>	<p>Juvenile Court</p>	<p>Northeastern Judicial Circuit P.O. Box 311 Gainesville, GA 30503</p>	<p>P: 770-531-6927</p>	<p>lburton@hallcounty.org</p>
<p>Judge B. Shawn Rhodes President, CPCJ</p>	<p>Probate Court</p>	<p>Wilcox County 215 South Depot St. Abbeville, GA 31001</p>	<p>P: 229-467-3201</p>	<p>judgeshawnrhodes@gmail.com</p>
<p>Judge Danielle McRae President-Elect, CPCJ</p>	<p>Probate Court</p>	<p>Upson County P.O. Box 906 Thomaston, GA 30286</p>	<p>P: 706-647-7015 F: 706-646-3341</p>	<p>dmcrae@upsoncountyga.org</p>
<p>Chief Judge Rebecca J. Pitts President, CMCJ</p>	<p>Magistrate Court</p>	<p>Butts County 625 W. 3rd St. Suite 11 Jackson, GA 30233</p>	<p>P: 770-775-8220</p>	<p>rpitts@buttscounty.org</p>
<p>Chief Judge Brandon Bryson President-Elect, CMCJ</p>	<p>Magistrate Court</p>	<p>Bartow County 112 W. Cherokee Ave Suite 101 Cartersville, GA 30120</p>	<p>P: 770-387-5070 F: 770-387-5073</p>	<p>brysonb@bartowcountyga.com</p>
<p>Judge JaDawnya C. Baker President, CMuCJ</p>	<p>Municipal Court</p>	<p>Municipal Court of Atlanta 150 Garnett Street, SW Atlanta, GA 30303</p>	<p>P: 404-558-5970</p>	<p>jobaker@atlantaga.gov</p>
<p>Judge Matthew McCord President-Elect, CMuCJ</p>	<p>Municipal Court</p>	<p>Municipal Court of Stockbridge 4602 N. Henry Blvd. Stockbridge, GA 30281</p>	<p>P: 770-389-7906</p>	<p>matt@mmccordlaw.com</p>
<p>Ms. Sally Akins President, State Bar of Georgia</p>	<p>State Bar of GA</p>	<p>1480 Chatham Parkway Suite 210 Savannah, GA 31405</p>	<p>P: 912-417-2879</p>	<p>sakins@milesmediation.com</p>

Administrative Office of the Courts

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

Cynthia H. Clanton, Director

As of December 1, 2022

Director's Office

Administration

Alexis Bauman

Front Desk
404-656-5171

Budget

Andrew Zoll

Governmental and Trial Court Liaison

Tracy Mason

LaShawn Murphy

Cheryl Karounos

Shirley Roberts

Shimike Dodson
ARPA

Human Resources

Jacqueline Booker

Jasmine Duffin

General Counsel

Jessica Farah

Darron Enns

Carole Collier

Billy Scott

Judicial Services

Stephanie Hines
Division Director

Research and Data Analysis

Jeffrey Thorpe

Amber Richardson

Andres Bosque

Mitchell Redd

Alexis Bell

Court Professionals

Herbert Gordon

LaShica Briscoe

Tiffanie Bacon

Audrianna Smith

Arnecia Ringer

Communications, Children, Families & the Courts

Michelle Barclay
Division Director

Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez

Elaine Johnson

Latoinna Lawrence

Paula Myrick

Bruce Shaw

Diana Johnson

Ca'Dedra Sullivan

Deonte Mayfield

Financial Administration

Peterson David
CFO/Division Director

Kim Burley

Celesta Murray

Cassandra Niblack

Miya Perrimon

*All email addresses follow this format:
Firstname.lastname@georgiacourts.gov*

Kari Kitchens
ARPA

Jiajun Liu

Carolyn Cain-Smith
ARPA

Colton Trent

Sharmaine Small

Regina Hailey
ARPA

Sandra Nichols
ARPA

Cherecia Kline

Tax Intercept

Andrew Theus

Information Technology

Ben Luke
CTO/Division
Director

Devin Cooper

Jessica Jones

Amber Range

Angela He

Kristy King

Christina Liu

Michael Neuren

Kriste Pope

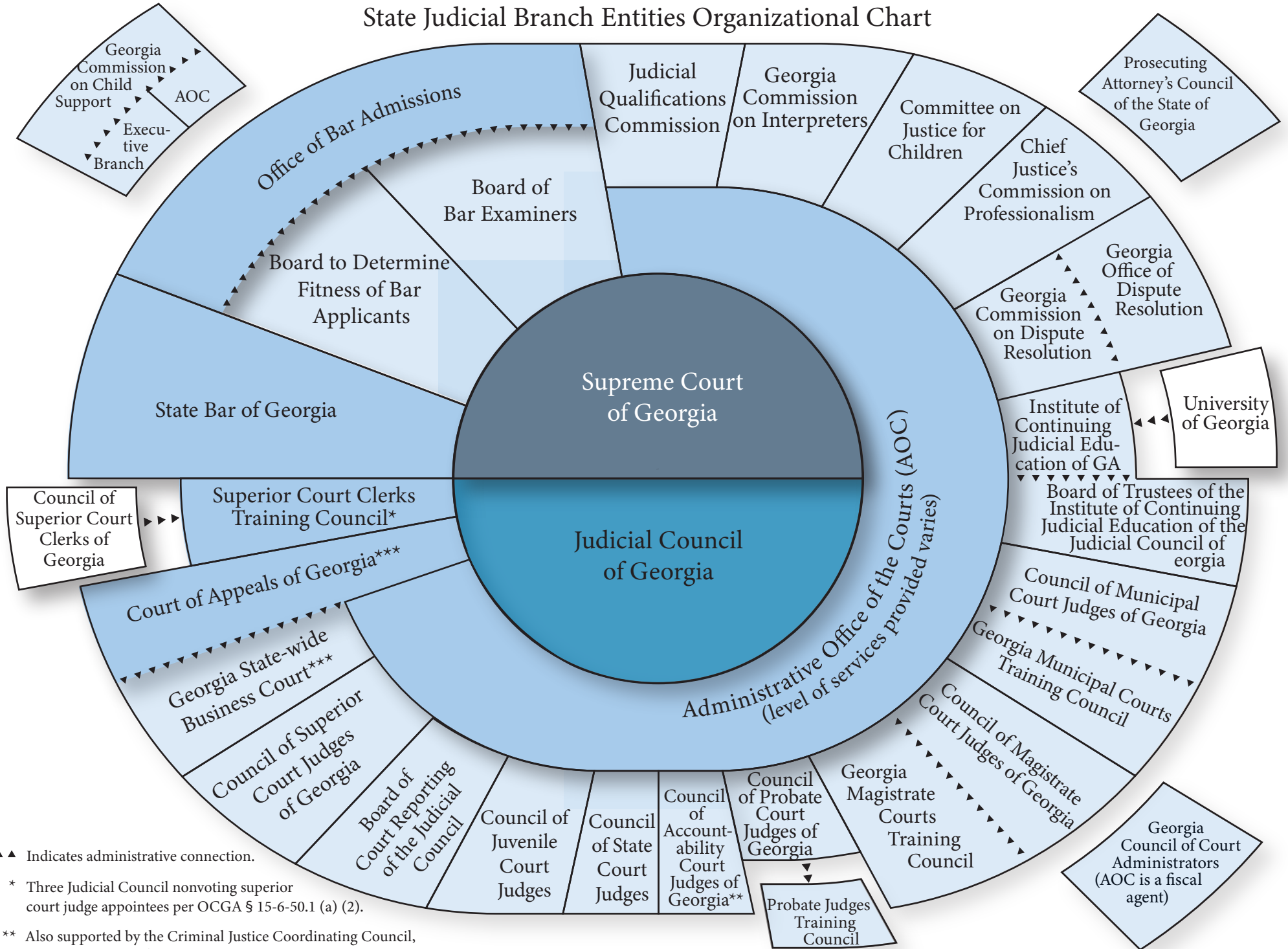
Afzal Masood

Amber Braswell

John Chang

*All email addresses follow this format:
Firstname.lastname@georgiacourts.gov*

State Judicial Branch Entities Organizational Chart



▲▲ Indicates administrative connection.

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

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

*** The GSBC is "assigned for administrative purposes only to the Court of Appeals" per OCGA § 15- 5A-16.



Judicial Council of Georgia

STRATEGIC PLAN

FY 2020-2023
Revised

VISION

To improve justice in all Georgia courts through **collaboration, innovation, and information.**

MISSION

The Judicial Council and AOC lead collaboration on policy across Georgia's courts to **improve the administration of justice in Georgia.**

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Uphold the independence and integrity of the judiciary.

Promote efficient and effective administration of justice.

Use data to lead to data-driven services and programs for the Judicial Branch.

Collaborate and communicate with key stakeholders in judicial, executive, and legislative branches.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

1 IMPROVE CITIZEN EXPERIENCE WITH GEORGIA COURTS

KEY INITIATIVES

1.1 Modernize the regulations of Court professionals

Measurable action: Monitor and assist with the update of rules and regulations regarding Court Reporters and Court Interpreters. (MT)

Measurable action: Report back to the Judicial Council. (LT)

1.2 Increase resources for public accessibility

Measurable action: Flesh out what public accessibility means. (ST)

Measurable action: Frame what it would look like to help citizens with public accessibility as defined. (MT)

1.3 Educate citizens on the use of case-related filing technology

Measurable action: Create a toolkit of existing resources citizens can access from one portal which will provide information on Court-related questions. (LT)

1.4 Develop plan for public/self-represented party accessibility to courts during crisis when physical access to courts are limited

Measurable action: Analyze access and response issues of current crisis on each class of court. Collect the data differences between the technology used in urban and rural areas of the State. (ST)

Measurable action: Create a planned response for each class of court according to technology capabilities to address public/self-represented party accessibility during crisis with limited physical access to the courts. (LT)



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

2

IMPROVE COLLABORATION AND PLANNING

KEY INITIATIVES

2.1 Foster ongoing executive and legislative branch communications and initiatives of mutual interest

Measurable action: Monitor the communication and advocacy done on behalf of the Judiciary. (ongoing)

2.2 Improve the process for data collection and data integrity

Measurable action: Create basic plan for the process of data collection to share with the various councils. (MT)

Measurable action: Share with the councils and stakeholders to obtain buy-in. (LT)

2.3 Pursue flexibility and efficiency in judicial education

Measurable action: Study the possibilities for flexibility and efficiency in judicial education across different classes of court. (MT)

Measurable action: Collaborate with ICJE to offer classes on topics requested by the Judicial Council such as sexual harassment prevention and ethics. (MT)

Measurable action: Compile and maintain a listing of all trainings sponsored or provided by the JC/AOC. (ST)

2.4 Improve technology access, support and training across all classes of courts

Measurable action: Audit/Survey technology access, support and electronic capabilities across all class of courts, including identifying video and telephone conference platforms in use by each class of court. (ST)

Measurable action: Collaborate with AOC and Councils to offer support and solutions to technology issues for courts without support or funding. (LT)

Measurable action: Create resource (bench card) of best practices and options for video and teleconferencing proceedings – Rules of Engagement. (MT)

Measurable action: Collaborate with ICJE to offer classes or online training on video conferencing particular to each class of court, including instructions on the use of video conferencing applications such as Web Ex, Zoom, Microsoft Teams. (LT)

2.5 Support all classes of Court in crisis management response taking into consideration both rural and urban areas and socio-economic factors for courts

Measurable action: Assist and support Councils for each class of court in identifying emergency functions and prioritizing other court functions that may be performed even during certain crisis situations. (LT)

Measurable action: Assist and support Councils for each class of court to create a well-defined emergency response plan. (MT)

Measurable action: Create reference guide to Pandemic issues in the Courts. (ST–MT)

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

3

PROMOTE THE WELLBEING, HEALTH, AND INTEGRITY OF THE JUDICIARY

KEY INITIATIVES

3.1 Develop a toolkit of wellness resources

Measurable action: Create a definition for “wellness” to be used when deciding which items belong in the toolkit. (ST)

Measurable action: Create the toolkit, which will be a compilation of resources to support “wellness”, possibly including State Bar resources among others. (LT)

3.2 Communicate and promote the toolkit

Measurable action: Leverage relationships with ICJE and each Council to offer training on the toolkit to each Council for one year. (LT)

Measurable action: Develop feedback survey for the trainings. (LT)

Measurable action: Encourage a “wellness” event at each Judicial Council and court meeting. (LT)

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4

4

ENHANCE THE PROFESSIONAL AND ETHICAL IMAGE OF THE JUDICIARY

KEY INITIATIVES

4.1 Support judges in community engagement

Measurable action: Continue to create and gather positive stories about the judiciary. (ongoing)

Measurable action: Develop practical rules for social media engagement. (ST)

4.2 Develop a clearinghouse of resources for community engagement

Measurable action: Create the clearinghouse, which will be a compilation of existing resources members of the Judiciary can access when participating in community-facing programs. (MT)

4.3 Communicate and promote the clearinghouse

Measurable action: Set a schedule for communicating the clearinghouse; set a calendar with events to support community engagement. (LT)

TAB 1

Judicial Council of Georgia
General Session
James H. “Sloppy Floyd” Building
Friday, August 12, 2022 • 10:00 a.m.

Members Present

Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs, Chair
Justice Carla Wong McMillian (for
Presiding Justice Nels S.D. Peterson, Vice
Chair)
Judge JaDawnya C. Baker
Judge R. Violet Bennett
Chief Judge Joseph H. Booth
Chief Judge Christopher S. Brasher
Chief Judge Lindsay H. Burton
Chief Judge Brandon Bryson
Judge Melanie B. Cross
Judge Walter W. Davis
Chief Judge John Kent Edwards, Jr.
Ms. Sally Akins
Judge Robert Flournoy, III
Chief Judge Russell Smith (for Judge R.
Timothy Hamil)
Judge Render M. Heard, Jr.
Chief Judge Asha F. Jackson
Judge Quinn M. Kasper (for Chief Judge
Rebecca J. Pitts)
Judge D. Jay Stewart
Judge Danielle McRae
Vice Chief Judge Amanda H. Mercier

Judge Matthew M. McCord
Judge John E. Morse
Chief Judge Brian M. Rickman
Chief Judge W. Fletcher Sams
Judge W. James Sizemore, Jr.
Judge Arthur Lee Smith, III
Judge B. Shawn Rhodes
Chief Judge Sarah Wall

Staff Present

Ms. Cynthia H. Clanton
Mr. Darron Enns
Ms. Jessica Farah
Ms. Stephanie Hines
Ms. Cheryl Karounos
Ms. Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez
Mr. Ben Luke
Ms. Tracy Mason
Ms. Lashawn Murphy
Mr. Bruce Shaw
Mr. Jeffrey Thorpe

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 began by thanking members for their time and recognized the great work of the Council that had been led by former Chief Justice Nahmias and former Chief Justice Melton. He asked members for their continued support and pledged the same.

He 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 or to sign-in at the front table 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: Justice McMillian (attending for Presiding Justice Nels Peterson), Judge Stewart, Chief Judge Booth, Judge Morse, Chief Judge

Edwards, Chief Judge Burton, Chief Judge Bryson, Judge McRae, Judge McCord, and Ms. Akins. Chief Justice Boggs also recognized designees attending for absent members¹ and special guests. Members and guests introduced themselves for the purpose of roll call. At its conclusion, Chief Justice Boggs asked Chief Judge Rickman to lead The Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Chief Justice Boggs directed the Council's attention to the minutes of the April 22, 2022, General Session, provided in the materials. A motion to approve the minutes was offered by Judge Kasper, followed by a second from Chief Judge Brasher. No discussion was offered, and the motion was approved without opposition.

Presentation: Updates to Affidavit of Public Officer Filing Requirements

Chief Justice Boggs recognized Mr. David Emadi, Executive Director of the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission, for a special presentation. Mr. Emadi shared updates to affidavit of public officer filing requirements, following the passage of [SB 120](#) (2022). He reported that if an elected official already files a personal financial disclosure report, the filing of an affidavit of public officer is waived. Mr. Emadi added that SB 120 changed statewide candidates' and public officers' personal financial disclosure reports; however, this only applies to partisan officials, not to judges and justices. The financial disclosure reports required of judges and justices remains the same. He also shared a brief update regarding the new e-filing system and encouraged members to reach out to his office with any questions. Lastly, Mr. Emadi highlighted the change that SB 120 affected by raising maximum contribution limits for judges and statewide officials. Those updates are detailed on the website at ethics.ga.gov. Mr. Emadi 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 in CY 2022 the Committee awarded grants to 42 of the 50 judicial circuits in Georgia, for a total of \$44,147,105. This represents 45.98 percent of the total \$96 million allocated to the judicial branch. To date, roughly \$2.3 million has been reimbursed to circuits. He noted that applications for CY 2023 funding will be accepted from September 15 through September 30, 2022, and a new, updated application requesting additional data is expected to be in place prior to that period.

¹ See Members Present on page 1

Budget Committee. Judge Doyle provided a report from the Budget Committee on behalf of Justice Bethel. She encouraged members to review the written report and accompanying white papers provided in the meeting materials, which detail the Council's budget requests for the AFY 2023 and FY 2024 budget cycles. She summarized each request, including: the Judicial Council Joint Subcommittee on Automated Data Collection's request for \$70,000 in AFY23 and \$20,000 in FY24 for the Automated Data Collection Project; the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education's (ICJE) enhancement request for \$71,377 (AFY23) and \$156,280 (FY24) for a salary adjustment request (to true up the COLA given to all other state positions for the new position created in FY23) and for operational funds; the Administrative Office of the Courts' enhancement request for \$228,924 (FY 24) for salary and benefits for one Policy Counsel position and one Policy Coordinator position; the Standing Committee on Access to Justice's enhancement request for \$500,000 (FY 24) to create a grant program for Legal Self-Help Centers; the Supreme Court Committee on Justice for Children's enhancement request for \$619,000 (FY 24) for grants for civil legal services to families of indigent patients; and finally, the Council of Accountability Court Judges' enhancement request for \$97,331 (FY 24) for a Medication-Assisted Treatment Statewide Coordinator position.

Summarizing, Judge Doyle reported that should the two AFY23 enhancement requests totaling \$141,377 be approved, the Council budget would increase from \$19,248,576 to \$19,389,953 (a 0.73 percent increase). Additionally, should the FY24 enhancement requests totaling \$1,621,535 be approved, the Council budget would increase from \$19,248,576 to \$20,870,111 (an 8.42 percent increase). Judge Doyle asked for the Council's approval of the requests as the maximum amount that will be asked for, with the understanding changes may be made by the Committee and the Chief Justice, based on the Governor's budget instructions.

Chief Justice Boggs reiterated the requests are subject to change and opened the floor for questions or comments. Hearing none, he called for a motion. A motion to accept the proposed AFY23 and FY24 budgets was offered by Judge Morse, with a second from Judge Cross. The motion passed without opposition. Next, Chief Justice Boggs asked for a motion to authorize the Budget Committee to act on behalf of the Council in instances where it may be necessary. A motion was offered by Judge Kasper with a second from Chief Judge Brasher. The motion carried without opposition.

In a deviation from the agenda, Judge Doyle referred members to the written report of the Strategic Plan Committee included in the materials.

Judicial Salaries and Supplements Committee. Members were referred to the written report provided in the materials.

Legislation Committee. Chief Judge Rickman, presenting on behalf of Presiding Justice Peterson, summarized the written report provided in the meeting materials and presented one request on behalf of the Committee. The Committee requests approval to make decisions or take positions on legislation and related policy issues on behalf of the Judicial Council during the 2023 Legislative Session, when time constraints prevent the convening of the full Judicial Council. Judge Kasper moved to accept the Committee's request; a second was offered by Chief Judge Brasher and the motion carried without opposition. Chief Judge Rickman shared that the next Committee meetings are currently scheduled for September 22 and November 16. He reminded members to please reach out to him, Presiding Justice Peterson, or Tracy Mason with legislative proposals affecting the courts that are being considered for next session. Chief Judge Rickman and Chief Justice Boggs encouraged everyone to communicate, as legislation that is thought to only affect only one class of court often affects others. The Chief Justice reminded members of the Council's Legislation Policy and encouraged everyone to speak with one voice.

Judicial Workload Assessment Committee. Chief Judge Leonard referred members to the written report provided in the materials and reported two action items for the Council's consideration. The first is an update to the *Georgia Statistical Guide for Caseload Reporting*, to update juvenile court disposition definitions to align the unit of count with the uniform rules of juvenile court and to add traffic dispositions. Hearing no questions, Chief Justice Boggs asked for a motion from members. Judge Kasper moved to adopt the recommendations as detailed in the materials; Chief Judge Brasher seconded. The motion carried with no opposition.

Moving to the second action item, Chief Judge Leonard reported three circuits (Augusta, Dougherty, and Douglas) submitted workload assessment requests for an additional judgeship. He stated each of these circuits were found to be qualified and received a unanimous vote by the Committee for recommendation to the Council. In addition to these three new requests there are five standing judgeship recommendations. The recommended circuits, per the Council's August 2020 meeting and listed by priority as set by the Council, are: Coweta Judicial Circuit (workload value 1.5); Clayton Judicial Circuit (workload value 1.4); Atlantic Judicial Circuit (workload value 1.2); Northern Judicial Circuit (workload value 1.2); and Atlanta Judicial Circuit (workload value 1.3). Chief Judge Leonard yielded the floor to Mr. Jeffrey Thorpe, who presented the new circuits in alphabetical order: Augusta Judicial Circuit (workload value 1.4), Dougherty Judicial Circuit

(workload value 1.8), and Douglas Judicial Circuit (workload value 1.2). He summarized the assessment data from each of these circuits, and a representative from each of the eight circuits was recognized to address the Council.

Chief Justice Boggs reminded the Council that the five standing recommendations are in their last year of eligibility, and the workload values for each are static (meaning they are based on data used at the time of the original assessment). Per Council policy, Chief Justice Boggs asked any members in circuits impacted by the requests to excuse themselves from the room prior to entering deliberation. This applied to Chief Judge Brasher, Judge Baker, and Judge Stewart. Mr. Thorpe explained that the workload value numbers are held for each circuit because they remain reflective of the year it was approved by the Committee for consideration, and the Council's decision in 2020 to give each recommendation an additional year of eligibility.

After the conclusion of the Council's deliberation, the excused members were reseated and staff distributed ballots to voting Council members to address the recommendations for the Augusta Judicial Circuit, Dougherty Judicial Circuit, and Douglas Judicial Circuit. After a sufficient amount of time passed, the ballots were collected, and Vice Chief Judge Mercier supervised the tally in a separate room. Chief Justice Boggs moved on to other business as this took place.

Technology Committee. Judge Stephen Kelley provided a brief update on behalf of the Technology Committee and referred to the written report provided in the materials. He highlighted the work of the Gateway Subcommittee, the Rules Subcommittee, the Automated Data Collection Subcommittee, and work on a rule regarding the standardization of file format. Lastly, Judge Kelley informed the Council that staff are working on a virtual calendar call program.

Judicial COVID-19 Task Force Committee. Chief Justice Boggs referred members to the written report provided in the materials.

Grants 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.

Report from the Judicial Council/AOC

Ms. Clanton delivered a report on behalf of the JC/AOC. She highlighted the swearing-in ceremonies of Chief Justice Boggs, Presiding Justice Peterson, Justice Andrew Pinson, and Judge Benjamin Land, and welcomed Chief Justice Boggs and Presiding Justice Peterson as Chair and

Vice Chair of the Council. She welcomed State Bar President Sally Akins and extended a sincere thank you and farewell to Judge Davis, as he plans to retire from the bench. She spoke to the work of the Committee on Justice for Children, chaired by Justice Bethel, which recently presented the Hines Awards for the outstanding advocacy for children in dependency cases. Ms. Clanton reminded members that the AOC's Office of Governmental and Trial Court Liaison has published its annual *Summary of Enacted Legislation* and thanked Chief Judge Jeffrey Bagley, Chief Judge Cassandra Kirk, and Judge Maureen Wood for participating in the 2022 Law Day Art Contest awards presentations.

On May 5, the Judicial Council's Access to Justice Committee led a records restriction clinic in Albany; another clinic will be held on August 20 in Wilcox County, where Council member Judge Rhodes serves as the probate and magistrate court judge. Ms. Clanton also spoke to the work of the Georgia Child Support Commission, and other recent news and events from around the judiciary. Ms. Clanton closed her remarks by reiterating the AOC's role as a service agency to the judiciary.

Judicial Workload Assessment Committee – Initial Vote Results

Chief Justice Boggs recognized Vice Chief Judge Mercier to announce the results of the initial vote from the Judicial Workload Assessment Committee's report. Vice Chief Judge Mercier reported that the recommendations for additional superior court judgeships in the Augusta Judicial Circuit, Dougherty Judicial Circuit, and Douglas Judicial Circuit were each adopted. Chief Justice Boggs stated these three would now be considered with the five standing judgeship recommendations (Coweta Judicial Circuit, Clayton Judicial Circuit, Atlantic Judicial Circuit, Northern Judicial Circuit, and Atlanta Judicial Circuit) for ranking. Staff distributed ballots to voting members and after a sufficient amount of time passed, the ballots were collected, and Vice Chief Judge Mercier supervised the tally in a separate room.

Chief Justice Boggs called for a break. After the recess, Chief Justice Boggs resumed the meeting and moved on to the business of the agenda as the tally continued.

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 thanked the trial court judges for all the hard work they are doing and referred members to the written report provided in the materials.

State-wide Business Court. Judge Davis reported that August 1, 2022, marked the second anniversary of the State-wide Business Court, and he congratulated Judge Hamrick on his recent appointment. Judge Davis shared this would be his last meeting and thanked everyone for their friendship and support.

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

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

Council of Juvenile Court Judges. Judge Heard referred members to the written report provided in the materials.

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

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

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

State Bar of Georgia. Ms. Sally Akins thanked Chief Justice Boggs and members of the Council for their very warm welcome. She shared that her priorities for the State Bar this year would be a renewed commitment to professionalism and the addition of new Continuing Legal Education programming in conjunction with the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism. She encouraged members to reach out to her with any questions.

Reports from Other Judicial Branch Agencies

Council of Accountability Court Judges. Ms. Taylor Jones referred members to the written report provided in the materials and thanked the Council for their support of the CACJ's FY24 budget request.

Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution. Ms. Karlie Sahs referred members to the written report provided in the materials.

Council of Superior Court Clerks. Mr. Michael Holiman shared that on August 10, 2022, the Council of Superior Court Clerks hosted the inaugural meeting of the Criminal Case Data

Exchange Board, at which the judiciary was well represented. The Board elected Mr. Pete Skandalakis as Chair.

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

Georgia Council of Court Administrators. Ms. Lenora Hawkins Ponzo shared that the Council would be celebrating its 25th anniversary at its conference September 10-13, 2022. She thanked members for their support.

Institute of Continuing Judicial Education. Chief Justice Boggs referred members to the written report provided in the materials.

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

Old Business

No old business was offered.

New Business

No new business was offered.

Adjournment

Chief Justice Boggs recognized outgoing member Judge Davis and, on behalf of the entire Judicial Council, thanked him for his service.

Chief Justice Boggs noted the CY23 meeting schedule at the bottom of the agenda in the meeting materials, noting that the Council would continue to meet by Zoom in February and next December but would meet in person for April and August. He reminded members the next General Session will be held on Friday, December 9, 2022, via Zoom Conferencing.

Judicial Workload Assessment Committee – Results of Judgeship Recommendation Rankings

Chief Justice Boggs recognized Vice Chief Judge Mercier to report the results of the judgeship recommendation ranking. She reported the rankings as follows, in order of priority: Dougherty Judicial Circuit, Coweta Judicial Circuit, Atlantic Judicial Circuit, Augusta Judicial Circuit, Atlanta Judicial Circuit, Clayton Judicial Circuit, Northern Judicial Circuit, and Douglas Judicial Circuit.

Chief Justice Boggs thanked Vice Chief Judge Mercier for her report and thanked everyone for their participation. There being no further business, Chief Justice Boggs adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracy Mason
Senior Assistant Director, Judicial Council/AOC
For Cynthia H. Clanton, Director and Secretary

The above and foregoing minutes
were approved on the ____ day of
_____, 2022.

Michael P. Boggs
Chief Justice

Judicial Council of Georgia
General Session
James H. “Sloppy Floyd” Building
Friday, August 12, 2022 • 10:00 a.m.

Guest Present

Judge Cynthia Adams, Superior Court, Douglas Judicial Circuit
Mr. Joseph Baden, Third Judicial Administrative District
Mr. T.J. BeMent, Tenth Judicial Administrative District
Mr. Charles “Chuck” Boring, Judicial Qualifications Commission
Mr. Bob Bray, Council of State Court Judges
Mr. Brent Churchwell, Senate Budget & Evaluation Office
Ms. Angie Davis, Georgia State-wide Business Court
Mr. Richard Denney, First Judicial Administrative District
Judge Sara L. Doyle, Court of Appeals of Georgia
Representative Chuck Efstrotation, Georgia House of Representatives
Mr. David Emadi, Georgia Government Transparency & Campaign Finance Commission
Judge William B. Hamrick, Superior Courts, Coweta Judicial Circuit
Ms. Stacy Haralson, Council of Superior Court Clerks
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. Yvette Jimenez, Georgia State-wide Business Court
Ms. Taylor Jones, Council of Accountability Court Judges
Judge Fatoumata Jallow, Mandela Washington Fellowship Program
Judge Stephen Kelley, Superior Courts, Brunswick Judicial Circuit
Ms. Anne Kirkhope, Council of Juvenile Court Judges
Mr. Grayson Lambert, Georgia State-wide Business Court
Chief Judge Robert D. Leonard, Superior Court, Cobb Judicial Circuit
Chief Judge Willie E. Lockette, Superior Court, Dougherty Judicial Circuit
Chief Judge Jeffrey S. Malcom, Superior Courts, Northern Judicial Circuit
Mr. David Mixon, Second Judicial Administrative District
Mr. Brock Perry, Georgia House of Representatives
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 Ponzio, 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. Robert Smith, Prosecuting Attorneys’ Council of Georgia
Judge D. Scott Smith, Superior Courts, Cherokee Judicial Circuit
Senator Brian Strickland, Georgia State Senate
Mr. David Summerlin, Fifth Judicial Administrative District
Ms. Kirsten Wallace, Council of Juvenile Court Judges

Deah Warren, Superior Court, Douglas Judicial Circuit
Mr. Shannon Weathers, Council of Superior Court Judges
Judge David C. Will, Council of Municipal Court Judges
Judge Robert Wolf, Council of Magistrate Court Judges
Ms. Emily Youngo, Supreme Court of Georgia

DRAFT

TAB 2



Judicial Council of Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Director

Memorandum

TO: Judicial Council Members

FROM: Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs
Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on American Rescue Plan Act Funding

RE: Committee Report

DATE: December 1, 2022

The Committee held an administrative meeting on Friday, August 26, to finalize preparation for Year Two of the ARPA Grant program. At this meeting, the Committee adopted revisions to the grant application, to include fields to assess the status of circuit grant plans, impediments to plan implementation, the status of local ARPA fund requests and/or contributions, and a section for data reporting. Additionally, the Committee adopted the following policies:

- Award Amendments and Budget Revision Policy to provide clarity and guidelines for staff and circuits seeking to adjust current grant awards;
- Mandatory training for victim assistance coordinators or victims' advocate funded by the ARPA grant and mandatory training for district attorney investigators funded by the ARPA grant, as required by law and policy, are eligible expenditures; and,
- Minimum requirements for the estimate of staff time and resources that will be conserved by Court-Based Mental Health Diversion/Substance Use Diversion/Eviction Prevention and Diversion services to respond to the backlog of serious violent felonies.

All policies and revisions have been incorporated into Committee documents, available on the ARPA program website.

ARPA funds are awarded for the duration of one calendar year and all CY 2022 funds will expire on December 31, 2022. Grantees will be given 60 days to submit reimbursement requests for grant expenses incurred through such date; CY 2022 funds will not transfer or carryover.

Applications for CY 2023 funding were accepted from September 15 through September 30. The Committee met on November 7 to consider these applications and make award decisions. At this meeting, the Committee awarded over \$39 million in grant funding to 37 judicial circuits, one of which was a first-time applicant and 36 of which received funding in CY 2022. These awards are

effective January 1, 2023; a complete list of awards is attached. With this round of awards, 43 of the 50 judicial circuits will have received grants since the grant program began January 1, 2022.

The Committee will next accept applications from April 1 to April 15, 2023, for the award period beginning June 1, 2023. The CY 2023 program timeline is available on the ARPA website.

The AOC ARPA Fiscal Team continues to work closely with circuits on the reimbursement process. As of November 30, 2022, a total of \$7,499,570 has been reimbursed to circuits.

Grant documents, including the Grant Application and Frequently Asked Questions, will continue to be updated as new information and guidance are received. All grantees and applicants are encouraged to visit the website (<https://jcaoc.georgiacourts.gov/arpa/>) regularly for the most up-to-date information.

Please send any questions to the ARPA Grants Team at arpa@georgiacourts.gov.

Attachment



Judicial Council of Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Director

PRESS RELEASE

For more information:
Bruce Shaw
bruce.shaw@georgiacourts.gov
470-585-2781

For Immediate Release:
November 10, 2022

Judicial Council Announces CY 2023 American Rescue Plan Act Funding: More Than \$39 Million Awarded Among 37 Judicial Circuits

Atlanta – The Judicial Council of Georgia Ad Hoc Committee on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding (“Committee”) has awarded grants totaling \$39,476,327 to be distributed among 37 judicial circuits that applied for CY 2023 funding. The Committee accepted applications from September 15, 2022, through September 30, 2022, for the award period beginning January 1, 2023. These awards kick off the second year of the Judicial Council’s ARPA grant program.

In 2022, grants totaling \$44,147,105 were awarded to 42 of Georgia’s 50 judicial circuits. Of the 37 CY 2023 awardees, 36 were granted ARPA funding in 2022. With this round of awards, 43 of the 50 judicial circuits will have received grants since the grant program began January 1, 2022.

The majority of circuits plan to continue their current backlog response plans, which includes funding for temporary personnel to respond to the case backlog, such as senior judges and judges to serve by designation; assistant district attorneys; security personnel; investigators and victim support staff; and court reporters. Funding is also being provided for rental costs for temporary space to hold court, supplies and materials, mandatory education and training for certain personnel, and staff to support grant administration.

Background on Judicial ARPA Funding

Georgia's judiciary operated under a Statewide Judicial Emergency Order from March 2020 through June 2021. The order placed necessary limitations on court operations to protect the health and safety of those working in and coming to courthouses during this time but also resulted in a backlog of criminal and civil cases, particularly those requiring jury trials to resolve.

In October 2021, Gov. Brian P. Kemp announced the allocation to the judicial branch of \$110 million of ARPA funds to address backlogs of court cases, particularly cases involving serious violent felonies. The Judicial Council is administering \$96 million of that total for eligible courts, prosecutors, and related agencies. The remaining \$14 million in ARPA funds was allocated to the Georgia Public Defender Council for grants to public defenders.

The Committee, chaired by Supreme Court of Georgia Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs, is overseeing the application process for the grants, and the Judicial Council's Administrative Office of the Courts is facilitating the grant application, award, compliance, and reporting processes. The funds are awarded on a calendar year basis and all funds allocated to the judicial branch must be spent by December 31, 2024.

"As anticipated, circuits continue to experience challenges in ramping up their local court backlog plans due to start-up and hiring challenges. However, we are hopeful that those challenges will subside, and we'll see circuit plans fully implemented and an increasing number of cases moved," said Chief Justice Boggs. "I am appreciative for the progress that has been made around the state thus far and thank the circuits for their efforts."

A complete list of CY 2023 grantees and award amounts is attached. Funding decisions are based on demonstrated need as long as funding remains available. The Committee will next accept applications from April 1 to April 15, 2023, for the award period beginning June 1, 2023. More information on grant requirements, Committee policies, frequently asked questions, application timelines, and contact information is available at <https://jcaoc.georgiacourts.gov/arpa/>.

###

244 Washington Street SW • Suite 300 • Atlanta, GA 30334
404-656-5171 • <https://jcaoc.georgiacourts.gov/judicial-council/>
Twitter: @gacourts • Facebook: www.facebook.com/gacourts

Judicial Council of Georgia
Ad Hoc Committee on American Rescue Plan Act Funding – CY 2023 Awards
November 7, 2022

Circuit - CY 23	CY 23 Cycle 1 Circuit Request	CY 23 Cycle 1 Committee Award Amounts
*Budget as approved by Committee	\$ 39,911,464	\$ 39,476,327
Alapaha		
Alcovy	\$ 266,384	\$ 266,384
Appalachian	\$ 1,996,483	\$ 1,710,892
Atlanta		
Atlantic	\$ 1,515,207	\$ 1,515,207
Augusta	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000
Bell-Forsyth		
Blue Ridge	\$ 97,290	\$ 97,290
Brunswick	\$ 993,314	\$ 993,314
Chattahoochee*	\$ 1,977,991	\$ 1,977,991
Cherokee	\$ 1,087,538	\$ 1,087,538
Clayton		
Cobb	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000
Columbia	\$ 1,011,758	\$ 1,011,758
Conasauga	\$ 239,582	\$ 239,582
Cordele		
Coweta	\$ 1,999,801	\$ 1,999,801
Dougherty		
Douglas	\$ 894,830	\$ 894,830
Dublin	\$ 607,260	\$ 607,260
Eastern		
Enotah	\$ 1,999,662	\$ 1,999,662
Flint		
Griffin	\$ 1,135,685	\$ 1,135,685
Gwinnett	\$ 1,999,792	\$ 1,999,792
Houston		
Lookout Mountain	\$ 625,661	\$ 625,661
Macon	\$ 1,379,162	\$ 1,246,466
Middle		
Mountain	\$ 364,080	\$ 364,080
Northeastern	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 1,988,000
Northern	\$ 669,069	\$ 669,069
Ocmulgee	\$ 242,595	\$ 242,595
Oconee	\$ 982,839	\$ 982,839
Ogeechee	\$ 1,418,082	\$ 1,418,082
Pataula		
Paulding	\$ 1,302,883	\$ 1,298,033
Piedmont	\$ 62,530	\$ 62,530
Rockdale	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000
Rome		
South Georgia	\$ 213,248	\$ 213,248
Southern		
Southwestern	\$ 332,816	\$ 332,816
Stone Mountain	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000
Tallapoosa	\$ 960,239	\$ 960,239
Tifton	\$ 163,603	\$ 163,603
Toombs	\$ 499,457	\$ 499,457
Towaliga	\$ 643,998	\$ 643,998
Waycross	\$ 904,836	\$ 904,836
Western	\$ 1,323,789	\$ 1,323,789
	\$ 39,911,464	\$ 39,476,327

Note: All reported amounts are subject to change based on grant awards that were made conditionally pending pre-approval of select items by the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, subsequent changes to eligible expenses by OPB and/or the Committee, or based on other Committee adjustments.

TAB 3



Judicial Council of Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Director

Memorandum

TO: Judicial Council Members

FROM: Presiding Justice Nels S.D. Peterson
Chair, Standing Committee on Legislation

RE: Committee Report

DATE: November 30, 2022

On November 16 and 30, 2022, the Standing Committee on Legislation (“Committee”) met to discuss legislative items for the 2023 Session of the General Assembly. The Committee makes the following recommendations to the Judicial Council:

Council of State Court Judges Civil Jury Trials in State Courts Only – OCGA § 15-12-122 (a) (2)

The Standing Committee on Legislation recommends the Judicial Council support legislation to increase the threshold permitting a six-person jury in a civil case unique to State Courts from \$25,000 to \$100,000. (*Information and draft language attached*)

Council of Municipal Court Judges Clean-up – OCGA § 36-32-2.1 (e) (1) (d)

Judicial Council of Georgia Petition for Review Clean-up – OCGA Title 5

The Standing Committee on Legislation recommends the Judicial Council support legislation to provide for technical and conforming amendment cleanup to the OCGA as a result of the passage of HB 916 (2022). (*Information and draft language attached*)

Council of Magistrate Court Judges
Civil Jurisdiction – OCGA § 15-10-2 (a) (5)

The Standing Committee on Legislation recommends the Judicial Council support legislation to amend OCGA § 15-10-2 (a) (5) to increase the jurisdictional limit for civil claims in magistrate court from \$15,000 to \$25,000. *(Information and draft language attached)*

**Judicial Council of Georgia
Standing Committee on Legislation
Legislative Support Request/Informational Item**

Council/Organization: COUNCIL OF STATE COURT JUDGES

Session: 2023-2024

Subject Matter: Civil Jury Trials in State Courts only

Code Section(s): O.C.G.A. § 15-12-122 (a) (2)

Submitted as an: Action Item *(for position of support)* Informational Item

1. Overview: Describe the proposal/legislation and its purpose.

To increase the threshold permitting a 6-person jury in a civil case unique to State Courts from \$25,000 to \$100,000. Lead to more dispositions and alleviate civil case backlogs in State Courts.

2. Priority: Is this legislation of high, medium, or low importance to your organization? **High**

3. Stakeholders & Constituents:

- a.** Describe the constituent and stakeholder groups that may be affected by this proposal (e.g., executive branch, other governmental entities, other agencies). **Civil Plaintiff's Bar, Civil Defense Bar; Insurance Carriers**
- b.** Which are likely to support this request? **Plaintiff and Defense Bar and the largest automobile liability carrier State Farm as well. Most major carriers have indicated that they support this legislation.**
- c.** Which are likely to oppose this request? **Possible opposition may come from sub-standard carriers. It is unknown whether business and trade groups will oppose this legislation, but the Carriers have offered to obtain support from these groups.**
- d.** Which have not voiced support or opposition?

4. Supporting data: Summarize any supporting data, evaluations, and/or research for this request.

A survey of our members overwhelmingly supports this legislation (in order of highest rankings)

- a. Better Use of Limited resources of jurors summoned**
- b. Savings of financial resources**
- c. Prompt faster resolutions and dispositions**
- d. Able to add more civil cases to the trial calendars which prompts settlements and dispositions**
- e. Reduces Civil Case Backlog**

Judicial Council of Georgia
Standing Committee on Legislation
Legislative Support Request/Informational Item

- f. **Other: Quicker Jury Selection; Safer and more comfortable for jurors; Courtroom only accommodates a 6 person jury – other 6 have to sit in other area of courtroom; easier to accommodate social distancing protocols.**
5. **Additional impact:** Will this request require a constitutional amendment or new court rule?
NO
6. Explain why the purpose of the bill cannot be achieved without legislation, if applicable. Legislation creates the limits of proceeding with a 6-Person Jury in a civil case is State Courts. **Only permitted by statute.**
7. **Budget:**
- a. Will this legislation have a fiscal impact on the state? **NO**
 - b. If yes, what is the projected expense?
 - c. Has a White Paper been submitted to the Judicial Council Standing Committee on Budget (if applicable)? **NO**
 - d. Will this legislation have a fiscal impact on counties or municipalities? **It could reduce cost of payments to jurors paid by county.**
8. **Other Factors:** Discuss any other relevant factors that should be considered, including experience in other states or whether similar legislation has been introduced in the past.
Other State have examined whether 6-person jury is adequate to adjudicate issues.

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 12 or Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
2 demand of jury panels from which to select jury in civil actions in the state courts; to provide
3 for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
4 purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA

6 SECTION 1.

7
8 15-12-122. Demand of jury panels from which to select jury in civil actions in the state courts
9 and the superior courts.

10 (a)

11 (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this Code section, in all civil actions in the state
12 courts, each party may demand a full panel of 12 competent and impartial jurors from which to
13 select a jury. When one or more of the regular panel of trial jurors is absent or for any reason
14 disqualified, the judge, at the request of counsel for either party, shall cause the panel to be filled
15 by additional competent and impartial jurors to the number of 12 before requiring the parties or
16 their counsel to strike a jury. In all cases the parties or their attorneys may strike alternately, with
17 the plaintiff exercising the first strike, until a jury of six persons is impaneled to try the case.

18 (2) In all civil actions in the state courts in which the claim for damages is greater than
19 ~~\$25,000.00~~, \$100,000, either party may demand in writing prior to the commencement of the
20 trial term that the case be tried by a jury of 12. If such a demand is made, the judge shall follow
21 the procedures for superior courts of subsection (b) of this Code section.

22

23 (b) In all civil actions in the superior courts, each party may demand a full panel of 24 competent
24 and impartial jurors from which to select a jury. When one or more of the regular panel of trial

25 jurors is absent or for any reason disqualified, the judge, at the request of counsel for either party,
26 shall cause the panel to be filled by additional competent and impartial jurors to the number of
27 24 before requiring the parties or their counsel to strike a jury. In all cases the parties or their
28 attorneys may strike alternately, with the plaintiff exercising the first strike, until a jury of 12
29 persons is impaneled to try the case.

30

**Judicial Council of Georgia
Standing Committee on Legislation
Legislative Support Request/Informational Item**

Council/Organization:

Session: 2023-2024

Subject Matter: Municipal Court Judges

Code Section(s): 36-32-2.1 (e)(1)(d)

Submitted as an: **Action Item** (*for position of support*) **Informational Item**

1. Overview: Describe the proposal/legislation and its purpose.

The proposed legislation will conform the above-referenced Code section to the "Superior and State Court Appellate Practice Act," effective July 1, 2023.

2. Priority: Is this legislation of high, medium, or low importance to your organization?

High

3. Stakeholders & Constituents:

- a. Describe the constituent and stakeholder groups that may be affected by this proposal (e.g., executive branch, other governmental entities, other agencies).
- b. Which are likely to support this request?
- c. Which are likely to oppose this request?
- d. Which have not voiced support or opposition?

The proposal would affect the Council of Municipal Courts Judges. No opposition is anticipated.

4. Supporting data: Summarize any supporting data, evaluations, and/or research for this request.

**Judicial Council of Georgia
Standing Committee on Legislation
Legislative Support Request/Informational Item**

- 5. Additional impact:** Will this request require a constitutional amendment or new court rule? Explain why the purpose of the bill cannot be achieved without legislation, if applicable.

The bill would require a legislative enactment to conform existing statutory provision to the "Superior and State Court Appellate Practice Act."

6. Budget:

- a. Will this legislation have a fiscal impact on the state?
- b. If yes, what is the projected expense?
- c. Has a White Paper been submitted to the Judicial Council Standing Committee on Budget (if applicable)?
- d. Will this legislation have a fiscal impact on counties or municipalities?

No fiscal impact on any governmental entity.

- 7. Other Factors:** Discuss any other relevant factors that should be considered, including experience in other states or whether similar legislation has been introduced in the past.

The language of the proposed bill has been reviewed by Administrative Office of the Courts staff.

DRAFT

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

To amend Article 1 of Chapter 32 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, related to municipal courts, so as to revise provisions related to removal of municipal court judges; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws: and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Article 1 of Chapter 32 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the removal of judges is amended in Code Section 36-32-2.1 by revising subsection (e) as follows:

"(e)(1)(d) The hearing shall be recorded at the expense of the municipal corporation. Such recording should contain at least the audio and may contain video. The audio recording of the hearing shall be transcribed at the Judge's expense if he or she requests ~~certiorari~~ review by the superior court."

SECTION 2.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.

Judicial Council of Georgia
Standing Committee on Legislation
Legislative Support Request/Informational Item

Council/Organization: Judicial Council; Certiorari Review Subcommittee of the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Session: 2023-2024

Subject Matter: General cleanup for the Judicial Council’s Superior and State Court Appellate Practice Act (HB 916/AP, effective July 1, 2023).

Code Section(s): OCGA § 5-6-35 (a) (1) and others to be determined

Submitted as an: Action Item *(for position of support)* Informational Item

1. Overview: Describe the proposal/legislation and its purpose.

On July 1, 2023, HB 916, the Superior and State Court Appellate Practice Act will replace Georgia’s antiquated and complex certiorari review and notice of appeal statutes with a single “petition for review” procedure for appealing a case from a “lower judiciary” to superior or state court. Due to the comprehensive nature of HB 916, it is anticipated that that some technical and conforming amendment cleanup will be required.

2. Priority: Is this legislation of high, medium, or low importance to your organization?

This legislation is a high priority to the Certiorari Review Subcommittee, which was appointed on July 21, 2016, for the purpose of reviewing the current certiorari review procedure set forth in OCGA §§ 5-4-1 et seq. The current goal of the Subcommittee is to eliminate any technical issues that would negatively impact the implementation of HB 916.

3. Stakeholders & Constituents:

- a.** Describe the constituent and stakeholder groups that may be affected by this proposal (e.g., executive branch, other governmental entities, other agencies).
- Courts of limited jurisdiction, superior courts, and lower judiciaries (as defined).
 - City and county solicitors and city and county attorneys, who are typically respondents to writs of certiorari under the current process.
 - Petitioners, defendants, and defense attorneys in lower judiciaries.
 - County commissioners, city councils, local government boards, and other government officials and bodies that render quasi-judicial decisions.
- b.** Which are likely to support this request? HB 916 experienced unanimous support in the General Assembly during the 2022 Legislative Session.
- c.** Which are likely to oppose this request? No known opposition.
- d.** Which have not voiced support or opposition? No known opposition.

Judicial Council of Georgia
Standing Committee on Legislation
Legislative Support Request/Informational Item

4. **Supporting data:** Summarize any supporting data, evaluations, and/or research for this request.

OCGA § 5-6-35 (a) (1) has been identified as one Code section requiring an amendment to conform to HB 916, as follows:

“(1) Appeals from decisions of the superior courts reviewing decisions of the State Board of Workers’ Compensation, the State Board of Education, auditors, state and local administrative agencies, and lower courts by ~~certiorari or de novo proceedings~~ petition for review; provided, however, that this provision shall not apply to decisions of the Public Service Commission and probate courts and to cases involving ad valorem taxes and condemnations;”

Other technical and conforming amendments may be required. Such amendments will be solicited from the Bench, Bar, and public, and will be added when identified.

5. **Additional impact:** Will this request require a constitutional amendment or new court rule? Explain why the purpose of the bill cannot be achieved without legislation, if applicable.

No constitutional amendment is required. Necessary amendments to court rules are yet to be determined. The purpose of this proposal is to amend the OCGA to conform to HB 916, which can only be achieved with legislation.

6. **Budget:**

- a. Will this legislation have a fiscal impact on the state?

The proposed legislation would not directly necessitate an increase in State funding or the creation of additional government positions. HB 916 will likely increase judicial efficiency by modernizing, streamlining, and economizing the current superior and state court appellate review procedure.

- b. If yes, what is the projected expense? N/A

- c. Has a White Paper been submitted to the Judicial Council Standing Committee on Budget (if applicable)? N/A

- d. Will this legislation have a fiscal impact on counties or municipalities?

HB 916 may have a fiscal impact on some counties or municipalities given that it would likely result in a higher number of lawsuits against counties or municipalities being decided on the merits instead of on procedural grounds.

7. **Other Factors:** Discuss any other relevant factors that should be considered, including experience in other states or whether similar legislation has been introduced in the past.

N/A

Judicial Council of Georgia
Standing Committee on Legislation
Legislative Support Request/Informational Item

Council/Organization: Council of Magistrate Court Judges

Session: 2023-2024

Subject Matter: Magistrate Court – Civil Jurisdiction

Code Section(s): O.C.G.A. § 15-10-2(a)(5)

Submitted as an: Action Item (*for position of support*) Informational Item

1. **Overview:** Describe the proposal/legislation and its purpose.

The jurisdictional limit for most civil claims heard in the Magistrate Court has been \$15,000 since 1999. The Council of Magistrate Court Judges proposes moving that limit to \$25,000. Adjusting the limit would: (1) increase access to justice for unrepresented litigants; (2) be responsive to high inflation; and (3) allow non-jury Magistrate Courts to resolve more cases while the Superior and State Courts diligently work through the historic COVID-19-caused jury trial backlogs.

2. **Priority:** Is this legislation of high, medium, or low importance to your organization? **High**

3. **Stakeholders & Constituents:**

- a. Describe the constituent and stakeholder groups that may be affected by this proposal (e.g., executive branch, other governmental entities, other agencies). **Superior & State Courts.**
- b. Which are likely to support this request?
- c. Which are likely to oppose this request?
- d. Which have not voiced support or opposition?

4. **Supporting data:** Summarize any supporting data, evaluations, and/or research for this request.

Inflation is increasingly eroding away the Magistrate Court’s jurisdiction. It would take over \$26,000 in 2022 to have the same buying power as \$15,000 in 1999 when the current limit was fixed. **U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index (CPI) Inflation Calculator.** In effect, this proposal to set the Court’s civil claim limit at \$25,000 would confer *less jurisdiction*—in terms of real value of a claim—than the Magistrate Court was granted over two decades ago.

**Judicial Council of Georgia
Standing Committee on Legislation
Legislative Support Request/Informational Item**

- 5. Additional impact:** Will this request require a constitutional amendment or new court rule? Explain why the purpose of the bill cannot be achieved without legislation, if applicable.

No new constitutional amendment or court rule is required as the Magistrate Court’s jurisdictional limit is statutory. The Georgia Constitution provides, “The magistrate...courts shall have uniform jurisdiction as provided by law...” Article VI, Section III, Paragraph I.

6. Budget:

- a. Will this legislation have a fiscal impact on the state? **No, Magistrate Courts are entirely county-funded.**
- b. If yes, what is the projected expense? **N/A**
- c. Has a White Paper been submitted to the Judicial Council Standing Committee on Budget (if applicable)? **N/A**
- d. Will this legislation have a fiscal impact on counties or municipalities? **No, it would simply provide an additional class of court in which litigants could chose to file for certain cases. Overall caseload for each county across all classes of court would remain the same.**

- 7. Other Factors:** Discuss any other relevant factors that should be considered, including experience in other states or whether similar legislation has been introduced in the past.

In the first sixteen (16) years of the Magistrate Court’s existence, the jurisdictional limit was raised three (3) times. In the ensuing twenty-three (23) years, it has remained at \$15,000. With high inflation and the COVID-19 pandemic causing permanent shifts in the way the judiciary operates, now is an appropriate time to renew the conversation about jurisdictional limits.

Facing an unprecedented statewide jury trial backlog, this no-cost proposal would allow civil litigants across all classes of court to have their cases heard efficiently. Litigants would continue to maintain full access to the Superior and State Courts, at the time of filing or on appeal. Filing in the Magistrate Court would remain just one option, and *de novo* appeal rights have been preserved and made easier to exercise in the forthcoming Superior and State Court Appellate Practice Act (effective July 1, 2023).

Finally, moving the civil jurisdictional limit from \$15,000 to \$25,000 would be consistent with other identical changes in the law such as the increase in: (1) minimum liability insurance limits and (2) the maximum value of the settlement of a minor’s claim that does not require court approval.

**As Approved on August 25, 2022 by
Council of Magistrate Court Judges
Executive Committee**

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 10 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to the jurisdiction and power of each magistrate court and each magistrate
3 thereof, so as to adjust the jurisdictional limit for the trial of civil claims; to
4 provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7

8

SECTION 1.

9 Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the jurisdiction and
10 power of each magistrate court and each magistrate thereof, is amended by revising
11 Code Section 15-10-2(a)(5), as follows:

12 “15-10-2

13 (a) Each magistrate court and each magistrate thereof shall have jurisdiction and
14 power over the following matters:

15 ...

16 (5) The trial of civil claims including garnishment and attachment in which
17 exclusive jurisdiction is not vested in the superior court and the amount
18 demanded or the value of the property claimed does not exceed ~~\$15,000.00~~
19 \$25,000.00, provided that no prejudgment attachment may be granted;...”

20

21 **SECTION 2.**

22 This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2024.

23

24 **SECTION 3.**

25 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.

TAB 4



Judicial Council of Georgia

Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Director

Memorandum

TO: Judicial Council Members

FROM: Chief Judge Robert D. Leonard, II
Chair, Standing Committee on Judicial Workload Assessment

RE: Judicial Workload Assessment Committee Report

DATE: November 28, 2022

At its November 18, meeting, the Committee approved the following items for Judicial Council consideration:

1. Update to Section 3 of the *Judicial Council Policy on Judgeships and Circuit Boundary Studies*.
2. The Committee clarified that Abandoned Motor Vehicle cases are to be placed under the Ordinance Violation case type of the magistrate court caseload.
3. The Statistical Guide was updated to denote the new 2023 Caseload Reporting Timeline and the Office of Research and Data Analysis (ORDA) staffs' contact information.

The Committee voted on the following changes to Section 3(4), (5), and (7) of the policy:

Section 3- Judicial Council Procedure

4. After determining the circuits recommended for an additional judgeship, the Judicial Council will rank the circuits based on need. The Council shall vote on requests for multiple judgeships independently. Votes on such motions will be by secret, written ballot. Each ballot must be complete to be counted. The Vice Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals will oversee ballot counting.
 - a. All recommended circuits will be ranked by their workload value at the time they received the Judicial Council recommendation.
 - b. The ballots will be counted using the Borda count method. The Borda count determines the outcome of balloting by giving each circuit a number of points corresponding to the number of candidates ranked lower. Where there are n circuits,

a circuit will receive n points for a first preference ballot, $n - 1$ points for a second preference ballot, $n - 2$ for a third preference ballot, and so on until n equals 1. Once all ballots have been counted, the circuits are then ranked in order of most to fewest points.

5. Upon Judicial Council recommendation of an additional judgeship, the recommendation will remain for a period of three years unless (1) the total caseload of that circuit decreases 10 percent or more or (2) the circuit withdraws the request. In either case, 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 requesting procedure outlined in section 2.1 (2). The circuit will not have its time extended past the initial three-year recommendation through this request.
 - b. If a circuit receives a favorable vote, then the Judicial Council will use the new workload value to rank the circuit.
 - c. If a circuit does not successfully receive a favorable vote by either the Judicial Council or the Committee, the original request remains as is.

7. The AOC will prepare and distribute letters notifying requestors and chief judges of the Judicial Council's actions and distribute a ~~press release~~ notice summarizing the Judicial Council's recommendations and/or support.

The Committee received an overview of the Circuit Boundary Feasibility Study for Banks County requested by Representative Chris Erwin. The study yielded three feasible circuit alterations: 1) Banks becomes part of the Mountain Judicial Circuit and Barrow and Jackson counties remain part of the Piedmont Judicial Circuit; 2) The current Piedmont Judicial Circuit merges with the Alcovy Judicial Circuit; and 3) The current Piedmont Judicial Circuit merges with the Western Judicial Circuit. The committee accepted the findings of the feasibility study.

Additional reports included updates from the Subcommittee on Automated Data Collection and the Time and Motion Study. Circuits identified with workload values below the 0.9 threshold were revisited and judges from those circuits shared factors which may have attributed to their current values. Technical visits and audits to these circuits will be conducted by the ORDA staff in the coming months. The interactive caseload dashboards were announced to the Committee and are now available on the ORDA webpage.

Chief Judge Leonard announced the creation of a new subcommittee to review the current Judicial Council Policy on Judgeships and Circuit Boundary Studies. The purpose of the committee is to ensure that the Caseload and Workload Policy stays current with all amendments approved by the Judicial Council, including previously approved language pertaining to two judge circuits be excluded from the 0.9 circuit list. The new subcommittee will be chaired by

Senior Judge David Emerson. The committee is set to report its findings at the next JWAC meeting.

**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 B).

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.
3. The Judicial Council will not recommend part-time judgeships or single-judge circuits.

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, 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 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(s) 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(s) to determine its feasibility.¹
2. Upon asking the requester 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(s) 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 approves the NCSC reported adopted by the Council on December 7, 2018 (see Appendix A). See Appendix B for the summary of all values. Furthermore, the Judicial Council approved an amendment to the Habeas Corpus and Civil Appeals case weights on December 11, 2020 (see Appendix C).

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*.
2. 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*. If the *judge workload value* divided by the total number of authorized judgeships in the circuit meets or exceeds 1.2, 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 1.2, then the circuit is not qualified for an additional judgeship. For purpose of analysis and reporting under this policy, workload values shall be rounded to the nearest tenth. 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

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.

shall repeat itself until the circuit is not qualified or the request is exhausted.

3. 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 process 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 independently.
4. 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 process 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. Appeals may not be based upon a circuit's caseload.
5. 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 0.90 and whose per judge workload value would not equal or exceed 1.2 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 to which that applies, which appear to have more judges than needed (with a workload of less than 0.90) should not be included on the list of all circuits whose judge workload value divided by the total number of authorized judgeships in the circuit is less than 0.90, once the workload report is complete.

The Committee shall provide technical assistance, with the assistance of the AOC and others so designated, to the affected circuits that may include, but is not limited to: 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. If a circuit is presented for the first time between 2020 and 2021 and is presented for five consecutive years, the Committee may consider and recommend any options it deems appropriate to the Council. If a circuit is presented for the first time on or after 2022 and is presented for three consecutive years, the Committee may take the same action.

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 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 Committee. 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 with 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 share judicial personnel allocation recommendations and approved findings of viability for circuit boundary alterations to 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 independently. Votes on such motions will be by secret, written ballot. Non-qualified circuits with successful appeals must have a two-thirds (2/3) majority to receive approval. Each ballot must be complete to be counted. The Vice Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals will oversee ballot counting.
4. After determining the circuits recommended for an additional judgeship, the Judicial Council will rank the circuits based on need. The Council shall vote on requests for multiple judgeships independently. Votes on such motions will be by secret, written ballot. Each ballot must be complete to be counted. The Vice Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals will oversee ballot counting.
 - a. All recommended circuits will be ranked by their workload value at the time they received the Judicial Council recommendation.
 - b. The ballots will be counted using the Borda count method. The Borda count determines the outcome of balloting by giving each circuit a number of points corresponding to the number of candidates ranked lower. Where there are n circuits, a circuit will receive n points for a first preference ballot, $n - 1$ points for a second preference ballot, $n - 2$ for a third preference ballot, and so on until n equals 1. Once all ballots have been counted, the circuits are then ranked in order of most to fewest points.
5. Upon Judicial Council recommendation of an additional judgeship, the recommendation will remain for a period of three years unless (1) the total caseload of that circuit decreases 10 percent or more or (2) the circuit withdraws the request. In either case, 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 requesting procedure outlined in section 2.1 (2). The circuit will not have its time extended past the initial three year recommendation through this request.
 - b. If a circuit receives a favorable vote, then the Judicial Council will use the new workload value to rank the circuit.
 - c. If a circuit does not successfully receive a favorable vote by either the Judicial Council or the Committee, the original request remains as is.

6. 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.
7. The AOC will prepare and distribute letters notifying requestors and chief judges of the Judicial Council's actions and distribute a ~~press release~~ notice summarizing the Judicial Council's recommendations and/or support.



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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Judicial Council of Georgia
Administrative Office of the Courts
244 Washington Street SW, Suite 300
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
404-656-5171 www.georgiacourts.gov

Acknowledgments

The *Georgia Court Guide to Statistical Reporting* has existed under various names since the inception of the Judicial Council of Georgia's (JC) Administrative Office of the Courts (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 all 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 [To the top](#)

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 9.

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 [To the top](#)

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 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 [To the top](#)

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 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 if 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 bindovers, 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

Section 2 - Superior Court [To the top](#)

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 49 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. Specifically:

- Murder or felony murder, 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, unless subject to the provisions of paragraph (2) of subsection (d) of O.C.G.A. § 16-6-4;
- Aggravated sodomy, as defined in O.C.G.A. § 16.6.2; 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. § 16-143;
- Home Invasion, as defined in O.C.G.A. § 16-7-5-b.

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 [To the top](#)

Introduction

Georgia's 71 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 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 [To the top](#)

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 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 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 cases in which the court enters an order 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 or finds that the child is not dependent at trial.

Order entered: A count of cases in which the court enters an order following any hearing, other than the adjudication hearing, on a dependency case.

Section 5 – Probate Court [To the top](#)

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 categories 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 selected “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 [To the top](#)

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 (e.g., abandoned motor vehicle cases).

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

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 [To the top](#)

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. 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 [To the top](#)

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.

Civil Court and Recorder’s Court

Definitions

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

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 – Data Submission and Verification [To the top](#)

Data Submissions

Efforts to simplify the reporting of caseload data led to the development of the online forms available at <https://caseload.georgiacourts.gov/aocportal/>. Clerks of all courts may access the forms by registering at the website and logging in to submit or edit their data. At the portal site, users can register as a first-time user or log in as a previously registered user. If you have not previously registered as a caseload reporting site user, follow the instructions below:

1. Enter <https://research.georgiacourts.gov/> into your web browser.
2. Select “Caseload Reporting” to enter the portal.
3. Click “Create Account”
4. Enter the email address you have previously given to the JC/AOC as your contact information and click “Register.” Doing this will prompt the caseload portal to send you an email with directions for creating a user name and password to complete registration.

Once you have registered or if you have previously registered, follow the instructions below:

1. Navigate to the Caseload Reporting Site (<https://caseload.georgiacourts.gov/aocportal/>), and login using the user name and password you created. Once inside Caseload Reporting site, you may now select the appropriate court and enter your caseload data.

If you do not know the email address you previously registered with the JC/AOC or if you experience any technical issues with the portal, please contact the Office of Research and Data Analysis at 404-656-5171 or email 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 10 – Reporting Timeline [To the top](#)

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

All dates are in 2023.

January 3rd– Caseload reporting initiated.

February 28th– 15-day reminder sent to courts that have not submitted.

March 6th– 10-day reminder sent to courts that have not submitted.

March 10th– Final reports sent to council presidents, judges, court administrators, and clerks.

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

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

March 15th – On-time reporting ends.

March 17th – Caseload data is past due. First late notice is sent to courts that have not submitted.

March 20th – Second late notice sent to unresponsive courts.

April 14th – All submitted data are final. Any submissions after this date will need to be submitted through JWAC with a written letter from the chief judge.

Section 11 – Contact Information [To the top](#)

If you have comments, questions, or concerns, please contact the Research Analysts below at **casecount@georgiacourts.gov**

Jeffrey Thorpe, Judicial Caseload Data Manager (Research Manager)

Amber Parker, Research Analyst I

Andres Bosque, Research Analyst I

Mitchell Redd, Research Analyst I

Alexis Bell, Research Analyst I

TAB 5



Judicial Council of Georgia

Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Director

Memorandum

TO: The Judicial Council of Georgia
FROM: Judge Amanda H. Mercier, Chair
Judicial Council Standing Committee on Court Reporting Matters
RE: Nominations for Membership to the Board of Court Reporting
DATE: November 21, 2022

The Standing Committee on Court Reporting Matters exists to hear appeals from decisions of the Board of Court Reporting; reviews court reporting rules and fee schedules at least once every five years; recommends court reporting rule or fee changes resulting from the review and recommends membership to the Board of Court Reporting.

The Committee nominates the following list of prospective candidates for appointment to the Board of Court Reporting seeking to fill the four open seats for the term of office, effective November 1, 2022. The vacancies consist of one superior court judge, one State Bar representative, and two court reporters. Recommendations for membership are made by the president of each judge's council, the State Bar, and the Georgia Court Reporters Association. A synopsis of each candidate is provided below.

CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS

Ms. Jennifer Pope, CCR: Holds state certifications in Georgia and Tennessee and national certification as a registered professional reporter (RPR). Ms. Pope has worked for 12 years in the court reporting profession. She is a firm owner and founder of Pope Reporting & Video. Ms. Pope currently serves as vice president of the Georgia Court Reporters Association. Ms. Pope is a Machine Shorthand reporter in good standing.

Ms. Debra Nagy, CCR: Has over 30 years of experience as a court reporter. Ms. Nagy currently serves as an official court reporter to the Honorable Gregory Voyles in the Southern Judicial Circuit. She is also a member of the Georgia Court Reporters Association. Ms. Nagy is a voice writer in good standing.

REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE BAR

Harold T. Daniel, Jr., Esq.: Mr. Daniel was admitted to the Bar in 1970. His practice area range from alternative dispute resolution, antitrust, general practice, and trial law. Mr. Daniel is also a past president of the State Bar of Georgia. He graduated from Emory University and received his law degree from Emory University School of Law. Attorney Daniel has served on the Board of Court Reporting

since 2020. **REAPPOINTMENT.**

MEMBER OF THE JUDICIARY

The Honorable Chief Judge Brenda Trammell: Chief Judge Trammell has served as a superior court judge of the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit since January 2015. Before her appointment to the bench by Governor Nathan Deal, Chief Judge Trammell served as a sole practitioner of Brenda Holbert Trammell, Attorney at Law. She graduated from Tift College and the University of Georgia School of Law. Chief Judge Trammell has served on the Board of Court Reporting since 2016. **REAPPOINTMENT.**

TAB 6



Judicial Council of Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Director

Memorandum

TO: Judicial Council Members

FROM: Justice Charles J. Bethel
Chief Judge Russell Smith
Co-Chairs, Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Salaries and Supplements

RE: Initial Committee Report

DATE: December 2, 2022

Since the Judicial Council's August 12, 2022, General Session, the Committee has met twice and also held two subcommittee meetings to continue work on its charge. On September 22, the Committee heard a summary of survey data collected by the Association County Commissioners of Georgia, Prosecuting Attorneys Council, and the Georgia Public Defender Council, along with a summary of current state and national data. Following this meeting, staff worked with District Court Administrators, chief superior court judges, and the aforementioned agencies to make more targeted outreach for salary and compensation information for every judicial circuit.

The Trial Courts of Limited Jurisdiction and the Outreach and Feedback subcommittees met on October 11 and November 2, respectively, to discuss their respective charges. These discussions helped to inform the drafting of the initial report, which the full Committee took up at its next full meeting on November 17.

Per the Committee's charge, the attached Initial Report is submitted to the Judicial Council of Georgia. While this report endeavors to provide an update on the current state of affairs regarding judicial compensation in Georgia, much work remains to be done due to the absence of a uniform compensation structure, as well as the lack of any uniform requirement that compensation be regularly reported or published. The collection of data has proven to be more complex and complicated than expected; the Committee acknowledges there is still much that is unknown, and will continue to identify, refine, and analyze as much data as possible to provide a comprehensive picture of judicial compensation in Georgia, and recommended options for this system moving forward. We seek, and appreciate, the assistance of all classes of court, stakeholders, and partners, as we continue work on our mission.

Attachment

**Judicial Council of Georgia
Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Salaries and Supplements**

Initial Report

December 9, 2022



Committee Mission

The Judicial Council of Georgia Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Salaries and Supplements was created by Supreme Court Order on May 26, 2022, for the following purposes:

1. To update and expand upon the December 16, 2016 report of the General Assembly’s Judicial, District Attorney, and Circuit Public Defender Compensation Committee to reflect current amounts of state-paid salaries, state-paid salary supplements (e.g., for accountability courts), and county-paid salary supplements, as well as any state-paid or county-paid retirement benefits or other significant monetary benefits related to supplements, for Justices of the Supreme Court, Judges of the Court of Appeals, the Judge of the State-wide Business Court, superior court judges, district attorneys, and circuit public defenders, and to update comparisons to salaries for similar positions in other states;
2. To identify which county-paid officials’ salaries or salary or retirement supplements are determined by reference to the salaries or supplements of superior court judges, district attorneys, or circuit public defenders, so as to better understand the consequences of changes to the compensation of state-paid officials;
3. To develop, evaluate, and recommend options for revising or eliminating the system of county-paid supplements, including the costs to the State and the counties of any options that are deemed practically and politically feasible, including by garnering supermajority support from the superior court judges.

The Committee’s term is set June 1, 2022, through May 31, 2023, unless extended by further order, and an initial report on these matters shall be provided to the Judicial Council by December 15, 2022. Led by Co-Chairs Justice Charles J. Bethel and Chief Judge Russell Smith, the Committee includes representatives from every class of court, district attorneys, public defenders, local government, constitutional officers, court administrators, and the State Bar of Georgia, as voting members, and advisory members¹.

The Committee has held three meetings to date – July 12, September 22, and November 17, 2022. Following discussion at the July 12 meeting, the Co-Chairs created three subcommittees to organize the Committee’s work: Outreach and Feedback; Metrics and Measures; and, Trial Courts of Limited Jurisdiction². The Trial Courts of Limited Jurisdiction Subcommittee met on October 12, 2022³, and the Outreach and Feedback Subcommittee met on November 2, 2022.

The Committee presents the following initial report to the Judicial Council of Georgia. While this report endeavors to provide an update on the current state of affairs regarding judicial compensation in Georgia, much work remains to be done due to the absence of a uniform compensation structure, as well as the lack of any uniform requirement that compensation be regularly reported or published. The collection of data has proven to be more complex and complicated than expected; the Committee acknowledges there is still much that is unknown, and will continue to identify, refine, and analyze as much data as possible to provide a comprehensive picture of

¹ See Committee Orders and Committee Roster in Appendix A.

² See Subcommittee Charges and Rosters in Appendix B.

³ See Initial Report of the Trial Courts of Limited Jurisdiction Subcommittee in Appendix C.

judicial compensation in Georgia, and recommended options for this system moving forward. We seek, and appreciate, the assistance of all classes of court, stakeholders, and partners, as we continue work on our mission.

Data Collection Process and Methods

Throughout this process the Committee has sought data from many different sources and with the assistance of many different groups. The Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) initiated a survey that was sent out to all 159 counties on July 22, 2022. The ACCG survey has served as the backbone of the data collection efforts to the Committee and will be referenced many times throughout the Report.

Through the survey process it became clear that the Committee also needed to reach out directly to judicial branch partners to both ensure the accuracy of the survey information as well as filling in gaps for counties/circuits that didn't respond to the survey. To that end the Committee sent out surveys tailored to each superior court judicial circuit in the State through the ten District Court Administrators.

To assist the Committee in its work the Georgia Public Defender Council (GPDC) surveyed Circuit Public Defenders for information on their county supplements, whether Assistant Public Defenders received local supplements, and whether additional attorneys are employed above the State's allocation.

The Committee worked with the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council (PAC) to send out surveys to all 50 District Attorneys to collect information on supplements, retirement benefits, as well as personnel provided above the State's allocation.

The data used to compile this report leans on all these sources. It should be noted that due to the structure of the State's judiciary that all county level data was self-reported either by county personnel, a District Court Administrator, a Chief Superior Court Judge, a District Attorney, or a Circuit Public Defender.

In addition to data collected within the State this Report will make use of the National Center for State Courts' (NCSC) Judicial Salary Tracker project. NCSC conducts surveys twice a year to compile judicial salary information from across the country.⁴ This data was used to compare Georgia salaries to judges from across the country. Unless otherwise noted, data is from the July 2022 version of the Report.

Section 1: Updating the 2016 Report

2016 Report Overview

The first task of this Committee is to expand upon the December 16, 2016, report of the General Assembly's Judicial, District Attorney, and Circuit Public Defender Compensation Commission. The 2016 Commission was created by HB 279 (2015 Session) and was tasked with reviewing the conditions related to the efficient use of resources and caseload balance as well as the compensation paid to justices, judges, district attorneys, and circuit public defenders. The 2016 Report, which this Committee is focused on updating, focused solely on the compensation piece of that mission.

As stated by the Commission, the Report had one overarching mission in mind: "that the compensation of judges, district attorneys, and public defenders should advance the public interest." What the Commission found was that

⁴ <https://www.ncsc.org/salarytracker>

compensation in the justice system “is riddled with anomalies and inconsistencies.” The Commission’s Report examined not only the current salaries of the time, but also provided research into the history of the supplement system dating back to its origins in 1904.

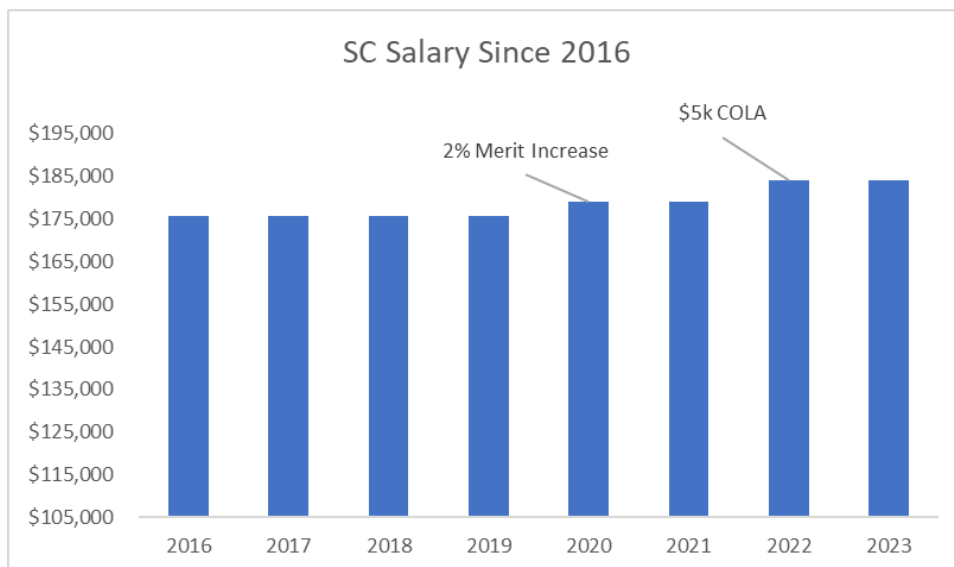
This report will not try to re-create the narrative and historical aspects of the 2016 Report, but rather provide an update on what changes (if any) have been made to the compensation structure that the Commission described in 2016. The goal of this initial Report of the Committee is to simply provide an update on the salary and supplement landscape from the 2016 Report so that the Committee will have the information needed to develop, evaluate, and recommend options for revising or eliminating the system of county-paid supplements.

The recommendations of the 2016 Report can be found in Appendix D.

Supreme Court of Georgia

At the time of the Commission’s Report in December of 2016 the salary of a Justice of the Supreme Court was \$175,600. This was based on a recent 5% increase provided as a part of HB 279 (2015 Session). The bill provided 5% increases for not only Supreme Court justices but also to judges of the Court of Appeals, Superior Court Judges, District Attorneys, and Circuit Public Defenders. None of the statutory judicial salaries have been updated since the bill passed during the 2015 Session of the Georgia General Assembly. The first NCSC Salary Survey to rank the new salary (in January 2017) placed the \$175,600 salary as the 17th highest salary among Courts of Last Resort.

Chart 1: Supreme Court Salaries since FY2016



While the statutory salary has not changed since FY2016, there have been two instances in which the State pay has increased. A 2% merit-based pay increase was approved in the FY2020 General Budget, and then a \$5,000 cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) was provided for all State employees in the FY2022 Amended and FY2023 General Budgets. These two increases have brought the current salary for Supreme Court justices to \$184,112. In

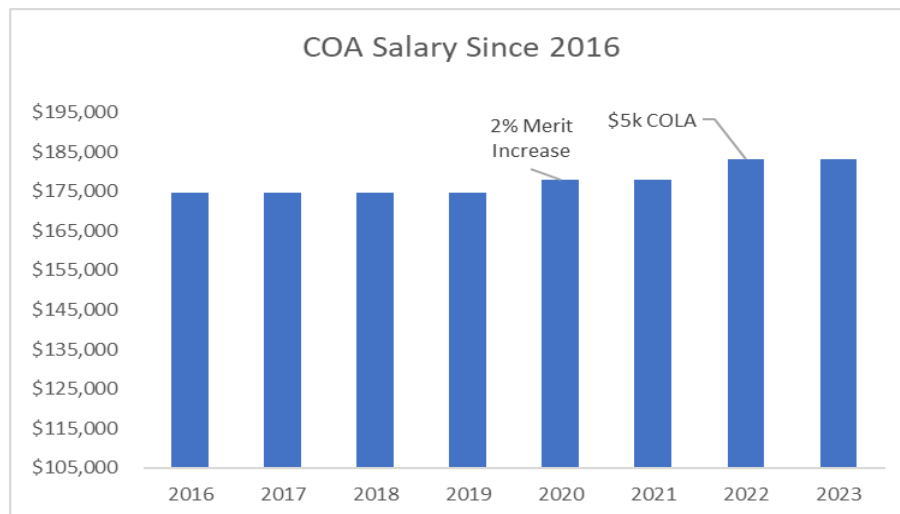
the latest NCSC data, compiled in July 2022, Georgia’s Supreme Court ranked 31st in salary nationwide. The average salary for Courts of Last Resort in the July 2022 Survey was \$191,806, which would represent a more than 4% increase from the Court’s current salary. The data from the July 2022 Survey can be found in Appendix E.

In addition to their salary, Justices of the Supreme Court are reimbursed for actual travel costs and the actual cost of lodging and meals while away from office on state business per OCGA § 45-7-20. Justices who reside 50 miles or more from the Judicial Building in Atlanta also receive a mileage allowance for the use of a personal motor vehicle when devoted to official business for not more than one round trip per calendar week to and from their residence to the Judicial Building during each regular and extraordinary session of court per OCGA § 15-2-3. In addition to travel expenses, Justices living 50 miles or further also receive the same daily expense allowance as members of the General Assembly receive for not more than 35 days during each term of court. According to a 2022 Survey by the National Conference of State Legislatures, the 2022 per diem for members of the General Assembly was \$247⁵.

Court of Appeals of Georgia

The FY2016 salary for a judge of the Court of Appeals was \$174,500. In the January 2016 NCSC Salary Tracker data, this ranked Georgia’s Court of Appeals 11th among all Intermediate Appellate Courts.

Chart 2: Court of Appeals Salaries since FY2016



With the merit increase and the recent COLA, Court of Appeals salaries now stand at \$182,990. Georgia’s Intermediate Appellate Court salary now ranks 21st across the Country. The average salary nationwide was \$183,010. The salaries for Georgia’ Appellate Courts have slipped by 14 and 10 spots respectively in the NCSC Salary Tracker rankings since the 2016 Report.

⁵ <https://www.ncsl.org/research/about-state-legislatures/2022-legislator-compensation.aspx>

In addition to their salary, Judges of the Court of Appeals are eligible for the same travel, meal, and lodging reimbursements as Justices of the Supreme Court. Judges of the Court of Appeals who live 50 or more miles away from the Judicial Building are eligible for the same per diems and travel expenses as Justices of the Supreme Court per OCGA § 15-3-5.

State-wide Business Court

Since the Commission's Report in 2016, Georgia has created a new Court with state-wide Jurisdiction, the Georgia State-wide Business Court. The genesis of the State-wide Business Court began with Governor Nathan Deal's Court Reform Council in 2017. A Constitutional Amendment creating the Court was approved by voters in 2018, with authorizing legislation (HB 239) following in the 2019 Legislative Session.

Per OCGA § 15-5A-7 the Judge of the State-wide Business Court is appointed by the Governor subject to approval by a majority vote of the Senate Judiciary Committee and a majority vote of the House Committee on Judiciary. HB 239 (2019 Session) set the salary for the Judge of the State-wide Business Court at \$174,500, the same as a judge of the Court of Appeals. The salary remains at \$174,500 in statute, but as with the other classes of Court mentioned in this report, the Judge's salary has been increased by the merit-based pay raise and the \$5,000 COLA. The salary is now \$182,990. The NCSC salary tracker rankings do not have national salary rankings for Business Court Judges.

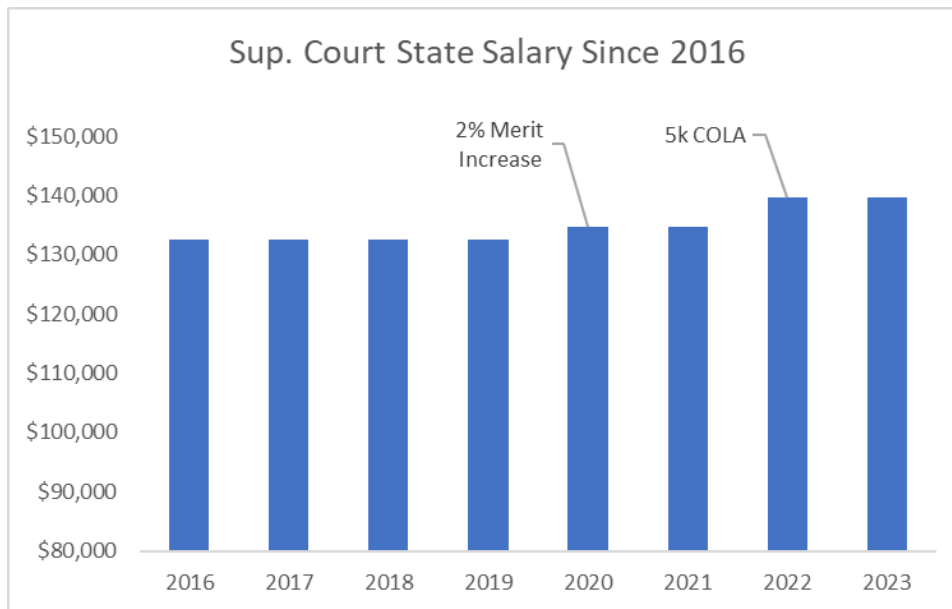
The Judge of the State-wide Business Court is eligible for the same travel and expense reimbursements as the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals, including the 50-mile provisions, per OCGA § 15-5A-9.

Superior Courts

State-Paid Salaries

HB 279 not only increased the state-paid salaries for Superior Court Judges, but it also created an additional \$6,000 supplement to be paid to all Superior Court Judges in circuits which operated Accountability Courts. The supplement is also paid to both District Attorneys and Circuit Public Defenders. HB 279 increased the salary for Superior Court Judges to \$126,265, plus the \$6,000 supplement. At the time of the report there were three circuits which did not yet operate Accountability Courts. At the current date, all circuits operate at least one Accountability Court, and thus all receive the \$6,000 supplement. For salary calculation purposes, the supplement is considered separate to the statutory state-paid salary.

Chart 3: Superior Court State Salaries since FY2016



*Includes \$6k Acc Court Supplement

The current total state compensation for Superior Court Judges is \$139,970. As will be discussed in the next section, there are now no Superior Court Judges in the State which receive *only* the state compensation. If the county supplement system did not exist Georgia’s current state compensation would fall between 52nd ranked Kentucky and 53rd ranked West Virginia in Courts of General Jurisdiction salary. Only West Virginia and Puerto Rico would rank ahead of Georgia’s Superior Court Judge pay based on its State contribution.

In addition to their salary, Superior Court Judges are reimbursed for their travel expenses incurred when sitting in a county in their circuit other than the county of their residence, when attending certain State functions, as well as if a Judge must sit in a county other than their residence outside of their circuit. Reimbursements include actual travel costs as well as meals and lodging. OCGA § 15-6-30 governs travel expenses for Superior Court Judges.

Supplements

The 2016 Report’s description of a compensation structure “riddled with anomalies and inconsistencies” is due to the county supplements paid to not only Superior Court Judges, but also District Attorneys, Assistant District Attorneys, Circuit Public Defenders, and Assistant Public Defenders. The supplement system also impacts county officials and Senior Judges who in some instances have their salaries tied to the full compensation of a Superior Court Judge including their state pay and county supplement (see Section 2).

HB 279 placed a cap of sorts on local supplements by enshrining in statute that a county or counties comprising a judicial circuit could not increase the aggregate local supplement paid to a superior court judge if the supplement was at least \$50,000 as of January 1, 2016. At the time, this meant that seven of the 49 judicial circuits had their local supplement capped. The cap has not limited circuits who fell under the \$50,000 amount from increasing their local supplements. The number of circuits at the \$50,000 cap has more than doubled since the 2016 Report, from seven to 15. 67 percent of circuits (not including Columbia, which was established effective 7/1/2021) increased their county supplement since 2016, with an average increase of 23.2 percent. That increase compares to a 5.5 percent growth in the state-paid salary over the same period. See Appendix F for the current total

compensation for Superior Court Judges and Appendix G for a comparison of local supplements from 2016 to 2022.

Table 1: Supplement Statistics from 2016 to 2022

Circuits with Supplement Increases since 2016	33
Number of Circuits at or above cap in 2016	7
Number of Circuits at or above cap in 2022	15
Average Rate of Supplement Increase per Circuit	23.2%
Range of Superior Court Judge Salary 2016	\$132,265 - \$207,465*
Range of Superior Court Judge Salary 2022	\$151,790 - \$219,990*

* Includes State-pay and local supplement pay

The data collected by this Committee also reveals that increases to supplements have been widespread since 2021. Twenty of the 50 Circuits have increased their supplements (including Alapaha, the last circuit to pay a supplement) since July 2021.⁶ Of the eight circuits to meet or exceed the cap since 2016, five reached that level between 2021 and the time of this Report. See Appendix H for a full comparison of supplement data from July 2021 to October 2022.

Despite the cap on local supplements and the continued growth of supplements under that cap, the range of total compensation to Superior Court Judges is still vast. At the time of the 2016 Report the range of total compensation for Superior Court Judges was \$132,265 - \$207,465; today the range is \$151,790 - \$219,990. Georgia’s highest paid Superior Court Judges would rank fourth in salary, while its lowest paid Judges would rank 43rd in the country.

Another factor created by the supplements that was highlighted in the 2016 Report was that 88 superior court judges had salaries greater than that of justices of the Supreme Court. Based on data gathered by the Committee that number is now 130 Judges, or 59 percent of all Superior Court Judges. This fact was highlighted in the 2016 Report as an example of the inconsistencies that exist in the compensation systems, and those conditions have not changed since 2016. It should also be noted that Superior Court Judges are not the only positions in the system that currently make more than Justices of the Supreme Court, just the most prevalent example. In the Appendices of this report there are examples of District Attorneys and Circuit Public Defenders whose compensation is more than that of Appellate Court Judges. At the time of this report there are also an undetermined number of Judges in Courts of Limited Jurisdiction who may also meet this criteria.

While beyond the scope of this Report, it is worth mentioning that many circuits or counties also pay supplements to state-paid law clerks or secretaries in addition to Judges.

Comparison to Other States

Throughout this Report comparisons of Georgia salaries to other States are noted in their individual Sections. The 2016 Report relied upon NCSC data in its recommendations and noted limited research on other States which

⁶ 2021 Supplement information comes from data gathered by AOC, the Council of Superior Court Judges, and the District Court Administrators to report to NCSC.

provide county supplements to Judges. The Committee Order includes updating comparisons to other States and this Section will briefly elaborate on that charge.

The 2016 Report mentions that Texas is the only other State that continues to have county supplements to state-paid judges. Texas continues to allow county supplements to this day, although they are still capped to ensure that the level of supplement does not exceed the salary of the next level of Court in the state’s Judicial Branch structure. It should also be noted that Alabama has been working to end the use of county supplements since 2000, but legislation and appropriations in the 2021 Session appear to have finally moved the State away from the practice for good. Just as in 2016, Georgia is largely alone in its reliance on local supplements.

As the Committee’s focus moves from collecting data on the landscape of judicial compensation in Georgia to a recommendation phase, research into not only salaries but how states set those salaries will be of use to the Committee. This Section represents an initial foray into that research, which the Committee hopes to build on over time. To this point the research has largely been focused on judge compensation, mostly due to time constraints, and is open to further exploring comparisons to other States for the additional positions included under the Committee’s scope moving forward.

Research into other states sought to compare Georgia in salaries and how compensation is set, as well as to explore mechanisms for the escalation of judicial salaries. The two initial comparison groups were contiguous states and states with similar populations.

Table 2: Comparison of July 2022 NCSC Salary Data for Contiguous States

State	Court of Last Resort	Rank	Int. Appellate Court	Rank	General Jurisdiction Court	Rank
Alabama	\$ 178,500	35	\$177,990	24	\$142,800	50
Florida	\$239,442	3	\$202,440	9	\$182,060	22
Georgia	\$184,112	31	\$182,990	21	\$181,239*	23*
North Carolina	\$167,807	43	\$160,866	35	\$152,188	42
South Carolina	\$213,321	12	\$207,987	7	\$202,654	8
Tennessee	\$208,704	15	\$201,768	10	\$194,808	11
Average	\$198,648	23	\$189,007	18	\$174,902	27

*** Due to Georgia’s unique compensation the NCSC rankings are based on a median salary including local supplements. Georgia’s Judges will range from the lowest-paid to the highest paid in this comparison group**

Table 3: Comparison of July 2022 NCSC Salary Data for Contiguous States w/ Salary Range

State	Court of Last Resort	Rank	Int. Appellate Court	Rank	General Jurisdiction Court	Rank
Alabama	\$178,500	35	\$177,990	24	\$142,800	50
Florida	\$239,442	3	\$202,440	9	\$182,060	22
Georgia	\$184,112	31	\$182,990	21	\$151,790 - \$219,990*	4 - 43*
North Carolina	\$167,807	43	\$160,866	35	\$152,188	42
South Carolina	\$213,321	12	\$207,987	7	\$202,654	8
Tennessee	\$208,704	15	\$201,768	10	\$194,808	11
Average	\$198,648	23	\$189,007	18		

***Table 3 shows the current salary range for Georgia General Jurisdiction Courts, and how those salaries would rank in the NCSC rankings for General Jurisdiction Courts**

Of the two comparison groups, Georgia’s Appellate Court pay falls below average. Georgia fares slightly better in General Jurisdiction Courts. In order to account for Georgia’s unique compensation system Georgia’s General Jurisdiction rankings are based on a median salary that includes local supplements. The rankings as they are compiled by the NCSC can be seen in Tables 2 and 4. However, the median salary does not tell the full story for Georgia due to the large salary discrepancies across the State. Tables 3 and 5 compare the salary ranges for Georgia’s Superior Court Judges to their respective comparison groups to show the impact the full range has on these rankings. It should also be noted that the NCSC compiles rankings for General Jurisdiction Courts adjusted for cost of living. Georgia ranks fifth in these rankings, which are again based on a median salary due. The Committee feels that applying a state-wide cost-of-living to a median salary, which is based off the salary of four Judges, isn’t necessarily an accurate depiction due to the hyper local salary structure as it exists today. As Tables 3 and 5 depict, Georgia would likely have Judges ranging from near the top of the scale to near the bottom of the scale.

Of the five contiguous states Georgia is one of only two that set their salaries by statute. Two states set their salaries by annual appropriations, with an additional State setting salaries yearly by appropriation as a percentage of the Supreme Court Salary. Three of the five contiguous states had a method to automatically increase Judge salaries. These varied from longevity raises to adjustments based on the Consumer Price Index.

Table 4: Comparison of July 2022 NCSC Salary Data for States with Similar Populations

State	Court of Last Resort	Rank	Int. Appellate Court	Rank	General Jurisdiction Court	Rank
Illinois	\$258,456	2	\$243,256	2	\$223,219	3
Ohio	\$181,400	32	\$169,075	29	\$155,485	39
Georgia	\$184,112	31	\$182,990	21	\$181,239*	23*
North Carolina	\$167,807	43	\$160,866	35	\$152,188	42
New Jersey	\$217,505	11	\$207,176	8	\$196,238	10
Virginia	\$212,365	13	\$195,422	12	\$184,617	18
Average	\$203,608	22	\$193,131	18	\$182,349	22

*** Due to Georgia’s unique compensation the NCSC rankings are based on a median salary including local supplements. Georgia’s Judges will range from the lowest-paid to the second highest paid in this comparison group**

Table 5: Comparison of July 2022 NCSC Salary Data for States with Similar Populations w/ Salary Range

State	Court of Last Resort	Rank	Int. Appellate Court	Rank	General Jurisdiction Court	Rank
Illinois	\$258,456	2	\$243,256	2	\$223,219	3
Ohio	\$181,400	32	\$169,075	29	\$155,485	39
Georgia	\$184,112	31	\$182,990	21	\$151,790 - \$219,990*	4 - 43*
North Carolina	\$167,807	43	\$160,866	35	\$152,188	42
New Jersey	\$217,505	11	\$207,176	8	\$196,238	10
Virginia	\$212,365	13	\$195,422	12	\$184,617	18
Average	\$203,608	22	\$193,131	18		

***Table 5 shows the current salary range for Georgia General Jurisdiction Courts, and how those salaries would rank in the NCSC rankings for General Jurisdiction Courts**

Of the states with similar populations (which includes one repeat: North Carolina) Georgia is one of the three states that set their salaries by statute, but the only one who doesn’t then include an automatic means of escalation. Georgia and Virginia are the only states in the population comparison that don’t have an automatic means of salary escalation. The methods for escalation vary from language in an Appropriations Act to annual adjustments based on the Consumer Price Index. For the full comparisons of how salaries are set, please see Appendix I.

District Attorneys and Assistant District Attorneys

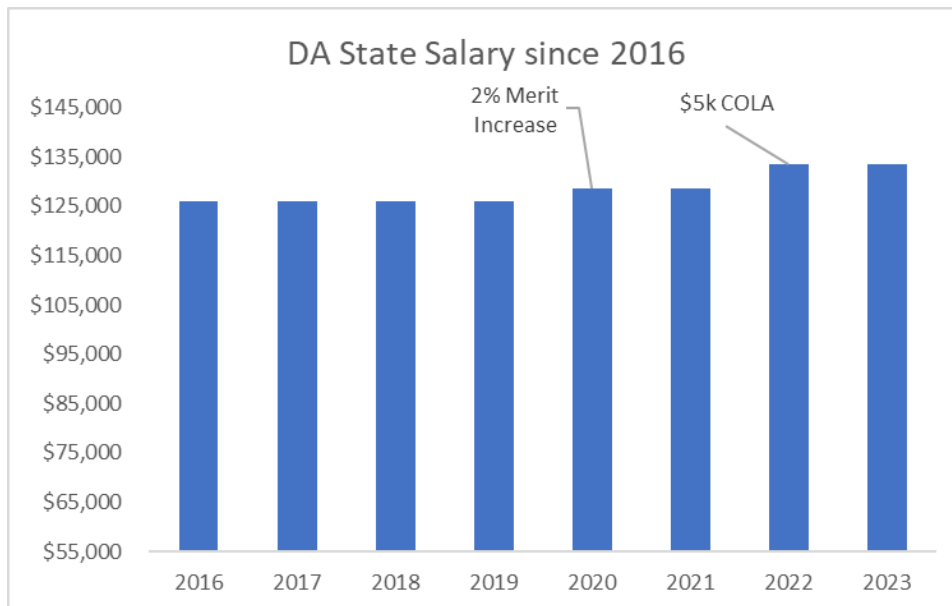
State-Paid Salaries

District Attorney salaries have increased from \$126,072 to \$133,473 (including the Accountability Court Supplement) since the Commission’s Report, by the same means as the aforementioned groups.

In addition to the State’s 50 District Attorneys, the State also pays for a set amount of state-paid Assistant District Attorneys per Circuit. At the time of the 2016 Report there were approximately 385 state-paid ADAs. According to PAC that figure is now 426. In the years since the Report, PAC requested and the Legislature has funded additional ADAs to assist with the increased duties related to juvenile court caseloads in the wake of Juvenile Justice Reform.

Improvements have been made to the pay scale for ADAs since the time of the 2016 Report. At that time the first step on PAC’s pay scale for ADAs was at \$44,828 with the pay scale maxing out at \$106,361. The most recent pay scale adopted for FY2023 starts at \$56,250 and tops out at \$117,786. However, many of the challenges reported with maintaining attorneys on the state pay scale remain and the use of supplements, County-Paid ADAs, and State-Paid County Reimbursed (SPCR) ADAs remains widespread throughout the state to both bolster salaries and the number of Attorneys. See the current ADA pay scale in Appendix J.

Chart 4: District Attorney State-paid Salary since FY2016



*Includes \$6k Acc Court Supplement

District Attorneys and ADAs are also entitled to receive reimbursement for actual expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties from the Prosecuting Attorneys’ Council in accordance with the rules adopted by the Council. The full statute outlining travel expenses for Prosecuting Attorneys is OCGA § 15-18-12.

Supplements

Much like with Superior Court Judges the range of supplements paid to District Attorneys remains substantial in the wake of the 2016 Report. Forty six of the 50 District Attorneys responded to either the direct survey via PAC

or the initial ACCG Survey. Of those that did respond, 41 reported receiving a supplement, while four of those that didn't respond had paid supplements in the 2016 survey. At the time of the 2016 survey, eight circuits reported not having a supplement. Three of the circuits that did not previously pay supplements to District Attorneys reported that they now provide supplements. Of the 46 responses, 24 circuits reported an increase in their supplement amount. The current range in District Attorney compensation is \$133,473 to \$214,385. See the full breakout of District Attorney compensation in Appendix K.

Forty-four circuits responded directly to the PAC Survey, while five of the six that did not respond, responded to the ACCG Survey at least in part. Forty-one circuits reported paying supplements to state-paid Assistant District Attorneys. The range of how these supplements are paid varies greatly across the State. Of the respondents who provided the range, supplements varied from \$500 to over \$50,000. The way these supplements are paid also differs from circuit to circuit. In some instances, all counties within a circuit pay supplements, in others only one county within a circuit may pay an additional supplement to state-paid ADAs.

Thirty-seven of the responding circuits also responded that they pay for additional Assistant District Attorneys above the State's allocation. As with the supplements, these amounts varied significantly with many more rural circuits reporting having one additional ADA to 43 additional ADAs in Gwinnett and over 100 in Atlanta. It should also be noted that while many circuits noted ARPA-funded positions, it is possible that others didn't make this distinction when responding to the survey. The primary funding mechanism for these additional attorneys is directly through the county, and 12 circuits reported funding additional attorneys through the State Paid County Reimbursed model.

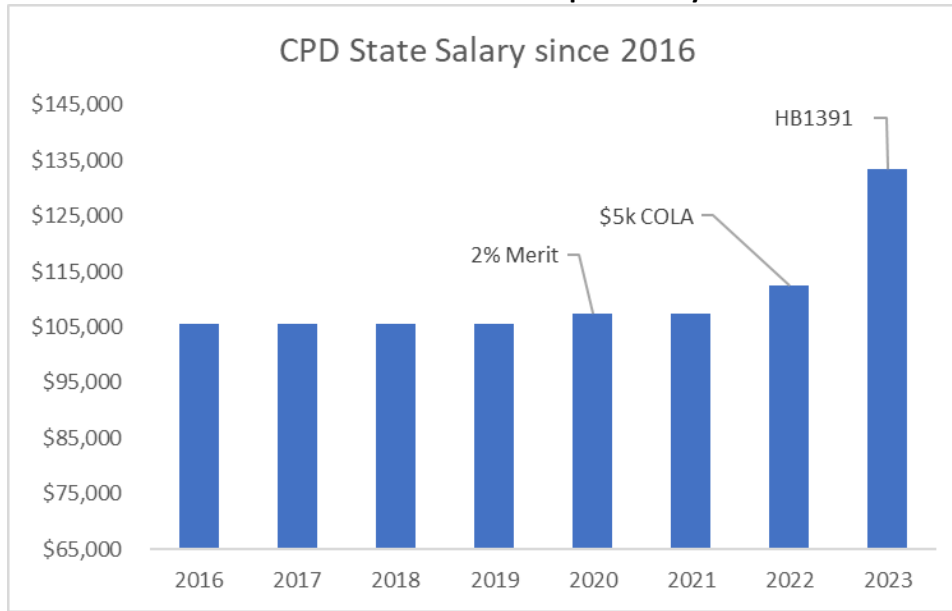
The salary ranges for these additional attorneys includes counties who tie their county pay scale to the State pay scale, to metro counties which pay well in excess of the State pay scale. Many of the circuits with lower numbers of additional attorneys have pay scales that exist within the State scale while the metro circuits with larger amounts of additional attorneys are more likely to have scales that exceed and sometimes greatly exceed the State scale.

It should also be noted that, while beyond the scope of this Report, some circuits reported paying supplements to positions such as state-paid Investigators in addition to District Attorneys and Assistant District Attorneys.

Circuit Public Defenders and Assistant Public Defenders

The salaries for both Circuit Public Defenders and Assistant Public Defenders are the areas where we see the most change since the 2016 Report. At the time of the Report, the statutory salary for Circuit Public Defenders was \$99,256 plus the \$6,000 Accountability Court Supplement, as compared to the District Attorney's salary of \$120,072 plus the supplement. HB 1391 (2022) tied the Circuit Public Defender salary to that of the District Attorney, creating parity in the State pay for the two positions.

Chart 5: Circuit Public Defender State-paid Salary since FY2016



*Includes \$6k Acc Court Supplement

Assistant Public Defenders (APDs) have also seen improvements in their state-paid compensation. In the 2016 Report, APDs were on their own pay scale which was below that of Assistant District Attorneys. Over the years efforts have been made to create parity between the two pay scales and currently Assistant Public Defenders are on the same pay scale as ADAs. GPDC reports there are currently 194 State positions and 154 positions funded through county contracts. The 2016 Report cited a figure of “approximately 160 state-paid positions” and an unknown number of county-funded attorneys. Additional APDs have been funded to assist with juvenile court caseloads, as was reported for ADAs. Like ADAs, despite these improvements to the pay scale there still exists a structure of county-paid APDs and county-reimbursed APDs, as well as supplements to state-paid positions, to try to improve both the number of attorneys and the compensation of attorneys.

Supplements

Survey information provided by the GPDC indicates that 29 Circuit Public Defenders currently receive county supplements. The South Georgia Circuit which has not yet responded to the Survey did provide a Supplement in 2016. Twenty circuits reported paying supplements in the 2016 Report. For the full list of Circuit Public Defender Compensation with county supplements see Appendix L.

Survey data indicates that 15 of the responding circuits paid supplements to Assistant Public Defenders. These supplements ranged from \$1,000 - \$16,740. The 2016 Report noted that “a handful of state-paid assistant public defenders receive small local supplements” This data would indicate that the practice has become slightly more common although still lags well behind local supplements paid to ADAs in both frequency and amount.

As with ADAs there exists a large population of positions funded outside of the state-paid pay scale. There are currently 156 additional APDs which are funded through contract agreements between the Public Defender Council and the individual circuits. In addition, GPDC surveyed circuits for information on attorneys funded solely by the counties, outside of the contract structure. Survey responses indicated circuits with their own county paid attorneys ranged in size from one county attorney to 63 attorneys with salary ranges in larger counties that exceeded the state scale.

Section 2: County Paid Officials Linked to State-Paid Officials

An aspect of the judicial compensation structure that was largely neglected by the 2016 Report is the fact that in many counties across the State, local officials’ salaries are often tied to Superior Court Judge compensation by either local act or local legislation. This Committee has been tasked with examining the prevalence of this salary hooking or tying at the county and local level. While this work is not yet complete, the work of the Trial Courts of Limited Jurisdiction Subcommittee will continue to shine a light on this practice so that the ripple effect of any changes to the supplement system can be better understood.

While the Committee continues to collect data to this effect, the ACCG Survey, as well as data provided by the Council of State Court Judges provides a snapshot of how this practice can differ across the counties. Of the 114 plus counties who responded to the ACCG Survey, 23 reported positions whose salary was set by reference to the Superior Court Judge’s salary. The most common positions tied to the Superior Court Judges were State Court Judges, with 20 counties. The second most common were Solicitors General with seven counties.

The number of positions that the responding counties reported as linked to Superior Court Judges ranged from one to nine. In Gwinnett County, the Tax Commissioner, Sheriff, Probate Court Judge, Magistrate Court Judge, State Court Judge, Juvenile Court Judges, Recorder's Court Judges, and Clerk of Court all have salaries linked to the Superior Court Judge. Other counties link County Commissioner salaries to Superior Court Judge salaries. These salaries are in most cases linked to the judge’s salary plus local supplement.

Table 6: Select Examples of Counties with Positions Tied to Superior Court Judges

County	Positions Tied to Superior Court Judge	How are these positions tied to the Superior Court Judge?	How is the salary used to calculate others?
Forsyth	Solicitor General, State Court Judge	Local Act	State Court Judge - Salary is 95% of Superior Court Judge salary (State Salary plus County Supplement); Solicitor General - Salary is 75% of Superior Court Judge salary (State Salary plus County Supplement)
Haralson	Juvenile Court Judge	County supplement tied to Superior Court Judge Supplement	Juvenile Court Judge salary supplement is 90% of Superior Court Judge supplement
Fayette	County commission chair, county commissioners, Solicitor General, State Court Judge	Local Act	State Court Judge- 90% of base pay and local supplement; Solicitor- 75% of base pay and local supplement; Commission Chairman- 21% of base pay Commissioner- 16.5% of base pay
Clayton	Probate Judge, State Court Judge, Juvenile Court Judge	Probate and State Court Judge: Local Act; Juvenile Court Judge: Local Policy Position	State Court Judges: 89% to 95% of salary and supplement. They start off at 89% and increase the next July 1 by 1% until they reach the maximum or 95%. Juvenile Court Judges: Same as State Court Judges. Probate Court Judge: Receives 90% of salary and supplement of Superior Court Judge.
Effingham	Solicitor General, State Court Judge	Local Act	85% of State Court Judge's Base salary plus 5% of State Court Judge's Base salary for Board of Commissioners authorized supplement

A Survey performed by the Council of State Court Judges provides further insight into the practice of linking State Court Judge salaries to Superior Court Judge salaries. The survey covers 78 State Court Judges across 34 counties whose salaries were linked. Of those, only eight of the full-time Judges had their salaries tied to the State salary amount. The remaining judges’ salaries were all tied to the State salary plus local supplement (whether they include the \$6,000 accountability court supplement varies). The reported percentages of judges

tied to the salary and local supplement ranged from 85-100%, with the average percentage being 91%. Of the eight full-time judges tied to the State salary the percentages ranged from 60%-100%, with the average percentage being 87%.

As with much of the pay structure which has been described to this point, there seems to be little pattern or overarching explanation to offer on the reason behind why some counties have tied many local official salaries to Judges while others have no links at all. What is clear is that any changes to the supplement system will more disparately impact some counties than others across the State.

Section 3: County Retirement and Senior Judges

One final aspect of the local supplement system that needs to be considered when developing recommendations is the fact that along with salary supplements some counties also provide additional retirement benefits above what the State offers. In addition to retirement benefits many circuits then pay an increased rate for Senior Judges above the pro-rated State amount. The 2016 Report neglected to mention these downstream effects of the current supplement system that will impact both current and former Judges if changes are made to the current system.

Respondents in 22 counties across 12 judicial circuits reported paying additional retirement benefits above the membership in the State's Judicial Retirement System (JRS). These plans varied in their coverages, but the most common type of plan was a Defined Benefit Plan or Pension Plan. Some counties offered additional benefits including Life Insurance and additional Health Insurance coverage. It is likely that these responses underrepresent the prevalence of additional benefits throughout the State but provide a useful snapshot. A consequence of the patchwork of retirement benefits is that many Judges will receive benefits based solely on their state-paid salary, while some of their peers will receive benefits more in line with their actual salary at the time they leave the bench. Based on the data collected it does seem fair to say that many Judges across the State receive retirement benefits that are based on less than their actual total compensation. NCSC now collects information on judicial retirement plans and this Committee will look to provide further information moving forward comparing JRS to plans across the Country.

District Attorneys are also eligible for JRS membership based on their State paid salaries, but there are also examples of counties or circuits providing additional retirement benefits based on their county supplements. A total of eight circuits reported paying county retirement benefits for District Attorneys. Plans included Defined Benefit Plans and 401(a) plans, and how those plans were calculated varied by the county or circuit offering the plan.

The local supplement system also has a significant impact in how Senior Judges are compensated across the State. Senior Judges are paid for each day of service from State funds a daily pro-rated amount of the annual state salary of a Superior Court Judge divided by 235 (OCGA § 15-1-9.2), in addition to a per diem or expense reimbursement. Additionally, some Senior Judges also receive a benefit from the applicable county(s) in the form of an annual amount equal to 2/3rd of the supplement they received from the counties as a sitting Judge. The different forms of compensation again lead to a situation of the same position being compensated differently across the State.

Both the original survey sent to counties and follow-up surveys sent to the 50 judicial circuits asked whether supplements were paid to Senior Judges, as well as if the 2/3 pre-retirement benefits were paid to Senior Judges. Forty-nine counties reported paying an additional supplement amount to Senior Judges above the State amount.

The ranges of this additional compensation varied widely from additional county paid per diems from \$100 to \$700+, to large annual amounts up to almost \$50,000. Thirty-five counties reported paying the 2/3rd pre-retirement benefit amount to Senior Judges. As with the retirement benefit piece, these responses likely do not present an exhaustive list of Senior Judge compensation but indicates the wide range of circumstances that currently exist throughout the State.

Next Steps

This initial Report is aimed at completing the Committee's first task of updating the 2016 report of the Judicial, District Attorney, and Circuit Public Defender Compensation Commission. This Report does not conclude the Committee's efforts at continuing to collect all data relevant to Judicial compensation throughout the State of Georgia. The goal of this first phase of the Committee's work is to lay the foundation to be able to begin to develop possible policy recommendations related to salaries and supplements, with a full understanding of the structure, or lack thereof, as it exists today.

Many of the conditions that were reported on in the 2016 Report continue unabated in 2022. In fact, supplements have continued to increase across the State in the years since. In addition, two factors that were either not considered or outside of the scope of the 2016 Report are initially addressed in this Report. Supplements paid to Superior Court Judges impact the compensation of many County Officials both within and outside of the Judicial Branch. The Supplements also impact the retirement benefits of many Judges throughout the State, as well as the compensation of Senior Judges throughout the State. The goal of this report is not to comment on the merits of this decentralized system, but to try to compile a comprehensive statewide update on compensation as it stands in 2022. The Committee will then take this information and begin working towards developing, evaluating, and recommending options for revising or eliminating the system of county-paid supplements.

The Committee is still working on gathering all available information related to judicial compensation in Georgia. All subsequent data gathering and analysis will be included in the Committee's final Report. The Committee is still looking to gather the following:

- Further information detailing the prevalence of county positions whose salary is linked to Superior Court Judges
- More detailed information on the compensation of Judges of Courts of Limited Jurisdiction. The goal is to provide information on the links to Superior Courts as well as a salary range for each Class of Court. These efforts are underway, but not complete at the time of this Report
- Continuing to refine and collect any information regarding retirement and other benefit factors tied to local supplements and the state-paid salary that were not covered in the 2016 Report.

Appendix A: Committee Roster & Committee Orders

Judicial Council of Georgia Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Salaries and Supplements

Members

Justice Charles J. Bethel
Co-Chair
Supreme Court of Georgia

Chief Judge Russell Smith
Co-Chair
Superior Court, Mountain Judicial Circuit

Judge Trenton Brown
Court of Appeals of Georgia

Judge William G. Hamrick
Judge Walter W. Davis (*until 9/30/22*)
Georgia State-wide Business Court

Judge Jeffrey H. Kight
Superior Court, Waycross Judicial Circuit

Judge A. Gregory Poole
Superior Court, Cobb Judicial Circuit

Mr. Darius Pattillo
District Attorneys' Association of Georgia

Ms. Omotayo Alli
Georgia Public Defender Council

Mr. Michael O'Quinn
Association County Commissioners of Georgia

Advisory Members

Judge Alvin T. Wong
Council of State Court Judges

Judge Vincent Crawford
Council of Juvenile Court Judges

Judge Daisy Weeks-Marisko
Council of Probate Court Judges

Mr. DeMetris Causer
Georgia Municipal Association

Mr. J. Antonio DelCampo
State Bar of Georgia

Mr. Peter J. Skandalakis
Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia

Ms. Stacy Haralson
Constitutional Officers Association of Georgia

Judge Connie Holt
Council of Magistrate Court Judges

Judge Ryan Hope
Council of Municipal Court Judges

Mr. Joshua Weeks
Georgia Council of Court Administrators



Judicial Council of Georgia

Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice David E. Nahmias
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Director

Judicial Council of Georgia

Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Salaries and Supplements

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Judicial Council, ad hoc committees exist to address issues of limited scope and duration, and the Judicial Council Chair shall create and charge ad hoc committees as are necessary to conduct the business of the Judicial Council.

Under that authority, I hereby establish the Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Salaries and Supplements. The charge of the committee shall be as follows:

1. To update and expand upon the December 16, 2016 report of the General Assembly's Judicial, District Attorney, and Circuit Public Defender Compensation Committee to reflect current amounts of state-paid salaries, state-paid salary supplements (e.g., for accountability courts), and county-paid salary supplements, as well as any state-paid or county-paid retirement benefits or other significant monetary benefits related to supplements, for Justices of the Supreme Court, Judges of the Court of Appeals, the Judge of the State-wide Business Court, superior court judges, district attorneys, and circuit public defenders, and to update comparisons to salaries for similar positions in other states;
2. To identify which county-paid officials' salaries or salary or retirement supplements are determined by reference to the salaries or supplements of superior court judges, district attorneys, or circuit public defenders, so as to better understand the consequences of changes to the compensation of state-paid officials;
3. To develop, evaluate, and recommend options for revising or eliminating the system of county-paid supplements, including the costs to the State and the counties of any options that are deemed practically and politically feasible, including by garnering supermajority support from the superior court judges.

The Ad Hoc Committee shall provide an initial report to the Judicial Council on these matters no later than December 15, 2022, unless the Committee determines that information on the matters related to charges 1 and 2 above that is needed to address charge 3 above is not reasonably available, in which case the Committee shall instead report on what Judicial Council, executive, and/or legislative action would be required to obtain such information.

Any and all proposals for legislation affecting the salary or supplements of a class of court that would affect the salaries or supplements of another class of court shall be first provided to the Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Salaries and Supplements for consideration. Any recommendations

for legislation from the Ad Hoc Committee shall be presented to the Standing Committee on Legislation, which may then make recommendations to the full Judicial Council.

The following members are hereby appointed to the Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Salaries and Supplements:

- Justice Charles J. Bethel, Supreme Court of Georgia, Co-Chair.
- Judge Russell (Rusty) Smith, Superior Court, Mountain Judicial Circuit, Co-Chair.
- One Judge of the Georgia Court of Appeals, chosen by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals.
- Georgia State-wide Business Court Judge, or a designee.
- Two Superior Court Judges -- one from a circuit with a salary supplement of more than \$50,000 and one from a circuit with a salary supplement below \$50,000 -- chosen by the President of the Council of Superior Court Judges.
- President of the District Attorneys' Association of Georgia, or a designee.
- Executive Director of the Georgia Public Defender Council, or a designee.
- Executive Director of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG), or a designee.

In addition, designees from the following organizations are invited to participate as advisory members to the Committee:

- Council of State Court Judges.
- Council of Juvenile Court Judges.
- Council of Probate Court Judges.
- Council of Magistrate Court Judges.
- Council of Municipal Court Judges.
- Georgia Council of Court Administrators.
- Georgia Municipal Association.
- State Bar of Georgia.

Ad Hoc Committee membership may include additional advisory members appointed, as needed, by the Committee Co-Chairs. Advisory members may be heard but shall not be entitled to vote. The Administrative Office of the Courts shall provide staff support to the Committee.

The Ad Hoc Committee shall exist from June 1, 2022, until May 30, 2023, unless extended by further order.

So decided this 26th day of May, 2022.



Chief Justice David E. Nahmias
Chair, Judicial Council of Georgia

Michael P. Boggs
Presiding Justice Michael P. Boggs
Vice-Chair, Judicial Council of Georgia



Judicial Council of Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice David E. Nahmias
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Director


Judicial Council Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Salaries and Supplements Advisory Member Appointment

In accordance with the bylaws of the Judicial Council, ad hoc committee membership may include advisory members appointed, as needed, by each ad hoc committee Chair. Advisory members may be heard but shall not be entitled to vote.

Therefore, a designee from the following organization is invited to participate as an advisory member to the Committee:

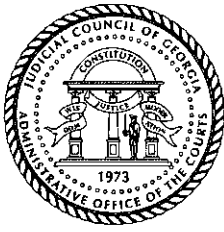
- Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia

So decided this 6 day of JUNE, 2022.



Justice Charles J. Bethel
Co-Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Salaries and Supplements

Chief Judge Russell (Rusty) Smith
Co-Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Salaries and Supplements



Judicial Council of Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice David E. Nahmias
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Director

Judicial Council Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Salaries and Supplements Advisory Member Appointment

In accordance with the bylaws of the Judicial Council, ad hoc committee membership may include advisory members appointed, as needed, by each ad hoc committee Chair. Advisory members may be heard but shall not be entitled to vote.

Therefore, a designee from the following organization is invited to participate as an advisory member to the Committee:

- Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia

So decided this 10th day of June, 2022.

Justice Charles J. Bethel
Co-Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Salaries and Supplements

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. Smith", written over a horizontal line.

Chief Judge Russell (Rusty) Smith
Co-Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Salaries and Supplements



Judicial Council of Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice David E. Nahmias
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Director

Judicial Council Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Salaries and Supplements Advisory Member Appointment

In accordance with the bylaws of the Judicial Council, ad hoc committee membership may include advisory members appointed, as needed, by each ad hoc committee Chair. Advisory members may be heard but shall not be entitled to vote.

Therefore, a designee from the following organization is invited to participate as an advisory member to the Committee:

- Constitutional Officers Association of Georgia

So decided this 13th day of July, 2022.

Justice Charles J. Bethel
Co-Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Salaries and Supplements

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. Smith", written over a horizontal line.

Chief Judge Russell (Rusty) Smith
Co-Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Salaries and Supplements



Judicial Council of Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice David E. Nahmias
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Director

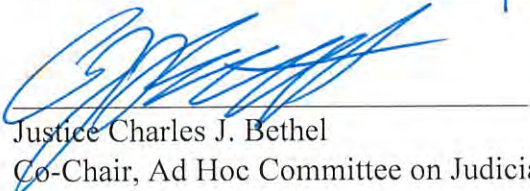
Judicial Council Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Salaries and Supplements Advisory Member Appointment

In accordance with the bylaws of the Judicial Council, ad hoc committee membership may include advisory members appointed, as needed, by each ad hoc committee Chair. Advisory members may be heard but shall not be entitled to vote.

Therefore, a designee from the following organization is invited to participate as an advisory member to the Committee:

- Constitutional Officers Association of Georgia

So decided this 21st day of July, 2022.


Justice Charles J. Bethel
Co-Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Salaries and Supplements

Chief Judge Russell (Rusty) Smith
Co-Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Salaries and Supplements

Appendix B: Subcommittee Charges & Rosters

Outreach and Feedback

This subcommittee is charged with coordinating efforts to acquire needed data and information, reviewing information received, and serving as the liaison for ideas and feedback from stakeholders.

Members:

- Judge Jeffrey Kight (Co-Chair)
- Judge A. Gregory Poole (Co-Chair)
- Judge Trenton Brown
- J. Antonio DelCampo
- Peter J. Skandalakis
- Joshua Weeks

Metrics and Measures

This subcommittee is charged with synthesizing all data and information received and presenting a report/recommendation to the Committee.

Members:

- Omotayo Alli
- Judge William Hamrick
- Darius Pattillo

Trial Courts of Limited Jurisdiction

This subcommittee is charged with exploring, summarizing, and reporting on judicial branch compensation outside the scope of the Committee's charge and making recommendations as to the need for further study. This may include surveys and outreach to individual classes of court.

Members:

- Judge Alvin T. Wong (Co-Chair)
- Michael O'Quinn (Co-Chair)
- DeMetris Causer
- Judge Vincent Crawford
- Judge Connie Holt
- Judge Ryan Hope
- Judge Daisy Weeks-Marisko
- Stacy Haralson

Appendix C: Compensation Structure – Courts of Limited Jurisdiction

The Trial Courts of Limited Jurisdiction Subcommittee is charged with exploring, summarizing, and reporting on judicial branch compensation outside the scope of the Committee’s charge and making recommendations as to the need for further study. This may include surveys and outreach to individual classes of court. The subcommittee met by Zoom on October 12; a summary of the information provided at that meeting, supplemented by some additional research, is provided below. The subcommittee will continue its work to refine this information, research statutory requirements, and identify compensation data for each class of court.

State Court

State Court judges are paid by their respective counties (OCGA § 15-7-22). There are generally two categories by which state court judges’ salary is structured: some judges salaries are tied to the superior court judges’ salary (whether to the state base salary or the state base salary plus state/county supplements), while others’ salaries are independent of the superior court. There are counties where the Chief Judge gets a local supplement, and some counties where the judges receive some, or a percentage, of the superior court judges’ state accountability court supplement. Some judges who run State Court accountability courts have received additional compensation from their county through local legislation. Overall, the compensation for state court judges is unique to each county. There are 133 state court judges across 73 counties; 94 of those judges are full-time. According to 2021 data collected by the Council of State Court Judges (39 responses), 28 full-time and six part-time state courts were tied to superior court salaries.

Juvenile Court

Juvenile court judges may be paid by a combination of state and county funds. State statute (OCGA § 15-11-52) provides for \$100,000 in state grants to circuits toward the salaries of full and part-time juvenile court judges. Each circuit with more than four superior court judges is eligible for an additional state grant of \$25,000, per superior court judgeship exceeding four in the circuit, for juvenile court judges’ salaries. These funds are applied to the juvenile court judges’ salaries as determined by the superior court, with the approval of the governing authority. In some counties, the juvenile court judge salary is tied to the superior court judge, and some may receive a salary plus local supplements. Full- and part-time associate juvenile court judges are compensated solely with county funds (OCGA § 15-11-60). There are currently 120 juvenile court judges (73 full-time, 26 part-time, 11 full-time Associate, 10 part-time Associate).

Probate Court

Probate Court judges are county-paid and may serve as full-time or part-time. There are 159 elected probate court judges, and [insert number] associate judges. Unless otherwise provided by local legislation, the base pay for probate court judges is set in statute (OCGA § 15-9-63), based on population. Probate Judges serving as Chief Magistrate, Magistrate, and/or Clerk to Magistrate Court, and performing vital records or passport duties, receive add-on supplements or compensation for these duties. Counties can add on a local supplement to the base salary. Probate court judges also receive a five percent longevity increase upon completion of every term served. The compensation for associate probate court judges is determined by the elected probate court judge and may be a percentage of the elected judge’s salary. Overall, the compensation for probate court judges is unique to each county. According to 2022 survey data collected by ACCG, the average median salary for a Probate Court Judge without magistrate duties

(97 responses) is \$84,478, and the average median salary for a Probate Court Judge with magistrate duties (24 responses) is \$81,760.

Magistrate Court

Magistrate Court judges are county-paid. There are approximately 525 magistrate court judges (including 159 Chief Magistrates), who serve as both full-time and part-time. Unless otherwise provided by local legislation, the base pay for Chief Magistrates is set in statute (OCGA § 15-10-23), based on population. The pay for some full-time magistrate judges is linked to the salary of the Chief Magistrate and some may be paid by the hour. Some Part-time Chief Magistrates are paid a salary, and some part-time magistrates are paid by the hour or by the lowest amount set in statute. Some Chief Magistrates (for example, in the larger counties) have their salary linked to that of the superior court judge, and some do receive local supplements. Magistrates also receive a five percent longevity increase upon completion of every term served. Magistrates are required to work 40 hours per week. Overall, the compensation for magistrate court judges is unique to each county. According to 2022 survey data collected by ACCG, the average median salary for full-time Chief Magistrates (who do not also serve as the Probate Court Judge; [85 responses⁷]) is \$77,798.

Municipal Court

There are more than 380 municipal court judges, the vast majority of which are practicing attorneys serving as part-time judges. There are full-time municipal courts, namely in the larger jurisdictions and consolidated governments, which are unique compared to the rest of the municipal courts and likely tied to the superior court judges' salaries. Overall, the compensation for municipal court judges is unique to each municipality, based on negotiations between the judge and the governing authority (OCGA § 36-32-2). Statute provides for a one-year minimum term/contract for municipal court judges but no salary guidelines.

Additional Considerations

A small number of unique local jurisdiction specialty courts also exist (e.g., recorders courts and civil courts). These courts may identify as municipal courts, and additional research will be conducted to ascertain jurisdiction and compensation information.

At the time of this report, limited data for each class of court is available. To the extent a complete data set is collected, the Committee's final report will include this information.

Next Steps

The Subcommittee defined the following three data points for each class of court to gather moving forward:

1. How many/which courts have salaries tied to superior court; what is the tie – percentage, salary only, or does it include supplements?
2. What is the specific amount of compensation for each individual court; at a minimum, what is the range of compensation within each class of court?
3. Should there be further study/reform for each class of court in the future?

⁷ 41 of the 85 respondents were from counties with a population of less than 28,999, so in addition to the incomplete survey responses, this set of responses may skew the findings for average median salary for Chief Magistrates.; 96 of Georgia's 159 counties (or 60%) have a population of less than 28,999 (U.S. Census 2020 - https://www.legis.ga.gov/api/document/docs/default-source/reapportionment-document-library/2020-count-by-county-population--with-2010.pdf?sfvrsn=cbc99191_2).

Appendix D: Summary of Recommendations from the 2016 Report

Supreme Court

- **2016 Recommendation:** For the Supreme Court, the Commission recommended increasing the salary for the Chief Justice to \$205,000, and the salary for the remaining Justices to \$200,000. This would have made GA's Supreme Court Justices the eighth highest paid in the Country, comparable to Georgia's population rank, and to the salaries of Federal District Judges.
- As of January 2022, the NCSC Salary tracker ranked Georgia's Court of Last Resort 31st. For context the eighth highest salary in January 2022 was the Virgin Islands at \$226,564.

Court of Appeals

- **2016 Recommendation:** For the Court of Appeals the Commission recommended paying the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals \$195,000, and the other Judges of the Court of Appeals \$190,000. This would have made the Court of Appeals the seventh highest paid Intermediate Appellate Court in the Country.
- As of January 2022, Georgia's Court of Appeals ranked 23rd in compensation. The seventh highest salary was New Jersey at \$207,176.

Superior Court Judges

- **2016 Recommendation:** For Superior Court Judges, the Report recommended a two-part compensation system aimed at phasing out local supplements. Judges would have had the choice between receiving their current state salary, accountability court supplement, and capped local supplement amount, or receiving a new state salary of \$175,000 in circuits with accountability courts, or \$165,000 in circuits without accountability courts and giving up their local supplements. All new Judges would immediately be compensated under the second option, thus phasing out option 1 over time.

The \$175,000 salary approximated an average salary including supplements and would have made Georgia the eighth highest paid General Jurisdiction Court.

District Attorneys and Public Defenders

- For District Attorneys and Circuit Public Defenders the Commission made similar recommendations to those for Superior Court Judges. A two-part compensation scale with the choice to continue to receive their current compensation or to choose a new state salary of \$160,000 for those in circuits with an accountability court and \$150,000 for those in circuits without an accountability court. All new DAs and CPDs would automatically be placed under option 2. The recommended \$160,000 salary was based on being comparable to the starting base salary for first year associates at large Atlanta law firms, and the maximum salary paid to assistant U.S. attorneys.

Assistant District Attorneys and Assistant Public Defenders

- The Commission recommended that the State fully fund the pay scale for Assistant District Attorneys and that there should be parity between the pay scale for ADAs and APDs. It recommended that this be done by statute, not just appropriation. The Commission recommended that counties continue to be able to pay supplements to ADAs and APDs, as well as hire additional attorneys due to the cost of the State taking on all of the county paid positions.

Appendix E: NCSC Salary Tracker Rankings, July 2022

	Court of Last Resort		Int. Appellate		Gen. Jurisdiction		Gen. Jurisdiction adj. for Cost-of-Living		
State/Territory	Court of Last Resort	Ranking	Int. Appellate Court	Ranking	Gen. Jurisdiction	Ranking	Factor*	Adj. Salary	Ranking
Alabama	\$178,500	35	\$177,990	24	\$142,800	50	93.0	\$153,506	31
Alaska	\$205,176	17	\$193,836	14	\$189,720	14	131.9	\$143,876	42
American Samoa	No Response		No Response		No Response		Not Available		
Arizona	\$159,685	49	\$154,534	38	\$149,383	43	102.3	\$145,958	37
Arkansas	\$190,126	25	\$184,497	20	\$180,129	24	90.6	\$198,794	4
California	\$274,732	1	\$257,562	1	\$225,074	1	135.2	\$166,481	21
Colorado	\$199,632	21	\$191,724	17	\$183,816	20	111.1	\$165,481	22
Connecticut	\$209,770	14	\$197,046	11	\$189,483	15	127.0	\$149,216	35
Delaware	\$205,135	18	Not Applicable		\$192,862	12	110.1	\$175,215	15
District of Columbia	\$236,900	4	Not Applicable		\$223,400	2	160.0	\$139,602	44
Florida	\$239,442	3	\$202,440	9	\$182,060	22	101.3	\$179,771	11
Georgia	\$184,112	31	\$182,990	21	\$181,239	23	93.4	\$194,120	5
Guam	\$160,454	47	Not Applicable		\$144,110	49	Not Available		
Hawaii	\$229,668	6	\$212,784	6	\$207,084	6	150.2	\$137,838	48
Idaho	\$160,400	48	\$150,400	39	\$144,400	48	99.6	\$145,045	39
Illinois	\$258,456	2	\$243,256	2	\$223,219	3	100.0	\$223,212	1
Indiana	\$199,059	22	\$193,501	16	\$165,276	29	95.6	\$172,922	16
Iowa	\$187,326	27	\$169,765	28	\$158,056	36	97.7	\$161,711	26
Kansas	\$168,598	42	\$163,156	34	\$148,912	45	98.1	\$151,799	34
Kentucky	\$153,751	52	\$147,562	40	\$141,401	52	92.2	\$153,322	32
Louisiana	\$186,714	28	\$174,597	25	\$167,749	28	97.2	\$172,561	17
Maine	\$155,397	51	Not Applicable		\$145,642	47	116.9	\$124,554	51
Maryland	\$206,433	16	\$193,633	15	\$184,433	19	126.7	\$145,563	38
Massachusetts	\$200,984	20	\$190,087	18	\$184,694	17	133.0	\$138,890	46
Michigan	\$164,610	46	\$173,528	26	\$160,325	32	91.4	\$175,472	14
Minnesota	\$191,359	24	\$180,313	22	\$169,264	26	102.6	\$164,957	23
Mississippi	\$166,500	44	\$158,500	36	\$149,000	44	88.4	\$168,542	18
Missouri	\$189,198	26	\$172,937	27	\$163,082	30	90.5	\$180,285	10
Montana	\$155,920	50	Not Applicable		\$142,683	51	103.9	\$137,376	49
Nebraska	\$198,427	23	\$188,505	19	\$183,545	21	100.8	\$182,128	8
Nevada	\$170,000	40	\$165,000	31	\$160,000	33	112.4	\$142,369	43
New Hampshire	\$179,942	34	Not Applicable		\$168,761	27	120.9	\$139,576	45
New Jersey	\$217,505	11	\$207,176	8	\$196,238	10	121.7	\$161,227	27
New Mexico	\$180,748	33	\$164,930	32	\$156,683	38	100.1	\$156,509	30
New York	\$233,400	5	\$222,200	3	\$210,900	4	112.4	\$187,708	7
North Carolina	\$167,807	43	\$160,866	35	\$152,188	42	95.2	\$159,788	28
North Dakota	\$169,162	41	Not Applicable		\$155,219	40	107.8	\$143,958	41
Northern Mariana Islands	No Response		No Response		No Response		Not Available		
Ohio	\$181,400	32	\$169,075	29	\$155,485	39	92.6	\$167,932	20
Oklahoma	\$173,469	38	\$164,339	33	\$156,732	37	93.3	\$168,026	19
Oregon	\$171,408	39	\$168,108	30	\$158,556	35	119.1	\$133,143	50
Pennsylvania	\$227,080	7	\$214,261	4	\$197,119	9	102.3	\$192,661	6
Puerto Rico	\$120,000	54	\$105,000	42	\$89,600	54	Not Available		
Rhode Island	\$225,804	9	Not Applicable		\$210,860	5	128.6	\$164,024	24
South Carolina	\$213,321	12	\$207,987	7	\$202,654	8	98.8	\$205,125	3
South Dakota	\$174,551	37	Not Applicable		\$163,036	31	99.5	\$163,865	25
Tennessee	\$208,704	15	\$201,768	10	\$194,808	11	92.3	\$211,019	2
Texas	\$184,800	29	\$178,400	23	\$154,000	41	96.4	\$159,670	29
Utah	\$203,700	19	\$194,450	13	\$185,200	16	103.2	\$179,471	12
Vermont	\$184,771	30	Not Applicable		\$175,654	25	121.2	\$144,939	40
Virgin Islands	\$226,564	8	Not Applicable		\$191,360	13	Not Available		
Virginia	\$212,365	13	\$195,422	12	\$184,617	18	102.4	\$180,290	9
Washington	\$224,176	10	\$213,400	5	\$203,169	7	114.9	\$176,846	13
West Virginia	\$149,600	53	\$142,500	41	\$132,300	53	95.5	\$138,489	47
Wisconsin	\$165,772	45	\$156,388	37	\$147,535	46	100.4	\$147,016	36
Wyoming	\$175,000	36	Not Applicable		\$160,000	33	105.3	\$151,876	33
Mean	\$191,806		\$183,010		\$171,954				
Median	\$187,020		\$181,652		\$168,255				
Range	\$274,732		\$257,562		\$225,074				

*The figures presented use the C2ER Cost-of-Living Index. The Council for Community and Economic Research-C2ER is the most widely accepted U.S. source for cost-of-living indices, with nearly 400 reporting jurisdictions across America. C2ER does not provide cost of living index for U.S. Territories. Due to the rounding of C2ER factors to the nearest hundredth for publication purposes, user calculations of our adjusted salary figures may not equate to the published totals. More detailed information can be found at www.c2er.org.

Appendix F: Total Superior Court Judge Compensation

Circuit	Judges	Statutory Base (OCGA 45-7-4(20))	Merit Increase	FY22/23 COLA	State Accountability Court Supplement (OCGA 15-6-	Circuit Supplement (OCGA 15-6-29.1(c))	Total Compensation
Augusta	5	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 80,200	\$ 219,990
Columbia	3	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 80,200	\$ 219,990
Cobb	11	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 73,614	\$ 213,404
Atlanta	20	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 72,112	\$ 211,902
Eastern	6	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 66,084	\$ 205,874
Northeastern	5	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 65,790	\$ 205,580
Brunswick	5	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 64,624	\$ 204,414
Stone Mountain	10	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 58,711	\$ 198,501
Gwinnett	11	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 52,670	\$ 192,460
Macon	5	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 50,012	\$ 189,802
Clayton	5	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 189,790
Blue Ridge	3	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 189,790
Griffin	5	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 189,790
Coweta	7	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 189,790
Waycross	4	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 49,920	\$ 189,710
Chattahoochee	7	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 49,535	\$ 189,325
Bell-Forsyth	3	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 49,500	\$ 189,290
Flint	4	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 49,500	\$ 189,290
Atlantic	4	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 48,600	\$ 188,390
Douglas	3	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 47,784	\$ 187,574
Cherokee	4	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 184,790
Alcovy	5	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 43,808	\$ 183,598
Houston	3	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 43,369	\$ 183,159
Ogeechee	4	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 194,790
Western	4	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 41,449	\$ 181,239
Appalachian	3	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 40,800	\$ 180,590
Southern	5	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 179,790
South Georgia	2	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 179,790
Rome	4	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 37,051	\$ 176,841
Alapaha	2	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 36,000	\$ 175,790
Piedmont	4	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 34,064	\$ 173,854
Tifton	2	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 32,800	\$ 172,590
Paulding	3	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 30,500	\$ 170,290
Dougherty	3	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 30,500	\$ 170,290
Mountain	2	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 28,947	\$ 168,737
Rockdale	2	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 25,253	\$ 165,043
Conasauga	4	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 164,790
Northern	3	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 24,600	\$ 164,390
Dublin	3	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 24,000	\$ 163,790
Middle	2	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 24,000	\$ 163,790
Ocmulgee	5	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 24,000	\$ 163,790
Oconee	3	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 24,000	\$ 163,790
Tallapoosa	2	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 24,000	\$ 163,790
Southwestern	3	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 23,855	\$ 163,645
Towaliga	2	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 21,000	\$ 160,790
Cordele	3	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 159,790
Enotah	3	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 159,790
Lookout Mountain	4	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 155,790
Pataula	2	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 151,790
Toombs	2	\$ 126,265	\$ 2,525.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 151,790

Appendix G: 2016 to 2022 Supplement Comparison (Superior Court)

Circuit	2016 Supplement	2022 Supplement	% Increase	Increase?
Augusta	\$ 75,200	\$ 80,200	6.6%	yes
Columbia		\$ 80,200		
Cobb	\$ 73,614	\$ 73,614	0.0%	no
Eastern	\$ 66,084	\$ 66,084	0.0%	no
Northeastern	\$ 65,790	\$ 65,790	0.0%	no
Brunswick	\$ 64,624	\$ 64,624	0.0%	no
Stone Mountain	\$ 58,711	\$ 58,711	0.0%	no
Gwinnett	\$ 52,670	\$ 52,670	0.0%	no
Macon	\$ 49,996	\$ 50,012	0.0%	yes
Clayton	\$ 37,000	\$ 50,000	35.1%	yes
Atlanta	\$ 49,748	\$ 72,112	45.0%	yes
Bell-Forsyth	\$ 25,000	\$ 49,500	98.0%	yes
Chattahoochee	\$ 45,386	\$ 49,535	9.1%	yes
Douglas	\$ 45,700	\$ 47,784	4.6%	yes
Blue Ridge	\$ 25,750	\$ 50,000	94.2%	yes
Cherokee	\$ 32,300	\$ 45,000	39.3%	yes
Alcovy	\$ 38,992	\$ 43,808	12.4%	yes
Griffin	\$ 36,000	\$ 50,000	38.9%	yes
Ogeechee	\$ 41,490	\$ 55,000	32.6%	yes
Western	\$ 40,840	\$ 41,449	1.5%	yes
Houston	\$ 36,177	\$ 43,369	19.9%	yes
Southern	\$ 25,000	\$ 40,000	60.0%	yes
Appalachian	\$ 30,446	\$ 40,800	34.0%	yes
Flint	\$ 36,130	\$ 49,500	37.0%	yes
Rome	\$ 24,030	\$ 37,051	54.2%	yes
Piedmont	\$ 27,812	\$ 34,064	22.5%	yes
Paulding	\$ 30,500	\$ 30,500	0.0%	no
Atlantic	\$ 25,800	\$ 48,600	88.4%	yes
Coweta	\$ 30,000	\$ 50,000	66.7%	yes
Waycross	\$ 29,255	\$ 49,920	70.6%	yes
South Georgia	\$ 28,020	\$ 40,000	42.8%	yes
Dougherty	\$ 27,861	\$ 30,500	9.5%	yes
Mountain	\$ 25,517	\$ 28,947	13.4%	yes
Rockdale	\$ 23,953	\$ 25,253	5.4%	yes
Northern	\$ 24,600	\$ 24,600	0.0%	no
Dublin	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000	0.0%	no
Middle	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000	0.0%	no
Ocmulgee	\$ 18,000	\$ 24,000	33.3%	yes
Oconee	\$ 20,000	\$ 24,000	20.0%	yes
Tallapoosa	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000	0.0%	no
Conasauga	\$ 23,400	\$ 25,000	6.8%	yes
Southwestern	\$ 20,854	\$ 23,855	14.4%	yes
Towaliga	\$ 21,000	\$ 21,000	0.0%	no
Enotah	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	0.0%	no
Cordele	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	0.0%	no
Pataula	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	0.0%	no
Toombs	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	0.0%	no
Tifton	\$ 17,400	\$ 32,800	88.5%	yes
Lookout Mountain	\$ 15,000	\$ 16,000	6.7%	yes
Alapaha	-	\$ 36,000		yes

Appendix H: 2021 to 2022 Supplement Comparison (Superior Court)

Circuit	2021 County Supplement	2022 County Supplement	% Increase	Increase?
Augusta	\$ 80,200	\$ 80,200	0%	no
Columbia	\$ 80,200	\$ 80,200	0%	no
Cobb	\$ 73,614	\$ 73,614	0%	no
Eastern	\$ 66,084	\$ 66,084	0%	no
Northeastern	\$ 65,790	\$ 65,790	0%	no
Brunswick	\$ 64,623	\$ 64,624	0%	yes
Waycross	\$ 49,920	\$ 49,920	0%	no
Stone Mountain	\$ 58,711	\$ 58,711	0%	no
Gwinnett	\$ 52,670	\$ 52,670	0%	no
Macon	\$ 50,012	\$ 50,012	0%	no
Clayton	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	0%	no
Atlanta	\$ 49,748	\$ 72,112	45%	yes
Bell-Forsyth	\$ 49,500	\$ 49,500	0%	no
Chattahoochee	\$ 49,238	\$ 49,535	1%	yes
Douglas	\$ 47,784	\$ 47,784	0%	no
Blue Ridge	\$ 46,525	\$ 50,000	7%	yes
Cherokee	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	0%	no
Alcovy	\$ 43,808	\$ 43,808	0%	no
Griffin	\$ 43,000	\$ 50,000	16%	yes
Ogeechee	\$ 41,490	\$ 55,000	33%	yes
Western	\$ 41,449	\$ 41,449	0%	no
Houston	\$ 40,532	\$ 43,369	7%	yes
Southern	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	0%	no
Appalachian	\$ 38,858	\$ 40,800	5%	yes
Flint	\$ 36,000	\$ 49,500	38%	yes
Rome	\$ 35,000	\$ 37,051	6%	yes
Piedmont	\$ 33,630	\$ 34,064	1%	yes
Paulding	\$ 30,500	\$ 30,500	0%	no
Atlantic	\$ 30,000	\$ 48,600	62%	yes
Coweta	\$ 30,000	\$ 50,000	67%	yes
South Georgia	\$ 28,000	\$ 40,000	43%	yes
Dougherty	\$ 27,000	\$ 30,500	13%	yes
Mountain	\$ 25,517	\$ 28,947	13%	yes
Rockdale	\$ 25,253	\$ 25,253	0%	no
Northern	\$ 24,600	\$ 24,600	0%	no
Dublin	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000	0%	no
Middle	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000	0%	no
Ocmulgee	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000	0%	no
Oconee	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000	0%	no
Tallapoosa	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000	0%	no
Conasauga	\$ 23,400	\$ 25,000	7%	yes
Towaliga	\$ 21,000	\$ 21,000	0%	no
Southwestern	\$ 20,855	\$ 23,855	14%	yes
Cordele	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	0%	no
Enotah	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	0%	no
Tifton	\$ 17,400	\$ 32,800	89%	yes
Lookout Mountain	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	0%	no
Pataula	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	0%	no
Toombs	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	0%	no
Alapaha	\$ -	\$ 36,000		yes

Appendix I: Legal Basis for Judicial Salaries in Other States

Contiguous States			
State	How Salaries are Set	Salary Escalation?	Means of Escalation
Alabama	Set by statute	Yes	Longevity increases of 7.5% upon each re-election up to 18 years (six-year terms)
Florida	Set annually by appropriations	No	
Georgia	Set by statute	No	Eligible to receive pay raises received by other State employees at the will of the General Assembly
North Carolina	Set by Appropriations Act	Yes	Longevity raises which start at 4.8% after 5 years and max out at 24% after 25 years
South Carolina	Set annually by appropriations (salaries set by % of Justices of the Supreme Court)	No	
Tennessee	Computational, base salary set in statute adjusted annually based on CPI	Yes	Annual adjustment based on CPI, capped at 5% unless CPI increase exceeds 10%

Similar Population States			
State	How Salaries are Set	Salary Escalation?	Means of Escalation
Illinois	Computational, formerly set by Compensation Board	Yes	COLA based on Employment Cost Index, up to 5%
Ohio	Set by statute	Yes	1.75% yearly increase from 2020-2028 set via Appropriations Bill
Georgia	Set by statute	No	Eligible to receive pay raises received by other State employees at the will of the General Assembly
North Carolina	Set by Appropriations Act	Yes	Longevity raises which start at 4.8% after 5 years and max out at 24% after 25 years
New Jersey	Set by statute	Yes	Beginning in 2021 automatic adjustments based on CPI, capped at 2%
Virginia	Set by Appropriations Act	No	

Appendix J: Assistant District Attorney State Pay Scale effective
6/01/2022

Step	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4
1	\$ 56,250	\$ 67,233	\$ 81,301	\$ 97,660
2	\$ 57,788	\$ 69,729	\$ 83,592	\$ 100,438
3	\$ 59,889	\$ 72,312	\$ 86,734	\$ 104,256
4	\$ 62,093	\$ 75,008	\$ 90,008	\$ 108,218
5	\$ 63,528	\$ 76,760	\$ 92,135	\$ 112,353
6	\$ 64,983	\$ 78,544	\$ 94,303	\$ 115,572
7	\$ 66,480	\$ 80,379	\$ 96,543	\$ 117,786
8	\$ 68,017	\$ 82,265	\$ 98,370	Locked
9	\$ 69,596	\$ 84,197	\$ 100,248	Locked
10	\$ 71,215	\$ 86,180	\$ 102,144	Locked
11	\$ 72,865	\$ 88,210	\$ 103,400	Locked
Locked Steps are reserved pending future funding availability				

*Information provided by PAC

Appendix K: District Attorney Total Compensation

Circuit	Statutory Base (OCGA 45-7-4(21))	Merit Increase	FY22/23 COLA	State Accountability Court Supplement	Circuit Supplement	Total Compensation
Cobb	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 80,912.00	\$ 214,385
Atlanta	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 72,112.00	\$ 205,585
Macon	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 55,643.00	\$ 189,116
Gwinnett	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 52,670.00	\$ 186,143
Northeastern	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 51,139.00	\$ 184,612
Flint	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 49,500.00	\$ 182,973
Stone Mountain	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 49,241.72	\$ 182,715
Blue Ridge	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 46,525.00	\$ 179,998
Douglas	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 46,421.00	\$ 179,894
Clayton	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 45,880.00	\$ 179,353
Brunswick	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 39,224.00	\$ 172,697
Augusta	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 38,000.00	\$ 171,473
Columbia	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 38,000.00	\$ 171,473
Cherokee	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 36,000.00	\$ 169,473
Chattahoochee	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 31,000.00	\$ 164,473
Paulding	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 30,500.00	\$ 163,973
Appalachian	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 163,473
Rome	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 26,980.20	\$ 160,454
Western	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 157,473
Southern	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 22,500.00	\$ 155,973
Atlantic	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 21,600.00	\$ 155,073
Towaliga	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 154,473
Dublin	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 153,473
Rockdale	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 18,094.00	\$ 151,567
Coweta	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 151,473
Dougherty	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 151,473
Oconee	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 151,473
Tallapoosa	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 17,953.00	\$ 151,426
Houston	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 15,585.00	\$ 149,058
Griffin	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 148,473
Alcovy	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 14,472.00	\$ 147,945
Waycross	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 145,473
Bell-Forsyth	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 10,041.00	\$ 143,514
Toombs	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 9,600.00	\$ 143,073
Cordele	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 8,004.00	\$ 141,477
South Georgia	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 141,473
Tifton	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,667.00	\$ 140,140
Piedmont	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,424.00	\$ 139,897
Lookout Mountain	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 139,473
Conasauga	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 138,873
Mountain	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 2,404.00	\$ 135,877
Alapaha	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	-	\$ 133,473
Enotah	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	-	\$ 133,473
Northern	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	-	\$ 133,473
Pataula	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	-	\$ 133,473
Southwestern	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	-	\$ 133,473
Eastern	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	Answered yes on ACCG Survey no figure provided	\$ 133,473
Middle	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	No response, \$26,000 in 2016	\$ 133,473
Ocmulgee	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	No response, \$9,050 in 2016	\$ 133,473
Ogeechee	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	No Reponse, \$6,000 in 2016	\$ 133,473

Appendix L: Circuit Public Defender Total Compensation

Circuit	Statutory Base (OCGA 17-12-25 (HB1391))	Merit Increase	FY22/23 COLA	State Accountability Court Supplement	Circuit Supplement	Total Compensation
Atlanta	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 72,112	\$ 205,585
Northeastern	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 52,139	\$ 185,612
Flint	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 49,500	\$ 182,973
Macon	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 43,000	\$ 176,473
Eastern	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 173,473
Brunswick	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 36,000	\$ 169,473
Augusta	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 32,900	\$ 166,373
Columbia	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 163,473
Cherokee	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 26,467	\$ 159,940
Coweta	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 26,000	\$ 159,473
Atlantic	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 158,473
Chattahoochee	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 22,000	\$ 155,473
Towaliga	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 21,000	\$ 154,473
Rome	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 20,570	\$ 154,043
Paulding	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 151,473
Mountain	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 148,473
Southern	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 14,300	\$ 147,773
Pataula	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 145,473
Dougherty	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 143,473
Griffin	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 143,473
Middle	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 143,473
Oconee	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 143,473
Piedmont	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 142,473
Alcovy	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 139,473
Northern	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 139,473
Toombs	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 139,473
Rockdale	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 138,473
Western	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 138,473
Tallapoosa	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,500	\$ 136,973
Alapaha	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	-	\$ 133,473
Appalachian	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	-	\$ 133,473
Clayton	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	-	\$ 133,473
Conasauga	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	-	\$ 133,473
Cordele	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	-	\$ 133,473
Dublin	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	-	\$ 133,473
Enotah	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	-	\$ 133,473
Lookout Mountain	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	-	\$ 133,473
Ocmulgee	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	-	\$ 133,473
Ogeechee	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	-	\$ 133,473
Southwestern	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	-	\$ 133,473
Stone Mountain	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	-	\$ 133,473
Tifton	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	-	\$ 133,473
Waycross	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	-	\$ 133,473
Bell-Forsyth	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	OPT OUT	OPT OUT
Blue Ridge	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	OPT OUT	OPT OUT
Cobb	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	OPT OUT	OPT OUT
Douglas	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	OPT OUT	OPT OUT
Gwinnett	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	OPT OUT	OPT OUT
Houston	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	OPT OUT	OPT OUT
South Georgia	\$ 120,072	\$ 2,401	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	no response	no response

TAB 7



Judicial Council of Georgia

Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Director

Memorandum

TO: Council of Municipal Court Judges

FROM: Judge Stephen Kelley, Co-Chair

RE: Committee Report - Judicial Council Standing Committee on Technology

DATE: November 22, 2022

The Judicial Council Standing Committee on Technology met on Thursday, November 17, 2022. The following report reflects matters and topics discussed during that meeting.

Gateway Sub-Committee – Mr. Ben Luke, Sub-Committee member

Mr. Luke provided an update on the Judicial Gateway. Mobile traffic continues to be the primary source of arrival to the site, which will be a focus of the Gateway redesign. As previously discussed, and approved, the Gateway will begin its update process in January 2023. The process will include the creation of a sub-committee to provide feedback and functionality input.

New Business

Automated Data Collection project-Mrs. Stephanie Hines

Mrs. Hines shared that the ADC project has received funding from a federal grant, which will be able to account for technical resource costs and personnel. The subcommittee has also been working to create a case management certification process to ensure the vendors align with needs. Mr. BeMent continued the discussion, explaining that the certification will initially focus on the case count data, and will be voluntary.

AOC Updates-Mr. Ben Luke

Mr. Luke provided an update on the Administrative Office of the Courts' technology projects. He provided the Committee with a brief update on the developed virtual calendar call product. VCC is currently in live beta testing with one Superior Court. He also shared that the GCR product, which supports court professionals, is receiving modernization and moving to newer technology. Additionally, Mr. Luke shared that the AOC would continue to support judicial staff with training and a technology trends newsletter.

GCIC POR project-Judge Emerson,

Judge Emerson led the Committee in a discussion regarding the protective order project. He shared the protective order code section that will be potentially involved and how the process would function considering the code requirements. Many areas need review and consideration, including the possibility of creating legislation and guidelines for GCIC. The Committee engaged in a healthy discussion about how best to move forward.

Strategic Plan- Judge Kelley

Judge Kelley engaged the Committee in a discussion about participating in the JC strategic plan more closely, which would assist with setting goals and objectives to guide committee work. Judge Kelley will work to create a sub-committee to engage and continue the discussion.

SB 441 Update, Mike Holiman

Mr. Holiman provided the Committee with an update on SB 441. CDX board has held three meetings, with an upcoming meeting in early December to finalize the mandated standards. The board has also shown a detailed presentation of the CDX hub and has a meeting scheduled to discuss further how this project could support the current work of the Judicial Council.

Next Meeting

The next committee meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2023.

TAB 8



Judicial Council of Georgia

Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Director

Memorandum

TO: Judicial Council
FROM: Justice Shawn Ellen LaGrúa and Chief Judge Russell McClelland, Co-chairs
RE: Update - Judicial COVID-19 Task Force
DATE: November 16, 2022

The Judicial COVID-19 Task Force last met on November 2 and is next scheduled to meet on December 14. The working group leaders are completing their final edits to the draft of the “Pandemic Emergency Bench Book: Courts and Public Health During a State of Emergency.”

Once the final edits have been compiled, the draft will be distributed to the wider Task Force for review (expected date of November 18). For reference, the working group leaders are as follows:

- Criminal Working Group – Judge Kathlene Gosselin and Judge Ken Hodges
- Civil Working Group - Elizabeth Fite, Past-President of the Georgia State Bar
- Family Working Group – Judge Paige Whitaker
- Technical Working Group – Chief Judge Rob Leonard

The Task Force expects to have a final draft submitted to the Court for their review and approval by December 31, 2022. Once approved, the bench book will be formatted by the AOC Communications team for submission to the Judicial Council at its February 11, 2023, meeting.

TAB 9



Judicial Council of Georgia

Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Director

Date: November 22, 2022

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 FY23, the Amended FY23, and the FY24 budget requests.

Fiscal Year 2023 Judicial Council Budget and Financial Report as of November 4, 2022

The Judicial Council Budget and Financial Report is attached for review.

Amended Fiscal Year 2023 and Fiscal Year 2024 Judicial Council Budget Requests

The Standing Committee on Budget is preparing presentations for the House and Senate Appropriations subcommittee meetings during the 2023 legislative session.

Amended Fiscal Year 2023 (AFY23)

The Judicial Council has three enhancement requests for AFY23. The Budget requests are:

- 1) Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts, \$70,000 for the Automated Data Collection Project
- 2) Institute of Continuing Judicial Education (ICJE), \$7,300 for the \$5k COLA for a newly approved position
- 3) ICJE, \$64,077 to fully fund ICJE's operational budget

If the Legislature approves the requests, the Judicial Council Budget will increase \$141,377; from \$19,248,576 to \$19,389,953.

Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24)

The Judicial Council has seven enhancement requests for FY2024. The budget requests are:

- 1) Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts, \$228,924 for two policy positions for the AOC

- 2) Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts, \$20,000 for the Automated Data Collection Project
- 3) Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts, \$500,000 for grants to support self-help centers
- 4) Standing Committee on Grants, \$619,000 for grants for civil legal services to support medical-legal partnerships across the State
- 5) Council of Accountability Court Judges, \$97,331 for one MAT Statewide Coordinator position
- 6) Institute of Continuing Judicial Education (ICJE), \$7,300 for the \$5k COLA for a newly approved position
- 7) ICJE, \$148,980 to fully fund ICJE's operational budget

If the Legislature approves the requests, the Judicial Council Budget will increase \$1,621,535; from \$19,248,576 to \$20,870,111.

Attachments:

Fiscal Year 2023 Judicial Council Budget and Financial Report as of November 4, 2022

Fiscal Year 2023 - Judicial Council Operations
November 4, 2022

Department	Project	FY 2023 Budget	YTD Expenditures	Remaining	Budget Spent
Director's Division	101	\$ 1,358,184	\$ 445,493	\$ 912,691	33%
Judicial Council Operations	102	\$ 48,878	\$ 11,076	\$ 37,802	23%
Gov and Trial Court Liaison	105	\$ 678,166	\$ 189,645	\$ 488,521	28%
Office of Court Professionals	106	\$ 315,592	\$ 54,508	\$ 261,084	17%
Human Resources	107	\$ 17,000	\$ 1,444	\$ 15,556	8%
Court Process Reporting System	109	\$ 194,183	\$ 80,000	\$ 114,183	41%
AOC Operations	110	\$ 341,062	\$ 175,276	\$ 165,786	51%
Financial Administration Div.	111	\$ 956,722	\$ 276,560	\$ 680,162	29%
AOC Administration	112	\$ 155,113	\$ 23,162	\$ 131,951	15%
Research and Data Analysis	130	\$ 759,671	\$ 200,196	\$ 559,475	26%
Publications	150	\$ 324,247	\$ 93,421	\$ 230,826	29%
Justice for Child. Cash Match	173	\$ 315,290	\$ 95,817	\$ 219,473	30%
Family Law Information Center	176	\$ 49,266	\$ 49,266	\$ -	100%
Technology Administration	190	\$ 897,332	\$ 212,334	\$ 684,998	24%
Data Management Services	191	\$ 967,326	\$ 277,522	\$ 689,804	29%
Technology Infrastructure	192	\$ 278,621	\$ 86,194	\$ 192,427	31%
Technology Support Services	193	\$ 288,050	\$ 56,128	\$ 231,922	19%
DJJ Juvenile Data Reporting	208	\$ 259,129	\$ 108,197	\$ 150,932	42%
Cold Case Program	209	\$ 175,033	\$ 81,000	\$ 94,033	46%
Public Access and Fairness	210	\$ 183,273	\$ 12,813	\$ 170,460	7%
Administrative Office of The Courts		\$ 8,562,138	\$ 2,530,051	\$ 6,032,087	30%
Legal Services for Domestic Violence	103	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 2,910,002	\$ 89,998	97%
Georgia Council of Court Administrators	141	\$ 16,389	\$ -	\$ 16,389	0%
Council of Municipal Court Judges	142	\$ 13,919	\$ 1,521	\$ 12,398	11%
Child Support Collaborative	174	\$ 134,425	\$ 42,714	\$ 91,711.45	32%
Council of Magistrate Court Judges	204	\$ 211,066	\$ 62,096	\$ 148,970	29%
Council of Probate Court Judges	205	\$ 205,754	\$ 64,519	\$ 141,235	31%

Council of State Court Judges	206	\$	279,450	\$	77,853	\$	201,597	28%
Council of State Court Judges Ret.	207	\$	2,588,814	\$	18,746	\$	2,570,068	1%
Legal Services for Kinship Care Families	1103	\$	750,000	\$	727,515	\$	22,485	97%
Other Judicial Council Subprograms			\$ 7,199,817		\$ 3,904,965		\$ 3,294,852	54%
Accountability Court Council	195	\$	689,944	\$	114,554	\$	575,390	17%
CACJ-Peer Review Process	199	\$	122,374	\$	11,217	\$	111,157	9%
Inst of Continuing Jud Ed Administration	301	\$	642,932	\$	149,800	\$	493,132	23%
Judicial Qualifications Commission	400	\$	1,231,371	\$	336,281	\$	895,090	27%
Resource Center	500	\$	800,000	\$	333,333	\$	466,667	42%
Separate Judicial Council Programs			\$ 3,486,621		\$ 945,185		\$ 2,541,436	27%
TOTAL JUDICIAL COUNCIL			\$ 19,248,576		\$ 7,380,201		\$ 11,868,375	38%

TAB 10



Judicial Council of Georgia

Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Director

Memorandum

TO: Judicial Council of Georgia

FROM: Judge Sara L. Doyle, Chair

RE: Strategic Plan Standing Committee Report

DATE: November 16, 2022

The Strategic Plan Standing Committee met on November 8, 2022, closing out several outstanding key initiatives thus completing much of the strategic plan. While marked “completed,” several of these initiatives will be carried over and renewed beyond the current plan.

The Committee, which was created in 2019, has met over the last 4 years to develop and guide strategic planning efforts for the Judicial Council. The current Committee and the strategic plan will expire June 30, 2023.

The Committee plans to meet with the future strategic plan committee, once created, in 2023 to transition strategic planning efforts and brainstorm objectives.

The strategic plan and a status summary of its initiatives are attached.

Judicial Council of Georgia
Strategic Plan Status Summary

Key Initiative		Status
1.1 Modernize the regulations of Court professionals	Measurable action: Monitor and assist with the update of rules and regulations regarding Court Reporters and Court Interpreters (MT)	Complete. The Judicial Council Standing Committee on Interpreters, formerly the Supreme Court Commission on Interpreters, is finalizing new rules with plans to have the rules effective January 1, 2023.
	Measurable action: Report back to the Judicial Council (LT)	The Judicial Council has approved proposed court reporting legislation. The Court Reporting Matters Committee and AOC Staff continue to refine the legislation. The legislation updates outdated statutes and addresses digital court reporting.
1.2 Increase resources for public accessibility	Measurable action: Flesh out what public accessibility means (ST)	Complete. The following aspirational statement for public accessibility was adopted on 11/17/2020: That a person who is facing a legal issue has timely and affordable access to the level of legal help they need to get a fair outcome on their legal issue and will leave feeling that they were treated fairly.
	Measurable action: Frame what it would look like to help citizens with public accessibility as defined (MT)	Complete. Resources to help self-represented litigants are collected and posted on the Georgia Courts website. See: https://georgiacourts.gov/a2j/self-help-resources-highlighted-by-a2j/ Scripts to help self-represented litigants use court forms have been created: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLh2Q20ObPLR-OE4CgD8unodZqhsKMTppO

Judicial Council of Georgia
Strategic Plan Status Summary

		<p>A Deaf and Hard of Hearing Benchcard was recreated in braille. Family Law forms have been created and automated. A Serving Self-Represented Litigants card was created for justice partners to use when assisting the public.</p> <p>Through the Access to Justice Committee, the AOC has hosted records restrictions clinic and has requested funding from the legislature for this work to fund self-help centers across the state.</p>
<p>1.3 Educate citizens on the use of case-related filing technology</p>	<p>Measurable action: Create a toolkit of existing resources citizens can access from one portal which will provide information on Court-related questions (LT)</p>	<p>Complete. The Judicial Council Standing Committee on Access to Justice has organized a webpage with self-help resources for pro se litigants including self-help videos and links to law libraries. The website continues to be updated. AOC is pursuing state funding for grants to self-help centers across the state. See: https://georgiacourts.gov/a2j/self-help-resources-highlighted-by-a2j/</p>
<p>1.4 Develop plan for public/self-represented party accessibility to Courts during crisis when physical access to courts are limited.</p>	<p>Measurable action: Analyze access and response issues of current crisis on each class of court. Collect the data differences between the technology used in urban and rural areas of the State. (ST)</p> <p>Measurable action: Create a planned response for each class of court according to technology capabilities to address public/self-</p>	<p>Complete. (Related to key initiative 2.4) A technology survey was sent to courts as part of a joint effort with the Standing Committee on Technology and Ad Hoc Committee on Improving Community Access to Legal Resources. Survey questions focused on court technology and law libraries. Survey results have been shared with the committees and courts.</p> <p>Complete. (Related to key initiative 1.2) The AOC, through the Judicial Council Ad Hoc Committee on Improving Community Access to Legal Resources and</p>

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	<p>represented party accessibility during crisis with limited physical access to the courts. (LT)</p>	<p>the Access to Justice Committee formed partnerships with judicial branch stakeholders to create self-help resources and videos. Self-help divorce forms were recently added after approval from the Council of Superior Court Judges.</p>
<p>2.1 Foster ongoing executive and legislative branch communications and initiatives of mutual interest</p>	<p>Measurable action: Monitor the communication and advocacy done on behalf of the Judiciary (ongoing)</p>	<p>Ongoing. During the 2021 legislative session, the AOC focused on developing new relationships with legislators with a focus on bipartisan outreach and outreach to lawyer legislators. AOC legislative staff are continuing to communicate to stakeholders in the executive and legislative branches and are engaging with legislators who are members or other Judicial Council Committees.</p>
<p>2.2 Improve the process for data collection and data integrity</p>	<p>Measurable action: Create a basic plan for the process of data collection to share with the various councils (MT)</p>	<p>Complete. The Automated Data Collection Subcommittee, a joint subcommittee of the Judicial Council Standing Committee on Judicial Workload Assessment and the Standing Committee on Technology reviewed data standards for case management systems throughout the state and a data standards document created by the National Open Court Data Standards (NODS), which includes data elements of all case types. The Subcommittee has made recommendations on what data elements are necessary for reporting.</p> <p>The AOC was awarded a Justice Counts Grant and plans to request funding for data collection efforts from the legislature to expand data collection efforts. The AOC will utilize the funding to enhance data collection efforts with data reported quarterly and automatically. and will work with vendors to include these elements in their</p>

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		systems to move closer to the goal of automated data collection.
	Measurable action: Share with the councils and stakeholders to obtain buy-in (LT)	Complete. Judicial Workload Assessment Committee Sub-Committee members have met with court groups including clerks and judges to settle on data fields.
2.3 Pursue flexibility and efficiency in judicial education	Measurable action: Study the possibilities for flexibility and efficiency in judicial education across different classes of court (MT)	Complete. ICJE hosts a number of continuing education classes online for flexibility including multi-court class courses. Courses are also available on ICJE’s website for resource viewing.
	Measurable action: Collaborate with ICJE to offer classes on topics requested by the Judicial Council such as sexual harassment prevention and ethics (MT)	Complete. ICJE has partnered with judicial branch stakeholders to add courses on topics such as preventing sexual harassment, judicial wellness, family violence training, judicial ethics, and legal writing.
	Measurable action: Compile and maintain a listing of all trainings sponsored or provided by the JC/AOC (ST)	Complete. AOC Staff continue to track trainings provided or sponsored by the AOC.
2.4 Improve technology access, support and training across all classes of courts.	Measurable action: Audit/Survey technology access, support and electronic capabilities across all class of courts, including identifying video and telephone conference platforms in use by each class of court. (ST)	Complete. A technology survey was sent to courts as part of a joint effort with the Standing Committee on Technology and Ad Hoc Committee on Improving Community Access to Legal Resources. Survey questions focused on court technology and law libraries. Survey results have been shared with the committees and courts.

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	<p>Measurable action: Collaborate with AOC and Councils to offer support and solutions to technology issues for courts without support or funding. (LT)</p>	<p>Complete. The AOC has partnered with the Council of Superior Court Judges to act as its managed services provider and is available to assist other judicial branch partners with technology needs. The AOC is also working with a national reseller of audio-visual equipment to develop a field guide and master price list for courtroom technology. The list will be tailored to Georgia courtrooms and general court room designs with set pricing. Courts can utilize this list to easily procure courtroom technology needs. The AOC has also partnered with other judicial branch entities to provide technology services and evaluate needs. Staff visit local courts to review needs and services.</p>
<p>Measurable action: Create resource (bench card) of best practices and options for video and teleconferencing proceedings – Rules of Engagement. (MT)</p>		
<p>Measurable action: Collaborate with ICJE to offer classes or online training on video conferencing particular to each class of court, including instructions on the use of video conferencing applications such as Web Ex, Zoom, Microsoft Teams. (LT)</p>	<p>Complete. The AOC currently maintains how-to videos on using court technology for virtual courtrooms. Courts have been utilizing this type of technology since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and have grown comfortable with using it.</p>	
<p>2.5 Support all classes of Court in crisis management response taking into consideration both rural and urban areas and socio-economic factors for courts.</p>	<p>Measurable action: Assist and support Councils for each class of court in identifying emergency functions and prioritizing other court functions that may be performed even during certain crisis situations. (LT)</p>	<p>Ongoing. The Judicial Council Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Emergency Preparedness is active with a mission of making sure the judiciary is prepared for several different scenarios including pandemics, weather emergencies, and technology failures. The Committee is focusing on core functions and responsibilities of courts and working on continuity of operations plans, including technology functions.</p>

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	Measurable action: Assist and support Councils for each class of court to create a well-defined emergency response plan. (MT)	
	Measurable action: Create reference guide to Pandemic issues in the Courts. (ST-MT)	Ongoing. The COVID-19 Task Force is updating the Pandemic Bench Guide with best practices learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. A draft of the guide is expected by the end of 2022
3.1 Develop a toolkit of wellness resources	Measurable action: Create a definition for “wellness” to be used when deciding which items belong in the toolkit (ST)	Complete. The following definition of wellness was adopted on 11/17/2020: Wellness is the intentional practice of healthy habits on a daily basis to attain improved physical, emotional, and mental health outcomes so that instead of just surviving, you're thriving
	Measurable action: Create the toolkit, which will be a compilation of resources to support “wellness”, possibly including State Bar resources among others (LT)	Complete. A toolkit for wellness resources has been created and will continue to be updated: https://georgiacourtsjournal.org/wellness/
3.2 Communicate and promote the toolkit	Measurable action: Leverage relationships with ICJE and each Council to offer training on the toolkit to each Council for one year (LT)	Complete. As part of a partnership between the State Bar of Georgia, the Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism, and the Judicial Council of Georgia, a series of CLE sessions on wellness have taken place. The AOC has also partnered with ICJE to offer wellness based sessions at council conferences.

Judicial Council of Georgia
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	Measurable action: Develop feedback survey for the trainings (LT)	Complete. ICJE uses their standard class evaluation for measuring feedback and shares those results with all parties.
	Measurable action: Encourage a “wellness” event at each Judicial Council and court council meeting (LT)	Complete. AOC has partnered with judicial branch stakeholders to hold wellness events. See: https://youtu.be/8nf0FJZE7Pw and https://youtu.be/qCAScjQ9sGw as examples of wellness events.
4.1 Support Judges in Community Engagement	Measurable action: Continue to create and gather positive stories about the judiciary (ongoing)	Complete. AOC staff will continue to create and gather positive stories about the work of GA judges and courts and publish them via the Courts Journal and social media. See: https://georgiacourtsjournal.org/
	Measurable action: Develop practical rules for social media engagement (ST)	Complete. AOC staff published an article on practical rules for social media engagement for any judges thinking of starting social media outreach. https://georgiacourtsjournal.org/2020/03/25/thoughts-on-social-media-for-judges/
4.2 Develop a clearinghouse of resources for community engagement	Measurable action: Create the clearinghouse, which will be a compilation of existing resources members of the Judiciary can access when participating in community-facing programs (MT)	Complete. The AOC maintains a clearinghouse of resources for judges to utilize when engaging with their communities. New content continues to be added. The clearinghouse can be found here: https://georgiacourtsjournal.org/community-engagement-civics-resource-clearinghouse/ .
4.3 Communicate and promote the clearinghouse	Measurable action: Set a schedule for communicating the clearinghouse; set a calendar with events to support community	Complete. AOC staff continue to promote the community engagement clearinghouse content on social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube). Staff plan events annually for Constitution Day, Bill of Rights Day, Read-A-Loud Day, and Law Day.

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	engagement (i.e. Constitution Day; book month) (LT)	
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Judicial Council of Georgia

STRATEGIC PLAN

FY 2020-2023
Revised

VISION

To improve justice in all Georgia courts through **collaboration, innovation, and information.**

MISSION

The Judicial Council and AOC lead collaboration on policy across Georgia's courts to **improve the administration of justice in Georgia.**

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Uphold the independence and integrity of the judiciary.

Promote efficient and effective administration of justice.

Use data to lead to data-driven services and programs for the Judicial Branch.

Collaborate and communicate with key stakeholders in judicial, executive, and legislative branches.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

1 IMPROVE CITIZEN EXPERIENCE WITH GEORGIA COURTS

KEY INITIATIVES

1.1 Modernize the regulations of Court professionals

Measurable action: Monitor and assist with the update of rules and regulations regarding Court Reporters and Court Interpreters. (MT)

Measurable action: Report back to the Judicial Council. (LT)

1.2 Increase resources for public accessibility

Measurable action: Flesh out what public accessibility means. (ST)

Measurable action: Frame what it would look like to help citizens with public accessibility as defined. (MT)

1.3 Educate citizens on the use of case-related filing technology

Measurable action: Create a toolkit of existing resources citizens can access from one portal which will provide information on Court-related questions. (LT)

1.4 Develop plan for public/self-represented party accessibility to courts during crisis when physical access to courts are limited

Measurable action: Analyze access and response issues of current crisis on each class of court. Collect the data differences between the technology used in urban and rural areas of the State. (ST)

Measurable action: Create a planned response for each class of court according to technology capabilities to address public/self-represented party accessibility during crisis with limited physical access to the courts. (LT)



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

2

IMPROVE COLLABORATION AND PLANNING

KEY INITIATIVES

2.1 Foster ongoing executive and legislative branch communications and initiatives of mutual interest

Measurable action: Monitor the communication and advocacy done on behalf of the Judiciary. (ongoing)

2.2 Improve the process for data collection and data integrity

Measurable action: Create basic plan for the process of data collection to share with the various councils. (MT)

Measurable action: Share with the councils and stakeholders to obtain buy-in. (LT)

2.3 Pursue flexibility and efficiency in judicial education

Measurable action: Study the possibilities for flexibility and efficiency in judicial education across different classes of court. (MT)

Measurable action: Collaborate with ICJE to offer classes on topics requested by the Judicial Council such as sexual harassment prevention and ethics. (MT)

Measurable action: Compile and maintain a listing of all trainings sponsored or provided by the JC/AOC. (ST)

2.4 Improve technology access, support and training across all classes of courts

Measurable action: Audit/Survey technology access, support and electronic capabilities across all class of courts, including identifying video and telephone conference platforms in use by each class of court. (ST)

Measurable action: Collaborate with AOC and Councils to offer support and solutions to technology issues for courts without support or funding. (LT)

Measurable action: Create resource (bench card) of best practices and options for video and teleconferencing proceedings – Rules of Engagement. (MT)

Measurable action: Collaborate with ICJE to offer classes or online training on video conferencing particular to each class of court, including instructions on the use of video conferencing applications such as Web Ex, Zoom, Microsoft Teams. (LT)

2.5 Support all classes of Court in crisis management response taking into consideration both rural and urban areas and socio-economic factors for courts

Measurable action: Assist and support Councils for each class of court in identifying emergency functions and prioritizing other court functions that may be performed even during certain crisis situations. (LT)

Measurable action: Assist and support Councils for each class of court to create a well-defined emergency response plan. (MT)

Measurable action: Create reference guide to Pandemic issues in the Courts. (ST–MT)

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

3

PROMOTE THE WELLBEING, HEALTH, AND INTEGRITY OF THE JUDICIARY

KEY INITIATIVES

3.1 Develop a toolkit of wellness resources

Measurable action: Create a definition for “wellness” to be used when deciding which items belong in the toolkit. (ST)

Measurable action: Create the toolkit, which will be a compilation of resources to support “wellness”, possibly including State Bar resources among others. (LT)

3.2 Communicate and promote the toolkit

Measurable action: Leverage relationships with ICJE and each Council to offer training on the toolkit to each Council for one year. (LT)

Measurable action: Develop feedback survey for the trainings. (LT)

Measurable action: Encourage a “wellness” event at each Judicial Council and court meeting. (LT)

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4

4

ENHANCE THE PROFESSIONAL AND ETHICAL IMAGE OF THE JUDICIARY

KEY INITIATIVES

4.1 Support judges in community engagement

Measurable action: Continue to create and gather positive stories about the judiciary. (ongoing)

Measurable action: Develop practical rules for social media engagement. (ST)

4.2 Develop a clearinghouse of resources for community engagement

Measurable action: Create the clearinghouse, which will be a compilation of existing resources members of the Judiciary can access when participating in community-facing programs. (MT)

4.3 Communicate and promote the clearinghouse

Measurable action: Set a schedule for communicating the clearinghouse; set a calendar with events to support community engagement. (LT)

TAB 11



Judicial Council of Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Director

Judicial Council of Georgia Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Emergency Preparedness

Purpose

The Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Emergency Preparedness was established with the mission of coordinating the accreditation plan for Continuity of Government for the Georgia Judicial Branch. The Committee was tasked with creating a comprehensive plan that contemplates thirteen identified hazards and the processes, protocols, and succession plans for continuing court operations if they occur, as outlined by the federal and Georgia emergency management agencies.

The Committee includes judges from the various classes of court and State Bar representatives, and obtains input from key stakeholders, including the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency, prosecutors and public defenders, civil plaintiff and defense attorneys, clerks of court, sheriffs, and the public. Judge Trea Pipkin and Judge Amanda Petty co-chair the Committee.

Current Status

The Committee was divided into five subcommittees, each assigned a specific task to complete for the comprehensive plan. Subcommittees were assigned leadership (see list below) and have been meeting regularly since early summer.

- Subcommittee 1: Situation and Assumptions
 - Focus – Assumptions on continuity requirements and existing government infrastructures
 - Chuck Boring, Chair and Robert Smith, Vice-Chair
- Subcommittee 2: Functional Roles and Responsibilities
 - Focus – Outlining specific functions and determining who is responsible for those services
 - Judge Kasper, Chair and Stan Cooper, Vice-Chair
- Subcommittee 3: Logistics Support and Resource Requirements
 - Focus – Required logistics support, including communications, with a focus on implementing the Continuity of Operations Plans
 - Judge Richardson, Chair and Lynne Moore Nelson, Vice-Chair
- Subcommittee 4: Concept of Operations
 - Focus – Continuity of Operations initiation and operations plan with best practices for lower courts
 - Elizabeth Fite, Chair and Justice LaGrua, Vice-Chair

- Subcommittee 5: Maintenance Process
 - Focus – Creating a process for review and revision
 - Alison Earles, Chair and Ashleigh Merchant, Vice-Chair

Next Steps

Over the next few weeks, each subcommittee will begin finalizing their individual plans. The Committee's spring focus will be on bringing each component together for one final document. The next meeting of the full Committee is on December 13, 2022.

TAB 12



Judicial Council of Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs

Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton

Director

Memorandum

TO: Judicial Council of Georgia
FROM: Darron J. Enns, Assistant General Counsel
Judicial Council of Georgia/Administrative Office of the Courts
RE: Judicial Council appointees to Superior Court Clerks Training Council
DATE: November 4, 2022

To prepare the attached organizational chart, the creating statutes of certain State government entities were reviewed for a legal or operational affiliation with either the Supreme Court of Georgia or the Judicial Council of Georgia. The result of this review determined that OCGA § 15-6-50.1 requires the Judicial Council to appoint three superior court judges to the Superior Court Clerks Training Council (highlighted in the attached chart) as nonvoting members.

The relevant text of OCGA § 15-6-50.1 is as follows:

“(a) The Superior Court Clerks Training Council is established. The council shall consist of nine voting members and three nonvoting members and shall be composed as follows:
(1) Nine voting members shall be elected to terms of four years by the members of the Superior Court Clerks Association of Georgia or its successor organization; and
(2) Three nonvoting members shall be judges of the superior courts appointed to terms of four years by the Judicial Council of Georgia.”

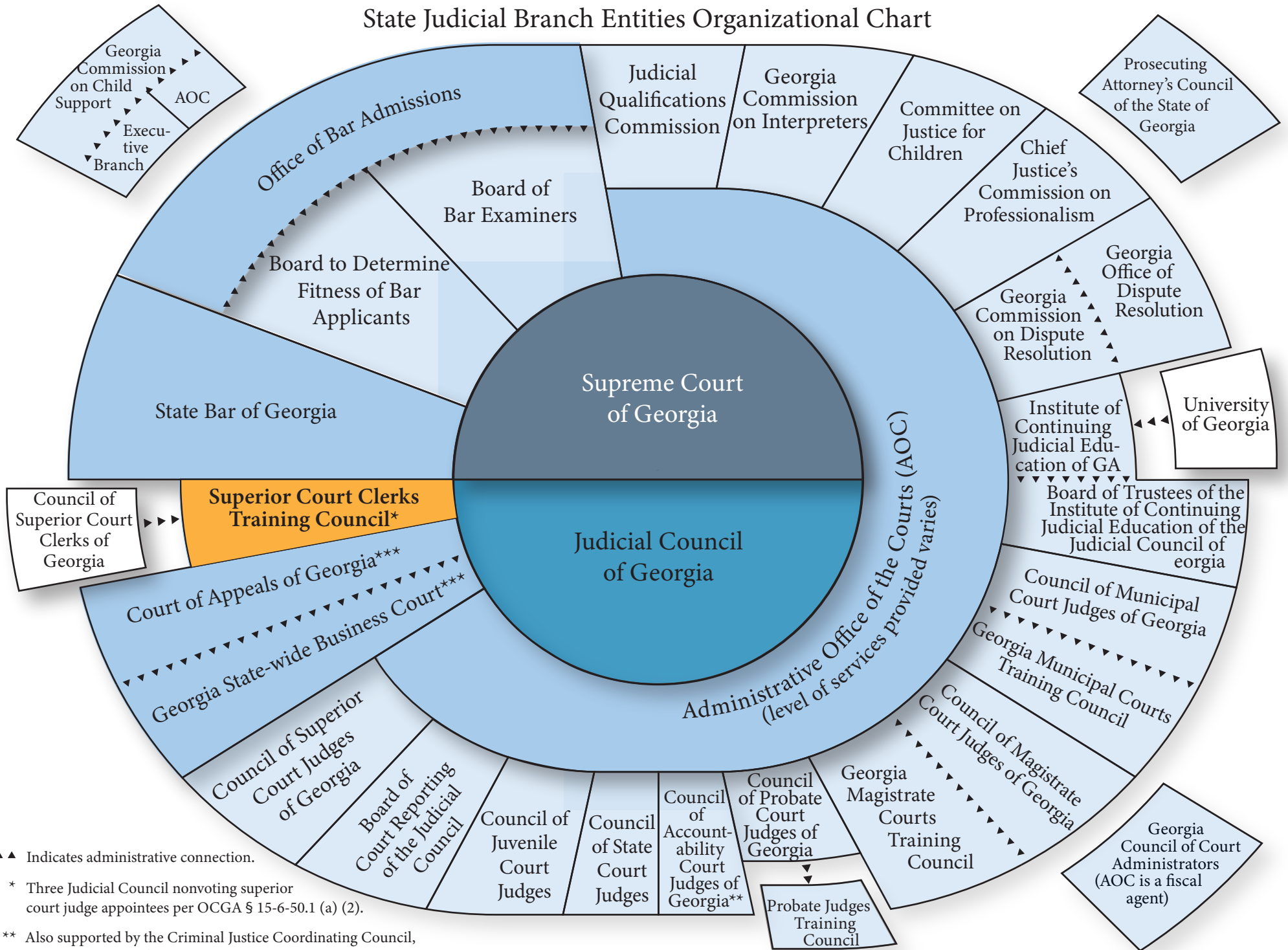
A subsequent inquiry by Administrative Office of the Courts staff identified three superior court judge vacancies on the Superior Court Clerks Training Council, which the Judicial Council must fill by appointment. As provided in OCGA § 15-6-50.1 (a) (2), such appointees shall serve as nonvoting members of the Superior Court Clerks Training Council for a term of four years.

Judge Arthur L. Smith III, President of the Council of Superior Court Judges, has submitted three judge nominees for the Judicial Council’s consideration for the three vacancies referenced above. The attached nominees will be voted on by the Judicial Council at its December 9, 2022, meeting.

Please contact me at darron.enns@georgiacourts.gov if you have any questions or concerns regarding the information presented above.

Attachments

State Judicial Branch Entities Organizational Chart



▲▲ Indicates administrative connection.

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

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

*** The GSBC is "assigned for administrative purposes only to the Court of Appeals" per OCGA § 15- 5A-16.

Nominees to the Superior Court Clerks Training Council from the President of the Council of Superior Court Judges

1. Cynthia Adams - Douglas Circuit
2. Michael Johnson - Oconee Circuit
3. Stacey Hydrick - Stone Mountain Circuit

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HOME	ABOUT	PROJECTS	EVENTS	FAQ	RESOURCES	CLERKS	CONTACT US
Council	(/ABOUT/)	(/PROJECTS/)	(/EVENTS/)	(/FAQ/)	(/RESOURCES/)	(/CLERKS/FINDMYCLERK.ASPX)	(/ABOUT/CONT/

The Council of Superior Court Clerks of Georgia is a state agency established by law and funded through a state appropriation to further the improvement of the superior courts in the administration of justice, to assist the superior court clerks in the execution of their duties, and to assist in the training of superior court clerks. The Council is comprised of all 159 Superior Court Clerks and is the official representative of superior court clerks to other state agencies in Georgia. The Council is also responsible for administering grants and other projects as assigned by its members and the Georgia General Assembly.

Leadership

- President Stacy Haralson, Clerk of Superior Court – Harris County
- First Vice President Grant Walraven, Clerk of Superior Court - Gordon County
- Second Vice President Erica Woodford Clerk of Superior Court – Bibb County
- Secretary-Treasurer Kristin Hall, Clerk of Superior Court – Emanuel County
- Immediate Past President Tina Robinson, Clerk of Superior Court – Fulton County

District Chairs

- District 1 – Linda Thompson, Clerk of Superior Court in Liberty County
- District 2 – Randa Wharton, Clerk of Superior Court in Thomas County
- District 3 – Penny Dillingham-Mahone Clerk of Superior Court in Talbot County
- Districts 4, 5, and 6 – Alan Lee, Clerk of Superior Court in Carroll County
- District 7 – Tracy Brown, Clerk of Superior Court in Catoosa County
- District 8 – Anne Durden, Clerk of Superior Court in Jefferson County
- District 9 – Greg Allen, Clerk of Superior Court in Forsyth County
- District 10 – Frankie Gray, Clerk of Superior Court in Hart County

O.C.G.A. § 15-6-50.1

Current through the 2022 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

Official Code of Georgia Annotated > TITLE 15 Courts (Chs. 1 — 25) > CHAPTER 6 Superior Courts (Arts. 1 — 2) > Article 2 Clerks of Superior Courts (§§ 15-6-50 — 15-6-100)

15-6-50.1. Superior Court Clerks Training Council.

- (a) The Superior Court Clerks Training Council is established. The council shall consist of nine voting members and three nonvoting members and shall be composed as follows:
- (1) Nine voting members shall be elected to terms of four years by the members of the Superior Court Clerks Association of Georgia or its successor organization; and
 - (2) Three nonvoting members shall be judges of the superior courts appointed to terms of four years by the Judicial Council of Georgia.
- Membership on the training council does not constitute public office, and no member shall be disqualified from holding public office by reason of his or her membership.
- (b) The business of the training council shall be conducted in the following manner:
- (1) The training council shall hold an annual meeting promptly after the appointment of its members and shall elect from among its voting members a chairperson, a vice chairperson, and a secretary-treasurer who shall serve until the first meeting in the succeeding year. Thereafter, the chairperson, the vice chairperson, and the secretary-treasurer shall be elected at the first meeting of each calendar year;
 - (2) Five voting members of the training council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; and
 - (3) The training council shall maintain minutes of its meetings and such other records as it deems necessary.
- (c) The members of the training council shall receive no salary but shall be reimbursed for mileage incurred in the performance of their functions in accordance with state travel regulations if sufficient funds are appropriated by the state or accrue from contributions to the training council.
- (d) The training council is vested with the following functions and authority:
- (1) To meet at such times and places as it may deem necessary;
 - (2) To recommend to the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education of Georgia the curriculum, including the methods of instruction, composing the basic certification course for new clerks of superior courts and to approve such curriculum adopted by the institute;
 - (3) To recommend to the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education of Georgia the curriculum for the annual recertification training authorized for clerks of superior courts by [Code Section 15-6-50](#) and to approve such curriculum adopted by the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education of Georgia; and
 - (4) To do any and all things necessary or convenient to enable it to perform wholly and adequately its duties and to exercise the power granted to it.

History

O.C.G.A. § 15-6-50.1

Code 1933, § 24-2701.1, enacted by Ga. L. 1981, p. 921, § 3; Ga. L. 1982, p. 3, § 15; Ga. L. 1990, p. 8, § 15; Ga. L. 1997, p. 520, § 1.

Annotations

Research References & Practice Aids

Hierarchy Notes:

[O.C.G.A. Title 15](#)

[O.C.G.A. Title 15, Ch. 6](#)

[O.C.G.A. Title 15, Ch. 6, Art. 2](#)

Official Code of Georgia Annotated

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TAB 13



Judicial Council of Georgia

Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Michael Boggs
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Director

Memorandum

TO: Judicial Council of Georgia

FROM: Michelle Barclay, Division Director

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

DATE: December 9, 2022

The Communications, Children, Families and the Courts Division of the JC/AOC serves as the hub for all communications and provides staff for the Supreme Court of Georgia Committee on Justice for Children, chaired by Justice Charles Bethel; the Georgia Commission on Child Support, chaired by Troup County Juvenile Court Judge Michael Key; and the Judicial Council Standing Committee on Access to Justice, chaired by Justice Verda Colvin. This Division also assists with general grant work for courts in partnership with the legal staff in the Director's Division.

Following is a brief synopsis of the current work.

- **Committee on Justice for Children (J4C):** Federal grant funding is in place through FY 2023. On June 29, 2022, Court Improvement Program (CIP) Director Diana Rugh Johnson submitted Georgia's Application for State Court Improvement Funds for Fiscal Year 2023, which included Georgia's Self-Assessment and updated Strategic Plan. The priorities for J4C now include:
 - The Court Process Reporting System (CPRS) meets the need for real-time data sharing between the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS), the courts, and other child welfare professionals. CPRS also enables the uploading and e-filing of court orders, which all special assistant attorneys general (SAAGs) representing DFCS are required to do. CPRS functionality was recently expanded to provide a secure portal for use by Clerks of the Superior Courts to transmit statutorily required adoption orders, pleadings, and other documents to the DFCS Adoption Unit. J4C's current priority is to address Georgia's lack of statewide court data on dependency and termination cases, specifically data on agency and court compliance with mandatory timelines, using hearing dates and other case information in CPRS.

- Georgia served as a pilot site for the Judicial, Court, and Attorney Measures of Performance (JCAMP) project, which is funded by the Children’s Bureau through the Capacity Building Center for Courts. Georgia field tested performance measures relevant to statewide child welfare practice through court observations, court files reviews, and participant surveys. J4C is now in the process of refining the pilot measures to more closely align with Georgia-specific practice. Data collected through JCAMP will assist J4C to understand current court practices and identify areas for improvement. JCAMP data will also provide information useful to the Statewide Assessment that DFCS will complete prior to the beginning of Round 4 of the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) in January of 2024.
- The Cold Case Project is a joint project of the J4C Committee and DFCS. Using a computer model, the Project identifies children in foster care whose cases are not moving toward permanency and convenes stakeholders in roundtable meetings to review the substantive due process rights of the children and to brainstorm ways to navigate around roadblocks to permanency. In addition to this case-specific work, J4C is focused on using lessons learned through Cold Case Project to inform child welfare policy and practice.
- The Court Improvement Initiative (CII) brings together leading juvenile court judges and court teams twice a year. CII reviews the current child welfare data and current research on best practices in child welfare cases. CII met in Jekyll Island in August of 2022.
- Georgia now has 63 attorneys and 7 judges who are certified Child Welfare Law Specialists (CWLS). J4C remains focused on the recruitment and retention of CWLSs and is offering financial assistance with application fees as well as annual renewal and recertification fees.
- J4C, DFCS, OCA, and GA CASA are planning their sixth annual statewide Child Welfare Law Summit for November 30 – December 2, 2022. This year’s Summit will offer in-person and virtual attendance options and all presentations will be available to attendees on-demand for 60 days after the Summit ends.
- J4C also sponsors the Justice P. Harris Hines Awards for outstanding advocacy for children in dependency proceedings. Justice Charlie Bethel presented the 2022 Hines Awards at the State Bar Annual Meeting in June. This year’s case manager winner was Kathrine Hamm from Hall County DFCS and the attorney winner was Jennifer Cline, the Special Assistant Attorney General (SAAG) in Rockdale County. These winners will be recognized at the upcoming Summit.
- **The next J4C Committee meeting will be held on December 12, 2022.**
- **Communications:** Improving communication can improve justice in all Georgia courts through collaboration and innovation, so it is a priority under the Judicial Council’s Strategic Plan. One communication tool is our monthly e-newsletter—the Georgia Courts Journal—which may be found at <https://georgiacourtsjournal.org/>. At that website, in addition to back issues of the Georgia Courts Journal, you will find webpages dedicated to wellness and civics—providing many resources including links on everything from chair yoga to decision fatigue on the wellness page to a list of great read-aloud, civics-oriented books sorted by grade and subject matter on the civics page. We also promote and create positive content about Georgia’s judicial branch—every class of court—

through our social media daily. Our aim with all stories about the judicial branch is to instill faith in our state’s court system and the rule of law. To foster community engagement, we concentrate on three civic holidays: Law Day (May 1st), Constitution Day (September 17th), and Bill of Rights Day (December 15th) working with judges and schools to host events—in person or virtual as needed. We also manage the Georgia Courts Directory: <http://georgiacourts.knack.com/gcd2/>; Our social media platforms are: <https://www.facebook.com/GACourts>; <https://twitter.com/Gacourts>; <https://www.instagram.com/gacourts/> and our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/judicialcouncilofgeorgia>.

- **Child Support Commission:** By contract with Georgia’s Department of Human Services (DHS)/Division of Child Support Services (DCSS), this Division serves as staff to the Georgia Child Support Commission. Commission staff works collaboratively with DHS/DCSS in several areas. These areas include providing an online child support calculator <https://csc.georgiacourts.gov/>, for court and public use, training on the child support guidelines statute, O.C.G.A. § 19-6-15, and the calculator for courts, lawyers, and the public, supporting the Parental Accountability Courts (PAC), providing a website, <https://georgiacourts.gov/ido/>, for self-represented litigants and the courts with resources on Georgia’s Income Deduction Order (IDO) process in private cases, and generally supporting the process and the law surrounding child support.
 - The latest Child Support Commission Meeting was held virtually on Friday, November 4, 2022, during which several items of business were discussed. Reports were made by the chair of the Economic Subcommittee on the completion of the 2022 Economic Study that will be made available on the Child Support Commission website by the end of 2022; status of the work being considered by the Technology and Calculator Subcommittee; and on a request by the Child Support Commission for a Resolution creating a Legislative Study Committee on the Parenting Time Deviation in the House and Senate or as a joint study committee. The Commission has asked the AOC to contract with Dr. Jane Venohr, Center for Policy Research, Denver, Colorado, to assist with identifying the best option for Georgia on Parenting Time and the Low-Income Deviation in the guidelines statute.
 - Legislation: The Commission has decided not to submit a bill during the 2023 legislative session based on the results of the 2022 Economic Study of the child support guidelines and basic child support obligation table. Instead, the Commission hopes to work with a Legislative Study Committee and Dr. Venohr on the matters of parenting time and low-income and present a comprehensive bill for the 2024 legislative session.
 - Study Committees: The Child Support Commission established a Parenting Time Deviation Study Committee and a Low-Income Deviation Study Committee at the end of 2018 each for a two-year period. The Low-Income Deviation Study Committee, chaired by Judge Emory Palmer, completed its work and submitted their report to the Commission in December 2020. The Parenting Time Deviation Study Committee, chaired by Attorney Kathleen “Katie” Connell, was extended through April 2022, to complete its work. Both study committees will be engaged with the Commission, as needed, on the work of the proposed Legislative Study Committee, as well as the work that will be conducted with Dr. Venohr.
 - Subcommittees:

- Economic Subcommittee, Chair, Dr. Roger Tutterow, reported that the Subcommittee met for the last time on October 19, 2022, and gave an update on the 2022 Economic Study. A total of 16 counties were selected for the case sampling: Appling, Clayton (added as a county from the metropolitan Atlanta area), Early, Echols, Elbert, Fannin, Fayette, Forsyth, Glascock, Glynn, Houston, Paulding, Rockdale, Stewart, Troup, and Ware. The AOC executed a contract with Dr. Jane Venohr, Center for Policy Research, Inc. (CPR), to conduct the 2022 Economic Study at a cost of \$60,000. That study has been completed and a final report prepared by staff and approved by the Commission will be made available to the public on the Child Support Commission website no later than the end of 2022, at <https://csc.georgiacourts.gov/business-of-the-child-support-commission/>, under “Economic Study Final Reports.”
 - Statute Review Subcommittee, Chair, Katie Connell, and Co-Chair, Judge Connie L. Williford, are conducting monthly meetings of this Subcommittee to identify any changes that may be needed to the statute, O.C.G.A. § 19-6-15. The Subcommittee initiated the idea of a Legislative Study Committee on Parenting Time. The Subcommittee is working with Legislative Counsel, Holly Carter.
 - Technology and Calculator Subcommittee, Chair, Regina Quick. The last meeting of this Subcommittee was conducted on August 3, 2022, and looked at several items that may be improved in the Child Support Calculator, including instructions for the Low-Income Deviation and instructions for preexisting orders. The Subcommittee took one matter before the Commission which approved a functionality change in the calculator that will allow users to archive and delete expired, shared worksheets that are no longer of use. A deployment was conducted on the evening of November 10, 2022, to add this update to the calculator.
- Child Support Calculator: Courts, attorneys, mediators, and the public are using the online calculator deployed on August 8, 2016. Internet connectivity within the courthouses is still an issue around the state. Every Excel version of the child support calculator was permanently retired on October 1, 2018. Staff continues providing virtual training to court personnel, attorneys, mediators, DCSS, and the public on a routine basis. Staff is scheduling two in-person training events in Savannah and Atlanta during 2023. Trainings include, but are not limited to, using the low-income deviation, steps to impute income, how to avoid common mistakes identified in the 2022 case sampling, and generally how to use the calculator. Online training is going well and all sessions (at least once a month) have been very well attended. Staff has prepared training videos for parents (self-represented litigants) that are available on the Child Support Commission website. We find that many people, including lawyers and their staff, access these videos.
- Parental Accountability Court (PAC) evaluations: Staff continues to support the Parental Accountability Courts (PAC) with the Division of Child Support Services (DCSS). The PAC database was transferred to DCSS on September 15, 2022, and

that agency now manages that database. Staff is working with DCSS on the next evaluation of six courts (by judicial circuit), those being: Atlanta, Dublin, Gwinnett, Mountain, Pataula, and Rockdale.

- **Access to Justice Committee (A2J):** The mission of the Access to Justice (A2J) Committee is to improve the public's trust in the judicial branch by promoting meaningful and effective access to courts and fairness to all. The A2J Committee is currently working on several projects:
 - The A2J Committee's Landlord/Tenant Working Group which includes: Magistrate Court Chief Judge Cassandra Kirk (Fulton), Magistrate Court Chief Judge Kristina Blum (Gwinnett), Magistrate Court Chief Judge Murphy (Cobb), Executive Director of GODR Tracy Johnson (representing mediation), the JC/AOC webmaster (representing IT), Judge Daphne Walker (representing DCA), and Ashley Clark (representing GLSP) are all working to research the current state of Georgia's housing crisis and creating possible statewide landlord/tenant rental assistance webinars. Judge Kasper (President of the Council of Magistrate Court Judges) recommended Judge Jennifer Lewis, as our rural judge for this working group. A webinar "lunch and learn" with DCA representative (Daphne Walker) was presented on November 5, 2021, for all Magistrate Judges. We have also disseminated, via the Council of Magistrate Judges' listserv, a statewide DCA regional contact list. The working group distributed a digital rental flyer to forward to all Magistrate Courts statewide. However, DCA abruptly discontinued rental assistance throughout the state on October 28, 2022, therefore the team is researching other potential funding sources and will update this information as received.
 - The A2J Committee is continuing to partner with and has adopted the State Bar's ATJ Committee's Justice for All (JFA) Strategic Plan and suggested projects. Work to assist the Dougherty County Law Library has created a local-level model for assisting self-represented litigants. The Committee is focused on a combination of strengthening local law libraries, online forms for self-filing, local pop-up legal clinics, and low-bono models of attorney representation, with the assistance of Mike Monahan and the Director of the Dougherty County Law Library. Additionally, the AOC's Research Division is assisting with the metrics of the model's effectiveness. The A2J Committee recently received a grant in the amount of \$40,000.00 from the State Bar of Georgia's Commission on Continuing Lawyer Competency (CCLC) via the JC/AOC to be used for the ongoing initiatives in the JFA Strategic Plan. This continued funding is the result of a partnership between the State Bar's Justice for All Committee and the A2J Committee. In an effort to continue collaborative work, both Committees traveled to Alabama for a retreat and, as a result, several new initiatives emerged. We have partnered with Georgia State Law School to host a series of A2J webinars entitled "Minding the Justice Gap". The webinars have been very successful and may be viewed here: [Minding the Justice Gap - Chasing Justice: How to Be Part of the Solution \(Class 1\) - YouTube](#) and [Minding the Justice Gap - Chasing Justice: How to Be Part of the Solution \(Class 2\) - YouTube](#). We have also begun an ROI Study which should be completed in December 2022.

- In 2019, we began hosting free Pop-up Legal Clinics, and the 3rd Clinic was planned for March 13th in Dalton but was canceled at the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak. In light of our “new normal” under COVID-19 restrictions, we are collaborating with the Georgia Justice Project and the State Bar Pro Bono Committee to continue these important services through a Virtual Free Legal/Record Restrictions Clinic. The State Justice Institute awarded the A2J Committee a grant to assist in funding our clinics throughout the state last year. This year money was requested and granted to continue the virtual clinics from the Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism. Some of the grant will be utilized to provide low bono pay to our volunteer attorneys. Our first virtual attorney training session was held on April 23, 2020. The first Educational Webinar was held on April 29, 2020, and a second Educational Webinar was held on May 6, 2020. Virtual Free Record Restriction Clinics were successfully hosted on May 19, 2020 (Dalton), June 30, 2020 (Augusta), and September 11, 2020 & September 28, 2020 (Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit). We held a virtual clinic in Tifton on May 22, 2021 and a virtual clinic in Macon on June 9, 2021. We held our first phase Town Hall in Statesboro on August 23, 2021, and we hosted the first phase Town Hall for the Gainesville area on October 4, 2021. The local team in Tifton requested a hybrid model follow-up townhall, as rural areas need in-person options because of the scarcity of resources such as internet and home computers. Therefore, instead of moving to phase two, we hosted a follow-up town hall for the Tifton Area and Ogeechee Circuit on October 18, 2021. The participation was much better, and we are now in phase two which consists of pairing the applicants with attorneys. Through the continued funding support from CJCP, on May 5, 2022, we had an extremely successful “in-person” Records Restriction Clinic in Albany. In fact, the Albany Clinic had 265 registered attendees. Please view this PowerPoint which includes some highlights from the event. See: <https://tinyurl.com/yhybf49f>. Through a partnership with the Solicitor in Valdosta, a town hall was held on June 16, 2022 & June 17, 2022, and well over 200 attendees have applied for the Clinic which will be held on July 29, 2022. Our last Clinic for this year was held in Wilcox County, one of Georgia’s many legal deserts and where there is only one part-time practicing attorney. We held an initial town hall on July 7, 2022, and held an “in-person” Clinic on August 20, 2022. Due to the lack of volunteer attorneys in this area, we are continuing to assist with a lot of follow-up work from the August 20th Clinic.
- 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 if someone presents with a DHH need. The 3rd draft was submitted for final review during our December Committee meeting and changes were suggested by the Commission on Interpreters. This Counter card is ready for distribution, and we collaborated with GTA and Georgia Tech to have the 159 Counter Cards translated into Braille format. The DHH Braille Cards were mailed out to all district court administrators to be disseminated to every county in the state. The working group has identified a grant opportunity with the National

Center for State Courts and will be applying. In our continued effort to become ADA compliant, funds are needed to secure hearing devices. The devices will be strategically placed in every judicial district so that all courts will have access to hearing devices, as needed. This working group applied for a CJCP grant to fund several DHH teaching modules on ADA compliance for judges, court staff, and bar members. We are awaiting CJCP's decision.

- The A2J Committee's Self Represented Litigants (SRL) Forms Working Group is updating the most frequently used family law forms. This working group will ensure that all of the forms are pdf-fillable and translated into "plain language."
- We are continuing to work on several self-help family law video scripts to accompany the related forms. Our first set of forms, "Divorce without Children", along with the "how-to" video is complete and currently available on georgiacourts.gov. We recently completed our "Divorce with Children Forms" and the same has been uploaded to our website. We are grateful to have the Council of Superior Court Judges approve the use of these forms. We are currently editing forms for legitimation, custody, and eviction proceedings.
- Any judges interested in learning about or participating in any A2J project may contact Tabitha Ponder at tabitha.ponder@georgiacourts.gov. **The next A2J Committee meeting will be in person on 2/1/2023.**

TAB 14



SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

NATHAN DEAL JUDICIAL CENTER
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

FROM THE CHAMBERS OF
MICHAEL P. BOGGS
CHIEF JUSTICE

(404) 656-3472

SUPREME COURT REPORT

It was wonderful to meet with you all in person in August. While the opportunity to touch base with each of you reminded me of the importance of meeting in person, hopefully this Zoom meeting option allows you some additional flexibility, especially with full docket calendars as we wrap up 2022.

We had a busy fall at the Supreme Court. Our Court held off-site Oral Arguments at the Augusta-Richmond County Municipal Building in October. We feel that it is an important aspect of our Court to hold occasional arguments in all areas of the State in order to allow citizens and students to see the work of their highest court first hand. We thank the Augusta Bar, Chief Judge Danny Craig, and Judge Sheryl Jolly for their hospitality.

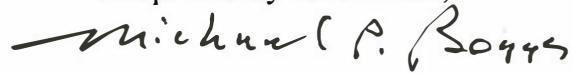
Our long-time Reporter of Decisions, Jean Ruskell, retired this past November. Our Court honored her dedication and distinguished career before Oral Arguments on November 8th. The Courtroom was packed with standing room only in honor of our beloved Reporter. The job of Reporter of Decisions is no easy task, and Jean reviewed the work product of both our Court and the Court of Appeals with a meticulous eye. She truly cared for our work product and the body of recorded case law in our State. It was a joy to honor to such a valuable member of our Court family. While we are sad to see her go, we wish her the best in her retirement, and a much deserved rest from the endless proof reading. We are also honored to announce Lindsay Rehberg as the new Reporter of Decisions. She is a graduate of Stetson Law School and has been employed with the Court for over 11 years. Lindsay has been serving under Jean's tutelage as the Assistant Reporter of Decisions for the past 6 years, and there is no one more prepared person to step into this important role.

We have continued to work diligently with the Administrative Office of the Courts to work with local circuits to approve and distribute ARPA funding requests. Work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Salaries and Supplements has continued as well, with the latest full committee meeting on November 17th.

Recently, our Court participated in various attorney admissions for recent admittees who passed the Bar Exam. Presiding Justice Peterson handled an admission ceremony for Troutman Pepper admittees, Justice Ellington handled an admission ceremony for Emory Law graduates, Justice LaGrua handled an admission ceremony for GSU Law graduates, and Justice McMillian handled an admission ceremony for John Marshall graduates. We welcome these new attorneys and look forward to seeing these new faces at Oral Arguments soon.

It is a great honor to serve as the Chair of the Judicial Council. Please know I am always available for questions and concerns and want to know what issues and challenges you are navigating in your respective classes of court. I look forward to continuing our work to improve and promote our courts together.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael P. Boggs". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning.

Michael P. Boggs

Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Georgia



THE COURT OF APPEALS

OF THE
STATE OF GEORGIA
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

CHAMBERS OF
CHIEF JUDGE BRIAN M. RICKMAN

(404) 232-1591
rickmanb@gaappeals.us

Report to Judicial Council of Georgia
December 9, 2022 Meeting

On September 16, the Court of Appeals presented a four-hour program recounting and exploring the murder of Colonel Lemuel Penn by KKK members, which occurred just days after the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Colonel Penn, a Bronze Star recipient, was the assistant superintendent of the D.C. public school system, and was on his way home to D.C. after attending reserve officer training at Fort Benning.

Among the distinguished speakers were Senior Judge Herbert Phipps, DeKalb County CEO Michael Thurmond, Colonel Penn's two daughters, and three members of the prosecutor's family. I grew up near the place where Colonel Penn died, and I wanted to raise awareness about the event and its consequences, and take the opportunity to hear from those who lived through those turbulent times and were directly affected by the murder. A recording of the presentation is available on our website at <https://www.gaappeals.us/videos-of-historical-significance/>.

In other news, the Court held three offsite oral arguments this fall, after a hiatus of several years due to the pandemic. In September 2022, Presiding Judge Stephen Louis A. Dillard, Judge Amanda Mercier, and Judge Todd Markle heard arguments at Mercer University School of Law in Macon, and Presiding Judge Christopher McFadden, Judge Elizabeth Gobeil, and Judge Ben Land heard arguments at the University of Georgia School of Law, where all three judges attended law school. In October, Presiding Judge Anne Elizabeth Barnes, Judge Trent Brown, and Judge Ken Hodges heard oral arguments at Valdosta State University, and then toured VSU's Copeland African American Museum.

Next year, Presiding Judge McFadden, Judge Brown, and Judge Markle will travel in February to the Coffee County courthouse in the Waycross Judicial Circuit for oral arguments. In March, Presiding Judge Dillard and Judge Trea Pipkin will head to the hills with me to hear arguments at the Tallulah Falls School in Habersham County. And, finally, in April Presiding Judge Barnes, Judge Clyde Reese and Judge Land will visit Columbus.

Please let me or any member of the Court know if you would like for us to hear arguments in your courthouse. In the meantime, I encourage all of you to come visit us in Atlanta at the Nathan Deal Judicial Center.

Brian M. Rickman
Chief Judge, Court of Appeals of Georgia



Georgia State-wide Business Court Judicial Council Report

Since its inception in August 2020, eighty three (83) cases have been filed in the State-wide Business Court.

Twenty (20) cases were transferred or dismissed because of an objection to jurisdiction by one of the parties¹. There are currently six (6) cases pending service/objection to jurisdiction.

Twenty-nine (29) cases have been disposed of with a median disposition time of two-hundred twenty (220) days. The average disposition time is two-hundred fifty (250) days.

Twenty-one (21) cases have been settled.

There have been five-hundred forty four (544) orders issued.

Seventy-eight (78) orders were issued in response to a motion within eight (8) days of the ripe date on average.

There have been sixty six (66) hearings and one (1) six day jury trial.

There have been appeals filed in five (5) cases.

Four (4) cases are currently stayed.

There have been seventy five (75) case conferences scheduled, including case management, status conferences, discovery conferences, and pre-trial conferences.

There have been forty three (43) PHV applications granted.

¹ Includes case 21-GSBC-0009; dismissed without prejudice by filer, in response to pending objection.



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 December 2022

The Council of Superior Court Judges (CSCJ) thanks all superior court judges for adapting to manage their caseloads and maintain public access while protecting the public and court personnel.

CSCJ will hold its annual meeting and winter training seminar in Athens, Georgia, January 17-22, 2023. Approximately 250 judges and senior judges are expected to participate. Planned topics in the main educational seminar presented by the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education (ICJE) include use and limited dissemination of guardians ad litem and case evaluators in custody cases; appeals from lower courts and tribunals; use of forensic accountants in divorce cases; attorneys' fees in civil cases; Judicial Retirement System issues and questions; DFCS records-production and in camera inspection; motions to compel and discovery issues; corrections and parole; sexual exploitation and human trafficking; Judicial Qualifications Commission update including social media; appellate court panel; sexual harassment; case law update; and evidence-family law issues. Additionally, the death penalty course will include pre-trial case management issues, including dealing with the media; motions; mental status of the accused; venire update, jury questionnaires, voir dire, and victim impact evidence; penalty phase procedures; jury instructions; post-trial procedures through the defendant's direct appeal; and habeas procedures. CSCJ will elect officers and receive committee reports at its business meeting.

Judge Wade Padgett and former judge Tain Kell, in conjunction with ICJE, will train many new judges at the New Judges Orientation in Athens during the week of December 12, 2022.

CSCJ congratulates Judge Bill Hamrick of the Coweta Judicial Circuit on his appointment by Governor Brian Kemp as the Judge of the Statewide Business Court. CSCJ also congratulates Chief Judge Christopher Brasher of the Atlanta Judicial Circuit, Chief Judge Kevin Chason of the South Georgia Judicial Circuit, Chief Judge John Ott of the Alcovy Circuit, and Judge Ralph Van Pelt of the Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit on their retirement and thanks them for their service. Governor Kemp will appoint judges to fill all five vacancies in addition to the new judgeships in the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit, the Mountain Judicial Circuit, and the South Georgia Judicial Circuit.

CSCJ is sad to report the deaths of Senior Judge Michael Annis of the Augusta Judicial Circuit, Senior Judge Robert W. Adamson of the Piedmont Judicial Circuit, Senior Judge Clarence Donald Blount of the Waycross Judicial Circuit, Senior Judge Penn McWhorter of the Piedmont Judicial Circuit, Senior Judge Bobby Milam of the Appalachian Judicial Circuit, and Senior Judge Kenneth G. Vinson of the Paulding Judicial Circuit.



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

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

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Judge Tammi L. Hayward (Clayton)

District 5
Judge Monique Walker (Richmond)

District 6
Judge John G. Breakfield (Hall)

District 7
Judge Eric A. Richardson (Fulton)

District 8
Judge Michelle H. Helhoski (Cherokee)

Report of the Council of State Court Judges
Judicial Council Meeting
December 9, 2022

All of the State Courts have been working diligently to clear the backlog of cases due to the Judicial Emergency. Most have made significant headway in this important endeavor; and a few have even caught up by holding extra criminal and traffic sessions, and by referring civil cases to mediation.

State Court Judges continue to work with officials at the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) to come up with solutions to deal with the continued mental health crisis in the county jails.

The Council held its Fall Conference at Callaway Gardens October 12th – 14th. Over 100 Judges attended the Conference in-person. Harvard University Professor, Dr. Robert W. Livingston was the featured presenter and taught classes over two days on Promoting Racial Equity using his book *The Conversation* as the focus of the discussions. Dr. Livingston's presentations engaged the Judges with knowledge and experience into an eye-opening immersion of the science of racism and bias and why change is possible. Other classes were given on: Pre-Trial Criminal Motions by Attorney Sharla Jackson; Succession Planning and Receiverships by Attorney William NeSmith of the State Bar; Changes to Minor Settlements by Judge Greg Sapp; Impacts on Immigration by Attorney Emily Davis; Criminal Law Updates by Senior Judge Ben Studdard; and an Update on the Laws of Evidence by Professor Paul Milich.

The Banquet Speaker at this year's Fall Conference was Chief Judge Brian Rickman of the Court of Appeals of Georgia who spoke on the importance of Judges to be engaged with their community and schools to teach the importance of civic duty and responsibility and its foundation to a democratic republic based upon the Rule of Law.

Also at the Fall Conference, Judge Pamela D. South of the State Court of Gwinnett County was presented the Ogden Doremus / Kent Lawrence Award. The award is given to a State Court Judge that has achieved the highest level of respect from his or her peers as being a Judge recognized for their judicial ethics and professionalism on the bench and their involvement in their communities. In the award presentation it was noted that Judge South "is known for her legal acumen, efficiency, patience, and respect for everyone appearing in the courtroom (or on Zoom). She has also handled a division of the Court's DUI Treatment Court, developed a Mental Health Diversion Program, and served on the budget committee, helping steer the court through some lean budget years."



*Chief Judge Pamela South
and Senior Judge Joe
Iannazzone*

In September, eighteen Judges of the Strategic Planning Committee met for a three-day planning session to review its Strategic Business Plan and made several new initiatives to work on over the next two years. The focus of the changes is to identify goals that further its mission to advance and support the State Court and the quality and expertise of its judges; maintain the impartiality of the judiciary; ensure the fair, efficient and uniform administration of justice; and enhance public confidence in the judicial system.

The Council wishes to congratulate Carroll County State Court Judge Erica Tisinger for receiving the Carroll County CASA Service Award. This award recognizes CASA advocates, staff, and board members who have gone above and beyond to serve children in their community who are in foster care. Nominees have demonstrated motivation, commitment and excellence through their service and have made a positive impact on those that CASA serves.

In August, Chief Judge Brian Rickman spoke to the Rotary Club of Albany about the Court of Appeals of Georgia. Other area Judges and Albany Club members were also recognized.



*Left to right:
Court of Appeals Chief Judge Brian Rickman, Court of Appeals Judge Kenneth B. Hodges, III, Dougherty State Court Judge John M. Stephenson, Dougherty County Magistrate Victoria Johnson, and Court of Appeals Senior Judge Herbert E. Phipps.*

Justice Charlie Bethel and Superior Court Judge Russell Smith, Co-Chairs of the Judicial Ad Hoc Committee on Judicial Salaries appointed Judge Al Wong of the State Court of DeKalb County as a Co-Chair of the Subcommittee on Courts of Limited Jurisdiction.

Recently, Cherokee County State Court Judge Michelle Helhoski spoke to 3rd Grade and 5th Grade students at two elementary schools on the Judicial Branch of Government including their rights and responsibilities to the judicial system; the different classes of courts in Georgia; and the differences between the State and Federal Court Systems.

The Council also congratulates Bulloch County State Court Judge Joseph Cushner and our Executive Director, Bob Bray on their appointment to the Criminal Data Exchange Advisory Board whose goal is to examine ways to improve the accuracy and transmission of criminal history data to those who are privy to that information.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Violet Bennett

Judge R. Violet Bennett, President



COUNCIL OF JUVENILE COURT JUDGES OF GEORGIA

Judge Render Heard, *President*
Judge Lindsay H. Burton, *President-Elect*
Judge Warner Kennon, *Vice President*
Judge T. Neal Brunt, *Secretary*
Judge Maureen Wood, *Treasurer*
Judge C. Gregory Price, *Immed. Past President*

Judge Thomas L. Cole, *District 1*
Judge Brian Bellamy, *District 2*
Judge Andrew C. Dodgen, *District 3*
Judge Desiree Peagler, *District 4*
Judge Christopher W. Yokom, *District 5*
Judge Deitra Burney Butler, *District 6*
Judge Carolyn Altman, *District 7*
Judge Sherri McDonald, *District 8*
Judge Nhan-Ai Simms, *District 9*
Judge Charles Evans, *District 10*

Eric J. John, *Executive Director*

REPORT TO JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA DECEMBER 9, 2022

The Council of Juvenile Court Judges held its Fall Conference in Athens October 23 -26, 2022. During the conference, Troup County Juvenile Court Judge Michael Key was awarded the Judge Aaron Cohn Award, given each year to a juvenile court judge who has made significant contributions to the Council and/or the field of juvenile justice and child welfare. Judge Key's tireless efforts toward advancing juvenile justice and child welfare in this state made this an easy choice for the Council's Executive Committee this year. Tammy Hardin, Juvenile Court Administrator in Catoosa County, was presented with the Council's Judge Martha K. Glaze Service Award, given annually to a non-judicial person who has made significant contributions to the Council and/or the field of juvenile justice and child welfare. Ms. Hardin has served the Catoosa County Juvenile Court faithfully for over 25 years. The Council congratulates each of these recipients on this well-deserved recognition.

Prior to the Fall conference, the Council's Executive Committee held a long-range planning conference with key CJCJ committee chairpersons and staff. The two-day conference gave the attendees the opportunity to discuss a wide array of topics ranging from the future of e-filing in the juvenile courts to the legal representation of various parties in juvenile proceedings. The group also discussed future legislative engagement and planning and identified a number of different areas of juvenile justice and child welfare that might benefit from possible legislative changes.

Following up on those efforts, the Council's Legislative Committee has now begun the task of more thoroughly vetting each of those suggestions and developing a series of white papers to more formally develop the Council's position on those issues. Through these, the Council hopes to provide valuable information for state leaders to use in developing child welfare and juvenile justice policies in the future.

The Council has selected Douglas County Juvenile Court Judge Michelle Harrison to fill the vacancy on the Council's Executive Committee which will be created when Northeastern District Juvenile Court Judge and CJCJ President-Elect Lindsay Burton takes office as that circuit's newest Superior Court Judge on January 1, 2023. In the event of a vacancy in one of the positions on the Executive Committee, Council By-Laws provide that all officers below the vacant position progress to the next office and a new Treasurer is to be chosen by the Executive Committee to fill the vacancy in that position. Judge Harrison will assume duties as Treasurer on January 1.

Judge Burton's leadership on the Executive Committee cannot be understated, and the Council would like to wish her the best, as she continues her leadership on the Superior Court bench.

A Child Welfare Law and Policy Workgroup has been created and charged with a number of tasks which include, among other things, developing statewide recommendations to ensure smooth implementation of needed changes to child welfare, providing for an ongoing exchange of information among stakeholders, and identifying and eliminating systemic barriers to compliance with statutory time limitations. Chaired by Judge Michael Key with members representing child welfare organizations and agencies across the state, the CWLP Workgroup is a collaborative which seeks to monitor child welfare outcome and practice data; evaluate existing law, policy and practices; review proposed child welfare legislation from a multi-disciplinary perspective, and examine proposed agency policy changes. The ultimate goal of the Workgroup is to make recommendations for changes to child welfare law, policy and practice which will have a positive impact on the children and families of our state.

The Council's Spring Conference is scheduled for May 7-10, 2023, in St. Simons. The Spring conference will be immediately preceded by a two-day ICJE/CJCJ Education Certification Committee five-year long-range planning meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Judge Render M. Heard, Jr., President



Council of Probate Court Judges of Georgia

Judge B. Shawn Rhodes
President (Wilcox)

Judge Danielle McRae
President Elect (Upson)

Judge Christopher Ballar
Vice President (Gwinnett)

Judge Darin McCoy
Secretary-Treasurer (Evans)

Judge Thomas Lakes
Immediate Past President (Harris)

Kevin D. Holder
Executive Director

**Report to Judicial Council of Georgia
December 9, 2022**

The following is a summary of activities and current initiatives by the Council of Probate Court Judges:

2022 Fall COAG Conference

The annual Fall COAG Conference was held on October 10-12, 2022 at the Savannah Riverfront Marriott. As always, we extend our appreciation to the Probate Judges' Training Council and the staff of the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education for facilitating this event.

E-filing and Fee Schedule

Probate courts are in the process of preparing for implementing electronic filing, a process which we anticipate will take place within the next couple of years. To that end, our Council established two separate ad hoc committees to make e-filing possible. There is an ad hoc committee focused specifically on e-filing and another ad hoc committee focused on revising our fee schedule. We anticipate that during next year's legislative session that we will introduce legislation regarding our fee schedule and later in the session, introduce legislation pertaining to e-filing. Thanks to each of the respective probate judges who are working diligently on both aforementioned ad hoc committees.

Speaker David Ralston

Our Council sends our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of former Georgia House Speaker David Ralston, who recently passed away. Speaker Ralston was a friend to our Council, as he assisted us with several legislative initiatives through the years. Earlier this year, our Council honored Speaker Ralston with our Legislative Recognition Award for his advocacy and work on House Bill 1013. We hope that his memory will continue to be a blessing for each life that he touched.

Respectfully submitted,

Judge B. Shawn Rhodes
President, Council of Probate Court Judges of Georgia



Council of Magistrate Court Judges

244 Washington St., S.W., Suite 300, Atlanta, GA 30334-5677
(404) 656-5171 • Fax (404) 651-6449
Georgiamagistratecouncil.com

Executive Director
Sharon Reiss

President
Judge Rebecca Pitts
Butts County

President-Elect
Judge Brandon Bryson
Bartow County

Vice-President
Judge Bobby Wolf
Fulton County

Secretary
Judge Berryl A. Anderson
DeKalb County

Treasurer
Judge Jennifer Lewis
Camden County

Immediate Past President
Judge Quinn Kasper
Cobb County

District One
Judge Nathan Grantham
Judge Scott Lewis

District Two
Judge David Crosby
Judge Heather Culpepper

District Three
Judge Angela Sammons
Judge Jennifer Webb

District Four
Judge Phinia Aten
Judge Matt McCoyd

District Five
Judge Linda Borsky
Judge Cassandra Kirk

District Six
Judge Cecil Hutchins
Judge Megan Kinsey

District Seven
Judge Jennifer Inmon
Judge Connie Reed

District Eight
Judge Colby Crabb
Judge Ashley Thornton

District Nine
Judge Bill Brogdon
Judge Tony Tarnacki

District Ten
Judge Mike Burke
Judge Caroline Evans

Members-at-Large
Judge Jim Altman
Judge Todd Ashley

Council of Magistrate Court Judges Report

The Council of Magistrate Court Judges (CMCJ) has been busy this Fall. The New Judges 40 Hour Civil Training Session was held August 28th through September 2nd at the UGA Conference Center Hotel in Athens. Approximately 26 new Judges were in attendance and provided very positive feedback and reviews. The Magistrate Court Training Council and Curriculum Committee are working with ICJE staff to finalize training sessions and topics for next year.

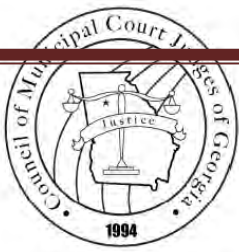
The annual Fall Recertification Conference was held October 3rd & 4th at The Westin Savannah Harbour Resort with approximately 160 Judges in attendance. Although a hurricane was forecast for the area a few days prior to the conference, we are thankful the weather allowed the training portion of the conference to move forward as planned.

CMCJ Committee chairs and Strategic Planning committee members are working on assigned tasks in the Council's updated Strategic Plan. We are proud to report that we have completed many of the tasks from the Strategic Plan. The Council is continuing to implement many of the updated initiatives on an ongoing basis.

Our Council is excited to work on plans to celebrate 40 years of CMJC during the annual Spring Recertification Conference at St. Simons Island King & Prince Resort in April 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judge Rebecca Pitts, President CMCJ



COUNCIL OF MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGES

November 29, 2022

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

Chief Judge Matthew McCord
President-Elect
City of Stockbridge
matt@mmccordlaw.com

Judge David Will, Vice President
City of Clarkston
dwill@royallaw.net

Chief Judge Robert Cowan, Secretary
City of Dalton
robcowan@cowanlawoffice.com

Chief Judge Ryan Hope, Treasurer
Athens -Clarke County
Ryan.Hope@accgov.com

Judge Lori B. Duff
Immediate Past President
City of Monroe
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 – December 2022

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 September 29, 2022, at The University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education & Hotel, Athens, Georgia. The Council also held its annual Fall Business Meeting on this day, where the Membership approved proposed amendments to the Uniform Municipal Court Rules.

The Council also recognized Laura Kathryne Hogan, ICJE Event Coordinator, and Casey Semple, ICJE Event Planner, for their years of superb service to the municipal court judges.

Municipal Court Judges Benchbook

The updated edition, through the CY2022 legislative session, of the E-Book of the Municipal Judges Benchbook by MyCLE, was distributed to all Council members for download and uploaded to the password protected area of the Council's website. Training for new judges ("Introduction to the Benchbook") was provided by MyCLE staff at the Fall Law & Practice Update.

Continuing Judicial Education

The Council's Fall Law and Practice Update Seminar was presented in person September 28-30, 2022, in Athens, Georgia. Conducted through the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education (ICJE), the three-day program provided accreditation for those serving as of January 1, 2022 (New Judges), in addition to recertifying judges. The curriculum included sessions such as Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) Roundtable; Updates on DUI Law; Legislative-Case Law-Evidence Updates; JQC Update; Profit & Punishment: "How America Criminalizes the Poor in the Name of Justice"; Poverty Simulator; Utilizing Technology in Unprecedented Times; Municipal Courts by Hon. Frank Caprio (via simulcast); and Probation: Sentencing Alternatives & Revocation. Additional subject matter tracks were provided to new judges as well.

Legislation

For the 2023 session of the General Assembly, the CMuCJ plans to introduce a "clean up" bill to conform language in HB 1275 to HB 916 the [Superior-and-State-Court-Appellate-Practice-Act](#).

The Council presented the initiative for approval at the November 16 meeting of the Judicial Council Standing Committee on Legislation. Judge Barrett, Chair, CMuCJ Legislative Committee and I look forward to the weekly JC Legislative Committee meetings during the session.

COUNCIL OF MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGES

Uniform Rules

On September 29, 2022, the Council of Municipal Court Judges approved the proposed amendment to UMCR 15 Telephone and Video Conferencing and the addition of UMCR 29 Mandatory Continuing Judicial Education.

The UMC Rule 15 amendment makes permanent the temporary rule that was issued during the statewide judicial emergency and adds a provision that would allow any proceeding to be conducted remotely so long as the judge and all the parties consent. New UMC Rule 29 adds the mandatory continuing judicial education requirements of municipal judges and the mentor program of the Council of Municipal Court Judges of Georgia. The proposed amendments have been forwarded for commentary to the proper contacts in advance of submission to the Supreme Court for approval.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council of Municipal Court Judges Executive Committee will be scheduled in conjunction with the CY23 legislative session.

Respectfully submitted,

Judge JaDawnya Baker

President, Council of Municipal Court Judges



STATE BAR WRITTEN REPORT
DECEMBER 2022

The State Bar held its fall meeting virtually on October 1. The Board of Governors approved two legislative proposals: (1) support for the Judicial Council's \$619,000 budget request to provide Civil Legal Services Grants for Medical Legal Partnerships, and (2) support for a comprehensive review of the Georgia Nonprofit Corporate Code. Both proposals will be a priority of the State Bar under the Gold Dome in 2023. The Bar's legislative committee will meet again on December 7, 2022 to consider additional legislative priorities for the coming legislative session.

The State Bar has relocated to a new space for the Coastal Georgia Office in Savannah. The Coastal Georgia Office will now be at 7402 Hodgson Memorial Drive, Suite 105, Savannah, Georgia. Though the new office will not be on the river, it will be more centrally located and provide additional parking for attorneys looking to use the space.

The Institute of Continuing Legal Education (ICLE), under the direction of its new director Julia Neighbors, is moving forward with new programming and a new platform for attorneys enrolling in virtually CLE's.

We encourage Judicial Council members, Georgia judges and attorneys to take a look at our first-ever combined State Bar of Georgia and Office of the General Counsel Annual Report in the Board Book on the State Bar website.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Akins
President, State Bar of Georgia

HEADQUARTERS

104 Marietta St. NW, Suite 100
Atlanta, GA 30303-2743
404-527-8700 · 800-334-6865
Fax 404-527-8717
www.gabar.org

COASTAL GEORGIA OFFICE

18 E. Bay St.
Savannah, GA 31401-9910
912-239-9910 · 877-239-9910
Fax 912-239-9970

SOUTH GEORGIA OFFICE

244 E. 2nd St. (31794)
P.O. Box 1390
Tifton, GA 31793-1390
229-387-0446 · 800-330-0446
Fax 229-382-7435

TAB 15



Council of Accountability Court Judges

Judge Charles E. Auslander III
Executive Committee Chair
Athens-Clarke County

Taylor Jones
Executive Director

Council of Accountability Court Judges Report to Judicial Council December 2022

In the time since the Council of Accountability Court Judges (CACJ) last reported to the Judicial Council, the CACJ held its annual training conference October 9-12, 2022. The conference was in person with 1,289 attendees onsite in Athens at The Classic Center. CACJ once again featured national and local speakers for this training event. Additionally, for 2022 CACJ hosted breakout sessions tailored toward new, intermediate, and advanced accountability court teams. Also, for 2022 CACJ debuted the *Georgia's Accountability Courts: Changing Lives* video. The purpose of the video is to highlight the lifesaving work that Georgia's accountability courts perform each day. A copy of the video is available on the CACJ website (cacj.georgia.gov). During the training event, CACJ recognized a set of model adult felony drug courts. These courts will serve as model programs and learning sites for others through 2025. The goal of Georgia's Accountability Court Model Court Program is to recognize the great work of accountability courts across the state, as well as identify strong programs that may serve as mentors for other courts. Programs identified as "model courts" are those that have met and exceeded adherence to Georgia's Standards as dictated by strong performance on the certification and peer review processes. All certified accountability courts were evaluated by objective criteria to determine eligibility. CACJ's Nominations Committee, comprised of judges who preside over all accountability court types, determined the final candidates for the model courts. The Nominations Committee is committed to selecting model courts of each court type that are representative of Georgia's diverse communities.

The 2022-2025 Model Adult Felony Drug Courts and their respective presiding judges are: Appalachian Judicial Circuit Adult Felony Drug Court, Chief Judge Brenda Weaver; Atlantic Judicial Circuit Adult Felony Drug Court, Judge D. Jay Stewart; Cherokee Judicial Circuit Adult Felony Drug, Chief Judge D. Scott Smith; Clayton County Adult Felony Drug Court, Judge Aaron Mason; Colquitt County Accountability Court, Judge Brian McDaniel; Forsyth County Adult Felony Drug Court, Chief Judge Jeffrey Bagley; Newton County Adult Felony Drug Court, Judge W. Kendall Wynne, Jr.; Northeastern Judicial Circuit Adult Felony Drug Court, Judge Jason Deal; Piedmont Judicial Circuit Adult Felony Drug Court, Judge Currie Minglehoff; and Savannah-Chatham Adult Felony Drug Court, Judge James Bass.

Further, CACJ's Funding Committee met on November 4, 2022. During this meeting, mid-year grants were considered. The Funding Committee was able to award \$456,302 as part of the SFY23 Enhancement and Innovative grant opportunity and \$300,091 as part of the SFY23 Accountability Court Law Enforcement grant opportunity. Additionally, CACJ, in partnership with the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC), was awarded \$1,364,871 in Emergency Solutions Grant-CARES Program funds for participant housing from the Department of Community Affairs. CACJ/CJCC is diligently working to award the available funds to the accountability courts participating in the project.

CACJ is preparing for its semi-annual meeting planned for January 22, 2023. CACJ is looking forward to another successful year of further developing and expanding Georgia's accountability courts.



GEORGIA COMMISSION ON DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution (GCDR) is pleased to report on the following:

Chair

Judge M. Cindy Morris

Executive Director

Tracy B. Johnson

Deputy Director

Karlie A. Sahs

Commission Members

Justice John J. Ellington

Judge Amanda H. Mercier

Judge Jane C. Barwick

N. Staten Bitting Jr., Esq.

Hon. Rebecca Crumrine Rieder

Judge Clarence Cuthbert, Jr.

Mary Donovan, Esq.

Judge C. Andrew Fuller

Herbert H. (Hal) Gray III, Esq.

Melissa C. Heard, M.S.S.W.

Nicole Woolfork Hull, Esq.

Rep. Rob Leverett, Esq.

Judge Carrie B. Markham

Patrick T. O'Connor, Esq.

Edith B. Primm, Esq.

Judge Renata D. Turner

Randall Weiland

Peggy McCoy Wilson

Data Collection Plan

The GCDR has approved a data collection plan for all court-connected alternative dispute resolution (ADR) programs in Georgia. This plan, developed in collaboration with the Office of Research and Data Analysis (ORDA) at the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), will expand the data collected to better illustrate the work of court ADR programs; increase the quality of data collected; and establish a set of data standards to improve data integrity. The plan features a fragmented implementation of data standards and elements from CY 2022 to 2025 to ensure no single program is posed with an undue burden to adhere to the approved data collection plan while actively working to improve the quality of statewide data.

The GCDR would like to recognize and thank Mr. Jeffrey Thorpe, JC/AOC Judicial Caseload Data Manager, for his leadership in the development of this plan.

29th Annual ADR Institute

The 2022 ADR Institute was held on November 18 at the Georgia Tech Hotel & Conference Center. This was the first in-person event in two years, with an option for virtual attendance. In total, there were over 400 registered for the event.

The GCDR would like to thank Justice John J. Ellington for delivering welcoming remarks and Justice Carla Wong McMillian for serving as a panelist for the session, *"Cultural Considerations and Language Barriers: Practical Tips for the Mediator and Advocate."*

The GCDR would also like to express its appreciation to Mr. Ben Luke, JC/AOC Chief Technology Officer for his presentation on cybersecurity; Ms. Kriste Pope, JC/AOC Systems Analyst II, Information Technology for her assistance with the sponsorships and conference logistics; Ms. Carole Collier, JC/AOC Staff Attorney for onsite assistance; the Georgia Courts Registrar Team for providing onsite help to neutrals with their registration renewals; and Ms. Kristy King, JC/AOC I.T. Program Manager, Development Team Lead for her role in designing and managing the conference ticketing system.

Ethics Opinion 7

Following the receipt of an ethical complaint against a registered neutral, the GCDR issued Ethics Opinion 7 as guidance for mediators on the use of social media. The opinion highlighted the dangers of social media use and importance of professional integrity.



GEORGIA COMMISSION ON DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Advisory Memo on recording virtual mediation sessions

The GCDR published an advisory memo to provide guidance to mediators on the use of virtual platforms, such as Zoom, to conduct mediations. In addition to this advisory memo, the GODR will be releasing a best practices manual for mediators which will include a section dedicated to virtual mediations.

Recognition of outgoing Commission Member Hon. C. Andrew Fuller

At the November 2 meeting, the GCDR recognized long-standing member Hon. C. Andrew Fuller for his 13-year service to GCDR. Judge Fuller was appointed to the GCDR in 2009 and served as Chair of the Budget and Personnel Committee from 2014-2022. The GCDR appreciates Judge Fuller's contributions and commitment to advancing dispute resolution in Georgia and wishes him well in his upcoming retirement from the bench.

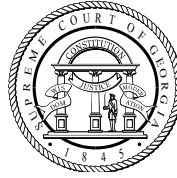


Commission Meeting Dates for 2023

Next year's GCDR meeting schedule has been set: February 8, May 3, August 9, and November 29. Meeting information as well as minutes from past meetings are posted on the GODR website at www.godr.org.

CHIEF JUSTICE'S COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONALISM

Hon. Michael P. Boggs, 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: December 9, 2022

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 Michael P. Boggs** serves as the current Chair of the Commission. Other judges who serve on the Commission are as follows: **Judge Clyde L. Reese III** for the Court of Appeals of Georgia; **Judge Shondeana Crews Morris** (Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit) for the Council of Superior Court Judges; and **Chief Judge T. Russell McClelland III** (State Court of Forsyth County) for the Council of State Court Judges. **Judge Steven D. Grimberg** serves on the Commission for the federal judiciary. **Justice Andrew A. Pinson** is the Supreme Court of Georgia advisor to the Commission. You may find a complete list of Commission members, advisors, and liaisons at the Commission's web site at <http://cjcpga.org/commission-members-2022-2023/>. A brief update of some of the Commission's activities is as follows.

SAVE THE DATE - PROFESSIONALISM CLE PROGRAM WITH STATE BAR PRESIDENT SALLY AKINS

The Commission will host a "Signature Professionalism Program" with State Bar of Georgia President, Ms. Sally Akins, on **February 22, 2023**, at the State Bar of Georgia in Atlanta. Ms. Akins has asked the Commission to design a program that showcases the history of the professionalism movement in Georgia. Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs has agreed to provide remarks during the program. The Commission staff will provide additional details about the program as they become available. A reception will immediately follow the program. Please save the date and join us.

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 six times per year. The August 2022 Georgia Bar Journal Professionalism Page entitled *Who Better to Lead Than Lawyers?* is attached as "Exhibit A." The October 2022 Georgia Bar Journal Professionalism Page entitled *Thirty Years of the Award-Winning Law School Orientations on Professionalism* is attached as "Exhibit B."

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. For more information on the Commission's work, please visit www.cjcpga.org.

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!

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CJCPGA>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/cjcpga/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cjcpga/videos>



Who Better to Lead Than Lawyers?

Lawyers have a special role within society that uniquely qualifies them to lead—and they owe it to others to do so.

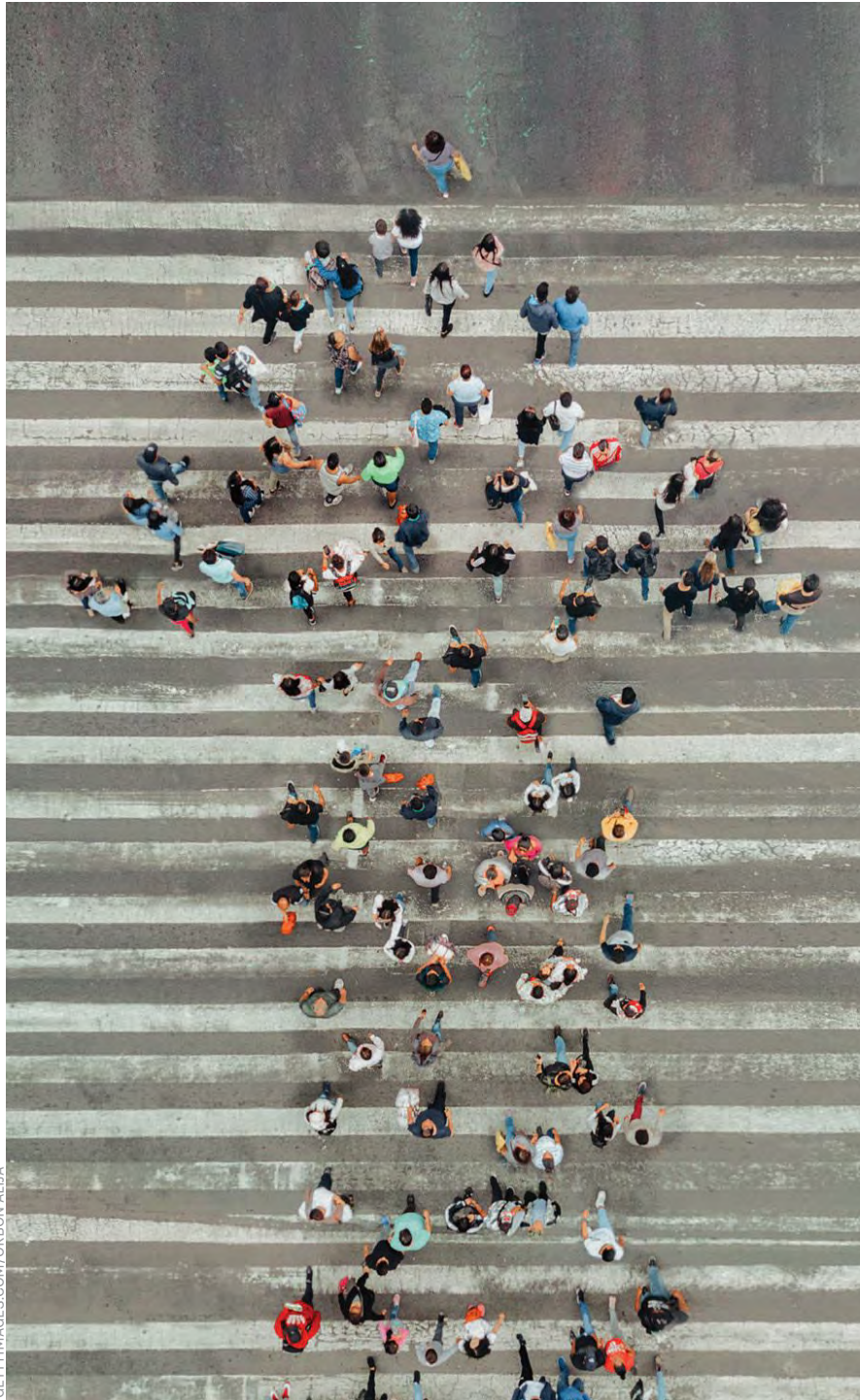
BY KARLISE Y. GRIER

I often find myself drawn to a transcription of proceedings of a Consultation on Professionalism convened by Chief Justice Thomas O. Marshall and hosted by Emory University President James Laney on March 31, 1988. I think there are many words of wisdom in the transcript. The Consultation on Professionalism—which brought together a distinguished group of lawyers and judges from around the state—may have been the first gathering of its kind to discuss professionalism. Recently, after hearing Judge Dorothy Beasley speak at the 2022 annual meeting of the Georgia Association for Women Lawyers, I found myself once again rereading the 1988 transcript because Beasley posed the question, “Who better to lead than lawyers?”

Beasley’s questions reminded me of some observations made by attorney Felker Ward at the 1988 consultation. An excerpt of his remarks is as follows:

I have concluded that we as lawyers are something kind of special. First of all, I concluded that from some of the reading materials that Chief Justice Marshall sent us. As I read through them and stopped and thought about it, I said, you know, we *are* special. We have a lot of influence over what happens in this society.

Then I was reminded of my days in law school here at Emory. We had one of the outstanding lawyers of our country, Melvin Belli, come out here and talk to us. I will never forget it. He gave us some sta-



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The fact that lawyers should lead and act in various roles in our society was a theme that was often reiterated in the early years of Georgia’s professionalism movement.

tistics showing that if you take the education and income of a lawyer and compare them to the rest of the country, we are almost a pinpoint. We are such a small class by so many measures that it constitutes almost an imperceptible percentage in our society. When I combined Mr. Belli’s point with the perception that people have of us out there in the world and with the genuine influence we have, I was forced to conclude again that we are a special lot. ... I suggest to you that if we are special, as I’ve been led to believe that we are, then we have a responsibility to do something. The best way to do something is to teach by example. While our words may pass away, we can, by our actions, set lasting examples and enduring standards for society as a whole.¹

The fact that lawyers should lead and act in various roles in our society was a theme that was often reiterated in the early years of Georgia’s professionalism movement. Former Supreme Court of Georgia Chief Justice Harold G. Clarke wrote in a 1989 article:

In a positive sense, lawyers owe the public the debt of service and leadership. Service generally takes a form of pro bono legal work, because the needs of the deprived lie waiting for the service of the more fortunate.

The grand tradition of the legal profession insists that lawyers not shrink from leadership roles. By nature and training, lawyers possess qualities which uniquely fit them for positions of leadership in both the public and private sector. From the very beginnings of our republic, Americans have looked to lawyers for leadership. Some evidence indicates the setting of the sun on this tradition. Fewer and fewer lawyers offer to serve as public officials, and it even seems that lawyers are volunteering less frequently to lead in civic and charitable activity. At least one reason for this unfortunate development is the explosion of cost in the operation of a law practice which makes time an enormously valuable commodity. With respect to public office, another reason is the tendency on the part of some persons to distrust lawyers and therefore diminish their electability. Perhaps the best way to regain lost trust is to reassert our willingness to serve and lead.²

We are fortunate that within our Georgia legal community, there are many opportunities to gain leadership training through programs such as the State Bar of Georgia’s Young Lawyers Division Leadership Academy or through one of the leadership or public office training academies of the voluntary bar associations. In his 1988 remarks, Ward

challenged his audience to act regarding the lack of diversity in large law firms. While the issue of large law firm diversity is an issue that perhaps does not resonate with everyone who reads this article, I would wager that there is at least one issue that you care about, and like Ward, I challenge you to take action. We as lawyers owe it to others to lead because we have a special role within our society that uniquely qualifies us to lead. So, like Beasley, I ask: “Who better to lead than lawyers?” ●



Karlise Y. Grier

Executive Director
Chief Justice’s Commission
on Professionalism

kygrier@cjcpga.org

Endnotes

1. Proceedings of a Consultation on Professionalism and the Practice of Law, Chief Justices Commission on Professionalism, Professionalism Then (1988) and Now (2019) <http://cjcpga.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/1988-ConsultationOnProf.pdf> (Last visited June 24, 2022).
2. Harold G. Clarke, *Professionalism: Repaying the Debt*, 25 Ga. St. B. J. 170 (1989), <http://cjcpga.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/25-GSBj-170-1989-Professionalism-Repaying-the-Debt.-Harold-Clarke-ethics-minimum.pdf>.

Thirty Years of the Award-Winning Law School Orientations on Professionalism

The Commission thanks all of the lawyers and judges—including the 140 lawyers and judges and one law school graduate who served as group leaders—for helping to make the 2022 Law School Orientations on Professionalism a great success!

BY KARLISE Y. GRIER

In 1992, Dana Miles, while serving as chair of the State Bar of Georgia Committee on Professionalism, became the architect of the Law School Orientations on Professionalism. During 1992 and 1993, Miles reported on the progress of the Committee's work on the orientations to the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism. On Nov. 2, 1992, Miles reported that the committee had divided responsibilities for its project of making a professionalism presentation at each of the four Georgia accredited law schools' orientations.¹ Those divisions were (1) law school coordination (getting in touch with deans and faculty members), (2) program development and (3) attorney identification and recruitment. Miles further announced that he would be calling on members of the commission and the bench and bar to participate in the orientation programs.

During another meeting on June 4, 1993, Miles reported to the commission that the committee was in the final stages of planning the Orientation on Professionalism programs as a part of orientation at the law schools. Miles also credited Professor Roy Sobelson with the development of the hypotheticals to be used in the breakout groups at these programs.

Miles further announced that the committee was actively recruiting lawyer volunteers to serve as small group leaders.

The first Law School Orientations on Professionalism program in Georgia was held in the fall of 1993. Shortly, thereafter, by the commission's Nov. 19, 1993, meeting the American Bar Association Commission on Partnership Programs announced that it had selected the State Bar of Georgia Orientations on Professionalism as the recipient of the 1994 ABA/Information America Client Relations Project Award. Miles accepted the award at the ABA Midyear Meeting in Kansas City in February 1994. In addition, the Nov. 19, 1993, commission minutes reflected that the committee and the commission continued to receive letters commending the orientations. Sobelson reported that he was finding that first-year law students were bringing up professionalism issues in substantive classes.

The commission, along with the State Bar of Georgia's 2021-22 Committee on Professionalism, under the leadership of Chair Joshua Bosin and Vice Chair Terrika Redfield Ganzy, observed the 30th Anniversary of the Law School Orientations on Professionalism by holding the orientations at all five of Georgia's ABA-

accredited law schools during August 2022.² The orientations are designed to introduce concepts of legal professionalism to incoming 1L students. Georgia judges and lawyers serve as "group leaders" at breakout sessions during the orientations to help students learn the meaning of professionalism and why it is important for them as law students. The Law School Orientations subcommittee that planned the August 2022 law school orientation programs was chaired by Michael Herskowitz, U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of Georgia. The vice chairs of the subcommittee were J. Maria Waters, Worsham Corsi Dobur & Berss, and Kacey Baine, JD May 2022, Georgia State University College of Law.³

The focus of the hypothetical problems designed by the Committee and discussed with the students has changed over the years from client-centered problems to professionalism problems law students might encounter while they are students in law school. Nevertheless, the heart of the Law School Orientations on Professionalism has remained the same for the past 30 years. In a letter to the students at each of the law schools, Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs described the orientations as follows:

Group leaders for the orientations at (1) Atlanta's John Marshall Law School; (2) Mercer University Walter F. George School of Law; and (3) University of Georgia School of Law.



PHOTO BY MARIA GOBER

The heart of the Professionalism Orientation is the breakout session, during which one of the documents you will discuss is A Lawyer's Creed and the Aspirational Statement on Professionalism. This document is intended for use by Georgia's practicing lawyers and judges, but as you will discover during your breakout sessions, the principles embodied in it have many applications to you as a law student. In 1992, the Supreme Court of Georgia explained that it was our "hope that Georgia's lawyers, judges and legal educators will use the ... ideals [set forth in A Lawyer's Creed and the Aspirational Statement on Professionalism] to reexamine the justifications of the practice of law in our society and to consider the implications of those justifications for their conduct."

The commission asked Professor Emeritus Roy Sobelson, who retired from Georgia State University College of Law in 2018, what was the rationale behind the breakout sessions and his thoughts about why the breakouts continue to be one of the highlights for students of the program. He said:

I was always surprised at how many law students knew almost nothing about what lawyers really do and



PHOTO BY LEAH YETTER



PHOTO BY HEIDI M. MURPHY



Group leaders for the Emory University School of Law orientation.



Group leaders for the Georgia State University College of Law orientation.

had made no pre-school effort to examine what a lawyer's life and career are really like. And while professors serve partly as role models, I knew that many of them had little practice experience or had left practice because they disliked it. Thus, I thought it was important that [new law students] immediately see how successful practicing lawyers think, work, talk, carry themselves and engage in public service. I didn't give as much thought to how much it helped them see the diversity of thought amongst their new classmates, which was a real bonus. Since those first professionalism sessions, I've spoken with many graduates who remember them quite vividly, and say they had a profound effect on their lives, which is something

I honestly didn't expect, but pleases me greatly.

The Commission and the Committee thank our partners (including deans, professors, law students and support staff) at each of Georgia's five ABA-accredited law schools and the many lawyers and judges who have volunteered during the past 30 years. It is because of each of these individuals that the Commission and the Committee can continue to make the award-winning Law School Orientations on Professionalism an outstanding success! ●



Karlise Y. Grier
Executive Director
Chief Justice's Commission
on Professionalism
kygrier@cjcpga.org

Endnotes

1. Georgia's fifth law school, Atlanta's John Marshall Law School, was included in the orientation program in later years.
2. See <http://cjcpga.org/law-school-orientations-on-professionalism-2022/>.
3. For a list of the many people, in addition to the group leaders, who assisted with the preparation and execution of the 2022 Law School Orientations on Professionalism and to view more photographs from the orientations, visit http://cjcpga.org/orientations_2022_thankphotos/.

Are you interested in serving as a group leader for the 2023 Law School Orientations on Professionalism? Complete the contact form found at www.surveymonkey.com/r/GL_Contact.

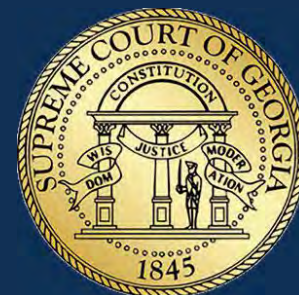


2022 Law School Orientation on Professionalism Group Leader Volunteers

Michael Abramson	Nancy Daspit	Hon. Stacey Hydrick	Robert Noble
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Charles Cullen	Sheila Huddleston	Bill NeSmith	Jill Young
Charles Dalziel	Julie Hunter-Anderson	Mark Nevitt	

23rd Annual Justice Robert Benham Awards for Community Service

The Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism is accepting nominations for the 23rd Annual Justice Robert Benham Awards for Community Service through Nov. 11. Visit cjcpnga.org/nominationsbenhamcsa for more information on the nomination eligibility criteria or to nominate a deserving lawyer or judge.





2023 FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT

JULY – OCTOBER 2022

FOR REVENUE AND EXPENSES ADMINISTERED BY ICJE OF GEORGIA*

COMPILED BY

Lynne Moore Nelson, Esq., ICJE Executive Director

Email: LynneMoore.Nelson@uga.edu

Direct: 706.542.1124

Emily Rashidi, ICJE Business Operations Manager

Email: emily.rashidi@uga.edu

Direct: 706.542.1160

**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; the UGA School of Law Business Office; and, Royals & Associates, CPAs.



SHARED OFFICE OVERHEAD ALLOCATION

FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT

1 OVERHEAD ALLOCATION BASED ON BUDGETED EXPENSES					
2	Total ICJE Budgeted Overhead Costs			\$123,052.00	
3	Less: Amount Not Allocated To Constituent Groups*			\$44,00.00	
4	OVERHEAD COSTS SUBJECT TO ALLOCATION:			\$79,052.00	
5	Constituent Group	FY23 Projected Budgeted Expenses	% of Total Expenses	Allocated Overhead	FY23 Projected Total Expenses
6	Superior Court Judges	\$708,000.00	33.217%	\$26,259.00	\$734,259.00
7	State Court Judges	\$105,937.00	4.970%	\$3,929.00	\$109,866.00
8	Juvenile Court Judges	\$71,550.00	3.357%	\$2,654.00	\$74,204.00
9	Juvenile Court Clerks	\$22,600.00	1.060%	\$838.00	\$23,438.00
10	Probate Court Judges – Non Traffic	\$99,980.00	4.691%	\$3,708.00	\$103,688.00
11	Probate Court Judges – Traffic	\$45,038.00	2.113%	\$1,670.00	\$46,708.00
12	Probate Court Clerks	\$32,874.00	1.542%	\$1,219.00	\$34,094.00
13	Magistrate Court Judges	\$247,062.00	11.591%	\$9,163.00	\$256,225.00
14	Magistrate Court Clerks	\$43,005.00	2.018%	\$1,595.00	\$44,600.00
15	Municipal Court Judges	\$142,348.00	6.678%	\$5,279.00	\$147,628.00
16	Municipal Court Clerks	\$135,059.00	6.336%	\$5,009.00	\$140,068.00
17	Judicial Staff Attorneys	\$5,000.00	0.235%	\$185.00	\$5,185.00
18	Accountability Court Judges	\$473,000.00	22.191%	\$17,543.00	\$490,543.00
19	TOTALS:	\$2,131,454.00	100%	\$79,052.00	\$2,210,506.00

FAQ # 1: Why Are ICJE Constituent Groups Assessed A “Shared Office Overhead” Allocation?

Answer: Because the appropriated funds ICJE receives does not cover the entire cost of ICJE operations. Further, the directive to reduce appropriated funds for FY2021 exacerbates this problem.

FAQ #2: What Is The Overhead Allocation Formula?

Answer: The formula follows a customary method for allocating shared costs as equitably as possible. Specifically, the cost allocation is based on the ratio of each constituent group’s cost before overhead allocation to total costs of all the groups before overhead allocation. The resulting percentage is multiplied by the total cost to allocate a portion of cost to each group.

The end result is that constituent groups with a larger number of members and larger expenditures, will be assessed more overhead costs than constituent groups with a smaller number of members and smaller expenditures.



ICJE ADMINISTRATIVE/OFFICE OVERHEAD

FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT

October 2022 – Administrative Office of the Courts

1	APPROPRIATIONS		
2	<i>Appropriated Funds</i>		
3	Administrative Costs Appropriation		\$642,932.00
4	<i>TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS:</i>		\$642,932.00
5	EXPENDITURES – PERSONNEL	Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
6	(Fund Source 01/Project Code 301)		
7	Personnel: Salaries, Benefits & Indirect Costs	\$0.00	-\$100,017.70
8	<i>TOTAL PERSONNEL EXPENSES:</i>	\$0.00	-\$100,017.70
9	TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS REMAINING:		\$542,914.30
10	SHARED OFFICE OVERHEAD		
11	FY22 Office Overhead Allocation Carryforward		\$26,109.89
12	Constituent Groups Office Overhead Allocation ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾		\$0.00
13	TOTAL SHARED OFFICE OVERHEAD:		\$26,109.89
14	EXPENDITURES – OPERATIONS	Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
15	Rent	\$0.00	\$0.00
16	Utilities	\$0.00	\$0.00
17	Janitorial Services	-\$768.00	-\$1,152.00
18	Postage	\$0.00	\$0.00
19	Miscellaneous Office Supplies	\$0.00	-\$786.47
20	ICJE Event Branding/Meetings	\$0.00	-\$298.89
21	Dues & Memberships	-\$150.00	-\$415.00
22	ICJE Board of Trustees Meetings	\$0.00	\$0.00
23	Staff Travel – Executive Director	\$0.00	-\$136.00
24	Professional Fees (Accounting/Auditing)	\$0.00	\$0.00
25	IT Support – AOC Wifi	-\$152.06	-\$456.16
26	IT Support – Hardware, Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$0.00
27	Software License/Subscriptions	\$0.00	-\$7,912.60
28	AOC Fiscal Support	\$0.00	\$0.00
29	<i>TOTAL OVERHEAD EXPENSES:</i>	-\$1,070.66	-\$11,157.12
30	ENDING OVERHEAD FUND BALANCE	-\$1,070.66	\$14,952.77

⁽¹⁾ 08/05/2022 – The office overhead allocation will occur during the first half of FY2023. The total amount transferred to ICJE’s project code 300 will be listed once the transaction is completed. ⁽²⁾ A request was sent on 11/04/2022 to have \$59,913.00 of overhead allocation funds transferred to ICJE’s project code 300.



ICJE ADMINISTRATIVE

FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT

October 2022 – University of Georgia

1	REVENUES*		
2	FY22 Funds carried over to FY23 at the University of Georgia	\$34,436.14	
3	International Judges Conference	\$0.00	
4	TOTAL OPERATING FUNDS:	\$34,436.14	
5 EXPENDITURES – OPERATIONS		Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
6	Utilities	-\$217.14	-\$1,053.83
7	Postage	\$0.00	\$0.00
8	Miscellaneous Office Supplies	\$0.00	-\$40.00
9	Dues & Memberships	\$0.00	\$0.00
10	IT Support – UGA Wifi	-\$1,333.32	-\$5,333.28
11	IT Support – Hardware, Miscellaneous	\$0.00	-\$198.68
12	Copier – UGA	\$0.00	-\$131.46
13	Copier Overages - UGA	\$0.00	-\$34.66
14	Telephone Service	-\$51.79	-\$207.27
15	Office Equipment Service Agreement	-\$100.00	-\$100.00
16	<i>TOTAL OVERHEAD EXPENSES:</i>	-\$1,702.25	-\$7,099.18
17	ENDING OVERHEAD FUND BALANCE	-\$1,702.25	\$27,336.96

*This amount furnished to ICJE Staff by UGA School of Law Business Office. The source of these revenues includes contracted fees for educational training provided in conjunction with the UGA Law School (e.g. International Judge Training provided in collaboration with UGA Law School Dean Rusk Center). The title and order of overhead categories are based upon overhead expenses listed in the State Bar of Georgia Financial Reports.



STATE COURT JUDGES

FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT

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 FUND BALANCE			
2	Beginning fiscal year fund balance		\$65,960.84
3	Beginning October 2022 fund balance		\$210,475.98 ⁽¹⁾
4 REVENUES			
		Monthly Revenues	YTD Revenues
5 CJE Support Fees			
6	Annual Support Fees	\$672.00	\$4,352.00 ⁽²⁾
7	Transfer of funds from Council of State Court Judges	\$0.00	\$141,000.00
8	Refunds	\$0.00	\$0.00
9	<i>TOTAL REVENUES:</i>	\$672.00	\$145,352.00
10 EXPENDITURES – EVENTS			
		Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
11 Educational Training Events			
12	Fall 2022 Conference	-\$3,588.39	-\$3,741.19
13	New Judge Orientation 2023 Conference	\$0.00	\$0.00
14	Spring 2023 Conference	\$0.00	\$0.00
15	Multi-Class of Court/Online Courses	\$0.00	-\$1.14
16	Spring 2022 Conference	\$0.00	-\$9.57
17	<i>TOTAL EVENT EXPENSES:</i>	-\$3,588.39	-\$3,751.90
18 EXPENDITURES – MEETINGS			
		Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
19	Educational Programs Committee Meetings (ICJE Staff Travel)	\$0.00	\$0.00
20	New Judge Orientation Conference Committee Mtgs (ICJE Staff Travel)	\$0.00	\$0.00
21	ICJE Board Meetings (Board Appointee Travel Reimbursement)	\$0.00	\$0.00
22	<i>TOTAL MEETING EXPENSES:</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00
23 EXPENDITURES - OTHER			
		Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
24	Quarterly Postage	\$0.00	-\$1.35
25	Vimeo Subscription Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
26	<i>TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES:</i>	\$0.00	-\$1.35
27 SHARED OFFICE OVERHEAD			
		Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
28	Pro Rata (\$3,929.00)	\$0.00	\$0.00
29	ENDING FUND BALANCE	-\$2,916.39	\$207,559.59

⁽¹⁾ There was an adjustment in the overall fund balance. See revenue note below.

⁽²⁾ There were 2 late deposits not included in the September 2022 financial reports. The total revenue for September was \$1,920.00. The revenue and total fund balance were corrected in the October 2022 financial reports.



JUVENILE COURT JUDGES

FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT

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 FUND BALANCE		
2	Beginning fiscal year fund balance		\$102,967.11
3	Beginning October 2022 fund balance		\$104,261.86 ⁽¹⁾
4	REVENUES	Monthly Revenues	YTD Revenues
5	<i>CJE Support Fees</i>		
6	Annual Support Fees	\$2,688.00	\$4,992.00 ⁽²⁾
7	Grant – Justice for Children (J4C)	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
8	Refunds	\$0.00	\$0.00
9	<i>TOTAL REVENUES:</i>	\$12,688.00	\$14,992.00
10	EXPENDITURES – EVENTS	Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
11	<i>Educational Training Events</i>		
12	Spring 2022 Conference	\$0.00	-\$9.25
13	Fall 2022 Conference	\$0.00	\$0.00
14	Spring 2023 Conference	\$0.00	\$0.00
15	Spring 2023 Long Range Planning Meeting	\$0.00	-\$1,000.00
16	Multi-Class of Court/Online Courses	\$0.00	\$0.00
17	<i>TOTAL EVENT EXPENSES:</i>	\$0.00	-\$1,009.25
18	EXPENDITURES – MEETING	Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
19	Education and Certification Committee Meetings (ICJE Staff Travel)	\$0.00	\$0.00
20	ICJE Board Meeting (Board Appointee Travel Reimbursement)	\$0.00	\$0.00
21	<i>TOTAL MEETING EXPENSES:</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00
22	EXPENDITURES - OTHER	Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
23	Vimeo Subscription Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
24	Quarterly Postage	\$0.00	\$0.00
25	Printing/Publications	\$0.00	\$0.00
26	<i>TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES:</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00
27	SHARED OFFICE OVERHEAD	Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
28	Pro Rata (\$2,654.00)	\$0.00	\$0.00
29	ENDING FUND BALANCE	\$12,688.00	\$116,949.86

⁽¹⁾ There was an adjustment in the overall fund balance. See revenue note below.

⁽²⁾ There were 2 late deposits not included in the September 2022 financial reports. The total revenue for September was \$1,920.00. The revenue and total fund balance were corrected in the October 2022 financial reports.



JUVENILE COURT CLERKS

FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT

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 FUND BALANCE		
2	Beginning fiscal year fund balance		\$13,639.13
3	Beginning October 2022 fund balance		\$13,639.13
4	REVENUES	Monthly Revenues	YTD Revenues
5	<i>CJE Support Fees</i>		
6	Annual Support Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
7	Refund	\$0.00	\$0.00
8	<i>TOTAL REVENUES:</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00
9	EXPENDITURES – EVENTS	Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
10	<i>Educational Training Events</i>		
11	Annual 2023 Conference	\$0.00	\$0.00
12	<i>TOTAL EVENT EXPENSES:</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00
13	EXPENDITURES – MEETINGS/MISCELLANEOUS	Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
14	Georgia Association of Juvenile Court Clerks (ICJE Staff Travel)	-\$80.00	-\$80.00
15	<i>TOTAL MEETING EXPENSES:</i>	-\$80.00	-\$80.00
16	EXPENDITURES – OTHER	Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
17	Quarterly Postage	\$0.00	\$0.00
18	<i>TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES:</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00
19	SHARED OFFICE OVERHEAD	Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
20	Pro Rata (\$838.00)	\$0.00	\$0.00
21	ENDING FUND BALANCE	-\$80.00	\$13,559.13



PROBATE COURT JUDGES – NON TRAFFIC

FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT

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 FUND BALANCES			
2	Beginning fiscal year fund balance		\$83,897.54
3	Beginning October 2022 fund balance		\$85,644.25
4 REVENUES			
		Monthly Revenues	YTD Revenues
5	<i>CJE Support Fees</i>		
6	Annual Support Fees	\$2,340.00	\$4,095.00
7	Refunds	\$0.00	\$0.00
8	<i>TOTAL REVENUES:</i>	\$2,340.00	\$4,095.00
9 EXPENDITURES – EVENTS			
		Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
10	<i>Educational Training Events</i>		
11	Spring 2022 Conference	\$0.00	-\$1.36
12	Fall 2022 Conference - COAG	-\$1,046.10	-\$1,046.10
13	Spring 2023 Conference	\$0.00	\$0.00
14	New Judge Orientation Conference	\$0.00	\$0.00
15	Multi-Class of Court/Online Courses	\$0.00	-\$1.14
16	<i>TOTAL EVENT EXPENSES:</i>	-\$1,046.10	-\$1,048.60
17 EXPENDITURES – MEETINGS			
		Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
18	Probate Judge Training Council Meetings (ICJE Staff Travel)	\$0.00	\$0.00
19	ICJE Board Meeting (Board Appointee Travel Reimbursement)	\$0.00	\$0.00
20	<i>TOTAL MEETING EXPENSES:</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00
21 EXPENDITURES – CERTIFICATE PROGRAM & MENTORING			
		Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
22	Non-Traffic Probate Certificate Plaque & Postage	-\$25.00	-\$27.72
23	Mentoring – Travel Reimbursement	\$0.00	\$0.00
24	<i>TOTAL CERTIFICATE & MENTORING EXPENSES:</i>	-\$25.00	-\$27.72
25 EXPENDITURES - OTHER			
		Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
26	Vimeo Subscription Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
27	Quarterly Postage	\$0.00	-\$3.07
28	<i>TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES:</i>	\$0.00	-\$3.07
29 SHARED OFFICE OVERHEAD			
		Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
30	Pro Rata (\$3,708.00)	\$0.00	\$0.00
31 ENDING FUND BALANCE			
		\$1,268.90	\$86,913.15



PROBATE COURT JUDGES - TRAFFIC

FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT

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 FUND BALANCES			
2	Beginning fiscal year fund balance		\$52,764.27
3	Beginning October 2022 fund balance		\$18,348.21
5 REVENUES			
		Monthly Revenues	YTD Revenues
6	<i>CJE Support Fees</i>		
7	Annual Support Fees	\$0.00	\$475.00
8	Refunds	\$0.00	\$0.00
9	<i>TOTAL REVENUES:</i>	\$0.00	\$475.00
10 EXPENDITURES – EVENTS			
		Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
11	<i>Educational Training Events</i>		
12	Annual 2022 Traffic Conference	\$0.00	-\$34,891.06
13	Annual 2023 Traffic Conference	-\$1,000.00	-\$1,000.00
14	New Judge Orientation	\$0.00	\$0.00
15	Multi-Class of Court/Online Courses	\$0.00	\$0.00
16	<i>TOTAL EVENT EXPENSES:</i>	-\$1,000.00	-\$35,891.06
17 EXPENDITURES – MEETINGS			
		Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
18	Probate Judge Traffic Committee Meetings (ICJE Staff Travel)	\$0.00	\$0.00
19	ICJE Board Meeting (Board Appointee Travel Reimbursement)	\$0.00	\$0.00
20	<i>TOTAL MEETING EXPENSES:</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00
21 EXPENDITURES – CERTIFICATE PROGRAM & MENTORING			
		Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
22	Probate Traffic Certificate Program/Postage	\$0.00	\$0.00
23	Mentoring – Travel Reimbursement	\$0.00	\$0.00
24	<i>TOTAL CERTIFICATE & MENTORING EXPENSES:</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00
25 EXPENDITURES - OTHER			
		Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
26	Vimeo Subscription Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
27	Quarterly Postage	\$0.00	\$0.00
28	<i>TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES:</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00
29 SHARED OFFICE OVERHEAD			
		Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
30	Pro Rata (\$1,670.00)	\$0.00	\$0.00
31	ENDING FUND BALANCE	-\$1,000.00	\$17,348.21



PROBATE COURT CLERKS

FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT

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 FUND BALANCES			
2	Beginning fiscal year fund balance		\$61,567.04
3	Beginning October 2022 fund balance		\$33,233.43 ⁽¹⁾
4 REVENUES			
		Monthly Revenues	YTD Revenues
5	<i>CJE Support Fees</i>		
6	Annual Support Fees	\$1,815.00	\$3,465.00 ⁽²⁾
7	Refunds	\$0.00	-\$990.00
8	<i>TOTAL REVENUES:</i>	\$1,815.00	\$2,475.00
9 EXPENDITURES – EVENTS			
		Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
10	<i>Educational Training Events</i>		
11	LWEG & Traffic Training – July 2022	-\$258.46	-\$29,235.57
12	Multi-Class of Court/Online Courses	\$0.00	-\$0.58
13	<i>TOTAL EVENT EXPENSES:</i>	-\$258.46	-\$29,236.15
14 EXPENDITURES – MEETINGS/POSTAGE			
		Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
15	Educational Apparatus Meetings	\$0.00	\$0.00
16	<i>TOTAL MEETING EXPENSES:</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00
17 EXPENDITURES – OTHER			
		Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
18	Quarterly Postage	\$0.00	\$0.00
19	Training Certificate Program	\$0.00	-\$15.92
20	<i>TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES:</i>	\$0.00	-\$15.92
21 SHARED OFFICE OVERHEAD			
		Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
22	Pro Rata (\$1,219.00)	\$0.00	\$0.00
23 ENDING FUND BALANCE			
		\$1,556.54	\$34,789.97

⁽¹⁾ There was an adjustment in the overall fund balance. See revenue note below.

⁽²⁾ There was 1 late deposit not included in the September 2022 financial reports. The total revenue for September was \$330.00. The revenue and total fund balance were corrected in the October 2022 financial reports.



MAGISTRATE COURT JUDGES

FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT

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 FUND BALANCES			
2	Beginning fiscal year fund balance		\$277,503.94
3	Beginning October 2022 fund balance		\$280,771.33 ⁽¹⁾
4 REVENUES			
5	<i>CJE Support Fees</i>	Monthly Revenues	YTD Revenues
6	Annual Support Fees	\$3,160.00	\$9,085.00 ⁽²⁾
7	Refunds	-\$395.00	-\$395.00
8	<i>TOTAL REVENUES:</i>	\$2,765.00	\$8,690.00
9 EXPENDITURES – EVENTS			
10	<i>Educational Training Events</i>	Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
11	2022 40 Hr. Basic Civil Certification	-\$9,806.66	-\$12,399.31
12	Fall 2022 Recertification	-\$15,948.75	-\$15,948.75
13	Chief Judges' 2023 Update	\$0.00	\$0.00
14	2023 40 Hr. Criminal Certification	\$0.00	\$0.00
15	Spring 2023 Recertification	\$0.00	\$0.00
16	Multi-Class of Court/Online Courses	\$0.00	-\$5.71
17	Financial Assistance for National Training	\$0.00	\$0.00
18	Past Events – CLE Requests	\$0.00	-\$48.00
19	<i>TOTAL EVENT EXPENSES:</i>	-\$25,755.41	-\$28,401.77
20 EXPENDITURES – MEETINGS & MENTORING			
21	Magistrate Judge Training Council Meetings (Judge & ICJE Staff Travel)	\$0.00	\$0.00
22	ICJE Board Meeting (Board Appointee Travel Reimbursement)	\$0.00	\$0.00
23	Mentoring – Travel Reimbursements	\$0.00	\$0.00
24	<i>TOTAL MEETINGS & MENTORING EXPENSES:</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00
25 EXPENDITURES – PUBLICATIONS/PRINTING			
26	Benchbook	\$0.00	\$0.00
27	<i>TOTAL PUBLICATION/PRINTING EXPENSES:</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00
28 EXPENDITURES – OTHER			
29	Vimeo Subscription Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
30	Quarterly Postage	\$0.00	-\$11.25
31	Supplies (Name Badges)	\$0.00	\$0.00
32	<i>TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES:</i>	\$0.00	-\$11.25
33 SHARED OFFICE OVERHEAD			
34	Pro Rata (\$9,163.00)	\$0.00	\$0.00
35	ENDING FUND BALANCE	-\$22,990.41	\$257,780.92

⁽¹⁾ There was an adjustment in the overall fund balance. See revenue note below.

⁽²⁾ There was 1 late deposit not included in the September 2022 financial reports. The total revenue for September was \$790.00. The revenue and total fund balance were corrected in the October 2022 financial reports.



MAGISTRATE COURT JUDGES HISTORIC RESERVES*

Fund Source: 42001 Project Code: 371

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 this group’s leadership or educational apparatus that was not administered by ICJE.

1	HISTORICAL RESERVES	TOTAL RESERVES
2	Total Funds	\$49,289.30
3	EXPENDITURES – APPROVED BY MCTC	TOTAL EXPENDITURES
4	Professional Fees – Royals & Associates, CPA (2020)	\$262.50
5	<i>TOTAL EXPENDITURES:</i>	\$262.50
6	TOTAL HISTORICAL RESERVES REMAINING:	\$49,026.80

**The amounts on this sheet were designated as “historic reserves” by the ICJE Board of Trustees’ Budget Committee. Since July, 2017, the AOC, as ICJE’s fiscal agent, has held these “historic reserves”. Prior to July, 2017, the “historic reserves” were on deposit at SunTrust Bank in two accounts: the account labeled “Magistrate” contained \$49,289.30 at the time of account closure and transfer to AOC fiscal; and, the account labeled “Municipal” contained \$116,501.03 at the time of account closure and transfer to AOC fiscal. The closure of the two accounts and the transfer of the funds in those accounts over to AOC fiscal in July 2017 was based upon the recommendation of the AOC Chief Financial Officer.*

On October, 23, 2020, the ICJE Board of Trustees unanimously approved the following motion:

MOTION:

The amount of \$49,026.80, currently designated as “Historic Reserves” (“Magistrate” Project Code 371) be transferred/reallocated/redesignated as soon as practicable to Fund Source 42001 “Magistrate Court Judges”; and that the full amount of the \$49,026.80 be expended for future expenditures of educational events; meetings; publications; mentoring; and, shared office overhead, for Magistrate Court Judges in the same manner that revenues derived from annual CJE Support Fees are expended as directed by the Magistrate Court Training Council.



MAGISTRATE COURT CLERKS

FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL REPORTS

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 FUND BALANCE		
2	Beginning fiscal year fund balance		\$2,132.13
3	Beginning October 2022 fund balance		\$7,126.79
4	REVENUES	Monthly Revenues	YTD Revenues
5	<i>CJE Support Fees</i>		
6	Transfer of funds from GA Council of Magistrate Court Clerks	\$0.00	\$6,500.00
7	Annual Support Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
8	Refunds	\$0.00	\$0.00
9	<i>TOTAL REVENUES:</i>	\$0.00	\$6,500.00
10	EXPENDITURES – EVENTS	Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
11	Clerks Annual 2021 Conference	\$0.00	-\$24.00
12	Clerks Annual 2022 Conference	\$0.00	-\$1,480.77
13	Clerks Annual 2023 Conference	\$0.00	\$0.00
14	<i>TOTAL EVENT EXPENSES:</i>	\$0.00	-\$1,504.77
15	EXPENDITURES – MEETINGS	Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
16	Educational Apparatus Meetings	\$0.00	\$0.00
17	<i>TOTAL MEETING EXPENSES:</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00
18	EXPENDITURES - OTHER	Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
19	Vimeo Subscription Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
20	Quarterly Postage	\$0.00	-\$0.57
21	<i>TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES:</i>	\$0.00	-\$0.57
22	SHARED OFFICE OVERHEAD	Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
23	Pro Rata (\$1,595.00)	\$0.00	\$0.00
24	ENDING FUND BALANCE	\$0.00	\$7,126.79



MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGES

FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT

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 FUND BALANCES			
2	Beginning fiscal year fund balance		\$176,017.48
3	Beginning October 2022 fund balance		\$188,029.23 ⁽¹⁾
4 REVENUES			
		Monthly Revenues	YTD Revenues
5	<i>CJE Support Fees</i>		
6	Annual Support Fees	\$2,925.00	\$14,950.00 ⁽²⁾
7	Refunds	\$0.00	\$0.00
8	<i>TOTAL REVENUES:</i>	\$2,925.00	\$14,950.00
9 EXPENDITURES – EVENTS			
		Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
10	<i>Educational Training Events</i>		
11	2022 Summer 20 Hr. Recertification / Law & Practice	-\$37,144.90	\$37,144.90
12	Fall 2022 20 Hr. Recertification / Law & Practice	-\$3,524.49	-\$3,524.49
13	Summer 2023 20 Hr. Recertification / Law & Practice	-\$5,400.00	-\$5,400.00
14	Multi-Class of Court/Online Courses	\$0.00	-\$3.43
15	Financial Assistance for National Training	\$0.00	\$0.00
16	<i>TOTAL EVENT EXPENSES:</i>	-\$46,069.39	-\$46,072.82
17 EXPENDITURES – MEETINGS			
		Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
18	Municipal Judge Training Council Meetings (Judge & ICJE Staff Travel)	\$0.00	\$0.00
19	ICJE Board Meeting (Board Appointee Travel Reimbursement)	\$0.00	\$0.00
20	<i>TOTAL MEETING EXPENSES:</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00
21 EXPENDITURES - PUBLICATIONS			
		Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
22	Benchbook/Purchased Publication	\$0.00	\$0.00
23	<i>TOTAL PUBLICATION EXPENSES:</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00
24 EXPENDITURES – OTHER			
		Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
25	Vimeo Subscription Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
26	Quarterly Postage	\$0.00	-\$9.82
27	<i>TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES:</i>	\$0.00	-\$9.82
28 SHARED OFFICE OVERHEAD			
		Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
29	Pro Rata (\$5,279.00)	\$0.00	\$0.00
30 ENDING FUND BALANCE			
		-\$43,144.39	\$144,884.84

⁽¹⁾ There was an adjustment made in the overall fund balance. See revenue note below.

⁽²⁾ There were 2 late deposits not included in the September 2022 financial reports. The total revenue for September was \$5,200.00. The revenue and total fund balance were corrected in the October 2022 financial reports.



MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGES HISTORIC RESERVES*

Fund Source: 42002 Project Code: 371

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 this group’s leadership or educational apparatus that was not administered by ICJE.

1	HISTORICAL RESERVES	TOTAL RESERVES
2	Total Funds	\$116,501.03
3	EXPENDITURES – APPROVED BY CMCI	TOTAL EXPENDITURES
4	Professional Fees – Royals & Associates, CPA	-\$262.50
5	Studdard on Criminal Law Annual Subscription – Hon. Ben Studdard	-\$2,250.00
6	<i>TOTAL EXPENDITURES:</i>	-\$2,512.50
7	TOTAL HISTORICAL RESERVES REMAINING:	\$113,988.53

**The amounts on this sheet were designated as “historic reserves” by the ICJE Board of Trustees’ Budget Committee. Since July, 2017, the AOC, as ICJE’s fiscal agent, has held these “historic reserves”. Prior to July, 2017, the “historic reserves” were on deposit at SunTrust Bank in two accounts: the account labeled “Magistrate” contained \$49,289.30 at the time of account closure and transfer to AOC fiscal; and, the account labeled “Municipal” contained \$116,501.03 at the time of account closure and transfer to AOC fiscal. The closure of the two accounts and the transfer of the funds in those accounts over to AOC fiscal in July 2017 was based upon the recommendation of the AOC Chief Financial Officer.*

On October, 23, 2020, the ICJE Board of Trustees unanimously approved the following motion:

MOTION:

The amount of \$116,238.53, currently designated as “Historic Reserves” (“Municipal” Project Code 371) be transferred/reallocated/redesignated as soon as practicable to Fund Source 42002 “Municipal Court Judges”; and that the full amount of the \$116,238.53 be expended for future expenditures of educational events; meetings; publications; and, shared office overhead, for Municipal Court Judges in the same manner that revenues derived from annual CJE Support Fees are expended as directed by the Municipal Court Training Council.



MUNICIPAL COURT CLERKS

FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT

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 FUND BALANCES			
2	Beginning fiscal year fund balance		\$186,274.70
3	Beginning October 2022 fund balance		\$161,267.41 ⁽¹⁾
4 REVENUES			
		Monthly Revenues	YTD Revenues
5	<i>CJE Support Fees</i>		
6	Annual Support Fees	\$2,550.00	\$12,900.00 ⁽²⁾
7	Refunds	\$0.00	-\$300.00
8	<i>TOTAL REVENUES:</i>	\$2,550.00	\$12,600.00
9 EXPENDITURES – EVENTS			
		Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
10	<i>Educational Training Events</i>		
11	Recertification – August 2022	\$0.00	-\$23,764.06
12	16 Hour Certification – September 2022	-\$14,506.14	-\$22,196.09
13	Online Recertification – November 2022	\$0.00	\$0.00
14	Recertification – November 2022	-\$35,000.00	-\$38,600.00
15	16 Hour Certification – February 2023	\$0.00	\$0.00
16	Recertification – March 2023	\$0.00	\$0.00
17	<i>TOTAL EVENT EXPENSES:</i>	-\$49,506.14	-\$84,560.15
18 EXPENDITURES – MEETINGS			
		Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
19	Educational Apparatus Meetings/Site Visits	\$0.00	\$0.00
20	<i>TOTAL MEETING EXPENSES:</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00
21 EXPENDITURES – OTHER			
		Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
22	Quarterly Postage	\$0.00	-\$3.28
23	Vimeo Subscription Fee	\$0.00	\$0.00
24	<i>TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES:</i>	\$0.00	-\$3.28
25 SHARED OFFICE OVERHEAD			
		Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
26	Pro Rata (\$5,009.00)	\$0.00	\$0.00
27	ENDING FUND BALANCE	-\$46,956.14	\$114,311.27

⁽¹⁾ There was an adjustment made to the overall fund balance. See revenue note below.

⁽²⁾ There were 2 late deposits not included in the September 2022 financial reports. The total revenue for September was \$4,500.00. The revenue and total fund balance were corrected in the October 2022 financial reports.



SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES

FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT

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 FUND BALANCE			
2	Beginning fiscal year fund balance		\$157,848.95
3	Beginning October 2022 fund balance		\$380,129.55
4 REVENUES			
5	Appropriated Funds	Monthly Revenues	YTD Revenues
6		\$0.00	\$575,750.00
	TOTAL REVENUES:	\$0.00	\$575,750.00
7 EXPENDITURES - EVENTS			
8	<i>Educational Training Events</i>	Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
9	Summer 2022 Conference	-\$19,245.94	-\$372,710.34
10	New Judge Orientation 2022 Conference	\$0.00	-\$5.00
11	Winter 2023 Conference	\$0.00	\$0.00
12	TOTAL EVENT EXPENSES:	-\$19,245.94	\$372,715.34
13 EXPENDITURES – MEETINGS			
14	CSCJ Meetings (ICJE Staff Travel)	Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
15	ICJE Board Meetings (Board Appointee Travel Reimbursement)	\$0.00	\$0.00
16	TOTAL MEETING EXPENSES:	\$0.00	\$0.00
17 EXPENDITURES – OTHER			
18	Vimeo Subscription Fees	Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
19	Quarterly Postage	\$0.00	\$0.00
20	TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES:	\$0.00	\$0.00
21 SHARED OFFICE OVERHEAD			
22	Pro Rata – (\$26,444.00 for Superior Court Judges & Judicial Staff Attorneys)	Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
		\$0.00	\$0.00
23	ENDING FUND BALANCE	-\$19,245.94	\$360,883.61

Superior Court Judges’ Educational Training & Appropriated Funds: The revenue source for all amounts shown on this report for Superior Court Judge educational training is appropriated funds; specifically, appropriations to the Council of Superior Court Judges of Georgia (“CSCJ”). ICJE facilitates three educational programs for CSCJ each year: (1) Summer Conference; (2) Winter Conference; and, (3) New Judge Orientation. ICJE invoices CSCJ for the expense of each event; and, CSCJ, using funds appropriated to CSCJ, pays ICJE. This transaction represents a payment of a CJE Support Fee on behalf of each Superior Court Judge by CSCJ. The amounts paid during each fiscal year varies, depending on the cost of the events. These funds are included in the ICJE Fiscal Year Budget.

Superior Court Judges’ Travel Reimbursement & Appropriated Funds: In addition to paying ICJE for the cost of training events, CSCJ also pays for Superior Court Judges’ allowable travel expenses associated with training events. (OCGA §15-6-32). The revenue source for the travel expenses is appropriated funds; specifically, appropriations to the Council of Superior Court Judges of Georgia (“CSCJ”). The amounts paid during each fiscal year varies, depending on the amount of allowable travel expenses. **All funds received by ICJE are deposited with the AOC as fiscal agent. The revenue is subsequently identified, designated, and the expenditures tracked, in accordance with the State Accounting Policy and Procedure/Accounting Manual Reference.**



JUDICIAL STAFF ATTORNEYS

FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT

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 FUND BALANCE		
2	Beginning fiscal year fund balance		\$5,259.83
3	Beginning October 2022 fund balance		\$5,259.83
4	REVENUES	Monthly Revenues	YTD Revenues
5	Appropriated Funds (CSCJ pays for Superior Court) (Fund Source 42007)		
6	Registration Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
7	<i>TOTAL REVENUES:</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00
8	EXPENDITURES - EVENTS	Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
9	<i>Educational Training Events (Fund Source 42007/Project Code 323)</i>		
10	Annual Conference	\$0.00	\$0.00
11	<i>TOTAL EVENT EXPENSES:</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00
12	EXPENDITURES – MEETINGS	Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
13	Educational Apparatus Meetings	\$0.00	\$0.00
14	<i>TOTAL MEETING EXPENSES:</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00
15	EXPENDITURES – OTHER	Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
16	Quarterly Postage	\$0.00	\$0.00
17	<i>TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES:</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00
18	SHARED OFFICE OVERHEAD	Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
19	Pro Rata (\$185.00)	\$0.00	\$0.00
20	ENDING FUND BALANCE	\$0.00	\$5,259.83

The Judicial Staff Attorneys' portion of shared office overhead funds is paid for by the Council of Superior Court Judges from Fund Source 42007, Project Code 323 and is reflected in the Superior Court Judges' Fiscal Year Financial Report.



ACCOUNTABILITY COURT JUDGES

FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT

Fund Source: 44195 Project Code: 368

Training Mandates: Training is mandated by Article 10 – Training, of the CACJ Rules and Regulations; and by CACJ Standing Committee on Training Protocol. The venues are contracted in collaboration with CACJ Executive Committee; and, CACJ Executive Director.

1 BEGINNING FUND BALANCE			
2	Beginning fiscal year fund balance		\$32,422.30
3	Beginning October 2022 fund balance		\$32,422.30
4 REVENUES			
		Monthly Revenues	YTD Revenues
5	Annual Training Conference (Revenue from grant)	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
6	New Judge Orientation	\$0.00	\$0.00
7	<i>TOTAL REVENUES:</i>	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
8 EXPENDITURES - EVENTS			
		Monthly Expense	YTD Expenses
9	<i>Educational Training Events</i>		
10	Annual Training Conference (Expenditures not paid from grant)	\$0.00	\$0.00
11	Annual Training Conference (Expenditures paid from grant)	\$0.00	\$0.00
12	New Judge Orientation	\$0.00	\$0.00
13	<i>TOTAL EVENT EXPENSES:</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00
14 EXPENDITURES – MEETINGS			
		Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
15	Educational Apparatus Meetings	\$0.00	\$0.00
16	<i>TOTAL MEETING EXPENSES:</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00
17 EXPENDITURES – OTHER			
		Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
18	Vimeo Subscription Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
19	Quarterly Postage	\$0.00	\$0.00
20	<i>TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES:</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00
21 SHARED OFFICE OVERHEAD			
		Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
22	Pro Rata (\$17,543.00)	\$0.00	\$0.00
23	ENDING FUND BALANCE:	\$20,000.00	\$52,422.30



GEORGIA COMMISSION ON FAMILY VIOLENCE

(GRANT – DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BENCH BOOK)

FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT

Fund Source: 42012 Project Code: 353

**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 this group’s leadership or educational apparatus that was not administered by ICJE.*

1	BEGINNING BALANCES		
2	Beginning fiscal year balance		\$0.00
3	Beginning September 2022 balance		\$0.00
4	REVENUES	Monthly Revenues	YTD Revenues
5	VAWA Grant Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00
6	<i>TOTAL REVENUES:</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00
7	EXPENDITURES – CONTRACTS	Monthly Expenses	YTD Expenses
8	<i>Services by Subcontractor</i>		
9	Joan Prittie – Attorney (Invoice #1)	\$0.00	\$0.00
10	Joan Prittie – Attorney (Invoice #2)	\$0.00	\$0.00
11	<i>TOTAL CONTRACTED EXPENSES:</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00
12	ENDING FUND BALANCE	\$0.00	\$0.00