

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA

General Session

Friday, April 21, 2023

10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.



Columbus Convention & Trade Center

**Judicial Council of Georgia
General Session**

Columbus Convention & Trade Center

801 Front Avenue
Columbus, GA 31901

Friday, April 21, 2023
10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

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

- 1. Call to Order & Preliminary Remarks**
(Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs, Est. Time – 5 Min.)
- 2. Roll Call of Judicial Council Members**
(Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs & Ms. Cynthia H. Clanton, Est. Time – 5 Min.)
- 3. Pledge of Allegiance**
(Chief Judge Arthur Lee Smith III, Est. Time – 1 Min.)
- 4. Approval of Minutes (*Action Item*)** **TAB 1**
(Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs, Est. Time – 2 Min.)
- 5. Judicial Council Committee Reports**
 - A. ARPA Funding Committee** **TAB 2**
(Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs, Est. Time – 5 Min.)
 - B. Legislation Committee** **TAB 3**
(Presiding Justice Nels S.D. Peterson, Est. Time – 5 Min.)
 - C. Budget Committee** **TAB 4**
(Justice Charles J. Bethel & Mr. Andrew Zoll, Est. Time – 5 Min.)
 - D. Judicial Salaries and Supplements Committee**
(Justice Charles J. Bethel, Est. Time – 5 Min.)
 - E. Court Interpreters Committee**
(Justice Carla Wong McMillian, Est. Time – 3 Min.)
 - F. Judicial COVID-19 Task Force**
(Justice Shawn Ellen LaGrua, Est. Time – 5 Min.)
 - G. Judicial Security Committee** **TAB 5**
(Justice Shawn Ellen LaGrua, Est. Time – 5 Min.)
 - H. Court Reporting Matters Committee (*Action Item*)** **TAB 6**
(Vice Chief Judge Amanda H. Mercier, Est. Time – 5 Min.)

- I. Judicial Workload Assessment Committee** (*Action Item*)
(Judge Robert D. Leonard, Est. Time – 15 Min.) **TAB 7**
- J. Technology Committee**
(Judge Stephen D. Kelley, Est. Time – 5 Min.) **TAB 8**
- K. Judicial Emergency Preparedness Committee** (*Written Report*) **TAB 9**
- 6. Report from Judicial Council/AOC** **TAB 10**
(Ms. Cynthia H. Clanton, Est. Time – 10 Min.)
- 7. Reports from Courts, Councils, & State Bar** **TAB 11**
(Est. Time – 15 min.)
 - 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**
- 8. Reports from additional Judicial Branch Agencies** **TAB 12**
(Est. Time – 10 Min.)
 - 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

9. Old/New Business

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

10. Recognition of Outgoing Members

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

11. Concluding Remarks & Adjournment of Meeting

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

Next Judicial Council Meeting – General Session

Friday, August 18, 2023 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Atlanta, GA

CY 2023 Meeting Calendar – Judicial Council General Session

Friday, December 8, 2023 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Zoom Conferencing

Judicial Council of Georgia

Members as of February 1, 2023

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

Chief Judge LaTisha Dear Jackson 4th JAD	Superior Court	Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit 556 N. McDonough Street Room 7220 Decatur, GA, 30030	P: 404-371-4710	ldearjackson@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
Chief Judge D. Scott Smith 7th JAD	Superior Court	Cherokee Judicial Circuit 135 West Cherokee Avenue Suite 335 Cartersville, GA, 30120	P: 678-721-3242	smiths@bartowga.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
Chief 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
Chief 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 January 1, 2023

Judge Warner L. Kennon President-Elect, CJCJ	Juvenile Court	Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit P.O. Box 311 Gainesville, GA 30503	P: 706-225-3549	wkennon@columbusga.org wlk@wlkpc.com
Judge B. Shawn Rhodes President, CPCJ	Probate Court	Wilcox County 103 N. Broad St. Abbeville, GA 31001	P: 229-467-3201	judgeshawnrhodes@gmail.com
Judge Danielle McRae President-Elect, CPCJ	Probate Court	Upson County P.O. Box 906 Thomaston, GA 30286	P: 706-647-7015 F: 706-646-3341	dmcrae@upsoncountyga.org
Chief Judge Rebecca J. Pitts President, CMCJ	Magistrate Court	Butts County 625 W. 3 rd St. Suite 11 Jackson, GA 30233	P: 770-775-8220	rpitts@buttscounty.org
Chief Judge Brandon Bryson President-Elect, CMCJ	Magistrate Court	Bartow County 112 W. Cherokee Ave Suite 101 Cartersville, GA 30120	P: 770-387-5070 F: 770-387-5073	brysonb@bartowcountyga.com
Judge JaDawnya C. Baker President, CMu CJ	Municipal Court	Municipal Court of Atlanta 150 Garnett Street, SW Atlanta, GA 30303	P: 404-558-5970	jobaker@atlantaga.gov
Judge Matthew M. McCord President-Elect, CMu CJ	Municipal Court	Municipal Court of Stockbridge 4602 N. Henry Blvd. Stockbridge, GA 30281	P: 770-389-7906	matt@mmccordlaw.com
Ms. Sally Akins President, State Bar of Georgia	State Bar of GA	1480 Chatham Parkway Suite 210 Savannah, GA 31405	P: 912-417-2879	sakins@milesmediation.com

Administrative Office of the Courts

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

Cynthia H. Clanton, Director

As of February 1, 2023

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

Armeia 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

Kimberly Jenkins

Kim Burley

Celesta Murray

Cassandra Niblack

*All email addresses follow this format:
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Jiajun Liu

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Regina Hailey

ARPA

Khalil Nunes

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

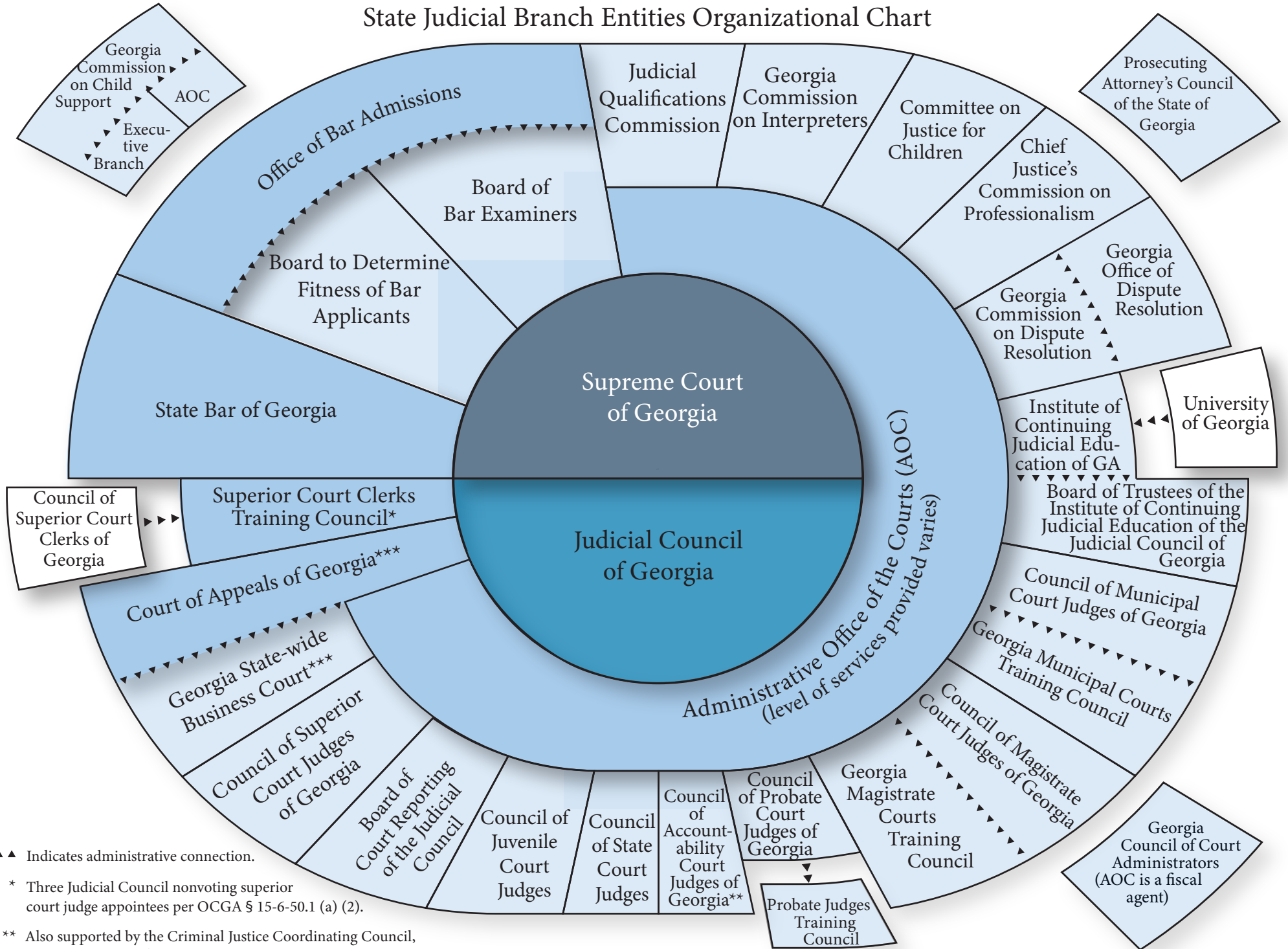
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State Judicial Branch Entities Organizational Chart



▲▲ 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
Remote Conferencing
Friday, February 10, 2023 • 10:00 a.m.

Members Present

Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs, Chair
Presiding Justice Nels S.D. Peterson, Vice
Chair
Ms. Sally Akins
Judge JaDawnya C. Baker
Judge R. Violet Bennett
Chief Judge Joseph H. Booth
Chief Judge John Kent Edwards, Jr.
Chief Judge Ural D. Glanville
Chief Judge R. Timothy Hamil
Judge William Grady Hamrick III
Judge Render M. Heard, Jr.
Chief Judge LaTisha Dear Jackson
Presiding Judge Warner L. Kennon
Judge Matthew M. McCord
Judge Danielle McRae
Vice Chief Judge Amanda H. Mercier
Chief Judge Rebecca J. Pitts
Chief Judge Brian M. Rickman
Chief Judge W. Fletcher Sams
Judge W. James Sizemore, Jr.
Chief Judge Arthur Lee Smith III
Judge D. Jay Stewart
Chief Judge D. Scott Smith
Judge B. Shawn Rhodes

Chief Judge Sarah Wall
Judge Robert Wolf (For Judge Brandon
Bryson)

Members Absent

Judge John E. Morse
Judge Melanie B. Cross

Staff Present

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

Guests (Appended)

Call to Order and Welcome

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

Judge Scott Smith. Chief Justice Boggs also recognized designees attending for absent members¹ and special guests. Ms. Clanton recorded member attendance through the Zoom attendee list and verbally confirmed as needed via roll call. At its conclusion, Chief Justice Boggs asked Chief Judge Hamil to lead The Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Chief Justice Boggs directed the Council's attention to the minutes of the December 9, 2022, General Session, provided in the supplemental materials. A motion to approve the minutes was offered by Judge Bennett, followed by a second from Judge Baker. No discussion was offered, and the motion was approved without opposition.

Presentation: Judicial Council/AOC 50th Anniversary

Chief Justice Boggs recognized former judge and Judicial Council Fellow Tain Kell for a special presentation. Judge Kell shared the history and importance of the Judicial Council/AOC, which was created in 1973 by then Governor Jimmy Carter. Judge Kell shared a letter from former President Carter honoring the JC/AOC's work. In honor of the 50th anniversary, the AOC has created an archive of every annual report to date which can be found on the AOC website. Judge Kell then presented a video featuring Former Chief Justice Melton and Chief Justice Boggs highlighting how critical the Judicial Council/AOC is to Georgia's Judiciary. Judge Kell concluded by congratulating the Council and agency and thanking Chief Justice Boggs for the invitation to be a part of the meeting.

Judicial Council Committee Reports

Legislation Committee. Presiding Justice Peterson provided an oral report. He highlighted that the legislative session is on Day 16 with Crossover Day on March 6th. The Council previously voted to support two initiatives: legislation to provide for technical and conforming amendment clean up as a result of last year's passage of House Bill 916, which has been filed as House Bill 186 by Representative Rob Leverett; and legislation to amend OCGA § 15-12-122 to increase the threshold permitting a six-person jury in a civil case unique to state courts from \$25,000 to \$100,000. This legislation is still being worked on and the State Bar Advisory Committee on Legislation recently voted in support. Presiding Justice Peterson summarized the legislation introduced to create new superior court judgeships based on the Council's top three recommendations and noted these have funding requests in the FY 2024 budget. He reported that

¹ See Members Present on page 1

the Committee is closely tracking Senate Bill 63 and Senate Bill 100, which are both public safety bills involving unsecured judicial release and bond requirements. Lastly, he reported that the Committee is holding weekly calls each Friday, and he reminded members that information and legislative initiatives should be shared through the Committee even if they seem to only affect one class of court.

Budget Committee. Chief Justice Boggs referred members to the written report provided in the materials. He reminded members that the AFY 2023 budget is continuing through the process and has been presented to the Senate subcommittee. Next Tuesday, the FY 2024 budget for both the Supreme Court and the Judicial Council will be presented.

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

American Rescue Plan Act Funding Committee. Chief Justice Boggs referred members to the written report provided in the materials, highlighting that the CY 2022 funds expired on December 31, 2022. Funds do not carry over and grantees are given 60 days to submit reimbursement request for expenses that occurred through December 31, 2022. He reminded members that the deadline to submit CY 2022 reimbursement requests is March 1, 2023. He provided an update to the figure provided in the report, stating that over ten million dollars has been reimbursed to circuits and the Council of Superior Court Judges for Senior Judges for CY 2022 expenses. Chief Justice Boggs informed members that the Committee has approved audio-visual expenditure modernization in existing courtrooms as an eligible expense subject to certain rules and procedures; the policy is included in the materials and posted on the ARPA website. The committee has also approved an increase to the \$2 million award cap to \$2.5 million for all eligible expenses including audio-visual equipment modernization, which was done to accommodate circuits that were already at the cap prior to the approval of the audio-visual equipment.

The next round of ARPA grant applications will be accepted from April 1 until April 15. Chief Justice Boggs reminded members that this will be the final application period for 2023, and that the Committee's Award Amendments and Administrative Revision Policy will be strictly enforced. All committee documents have been and are continuously updated to reflect policy changes and a complete list of those revisions by date can be found on the cover of the frequently asked questions document on the Committee's website. Lastly, Chief Justice Boggs informed members that an ARPA grants dashboard, which can be accessed through the committee's website,

has been launched to provide real time data on grant award reimbursement requests and award status.

Chief Justice Boggs administered the Council oath to Presiding Judge Kennon, who was delayed in joining the meeting.

Report from the Judicial Council/AOC

Ms. Clanton delivered a report on behalf of the JC/AOC. She announced that the Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts will be celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. In honor of the anniversary the Communications Team and IT Division developed a searchable electronic archive of all annual reports, dating back to the very first report. Other commemorations, as well as a wellness event, will take place throughout the year. The JC/AOC's FY 2022 Annual Report has been published and will be distributed to the General Assembly. Ms. Clanton asked all council members to review the draft of the Georgia Courts Directory before it is published.

Ms. Clanton announced that the legislative session began on January 9, and highlighted Chief Justice Boggs swearing in the legislators in the House of Representatives. Both Probate and Magistrate Court Judges Day took place at the Capitol on Wednesday, February 1.

On January 20, the ARPA Team provided technical assistance training to CY 2023 grantees. Ms. Clanton announced that the Child Support Commission recently completed a review of Georgia's Child Support Guidelines. A copy of the report documenting that review can be found on the Commission's website. Ms. Clanton thanked the Council of Superior Court Judges on behalf of the IT Division for inviting them to host a help desk at their Winter Conference and announced that the IT Division also recently launched a new IT newsletter called "Court Tech Talk." She announced that Judge Ann Harris recently held a graduation for Cobb County's Mental Health Court and Board of Court Reporting held a meeting where Chief Judge Brenda Trammel was reappointed. The Georgia Court's Registrar Team was busy over the holidays, renewing registrations for 2,438 neutrals. Ms. Clanton thanked Judge Cynthia Adams for participating in World Read Aloud day by reading to an elementary school in Douglasville and also thanked Judge Regina Matthews for hosting staff members as the AOC continues the Court Observation Program.

Ms. Clanton thanked Judge JaDawnya Baker for speaking at the AOC's December All Staff Meeting and Judge Vi Bennett for speaking at the AOC's January All Staff Meeting. She also congratulated Supreme Court Clerk Tee Barnes for being honored by Mercer Law School

with its Outstanding Alumna Award. Ms. Clanton closed her remarks by reiterating the AOC's role as a service agency to the judiciary.

Reports from Courts, Councils, & State Bar

Supreme Court. Chief Justice Boggs highlighted that he and Presiding Justice Peterson completed their meetings with each class of court and thanked all for taking time to meet. He also informed members that the Judicial Council Standing Committee on Judicial Security has recently been created and the order was included in the materials. The committee will be chaired by Justice LaGrua and staffed by Darron Enns and Shirley Roberts. Justice LaGrua will request each class of court to designate an appointee to the committee. Once the committee is formed, a list of advisory committee members will be created to provide technical assistance.

Court of Appeals. Chief Judge Rickman spoke to the passing of Judge Clyde Reese.

State-wide Business Court. Chief Justice Boggs referred members to the written report provided in the materials.

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

Council of State Court Judges. Judge Bennett thanked Chief Justice Boggs and Presiding Justice Peterson for their personal visit with the State Court Judges Council.

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

Council of Probate Court Judges. Judge Rhodes thanked Chief Justice Boggs and Presiding Justice Peterson for their personal visit with his Council.

Council of Magistrate Court Judges. Chief Judge Pitts thanked Chief Justice Boggs and Presiding Justice Peterson for their personal visit with her Council.

Council of Municipal Court Judges. Judge Baker commended the court for creating the Standing Committee on Judicial Security, thanked Chief Justice Boggs and Presiding Justice Peterson for their personal visit, and announced that the Council will be holding its legislative breakfast at the Capitol on March 8th.

State Bar of Georgia. Ms. Sally Akins provided an oral report.

Reports from Other Judicial Branch Agencies

Council of Accountability Court Judges. Ms. Taylor Jones highlighted that the Council has released its FY 2022 annual report, which is available on the Council website.

Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution. Chief Judge Cindy Morris stated that 2023 will be the Commission's 30th anniversary, and reported that Judge Pandora Palmer and Judge Vic Reynolds will be sworn in as Commission members this week.

Council of Superior Court Clerks. Mr. Michael Holiman highlighted that the Criminal Case Data Exchange Board has met the statutory obligation to publish standards for criminal data exchange across the agencies; the standards were sent to the legislature the first week of January. He explained that more work needs to be done regarding obtaining criminal case data.

Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism. Ms. Karlise Grier spoke to the passing of Judge Clyde Reese.

Georgia Council of Court Administrators. Ms. Lynne Ansley highlighted that GCCA is preparing for its upcoming spring conference to be held at Callaway Gardens March 15-17.

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

Judicial Qualifications Commission. Ms. Courtney Veal 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.

Special Recognition

Chief Justice Boggs recognized Ms. Jody Overcash for her 23 years of service as District Court Administrator for the Seventh Judicial Administrative District, and reported she is now the Circuit Court Administrator in the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit. Chief Judge Scott Smith echoed the Chief Justice's comments and praise for Ms. Overcash.

Adjournment

Chief Justice Boggs reminded members to visit the new ARPA dashboard before contacting staff regarding reimbursement requests. He expressed his appreciation for all the judges working through case backlogs and acknowledged the workforce development issues facing many circuits. He announced that the next Judicial Council General Session will be in person on Friday, April 21, 2023, at the Columbus Convention and Trade Center. The meeting will be live streamed

with no Zoom option. This will be the last meeting of FY 2023 and many members will be completing their terms of service.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

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

The above and foregoing minutes
were approved on the _____ day of
_____, 2023.

Michael P. Boggs
Chief Justice

Judicial Council of Georgia
General Session
Remote Conferencing
Friday, February 10, 2023 • 10:00 a.m.

Guest Present

Chief Judge Berryl A. Anderson, Magistrate Court, Dekalb County
Judge Shakara Barnes, Georgia Office of State Administrative Hearings
Justice Charles J. Bethel, Supreme Court of Georgia
Mr. Joseph Baden, Third Judicial Administrative District
Mr. Josh Becker, Council of Accountability Court Judges
Mr. T.J. BeMent, Tenth Judicial Administrative District
Mr. Bob Bray, Council of State Court Judges
Ms. Lalaine Briones, Prosecuting Attorney's Council of Georgia
Mr. Richard Denney, First Judicial Administrative District
Ms. Karlise Grier, Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism
Judge Ann Harris, Superior Court, Cobb Judicial Circuit
Ms. Christine Hayes, State Bar of Georgia
Mr. Michael Holiman, Council of Superior Court Clerks
Mr. Eric John, Council of Juvenile Court Judges
Ms. Tracy Johnson, Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution
Ms. Taylor Jones, Council of Accountability Court Judges
Mr. Tain Kell, Former Judge & Judicial Council Fellow
Judge Stephen D. Kelley, Superior Courts, Brunswick Judicial Circuit
Ms. Anne Kirkhope, Council of Juvenile Court Judges
Justice Shawn Ellen LaGrua, Supreme Court of Georgia
Judge Robert D. Leonard, Superior Court, Cobb Judicial Circuit
Mr. David Mixon, Second Judicial Administrative District
Ms. Grace McGowan, Ninth Judicial Administrative District
Chief Judge Cindy Morris, Superior Court, Whitfield County
Mr. Bob Nadekow, Eighth Judicial Administrative District
Mr. Jay Neal, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
Ms. Lynne Moore Nelson, Institute of Continuing Education
Ms. Debra Nesbit, Council of Superior Court Judges
Ms. Jody Overcash, Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit
Judge Amanda Petty, Superior Courts, Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit
Ms. LeNora Hawkins Ponzio, Fourth Judicial Administrative District
Ms. Sharon Reiss, Council of Magistrate Court Judges
Ms. Karlie Sahs, Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution
Judge Juliette Scales, Juvenile Court, Fulton County
Ms. Christina Smith, Georgia Court of Appeals
Mr. Robert Smith, Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia
Chief Judge Russell W. Smith, Superior Courts, Mountain Judicial Circuit
Ms. Courtney Veal, Judicial Qualifications Commission
Mr. Shannon Weathers, Council of Superior Court Judges
Judge David C. Will, Council of Municipal Court Judges

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: April 11, 2023

The application period for CY 2023-Cycle Two funding is currently open, running from April 1 through April 15, 2023. Screening and compliance review will take place following the close of the application period, and the Committee will meet on Friday, May 12, 2023, to make award decisions. Awards will be announced following the meeting. New and amended grants approved on May 12, 2023, will be effective for expenditures starting on June 1, 2023. This will conclude all opportunities to apply for CY 2023 funding and the CY 2023 program timeline is available on the ARPA Committee's website (<https://jcaoc.georgiacourts.gov/arpa/>).

The AOC ARPA Team hosted a Virtual Office Hour on Friday, March 24, 2023, to field questions in advance of the April 2023 application period. The AOC ARPA Fiscal Team continues to work closely with circuits on the reimbursement process. As of Thursday, April 6, 2023, over \$11.9 million has been reimbursed for CY 2022 expenses and more than \$79,000 has been reimbursed for CY 2023 expenses. As a reminder, the ARPA Grant Dashboard reflects the status of reimbursement requests in real-time. Circuits should consult the Dashboard prior to reaching out about reimbursement status.

Grant documents will continue to be updated as new information and OPB guidance are received. All grantees and applicants are encouraged to visit the ARPA Committee's 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.

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: April 4, 2023

The General Assembly adjourned *sine die* on Wednesday, March 29, 2023. The following report provides the final status of each item the Judicial Council took a position of support on during the 2023 legislative session.

- [HB 186](#) – **Petition for Review Clean-Up
Judicial Council**
OCGA Title 5, Title 36
Sponsor: Rep. Rob Leverett (R – Elberton); Sen. John Kennedy (R – Macon)
Final Status: Senate Passed/Adopted, 3/27/23. **Final Passage.**
- [HB 543](#) – **Civil Jury Trials in State Courts Only
Council of State Court Judges**
OCGA § 15-12-122
Sponsor: Rep. Matt Reeves (R – Duluth); Sen. Bill Cowsert (R – Athens)
Final Status: House Agreed to Senate Substitute, 3/29/23. **Final Passage.**

The General Assembly also passed legislation creating new superior court judgeships in the following judicial circuits, as recommended by the Judicial Council:

- [HB 77](#) – Dougherty Judicial Circuit
- [HB 243](#) – Coweta Judicial Circuit
- [SB 66](#) – Atlantic Judicial Circuit

TAB 4



Judicial Council of Georgia

Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Director

Date: April 07, 2023

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 Year-To-Date, the Amended FY23 and the FY24 budget requests, as well as an overview of the next steps for the Amended FY24 and FY25 budget cycles.

Fiscal Year 2023

The Judicial Council received \$19,232,883 in State Appropriations for FY2023 (HB 18). The attached Financial Report highlights the Judicial Council's expenditures and remaining balances as of April 3, 2023.

Amended Fiscal Year 2023

The Judicial Council: Section 6 of the Appropriations Bill (HB 18) was amended as follows:

Judicial Council - Administrative Office of the Courts:

Increase funds for one-time funding for the implementation of the Automated Data Collection Project \$70,000

Judicial Council – Administrative Office of the Courts:

Reduce funds for personal services based on actual start dates of new positions (\$98,245)

Institute of Continuing Judicial Education

Increase funds for personnel to true-up the cost-of-living adjustment to account for one additional employee \$7,300

Increase funds for operations \$55,252

Judicial Qualifications Commission

Reduce one-time funds for legal counsel

(\$50,000)

All the Judicial Council’s requests were approved in the Amended Budget, however due to two true-up items the total changes represent a \$15,693 reduction to the operating budget for FY23. The Judicial Council’s amended State funded budget is \$19,232,883.

Fiscal Year 2024

The Judicial Council received several enhancements to its budget for the FY2024 General Budget (HB 19), although it did not receive full support for all its requests. The final version of the bill will provide additional funds for personnel (one additional Policy Counsel position for AOC and one MAT Coordinator position for CACJ), ongoing support for the Automated Data Collection Project, increases for operational funding for ICJE, as well as \$200,000 in new funding for medical-legal partnerships. In addition, it funds a \$2k COLA for all full-time State employees.

Judicial Council - Administrative Office of the Courts:

<i>Increase funds for personnel for one policy counsel position and one policy coordinator position</i>	\$142,897
<i>Increase funds for the ongoing costs associated with the Automated Data Collection Project</i>	\$20,000

Judicial Council - Access to Justice Committee:

<i>Increase funds to establish a grant program for legal self-help centers</i>	\$ -
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Judicial Council - Supreme Court Committee on Justice for Children

<i>Increase funds for grants for civil legal services for medical-legal partnerships</i>	\$200,000
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Council of Accountability Court Judges

<i>Increase funds for personnel for one medication-assisted treatment (MAT) statewide coordinator position</i>	\$97,331
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Institute of Continuing Judicial Education

<i>Increase funds for personnel to true-up the cost-of-living adjustment to account for one additional employee</i>	\$7,300
<i>Increase funds for operations to fully fund administrative expenses with state funds</i>	\$148,980

Judicial Qualifications Commission

<i>Increase funds for personnel to increase one staff attorney position to an investigative counsel position</i>	\$49,351
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The approved enhancement requests represent a \$939,293 increase in the Judicial Council's operating budget, a 5% increase.

Next Steps: Amended Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025

The Standing Committee on Budget will accept White Papers for the AFY24 and FY25 budget cycles from May 1, 2023 to June 9, 2023. Members of the Standing Committee on Budget can expect to receive a meeting notification well in advance of the planned July meeting. In this meeting, all enhancement requests will be reviewed for approval by the Committee. The Standing Committee on Budget will present the enhancement requests to the Judicial Council for approval at the August 18, 2023, General Session meeting. The enhancements approved by the Council will be submitted to the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget before the September 1 deadline.

Attachments:

Fiscal Year 2023 Budget and Financial Report as of April 3, 2023

Amended Fiscal Year 2023 and Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Comparison Report

Fiscal Year 2023 - Judicial Council Operations
March 1, 2023

Department	Project	FY 2023 Budget	YTD Expenditures	Remaining	Budget Spent
Administrative Office of The Courts		\$ 8,533,893	\$ 5,716,818	\$ 2,817,075	67%
Legal Services for Domestic Violence	103	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,000,000	\$ -	100%
Georgia Council of Court Administrators	141	\$ 16,389	\$ -	\$ 16,389	0%
Council of Municipal Court Judges	142	\$ 13,919	\$ 4,735	\$ 9,184	34%
Child Support Collaborative	174	\$ 134,425	\$ 94,423	\$ 40,002	70%
Council of Magistrate Court Judges	204	\$ 211,066	\$ 137,772	\$ 73,294	65%
Council of Probate Court Judges	205	\$ 205,754	\$ 151,595	\$ 54,159	74%
Council of State Court Judges	206	\$ 279,450	\$ 176,256	\$ 103,194	63%
Council of State Court Judges Ret.	207	\$ 2,588,814	\$ 280,591	\$ 2,308,223	11%
Legal Services for Kinship Care Families	1103	\$ 750,000	\$ 750,000	\$ -	100%
Other Judicial Council Subprograms		\$ 7,199,817	\$ 4,595,372	\$ 2,604,445	64%
Accountability Court Council	195	\$ 737,944	\$ 474,030	\$ 263,914	64%
CACJ-Peer Review Process	199	\$ 74,374	\$ 19,724	\$ 54,650	27%
ICJE - Operations	300	\$ 55,252	\$ -	\$ -	0%
Inst of Continuing Jud Ed Administration	301	\$ 650,232	\$ 408,672	\$ 241,560	63%
Judicial Qualifications Commission	400	\$ 1,181,371	\$ 759,461	\$ 421,910	64%
Resource Center	500	\$ 800,000	\$ 600,000	\$ 200,000	75%
Separate Judicial Council Programs		\$ 3,499,173	\$ 2,261,888	\$ 1,182,033	65%
TOTAL JUDICIAL COUNCIL		\$ 19,232,883	\$ 12,574,078	\$ 6,603,553	65%

Amended FY 2023 - Budget Comparison

Judicial Council Standing Committee on Budget Report

Judicial Council Program & Subprograms	FY 2023 Budget	AFY23 Enhancement Requests	AFY 2023 Budget	% Change
Administrative Office of the Courts	\$ 8,562,139		\$ 8,533,894	-0.33%
<i>Increase funds for the automated data collection project</i>		\$ 70,000		
<i>Reduce funds for personal services based on actual start dates of new positions</i>		\$ (98,245)		
Legal Services for Victims of Domestic Violence	\$ 3,000,000		\$ 3,000,000	
Legal Services for Kinship Care Families	\$ 750,000		\$ 750,000	
GA Council of Court Administrators	\$ 16,389		\$ 16,389	
Council of Municipal Court Judges	\$ 13,919		\$ 13,919	
Child Support Collaborative	\$ 134,425		\$ 134,425	
Council of Magistrate Court Judges	\$ 211,066		\$ 211,066	
Council of Probate Court Judges	\$ 205,754		\$ 205,754	
Council of State Court Judges	\$ 2,868,264		\$ 2,868,264	
Judicial Council Programs and Subprograms Total	\$ 15,761,955	\$ (28,245)	\$ 15,733,710	-0.18%
Other Programs				
Accountability Courts	\$ 812,318		\$ 812,318	
Inst of Continuing Jud Ed Operations	\$ 642,932		\$ 705,484	9.73%
<i>Increase funds for a salary adjustment for newly approved position</i>		\$ 7,300		
<i>Increase funds to fully fund ICJE's operational budget</i>		\$ 55,252		
Judicial Qualifications Commission	\$ 1,231,371		\$ 1,181,371	
<i>Reduce one-time funds for legal counsel.</i>		\$ (50,000)		
Resource Center	\$ 800,000		\$ 800,000	
Other Programs Total	\$ 3,486,621	\$ 12,552	\$ 3,499,173	0.36%
Judicial Council Totals	\$ 19,248,576	\$ (15,693)	\$ 19,232,883	-0.08%

FY 2024 - Budget Comparison

Judicial Council Standing Committee on Budget Report

Judicial Council Program & Subprograms	FY 2023 Budget	FY24 Enhancement Requests	FY 2024 Budget	% Change
Administrative Office of the Courts	\$ 8,562,139		\$ 8,927,851	4.27%
<i>Increase funds for two policy positions for the AOC</i>		\$ 142,897		
<i>Increase funds for the automated data collection project</i>		\$ 20,000		
<i>Increase funds for self-help centers</i>		\$ -		
<i>Increase funds to provide a \$2,000 cost-of-living adjustment for all full-time, benefit-eligible state employees to address agency recruitment and retention needs</i>		\$ 183,141		
<i>Reduce funds to reflect an adjustment to agency premiums for Department of Administrative Services administered insurance programs</i>		\$ (1,382)		
<i>Increase funds to reflect an adjustment in TeamWorks billings</i>		\$ 19,212		
<i>Increase funds to reflect an adjustment in Merit System Assessment billings</i>		\$ 1,844		
Legal Services for Victims of Domestic Violence	\$ 3,000,000		\$ 3,000,000	
Legal Services for Kinship Care Families	\$ 750,000		\$ 750,000	
Legal Services for Families of Indigent Patients	\$ -	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	
<i>Increase funds Civil Legal Services for families of Indigent Patients</i>			\$ -	
GA Council of Court Administrators	\$ 16,389		\$ 16,389	
Council of Municipal Court Judges	\$ 13,919		\$ 13,919	
Child Support Collaborative	\$ 134,425		\$ 137,816	
<i>Increase funds to provide a \$2,000 cost-of-living adjustment for all full-time, benefit-eligible state employees to address agency recruitment and retention needs</i>		\$ 3,391		
Council of Magistrate Court Judges	\$ 211,066		\$ 214,457	
<i>Increase funds to provide a \$2,000 cost-of-living adjustment for all full-time, benefit-eligible state employees to address agency recruitment and retention needs</i>		\$ 3,391		
Council of Probate Court Judges	\$ 205,754		\$ 209,145	

<i>Increase funds to provide a \$2,000 cost-of-living adjustment for all full-time, benefit-eligible state employees to address agency recruitment and retention needs</i>		\$ 3,391		
Council of State Court Judges	\$ 2,868,264		\$ 2,871,655	
<i>Increase funds to provide a \$2,000 cost-of-living adjustment for all full-time, benefit-eligible state employees to address agency recruitment and retention needs</i>		\$ 3,391		
Judicial Council Programs and Subprograms Total	\$ 15,761,955	\$ 579,276	\$ 16,341,231	3.68%
Other Programs				
Accountability Courts	\$ 812,318		\$ 926,606	14.07%
<i>Increase funds for one MAT Statewide Coordinator position</i>		\$ 97,331		
<i>Increase funds to provide a \$2,000 cost-of-living adjustment for all full-time, benefit-eligible state employees to address agency recruitment and retention needs</i>		\$ 16,957		
Inst of Continuing Jud Ed Operations	\$ 642,932		\$ 822,352	27.91%
<i>Increase funds for a salary adjustment for newly approved position</i>		\$ 7,300		
<i>Increase funds to fully fund ICJE's operational budget</i>		\$ 148,980		
<i>Increase funds to provide a \$2,000 cost-of-living adjustment for all full-time, benefit-eligible state employees to address agency recruitment and retention needs</i>		\$ 23,140		
Judicial Qualifications Commission	\$ 1,231,371		\$ 1,297,679	
<i>Increase funds for personnel to increase one staff attorney position to an investigative counsel position</i>		\$ 49,351		
<i>Increase funds to provide a \$2,000 cost-of-living adjustment for all full-time, benefit-eligible state employees to address agency recruitment and retention needs</i>		\$ 16,957		
Resource Center	\$ 800,000		\$ 800,000	
Other Programs Total	\$ 3,486,621	\$ 360,017	\$ 3,846,638	10.33%
Judicial Council Totals	\$ 19,248,576	\$ 939,293	\$ 20,187,869	4.88%

TAB 5



SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

FILED

Administrative Minutes

February 2, 2023

Thérèse S. Barnes

Clerk/Court Executive

SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

The Honorable Supreme Court met pursuant to adjournment.
The following order was passed:

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Judicial Council, standing committees exist to address issues of ongoing, long-term importance to the Council, and their membership shall be determined by Supreme Court order.

An independent judiciary is critical to the rule of law. A necessary element of judicial independence is ensuring the security of judicial officers, and therefore is an issue of ongoing, long-term importance to the Council.

Upon consideration, the Court hereby establishes the Judicial Council Standing Committee on Judicial Security with the mission of identifying and taking the steps necessary to protect the safety and security of Georgia's judiciary, both inside and outside the courthouse.

The following members are hereby appointed to the Standing Committee on Judicial Security for terms beginning March 1, 2023, and ending as specified below:

- Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia, chosen by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia, to serve as Chair, ending June 30, 2026.
- Judge of the Court of Appeals of Georgia, chosen by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals of Georgia, to serve as Vice-Chair, ending June 30, 2025.
- Superior Court Judge, chosen by the President of the Council of Superior Court Judges, ending June 30, 2026.

- Georgia State-wide Business Court Judge, or designee, ending June 30, 2025.
- State Court Judge, chosen by the President of the Council of State Court Judges, ending June 30, 2026.
- Juvenile Court Judge, chosen by the President of the Council of Juvenile Court Judges, ending June 30, 2025.
- Probate Court Judge, chosen by the President of the Council of Probate Court Judges, ending June 30, 2026.
- Magistrate Court Judge, chosen by the President of the Council of Magistrate Court Judges, ending June 30, 2025.
- Municipal Court Judge, chosen by the President of the Council of Municipal Court Judges, ending June 30, 2026.
- Representative of the State Bar of Georgia chosen by the President of the State Bar of Georgia, ending June 30, 2025.

At the conclusion of a member's term as specified above, his or her successor and all subsequent successors will serve a term of three years. Members will serve until their successors are chosen. In accordance with the Bylaws of the Judicial Council, committee membership may include additional advisory members appointed, as needed, by each Standing Committee Chair. Advisory members may be heard but shall not be entitled to vote.

The Administrative Office of the Courts shall provide staff support to this Committee.

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA
Clerk's Office, Atlanta

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

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

 . Clerk



Judicial Council of Georgia

Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Director

Judicial Council of Georgia

Standing Committee on Judicial Security

Advisory Members Order

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Judicial Council, standing committees exist to address issues of ongoing, long-term importance to the Council, and their membership shall be determined by Supreme Court order.

On February 2, 2023, the Supreme Court of Georgia established the Judicial Council Standing Committee on Judicial Security with the mission of identifying and taking the steps necessary to protect the safety and security of Georgia's judiciary, both inside and outside the courthouse.

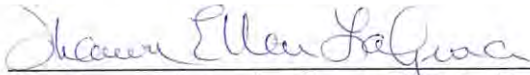
The Order creating the Committee further provided that, in accordance with the Bylaws of the Judicial Council, Committee membership may include advisory members appointed, as needed, by the Committee Chair. Advisory members may be heard but shall not be entitled to vote.

Accordingly, designees from the following organizations are invited to participate as advisory members to the Judicial Council Standing Committee on Judicial Security:

- Office of the Governor;
- Office of the Lieutenant Governor;
- Office of the Speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives;
- Georgia Department of Law;
- Office of the Georgia Secretary of State;
- Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission;
- Georgia Department of Public Safety, appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia;
- Georgia Bureau of Investigation;
- Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia;
- United States Marshals Service, appointed by the Chief Judge of the United States District Court, Northern District of Georgia;
- Georgia Sheriffs' Association;
- Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police;
- Georgia Department of Corrections;
- Association County Commissioners of Georgia; and
- Georgia Municipal Association.

Committee membership may include additional advisory members appointed, as needed, by the Committee Chair.

So decided this 13th day of March 2023.



The Honorable Justice Shawn Ellen LaGrua, Georgia Supreme Court
Chair, Judicial Council Standing Committee on Judicial Security

TAB 6



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

RE: Judicial Council Standing Committee on Court Reporting Matters Nominations for Membership to the Board of Court Reporting

DATE: April 11, 2023

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 five open seats for the term of office, effective July 1, 2023. The vacancies consist of one state court judge, one State Bar representative, and three 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. Randi Strumlauf, CCR and LER – Ms. Strumlauf currently serves as a freelance voice writer court reporter after working six years as an official court reporter for Gwinnett Superior Court. She holds a CCR and LER and has been practicing in the industry for more than 20 years. Ms. Strumlauf matriculated at Georgia State University, Atlanta Peach Court Reporting School, Atlanta Real Estate Institute, and taken courses through the American Institute of Banking. Her professional affiliations include the Georgia Court Reporters Association (GCRA, successor by merger with GCCRA), National Verbatim Reporters Association (NVRA), and American Association of Electronic Reporters and Transcribers (AAERT). Ms. Strumlauf has served on the BCR for three terms and is the vice-chair. **REAPPOINTMENT.**

Mr. Daniel Gershwin, CCR – Mr. Gershwin is a semi-retired machine shorthand, freelance court reporter, where he still covers depositions and court. Previously he owned and operated D’Amico Gershwin, Inc., a court reporting firm and sold it in 2017. Mr. Gershwin matriculated at Brown College of Court Reporting and served as the college Night School Director/Administrator after obtaining his degree. Mr. Gershwin has served two terms on the board. **REAPPOINTMENT.**

Ms. Kate Cochran, CCR – Ms. Cochran is a machine shorthand freelance court reporter. She holds a BS in Criminal Justice from Georgia State University and a diploma from Brown College of Court Reporting and completed CART captioning training. Ms. Cochran’s professional affiliations include the National Court Reporters Association and Georgia Shorthand Reporters Association. She has served on the board since 2019. **REAPPOINTMENT.**

MEMBER OF THE JUDICIARY

The Honorable R. Violet (Vi) Bennett – Judge Bennett is the State Court Judge of Wayne County and was elected in 2012. She is currently the President of the Council of State Court Judges and serves on the Judicial Council of Georgia and its committees, including the new Judicial Security Committee. She previously served as a Magistrate Court Judge. Judge Bennett graduated from Mercer University and subsequently from its Walter F. George School of Law. Judge Bennett was classically trained in music but had a calling for public service.

REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE BAR

Ms. Tina Shadix Roddenbery, Esq. – Ms. Roddenbery has more than 30 years of family law experience in the areas of divorce, custody, support modification, legitimation, paternity, and contempt. She holds the distinction of one of only a few National Board of Trial Advocacy board certified family law attorneys in the state of Georgia. Ms. Roddenbery received the 2015 Joseph T. Tuggle Award from the Family Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia for exemplary professionalism. She also served as the 2009-2010 chair of the Family Law Section, sat on the Board of Governor’s since 1995, and is a past president of the Younger Lawyers Division. Ms. Roddenbery has held many other leadership positions in the legal profession, including a Fellow of the Georgia Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, a master of the Charles Longstreet Weltner Family Law Inn of Court, and Past Trustee and member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees for the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education, and former chair of the Commission on Continuing Lawyer Competency. Ms. Roddenbery received her law degree from The University of Georgia. She is also a mediator and late-case evaluator.

TAB 7



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

RE: Judicial Workload Assessment Committee Report

DATE: April 21, 2023

At its March 17 meeting, the Committee approved the following items for Judicial Council consideration:

1. The committee clarified that Abandoned Motor Vehicle cases are to be placed under the Civil section as a new case type of the magistrate court casecount.
2. Updates to the Magistrate Court section of the *Georgia Court Guide to Statistical Reporting*.
3. Updates to the *Judicial Council Policy on the Study of Superior Court Judgeships and Circuit Boundaries*.
4. The committee reviewed the 2022 Time and Motion Study Report prepared by the National Center for State Courts.

The Committee heard from the Magistrate Court representative, Judge Matthew McCoyd, who stated the magistrate courts believed that it would be best to categorize Abandoned Motor Vehicle cases as Civil and not ordinance violations. The Committee voted in favor of this action and for the Statistical Guide to be updated.

Additionally, the Committee reviewed the recommendations from the Subcommittee on the Judicial Council Policy on the Study of Superior Court Judgeships and Circuit Boundaries. Among those recommendations, the Committee voted to change the lower bound for the workload assessment to 0.80 and to re-analyze all workload assessments for circuits with recommendations for judgeships pending the successful approval of the new workload study report.

The Committee also heard reports that included updates from the Subcommittee on Automated Data Collection and the finalization of the work by the National Center for State Courts' Time and Motion Study.

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.

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

Civil

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

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

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

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

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

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

CY 2022 Magistrate Court Caseload Report
 (January 1- December 31, 2022)
Magistrate Court of Appling County

Instructions for completion of the form, and message from the Office of Research and Data Analysis

		Edit Box, Submitted By, Time Stamp							
Criminal	Cases			Manner of Disposition				Case Characteristics	
	Open	Filed	Disposed	Trial	Non-Trial	Transfer	ADR	Self-Represented Litigants	Limited English Proficiency
Ordinance Violations									
Misdemeanor									

Civil	Cases			Manner of Disposition				Case Characteristics	
	Open	Filed	Disposed	Trial	Non-Trial	Transfer	ADR	Self-Represented Litigants	Limited English Proficiency
Abandoned Motor Vehicles									
Civil Claims									
Dispossessory/Distress Warrants									
Garnishments									
Foreclosure/ Attachments									

Warrants Issued

Felony Arrest	Misdemeanor Arrest	Good Behavior	Search

Hearings

Misdemeanor Probation Revocation	Warrants Applications	First Appearance	Commitment	Good Behavior

Submit	Save and Finish Later	Cancel
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**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).

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

1.2 – Policy Statements

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

Section 2 – Judgeship and Circuit Boundary Study

2.1 – Initiation

1. The governor, members of the General Assembly, and superior court judges have standing to initiate judgeship and circuit boundary studies.
2. The AOC will notify the governor, General Assembly, superior court judges, and district court administrators no later than May 1 that they may request studies in writing by June 1, or the next business day thereafter, 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 about the specific circuit alteration desired of a circuit boundary request. The AOC shall conduct an analysis for the specific outcome desired by the requestor to determine its feasibility.¹
2. Upon asking the requestor the desired alteration, the AOC shall send notice to the judges located in the specific circuit that is mentioned in the request.
3. If the desired outcome sought by the requestor is not feasible, the request may be withdrawn. If the request is not withdrawn, the AOC will continue with the study as referenced in Section 2.3. The judges of the circuit will be notified if the request is withdrawn.

2.2 – Judgeship Study Methodology

The Judicial Council approves the NCSC report 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*.

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 is not less than 1.20, then the circuit is qualified for an additional judgeship. If the *judge workload value* divided by the total number of authorized judgeships in the circuit is less than 1.20, then the circuit is not qualified for an additional judgeship. For purpose of analysis and reporting under this policy, workload values shall be cutoff at the hundredth of the decimal. When analyzing a circuit for multiple judgeships, the circuit shall first be analyzed to determine a need for one judgeship. If qualified, then the circuit shall be analyzed for one additional judgeship, giving the circuit credit for the additional judgeship need already qualified for. This process shall repeat itself until the circuit is not qualified or

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.

the request is exhausted. The Judicial Council may re-rank all qualifying circuits utilizing the same methodology. In the event the methodology described in this policy or the *Georgia Guide to Statistical Reporting* has changed during a circuit's three-year qualification period referenced in Section 3, Paragraph 5 below, AOC staff will reanalyze the circuit's judge workload value to facilitate the Judicial Council's re-ranking.

2. A circuit that requests and qualifies for an additional judgeship will have its judgeship study prepared and presented at the next Standing Committee on Judicial Workload Assessment Committee meeting. Requestors will be notified of their status and the Committee will process no later than June 15. The Standing Committee may forward the recommendation to the Judicial Council for consideration at the first meeting of the fiscal year as described in Section 3. If a majority of the judges in a circuit vote to disagree with a request for a judgeship, the Standing Committee may consider that disagreement in their decisions to recommend new judgeships to the Council. The Committee shall vote on request for multiple judgeships from the same circuit independently.
3. A circuit that requests and is not qualified for an additional judgeship has the right to appeal its status to the Standing Committee on Judicial Workload Assessment. Requestors will be notified of their status and the Committee will process the appeal no later than June 15. If the appeal is approved, then the appealing circuit will have a judgeship study prepared and presented at the next Judicial Council meeting as described in Section 3. Appeals may not be based upon a circuit's caseload.
4. The AOC will present annually to the Committee a list of all circuits whose *judge workload value* divided by the total number of authorized judgeships in the circuit is less than 0.890 and whose per judge workload value would not equal or exceed 1.20 upon reduction of a judgeship. The Committee Chair shall invite all judges from such circuits to appear at the next Committee meeting to discuss their caseload and workload data. There shall not be fewer than two judges in each circuit, so the circuits to which that applies, which appear to have more judges than needed (with a workload of 0.80 or less 9) 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 0.80 or less, 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. Beginning with the 2022 case count, if a circuit's workload is 0.80 or less for three consecutive years, then the Committee may report the same to the Judicial Council.

2.3 – Circuit Boundary Study Methodology

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

1. Caseload and Workload

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

2. Population

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

3. Judges

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

4. Administrative

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

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

Section 3 - Judicial Council Procedure

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

1. The AOC will prepare and present all Committee recommendations on additional judgeships, viability of circuit boundary adjustments, and reduction of judgeships to the Council. Requestors will be notified of the Council's process no later than a month after the matter is heard by the Committee. The

report will include the results of the judgeship and/or boundary studies, any letters of support from requesting circuits, any available *CourTools* data, and other information the AOC may deem beneficial to Judicial Council deliberations.

2. After reviewing the recommendations, the Judicial Council, in open session, may discuss the merits of each recommendation. Any Judicial Council member in a circuit or county affected by a recommendation will be eligible to vote on motions affecting that circuit but will not be present or participate in deliberations regarding the circuit. Non-Judicial Council members offering support or opposition may be recognized to speak by the Chief Justice.
3. After deliberations, the Judicial Council will, in open session, approve or disapprove the recommendations. The Council shall vote on requests for multiple judgeships from the same circuit independently. Votes on such motions will be by secret, written or electronic 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 from the same circuit independently. Votes on such motions will be by secret, written or electronic ballot. Each ballot must be complete to be counted. The Vice Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals will oversee ballot counting.
 - a. 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 procedure outlined in section 2.1 (2). The circuit will not have its time extended past the initial three year recommendation.
 - b. If a circuit receives a favorable vote, then the Judicial Council will use the new workload value to rank the circuit.
 - c. If a circuit does not 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.

DRAFT



Workload Assessment Study for Georgia State and Superior Court Judicial Officers

DATE

March 2023

PREPARED FOR

Georgia Administrative
Office of the Courts

PREPARED BY

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State Courts

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Legislatures and the public increasingly call upon the courts and other government

agencies to be more efficient – to “operate more like a business.” One of the challenges for courts in responding to this demand is determining the appropriate number of judicial officers required to provide high-quality services in the trial courts.

Since 2018, the Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) has relied on a data-driven weighted caseload model to establish the baseline needs for State and Superior Courts’ judicial officers. The 2018 weighted caseload model was based on worktime studies involving judicial officers from both court levels from across the state. In 2021, the AOC sought the assistance of the National Center for State Courts to conduct another worktime study to generate new case weights based on the updated case types and case processing methods used by judicial officers in both State and Superior Courts in Georgia.

A clear measure of court workload is central to determining how many judicial officers are needed to resolve all cases coming before the court. Adequate resources are essential if the Georgia judiciary is to effectively manage and resolve court business without delay while also delivering quality service to the public. Meeting these challenges involves assessing objectively the number of judicial officers required to handle the caseload and whether judicial resources are being allocated and used prudently. In response, judicial leaders around the country are increasingly turning to empirically based workload assessments to provide a strong foundation of judicial resource need in their state trial courts.

Different types of cases create different amounts of judicial work: for example, a felony case typically requires more judge time than a routine traffic case. Unlike methods of judicial resource allocation that are based on population or raw, unweighted caseloads, the weighted caseload method explicitly incorporates the differences in judicial workload associated with different types of cases, producing a more accurate and nuanced profile of the need for judges in each court.

The current judicial officer workload assessment studies, built and improved upon the previous work in Georgia by maintaining some of the same data elements but making some refinements in the case types for which case weights were developed and the activity types for which data were collected. The current study maintained the same comprehensive properties by collecting data on both case-related and non-case-related work time from participants across the state. The NCSC also substantially streamlined the work time data collection process and the training of participants prior to the start of the project by utilizing the newly developed online data entry system. Specifically, the current study accomplished the following:

- Utilized a methodology that bases the development of case weights on all work recorded by all judicial officers.

- Included participation from 57% of State Court Judges and 72% of Superior Court Judges,¹
- Included a one-month data collection period to ensure sufficient data to develop valid case weights,
- Accounted for judicial officer work for all phases of case processing,²
- Accounted for non-case-related activities that are a normal part of judicial officer work,
- And established a transparent and flexible model that can determine the need for judicial officers in each judicial district.

Based on a survey of judicial officers, including both State and Superior Courts, (Sufficiency of Time), the participants ranged in the number of years in which they have been employed by the courts from less than one year to over 16 years. Approximately 18% of the judicial officers have been employed as a judge in Georgia for less than three years; approximately 38% have been employed by the branch for between four and ten years, and just under half (46%) have been judges for more than eleven years. This variation in time on the job likely translates into differing case processing times, which is one key reason for using a statewide average of those case processing times.

This report provides a detailed discussion of the workload assessment methodology and results and offers recommendations for the ongoing use of the model.

The Weighted Caseload Model

The weighted caseload method of workload analysis is grounded in the understanding that different types of court cases vary in complexity, and consequently in the amount of judicial work they generate. For example, a typical felony creates a greater need for judicial resources than the average traffic case. The weighted caseload method calculates judicial need based on each court's total workload. The weighted caseload formula consists of three critical elements:

1. *Case filings*, or the number of new cases of each type opened each year.
2. *Case weights*, which represent the average amount of judge or judicial officer time required to handle cases of each type over the life of the case.
3. The *year value*, or the amount of time each judge or judicial officer has available for case-related work in one year.

¹ While the participation rates were somewhat low, compared to other states, the data was sufficient to allow for the computation of case weights, most of which were relatively comparable to the 2018 case weights, indicating that the data was sufficient.

² The worktime study included work conducted by State and Superior Court Judges and the Superior Court data was supplemented by the participation of "ancillary" participants, or those who occasionally conduct work for the Superior Courts, including Magistrates, Juvenile Court Judges, and Senior Judges.

Total annual workload is calculated by multiplying the annual filings for each case type by the corresponding case weight, then summing the workload across all case types. Each court's workload is then divided by the year value to determine the total number of full-time equivalent judicial officers needed to handle the workload.

History of Weighted Caseload in Georgia

Judicial weighted caseload is well established in Georgia. For nearly two decades, the state has used the weighted caseload method to assess judicial resource needs and recommend judgeships to the Georgia General Assembly.

2000 Judicial Workload Assessment

In 2000, NCSC conducted separate but coordinated workload assessments for Georgia's Superior, State, and Juvenile courts. Courts were divided into three strata—urban, suburban/small urban, and rural—to adjust for differences among the strata in non-case-related activity (e.g., travel, administration, community activities).

A two-month time study was conducted, sampling judges in jurisdictions representative of all three geographic strata. Participants included 62 Superior Court judges in 22 circuits and 26

State Court judges in 12 counties. The time study data were used to develop case weights to be applied in all Georgia Superior Courts and State Courts.

Since 2000, the Workload Assessment Committee has periodically conducted time and motion studies to update the Superior Court weighted caseload model.

Annual Superior Court Workload Assessments

The Georgia Constitution provides the General Assembly with the authority to “abolish, create, consolidate, or modify judicial circuits and courts and judgeships” for the Superior Courts.³ On an annual basis, the Judicial Council of Georgia makes recommendations to the General Assembly for new Superior Court judgeships based on judicial need. To determine judicial need, the Judicial Council's Workload Assessment Committee produces an annual workload assessment report for the Superior Courts. The report applies the Superior Court weighted caseload model to current case filings to calculate judicial workload in each circuit and identify circuits with sufficient judicial need to qualify for additional judgeships. The Judicial Council reviews the committee's findings and votes on judgeship recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly.

³ Ga. Const. art. VI, § 1, para. VII.

2015 Gwinnett County Superior Court Workload Assessment

In 2015, the Gwinnett County Superior Court contracted with NCSC to conduct its own judicial workload assessment.⁴ All judicial officers serving in the Superior Court participated in a 12-week time study that resulted in a court-specific weighted caseload model.

2018 Georgia Workload Assessment Study for State and Superior Courts

In 2016, the Georgia AOC engaged NCSC to conduct a comprehensive update of the weighted caseload model for State Court and Superior Court judges, which was completed in 2018. Updates to methodology included broader participation in the time study; a condensed, four-week time study with web-based training; and a comprehensive quality adjustment process to ensure that the case weights ensured sufficient time for effective case handling. The 2018 weighted caseload model accounted for important changes that had an impact on the workload of Georgia's judiciary in prior years including the establishment of accountability courts, the movement to a statewide public defender system, an overhaul of the state's probation system, and changes in statutes, case law, and court procedures (e.g., changes to implied consent procedures in DUI cases,⁵ the First Time Offenders Act⁶).

Current Judicial Workload Assessment

In 2021, the Georgia AOC engaged NCSC to conduct a new comprehensive update of the weighted caseload model for State Court and Superior Court judges. The methodology remained relatively consistent with the previous study; however, it did make use of an improved data entry system with a user-friendly Help Link feature, and a one-month worktime study. Case types were also revised to ensure more specific findings, such as separating Habeas Corpus cases (in the Superior Court) from appeals. The current weighted caseload models account for these changes.

The Judicial Council's standing committee on Judicial Workload Assessment (also referred to as the Judicial Needs Assessment Committee, or JNAC), provided oversight and guidance on matters of policy throughout the project. The JNAC members varied in levels of experience, including time on the bench, geographic location, and experience in ruling on a range of case types. The JNAC consisted of seven State Court judges and seven Superior Court judges, representing judicial circuits of various sizes from all geographic regions of the state. JNAC's role was to advise NCSC on the selection of case types (e.g., criminal, civil, domestic) and the time study design, as well as to make policy decisions regarding the amount of time allocated to case-related and non-case-related work (judge day and year values and administrative adjustments) and quality adjustments to the model. Superior

⁴ National Center for State Courts, Gwinnett County, Georgia Superior Court Judicial Workload Study (2015).

⁵ Williams v. State, 296 Ga. 817 (2005).

⁶ O.C.G.A. § 42-8-60 *et seq.*

Court Judge Jay Stewart, from the Atlantic Circuit and State Court Judge Jason Ashford, from Houston County, served as co-chairs of JNAC. The JNAC met in November 2021 to define the parameters of study and again in August 2022 to review and make final decisions on the recommended quality adjustments to the case weights.

The workload assessment was conducted in two phases:

1. A *time study* in which all Superior Court and State Court judges, as well as Juvenile Court Judges, Senior Judges, and Magistrates serving in Superior Court and State court, were asked to record all case-related and non-case-related work over a one-month period. The time study provides an empirical description of the amount of time currently devoted to processing each case type, as well as the division of the workday between case-related and non-case-related activities.
2. A *quality adjustment* process to ensure that the final weighted caseload models incorporate sufficient time for efficient and effective case processing, including fulfilling the constitutional guarantee of the right to a speedy trial in criminal cases. The quality adjustment process included:
 - A statewide *sufficiency of time survey* asking judges about the amount of time currently available to perform judicial work, including their perceived levels of work-related stress, and whether the current pace of work is sustainable,
 - Ten focus groups conducted by NCSC and AOC staff with Superior State Court Judges, and

- A structured review of the case weights by a set of *Delphi panels* comprising experienced judges from across the state of Georgia.

II. CASE TYPES AND EVENTS

At JNAC's first meeting on November 1, 2021, one of the committee's primary tasks was to establish the case type and event categories upon which to base the time study. Together, the case types, case-related events, and non-case-related events describe all of work required and expected of Georgia's State and Superior Court judges.

Case Type Categories

JNAC was charged with establishing two sets of case type categories, one for State Court and one for Superior Court (based on their constitutionally mandated jurisdictions), which satisfied the following requirements:

- The case type categories are both mutually exclusive and collectively exhaustive, meaning that any given case falls into one, and only one, case type category.
- Categories are legally and logically distinct.
- There are meaningful differences among categories in the amount of judicial work required to process the average case.
- There are enough case filings within the category to develop a valid case weight, and

- Filings for the case type category or its component case types are tracked consistently and reliably by the AOC.⁷

Using the case type categories currently tracked by the AOC as a starting point, JNAC defined 12 case type categories for State Court and 22 for Superior Court (Exhibits 1 and 2).⁸ It is important to note that, while many of the individual case types are counted individually by Clerks of Court, for purposes of the workload assessment study, many have been collapsed into broader categories. The broader categories generally include individual case types that are expected to take similar amounts of time to process. For example, individual case types such as restraining petitions and garnishments were included in the Superior Courts' broader category of "other civil."

Details regarding the specific case types included in each category are available in Appendix A (State Court) and Appendix B (Superior Court).

Case-Related Events

Citing a perceived increase in the duration of trials associated with increases in case complexity, JNAC determined that during the

time study trial time would be tracked separately from other case-related work. Trial work was defined as all case-related activities specific to a bench or jury trial, as well as sentencing following conviction at a trial. Trial work did not include pre-trial activities (e.g., pre-trial hearings, conferences, dispositive motions). Additionally, since this study was conducted at a period during which the COVID-19 pandemic case processing changes were still in place (more remote hearings), the activities were separated between whether a proceeding occurred with all parties in person, or with one or all parties remote. This second level of data (in-person versus remote) ended up not yielding useful information (see Exhibit 3).

Non-Case-Related Events

Work that is not related to a particular case before the court, such as court management, committee meetings, travel, and judicial education, is also an essential part of the judicial workday. To compile a detailed profile of judges' non-case-related activities and provide an empirical basis for the construction of the judge day and year values, JNAC defined four non-case-related event categories (Exhibit 4). To simplify the task of completing the time study forms and aid in validation of the time study

⁷ While the AOC has developed standards for tracking and counting cases, each Clerk of Court, who is responsible for maintaining court records, is a duly elected official, and not all follow these standards. As a result, there may be inaccuracies in the way cases are counted across jurisdictions. The Judicial Council/AOC is aware of this problem; however, they have no recourse over these elected officials.

⁸ Both court groups requested a category for "Non-Statutory Accountability Courts." These courts do not fall

within the sanctioned accountability courts currently authorized by the AOC, and participant case counts could not be determined. As a result, judges who entered time in these categories were asked to identify the type of case on which the accountability court focuses (e.g., domestic violence or statutorily defined accountability courts) and that time was moved into the appropriate case type categories.

data, vacation and other leave, lunch and breaks, and time spent filling out time study forms were included as non-case-related events.

Exhibit 1: State Court Case Types

State Court

Criminal:

1. Non-Traffic Serious Misdemeanor & Misdemeanor
2. Serious Traffic
3. Other Traffic
4. Accountability Courts
5. Probation Revocation

Civil:

1. General Tort
 2. Complex Tort
 3. Landlord/Tenant
 4. General Contract/Contract Collections
 5. Civil Appeals
 6. Garnishment
 7. Other Civil
-

Exhibit 2: Superior Court Case Types

Superior Court

Criminal:

1. Death Penalty/Habeas
2. Serious Felony
3. Felony
4. Serious Traffic
5. Misdemeanor
6. Accountability Courts
7. Probation Revocation

Civil:

1. General Tort
2. Complex Tort
3. Contract
4. Real Property
5. Civil Appeals
6. Habeas Corpus
7. Other Civil

Domestic Relations:

1. Divorce/Paternity/Legitimation
 2. Support: IV-D and Private
 3. Adoption
 4. Family Violence/Stalking Petition
 5. Other Domestic
 6. Modification of Custody, Parenting or Visitation
 7. Contempt
 8. Parental Accountability Court
-

Exhibit 3: Case-Related Activities, State and Superior Courts

Trial, In-Person

Trial, Remote

Other, In-Person

Other, Remote

Exhibit 4: Non-Case-Related Activities, State and Superior Courts

Non-Case Specific Administration

General Legal Research

Committees, Meetings & Related Work

Community Activities

III. TIME STUDY

The time study phase of the workload assessment measured current practice—the amount of time judges currently expend handling cases of each type, as well as on non-case-related work. For a period of one month, all Georgia State and Superior Court judges, and Juvenile, Senior, or Magistrate judges that were working on State or Superior Court cases, were asked to track their working time by case type and event. Separately, the AOC provided counts of filings by case type category and court. NCSC used the time study and filings data to calculate the average number of minutes currently spent resolving cases within each case type category (preliminary case weights).

Data Collection

Time Study

During the one-month period from March 1 through March 31, 2022, all State Court and Superior Court judges were asked to track their working time by case type category and trial status (for case-related work) or by non-case-related event. Senior, Juvenile, and Magistrate Court judges were asked to record any time spent on Superior Court cases, and State Court judges were also asked to record time devoted to hearing cases in Superior Court. Participants were instructed to record all working time, including time spent handling cases on and off the bench, non-case-related work, and any after-hours or weekend work. Judges tracked their time in five-minute increments using a web-based form.

To maximize data quality, all time study participants were asked to view a webinar training module explaining how to categorize and record their time. In addition to the training modules, judges were provided with web-based reference materials, and there was a Help Link on the data entry form that judges could use to ask questions, when necessary. The Web-based method of data collection allowed time study participants to verify that their own data were accurately entered and permitted real-time monitoring of participation rates, helping to maximize the quality and completeness of the time study data.

Across the state, 153 of 215 Superior Court judges (72 percent) and 72 of 127 State Court judges (57 percent) participated in the time study. This level of statewide participation ensured sufficient data to develop an accurate and reliable profile of current practice in Georgia’s State and Superior Courts.

Caseload Data

To translate the time study data into the average amount of time expended on each type of case (preliminary case weights), it was first necessary to determine how many individual cases of each type are filed on an annual basis. The AOC provided filings data for calendar years

2019 and 2021.⁹ The caseload data for both years were then averaged to provide an annual count of filings within each case type category and court, shown in Exhibit 5. The use of an annual average rather than the caseload data for a single year minimizes the potential for any temporary fluctuations in caseloads to influence the case weights.

Preliminary Case Weights

Following the monthlong data collection period, the time study and caseload data were used to calculate preliminary case weights. A preliminary case weight represents the average amount of time judges currently spend to process a case of a particular type, from pre-filing activity to all post-judgment matters. The use of separate case weights for each case type category accounts for the fact that cases of varying levels of complexity require different amounts of judicial time for effective resolution.

To calculate the preliminary case weights, the time recorded for each case type category was weighted to the equivalent of one year's worth of time for all judges statewide. The total annual time for each case type was then divided by the average annual filings to yield the average amount of hands-on time judges currently spend on each case.

⁹ Typically, case weights are built on a three-year average of filings, as was done for the 2018 study. For the current study, however, case filings for 2020 were significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, so that year of filings was excluded from this analysis. Filings for CY 2018 were

also unavailable, so the weights were built on two years' of data, CY 2019, and CY 2021. Future workload assessment studies should continue to use the most recent three-year case filing average.

Exhibit 5: Filings and Preliminary Case Weights

State Court

	Annual Average Filings (CY 2019, 2021)	Preliminary Case Weight (minutes)
Non-Traffic Serious Misdemeanor & Misdemeanor	81,494	27
Serious Traffic	24,529	48
Other Traffic	402,507	2
Accountability Courts	598	812
Probation Revocation	23,118	18
General Tort	19,133	84
Complex Tort	495	1,205
Landlord/Tenant	952	47
General Contract/Contract Collections	27,867	13
Civil Appeals	518	45
Garnishment	10,976	3
Other Civil	13,609	20

Superior Court

	Annual Average Filings (CY 2019, 2021)	Preliminary Case Weight (minutes)
Death Penalty/Habeas	10	13,276
Serious Felony	6,660	526
Felony	85,416	42
Serious Traffic	2,563	45
Misdemeanor	23,234	9
Accountability Courts	2,330	423
Probation Revocation	44,272	12
General Tort	245	81
Complex Tort	6,673	1,009
Contract	16,129	37
Real Property	3,260	37
Civil Appeals	2,249	37
Habeas Corpus	627	191
Other Civil	24,324	24
Divorce/Paternity/Legitimation	49,489	49
Support: IV-D and Private	26,901	6
Adoption	3,545	29
Family Violence/Stalking Petition	21,045	23
Other Domestic	9,885	27
Modification of Custody, Parenting or Visitation	6,357	86
Contempt	7,041	32
Parental Accountability Court	307	307

IV. QUALITY ADJUSTMENT

The preliminary case weights generated during the time study measure the amount of time Georgia's State and Superior Court judges *currently* spend handling various types of cases, but do not necessarily indicate whether this is the amount of time judges *should* spend. To provide a qualitative assessment of whether current practice allows adequate time for quality performance, judges across the state completed a Web-based sufficiency of time survey. The NCSC and AOC also conducted focus groups with State and Superior Court judges in ten locations to obtain feedback about the data collection period, and to provide additional feedback about current workloads, levels of stress related to workload, and ability to maintain the current pace of work. Finally, eight expert panels of experienced judges reviewed the preliminary case weights and made recommendations to the JNAC for adjustments, where necessary, to ensure that judges can devote the time required for the efficient and effective administration of justice in every case.

Sufficiency of Time Survey

To provide a statewide perspective on any areas of concern related to current practice, all State Court and Superior Court judges were asked to complete a web-based sufficiency of time survey in April of 2022. Judges were asked to respond to a number of questions related to the data collection period and their current workloads. Judges were also asked to identify

the case types and activities, if any, for which additional time would help to improve the quality of justice. The survey also included space for judges to comment freely on their workload. Thirty-three State Court judges (26 percent) and 77 Superior Court judges (36 percent) completed the survey. Appendix C presents the survey results in detail.

In both State Court and Superior Court, judges identified Accountability Court cases as case types for which additional time would improve the quality of justice; however, this was the third highest case type identified in both courts. State Court judges also indicated Non-Traffic Serious Misdemeanor and Complex Tort cases as high priorities for needing additional time. In Superior Court, other case types identified as in need of additional time included Serious Felonies and Divorce/Paternity/Legitimation.

Across both court types, judicial respondents indicated the need for additional time to conduct trials, prepare findings and orders related to dispositive pretrial motions, conducting legal research, and addressing the issues surrounding self-represented litigants.

Focus Groups

To gain an in-depth understanding of the issues judges face in the effective handling of their cases, NCSC and AOC staff held separate focus groups with State and Superior Court judges in ten locations over the course of two weeks in May 2022. Focus groups were held in locations that included urban, suburban, and

rural courts from all geographic regions of Georgia.¹⁰

The focus groups allowed project staff to understand the different issues facing judges across the state, especially differences between urban and rural locations, such as varying travel requirements, availability of courtroom space, and variations in internet connections and other resource constraints that might inhibit judicial effectiveness. Several common themes emerged during the interviews as well as in the comments of the sufficiency of time survey, as illustrated by quotes from interview and survey participants.

Judicial Officer Focus Group Themes and Sufficiency of Time Survey Findings

Was the data collection period typical?

State Courts. Some participants felt the selected month did not adequately reflect their personal workload. Several judicial officers indicated that they had scheduled vacations or other time off during part of the time study. A few judicial officers indicated civil jury trials were not held for various reasons that month; others had a normal trial schedule, for both civil and criminal cases. Some judges also indicated that there simply is no room to hold trials in a safe manner.

Superior Courts. Superior Court judges had mixed responses on this issue. Many judges indicated that dockets are still not typical due to

continued COVID restrictions, such as holding many hearings remotely, especially for inmates, so transportation is not necessary. Others indicated that spring break impacted their ability to hold jury trials, due to low jury pools. One judge indicated having a longer than expected jury trial that prevented her from engaging in other work that had previously been on her docket. Several others indicated that the data collection period was typical.

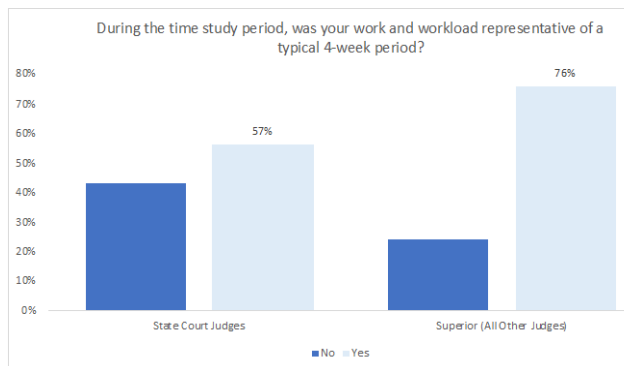
Generally, judicial officers indicated the data collection period was a typical representation of their workload. There was an understanding throughout the state that, in any given month, a judicial officer may be ill, on vacation, or have emergencies that will prevent them from working a normal work week, and there will always be staff turnover or situations where judicial officers may not be at their fullest potential at the time of any study. All in all, participants in each of the Superior Court focus groups agreed that the study period was generally representative of the work they do across the state.

Sufficiency of Time Survey. Survey responses indicate that 57% of State Court Judges believed the data collection period was typical, and 76% of Superior Court Judges indicated that the March data collection period was normal.

¹⁰ Focus groups were held in the following locations: Fayetteville, Rome, Gainesville, Athens, and Atlanta (May 2 through May 6), and Dublin, Macon, Tifton, Brunswick, and

Savannah (May 23 through 27). In many cases, judges from neighboring counties participated in the focus groups.

Exhibit 6: Survey Responses Regarding Data Collection Period



Difficult/confusing to track time?

State and Superior Courts. Many judicial officers from both State and Superior Courts experienced minor problems in terms of recording the work they did. In some cases, judicial officers had to “recreate” the work they did during a busy court session, for example having to split out the time associated with arraignments and taking pleas. Others indicated that breaking out the work by case type, especially on high-volume dockets, such as arraignments was difficult, but most judges indicated they felt relatively good about accurately capturing their time. Several judges expressed frustration with the limited activity options provided to them and wanted to be able to track their time with greater specificity. One judge specifically said “There were a number of actions, judicial and administrative, that did not fit neatly, or occasionally at all, into the broad categories provided.”

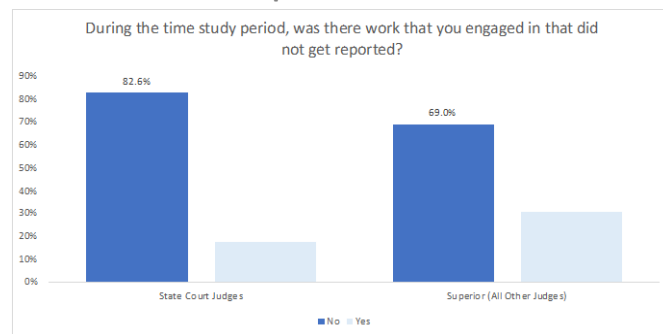
Any work not captured?

State and Superior Courts. Few judicial officers indicated not reporting work that was conducted. In these instances, the work not accounted for typically occurred outside of the courthouse, taking the form of responding to

emails, some administrative work, prep time, personnel issues, drafting orders, signing warrants, or reviewing pleadings at night. In the words of one judicial officer “If I did not know exactly where to put the time, I found a place to put it;” another indicated “Not that it didn’t get reported as much as it didn’t fit the options that were presented.”

Sufficiency of Time Survey. Eighty-two percent of State Court Judges and 69% of Superior Court Judges reported they were able to report all work conducted during the study period. Those who did not reported small amounts of time that were not accounted for, such as coordinating with county commissioners, signing orders that were scattered throughout the study period, reviewing pleadings and emails at home, short interactions with staff, or Clerks of Court, and various community events. Most judges indicated that the work that did not get reported accounted for a relatively small amount of time.

Exhibit 7: Survey Responses Work Time Not Captured



Sufficient time to complete all work?

State Courts. State Court Judges provided mixed responses when asked if they have adequate time to get their work done. Some indicated that, while work fluctuates, they can

keep up with the pace. Other judges answered with a resounding “no,” saying they are behind on orders, and often must work emergency hearings into their docket, therefore delaying other cases. A few State Court Judges reported that they balance their duties between judging and attending to administrative duties, such as engaging with county commissions for more resources, coordinating with other agencies, and planning for additional space, so keeping up with the judicial work can be difficult. Finally, several judges, from different counties indicated having fewer prosecutors and defense attorneys, so cases are taking more elapsed time to complete, which also impacts those judges’ schedules

Superior Courts. Like their State Court counterparts, Superior Court Judges have different experiences regarding sufficiency of time. One judge said “Yes, I have sufficient time, but there is always work to do. I have time if I am careful about planning, and I can even work in unforeseen things.” On the other hand, several judges reporting just the opposite, with one judge summing up those responses by saying “I don’t feel that I have enough time to do my work. I stay late, work on weekends, and early mornings. It would be helpful to have a second attorney.” Several focus group participants indicated they “cut corners” to keep up with the pace of the work. Cutting corners often results in writing shorter opinions and orders.

Most Superior Court Judges indicated needing support in the form of law clerks, staff attorneys, or paralegals, in lieu of secretaries. While the Administrative Office of the Courts provide funding for law clerks, many judges indicated having difficulty hiring them, due to

lack of attorneys in their respective areas, or due to the relatively low pay for these positions.

Sufficiency of Time Survey. Survey responses revealed a slightly different picture regarding perceived sufficiency of time. Just 4% of State Court Judges indicated rarely or almost never having enough time to complete their work, 52% indicated they sometimes have enough time, 30% indicated often or almost always having enough time to complete their work. Comparatively, Superior Court Judges indicated that 14% feel they rarely or almost never have enough time, 37% reported sometimes having enough time, and 49% indicated often or almost always having enough time to complete their work.

Exhibit 8: Survey Responses Regarding State Court Judges’ Sufficient Time to Complete Work

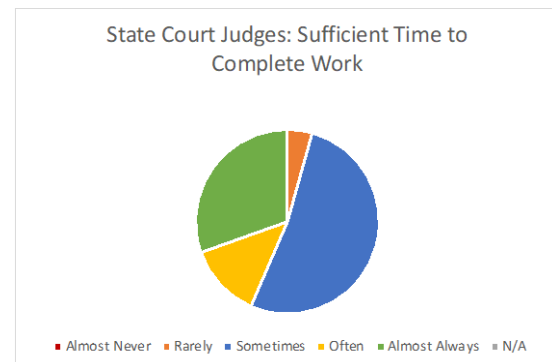
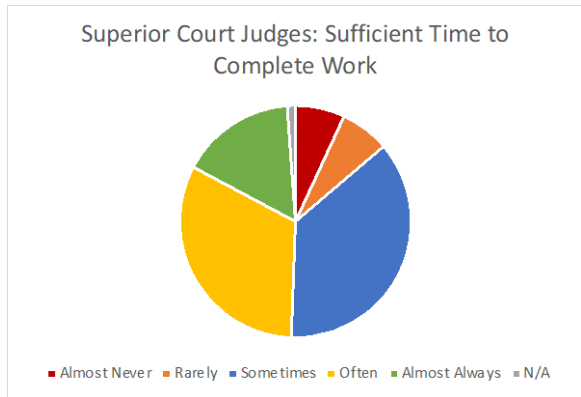
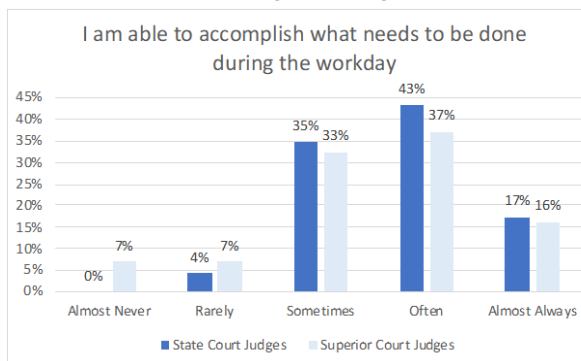


Exhibit 9: Survey Responses Regarding Superior Court Judges' Sufficient Time to Complete Work



Judges were also asked whether they can accomplish what needs to be done during the workday. The responses were similar to the general question about sufficiency of time, yet somewhat better. As with the previous question, 4% of State Court Judges and 14% of Superior Court Judges indicated rarely or almost never being able to complete their daily work, while 30% of State Court Judges and 38% of Superior Court Judges said they sometimes do, and 65% and 55% of State Court and Superior Court Judges, respectively, indicating they often or almost always accomplish their daily work.

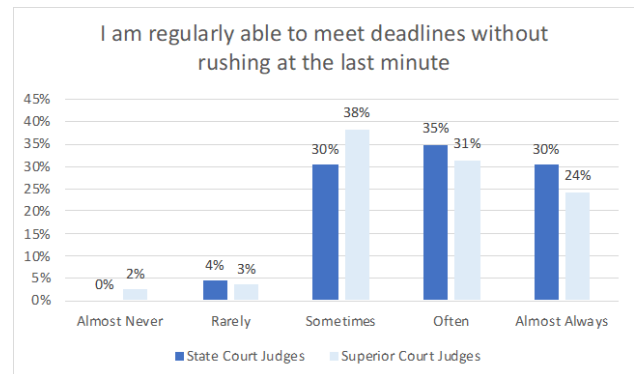
Exhibit 10: Ability to Complete Work



Nearly all judges reported they are regularly able to meet deadlines without rushing at the

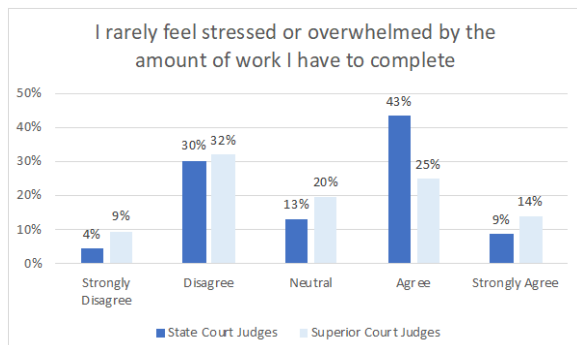
last minute. Only 4% of State Court Judges and 5% of Superior Court Judges indicated they rarely or almost never can meet deadlines, with 30% of State Court Judges and 38% of Superior Court Judges indicating they sometimes can, and 57% reporting they often or almost always can meet deadlines.

Exhibit 11: Ability to Meet Deadlines



When asked about whether judges feel stressed or overwhelmed by the amount of work they have, 34% of State Court Judges and 41% of Superior Court Judges disagreed or strongly disagreed that they rarely feel stressed or overwhelmed by their workload (meaning that they are feeling stressed), 13% of State Court Judges and 20% of Superior Court Judges were neutral on the subject, while 51% of State Court Judges 39% of Superior Court Judges indicated they are rarely stressed.

Exhibit 12: Judges' Stress Levels



Finally, 13% of State Court survey respondents and 20% of Superior Court Judges indicated that the pace at which they work is not sustainable, while 65% and 56% of State Court and Superior Court Judges, respectively, agreed that the pace of work is sustainable, and 22% of State Court Judges and 24% Superior Court Judges were neutral.

District Specific Issues

State Courts. Focus group respondents indicated a significant difference in judicial work depending on whether the court is located in an urban or rural location. One participant indicated that “there are two Georgias.” In Fulton County, for example, one judge indicated that the local legal culture is to request and obtain multiple continuances, specifically for misdemeanors requiring four or five hearings instead of one or two. This was echoed by judges in both Spaulding and Fayette Counties. One judge indicated that “I am painfully aware that every time we ask people to come to court, the litigants make major sacrifices” to attend. In Tift County, there are concerns about citations, which primarily come from the Sheriff’s Office. The citations are hand-written, and often contain errors, which are time consuming to resolve. They also experience parking issues and cramped courts, due to large dockets. In

Chatham County, judges indicated they are more independent than many other State Courts, and that their caseloads are different from many other State Courts. In Chatham County, the do not handle family or domestic cases.

In the more rural areas, judges indicated that the legal community has a different mindset, and that they tend to be slower, and have looser deadlines, compared to more urban counties. Rural judges also indicated that internet connectivity varies significantly across counties. Not only does this impact daily work, such as email correspondence, and electronic case management, but it also interferes during trials, in their ability to play videos or display electronic documents. Tech support is also limited in the rural counties, so internet support is limited. Other staffing areas are also limited, such as lack of clerical and law clerk support.

Superior Courts. Judges in Fulton County indicated that they have a greater number of complex civil cases, and, since the state capital is in this county, they get most of the state’s administrative appeals cases. In Athens County, the District Attorney is severely understaffed, so criminal cases are moving slowly through the system. Grand juries are meeting less regularly than in previous years, and indictments are frequently delayed. More jury trials are also held in this County because the District Attorney’s Office often overcharges cases, so more defendants opt to go to trial. The same issues with internet connectivity and low staffing support described above for the State Courts also exists within the rural Superior Courts. Superior Court Judges are also concerned that they get inaccurate case counts from the Clerk of Court. To account for this in Bibb County, they

hired a criminal calendar clerk in the court so they can count and track the cases in that court. One judge indicated “That is why some judges are apathetic – garbage in and garbage out.” The issue of inaccurate case counts raised a concern by some judges about the validity of the current workload assessment study.

Obstacles

State Courts. Judges were asked to identify obstacles preventing them from achieving success in their work. Several judges indicated that limited space is a big obstacle for them, especially in the COVID era. Several judges noted that they have limited courtroom space and are looking for larger buildings to hold trials in a socially distant manner. Staffing shortages, discussed previously, was also discussed as an obstacle. In Chatham County, judges indicated that caseloads are exploding beyond their capacity to manage. In that county, they used federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to hire temporary judges to manage that workload. Additionally in this county, there are nearly 3,000 criminal cases known, but not on the schedule, and another 6,000 cases in which defendants have not yet been charged. Some rural judges reported not having sufficient treatment services, such as mental health services, to support the needs to defendants, so defendants with mental health problems are often jailed, rather than receiving treatment. The case management system in Bibb County is problematic, in that it does not interact with the e-filing system, PeachCourt, this is particularly a problem with traffic tickets that must be entered manually, requiring more time to process.

Superior Courts. Case management in some Clerk of Court Offices was again raised under this

area of questioning. In one Circuit, the judge reportedly had to get involved in a case with an incomplete data entry record, which required a lot of time to fix; this has happened in more than one instance. Relatedly, having a lack of reliable data prevents the court from tracking important milestones, such as the number of continuances allowed, how long cases are taking to reach disposition, and a simple accurate count of the cases waiting for resolution. Lack of technical support, particularly with audiovisual problems is difficult to find. At least in some courts, the county provides technical support, but the support is primarily focused on computers and not audiovisual technology. Addressing these issues, especially when they arise in the middle of a trial, can often take up to 45 minutes or more to fix, thereby lengthening the trial and wasting time. Staffing shortages in District Attorney’s, Public Defender’s and Probation Offices was also raised in several locations, along with a general lack of resources of many types. Turnover in these offices is frequent, especially in more rural locations where the compensation is comparatively low to their more urban counterparts. All these issues compound to unnecessarily extend the life of cases. In some of the larger circuits, the sheer volume of the caseload was identified as an obstacle. Judges in those circuits feel they need to produce faster rulings, so litigants are not kept waiting too long to have an outcome in their case. Space issues and lack of treatment resources were also raised in the Superior Courts, with the issues being similar to those described above for the State Courts, as were concerns with low staffing support, and internet connectivity problems. In Macon County, they don’t even have hot water! *Sufficiency of Time Survey.* Survey respondents also reported many of the same obstacles listed

above. Additionally, they indicated continued problems related to the COVID backlog, unrealistic pace of work, competing needs for time to complete orders and hear cases in court, coordinating cases in multiple counties, the growing need to spend more time on post-conviction matters, adequate training for support staff, and inefficiencies and mistakes made by supporting agencies, that “affect the productivity, efficacy and judicial economy of the court.”

Case Types and Activities for Which More Time Would Improve the Quality of Justice

Sufficiency of Time Survey. Survey respondents were asked to identify the four case types for which having more time to work on would improve the quality of justice. They were also asked to identify the top five activities for which more time would improve justice.

State Court Judges indicated needing the most additional time for Non-Traffic Serious Misdemeanors, such as Domestic Violence (48%), 26% reported needing additional time for Serious Traffic cases and Complex Torts, and 22% indicated needing additional time for Accountability Courts and Non-Traffic Misdemeanors, such as shoplifting.

In terms of activities, most State Court Judges indicated needing additional time to conduct legal research (44%), followed by preparing findings and orders related to dispositive pretrial motions (40%) and conducting trials (40%), conducting pretrial and scheduling conferences (26%), and conducting settlement conferences.

Superior Court Judges ranked the need for additional time highest for Divorce, Paternity and Legitimation cases (45%), followed by

Felonies (26%), Accountability Courts and Family Violence Petitions (20% for each), rounded out by a four-way tie for Probation Revocations, Other Domestic, Complex Torts and General Torts (18%).

With respect to activities, the top five cited as areas in which Superior Court Judges could use additional time included preparing findings and orders (90%), conducting trials, and addressing issues surrounding self-represented litigants (tied at 38%), attending training and educational opportunities (33%), and conducting legal research (26%).

Judicial Officer Focus Groups and Sufficiency of Time Survey Summary

The time study conducted in Georgia measures the amount of time State and Superior Court Judges currently spend handling cases. *A time study does not inform us about the amount of time judicial officers should spend on activities to ensure the quality processing of cases.*

Based on the focus group findings, concerns were raised around the following issues:

- Case weights for the following case types:
 - Heavy caseloads
 - Lack of adequate support staff in the courts
 - Lack of adequate staff and inefficiencies in support agencies, such as Prosecutors’, Public Defenders, and Probation Offices.
 - Lack of treatment services for both mental health and accountability courts
 - Insufficient internet connectivity and lack of technical support
 - Concerns with accurate case count data
 - COVID backlogs

Delphi Quality Adjustment Groups

To provide a qualitative review of the preliminary case weights, project staff facilitated a series of quality adjustment sessions with panels of State and Superior Court judges in June 2022. Four sessions were offered for both the State and Superior Court Judges. Each session was open to all judges for participation. In total, ten State Court Judges and fourteen Superior Court Judges and the Executive Director of the Council of State Court Judges, plus two District Court Administrators participated in the Delphi sessions. Representatives from the Administrative Office of the Courts also attended these sessions.

Two Delphi sessions for both court levels focused on a subset of case types, including State Court criminal, State Court civil, Superior Court civil and domestic, and Superior Court criminal. Additionally, two sessions for each court were open for comment on all case types. At the beginning of each quality adjustment session, NCSC staff provided group members with an overview of the process used to develop the preliminary case weights, followed by a review of the process used to adjust them, which showed the judicial need impact of each recommended change.

Using a variant on the Delphi method—a structured, iterative process for decision-making by a panel of experts—each group engaged in a systematic review of the preliminary case weights. Group members drew on current practice (as measured by the time study) and the personal experiences of the judges to make recommendations regarding the content of the

final case weights. Each group was asked to follow a four-step process:

1. Review each preliminary case weight and identify which case types needed additional time,
2. Within selected case types, recommend adjustments,
3. Provide an explicit rationale to support any proposed increase or reduction in judicial time, and
4. Review and revise the recommended adjustments until a consensus was reached that all adjustments were necessary and reasonable.

This iterative, consensus-based review of the case weights was designed to ensure that all recommended adjustments were reasonable and supported by a specific rationale for the change.

For the State Courts, the quality adjustment panels recommended adding time to review the defendant’s history in Probation Revocation cases and to review pretrial motion briefs and prepare for pretrial motion hearings in Complex Tort cases. In criminal cases in Superior Court, the quality adjustment panel recommended adding time for dedicated pretrial motion hearings (Serious Felony), plea colloquies (Serious Felony and Felony), ability to pay determinations (Felony and Misdemeanor), review of requests for early probation termination (Felony), and staffing sessions (Accountability Court). In Superior Court domestic cases, the quality adjustment panel recommended adding time to explain rulings at temporary hearings in Divorce/Paternity/

Legitimation cases, for trials in contested custody cases (Divorce/Paternity/Legitimation), to discern the relevant facts during ex parte TPO hearings in Family Violence Petition Cases, and to allow parties to tell their stories during trials on modifications (Other Domestic). JNAC reviewed and adopted all of the panels' recommended quality adjustments. To maintain consistency, JNAC applied the panels' recommended adjustments to the Complex Tort and Accountability Court weights across both court levels. Exhibit 13 shows the preliminary and quality-adjusted case weights for State Court and Superior Court.

The JNAC met in August 2022 and reviewed the preliminary case weights, along with the recommended adjustments made by the Delphi panels and adopted the recommendations as an accurate representation of current practice.

Case Weight Adjustments: State Court

Three adjustments were made to State Court case weights, including changes to case weights for accountability courts, general tort, and general contract/ contract collections. Specifically, the case weight for accountability courts appeared to be unusually high (812 minutes), so the Delphi panels recommended reducing the case weight down to the previous case weight of 532 minutes.¹¹ General tort cases were increased by 8 minutes to account for trials not occurring during the time study period, because the focus was on criminal cases. Finally,

the case weight for general contract/contract collections was increased by 4 minutes, to equate to the 2018 case weight. Delphi panelists believed that these cases can often get complex, especially when brought to trial, and judges believed the former case weight was more representative of the time requirements for this case type.

Case Weight Adjustments: Superior Court

For the Superior Courts, case weights for 11 case types were adjusted, including serious felony, serious traffic, misdemeanors, accountability courts, probation revocations, complex tort, general tort, divorce/paternity/legitimation, adoption, family violence/stalking petitions, and modifications of custody, parenting, and visitation.

Specifically, the cases weight for serious felonies was increased by 75 minutes, from 526 to 601 to allow for more time to research and evaluate motions, and more time to expend on the most serious crimes, such as homicide, sex crimes, and gang-affiliated offenses. The 75-minute increase includes a 30-minute increase in all cases, to allow for more research time, and 60 minutes in 75% of the cases, to account for an increase in trials, especially for sex crimes, in which mandatory minimum sentences encourage more cases to go to jury trials. Serious traffic cases were increased from 45 to 48 minutes to be consistent with the State Court case weight. For misdemeanor cases, 11

¹¹ This case weight was further adjusted to 423 minutes by the JNAC, then brought back to 532 after the minutes

assigned to non-statutory accountability courts were added to the appropriate case types.

minutes were added to allow for a greater focus on these case types. Judges believed there was less time entered on misdemeanor cases during the time study, given that the focus was on clearing serious felonies. Accountability courts were reset back to the 2018 case weight, changing from 423¹² minutes derived from the time study to 532 minutes. This time was added for three primary reasons. First, judges need to address issues regarding accountability court participants as they arise, often requiring them to attend to issues outside of regular accountability court time; second, judges need additional time to address real-time issues with court participants during court sessions, discussing their situation in detail, which can expand the court's time; and finally, given the expanding research on accountability courts, judges need to stay abreast of the ever-present research updates, requiring them to read, attend conferences, and adapt practices to remain in tune with best practices. Probation revocations were increased by 13 minutes, from 12 to 25 minutes to account for a minimum of two hearings in all cases. Time was also added to allow judges time to research issues on cases that include both a probation revocation and a new felony. Judges argued these cases can get complicated quickly and require greater attention than the initial case weight provides time for. Because Complex Tort and General

Tort cases are very similar in subject matter and complexity in State Court and Superior Court, JNAC elected to apply uniform case weights for these case types in State Court and Superior Court. Both case types were adjusted to be equivalent with the state court weights of 1,205 minutes for complex tort and 92 minutes for general tort cases. The case weight for divorce/paternity/legitimation was increased by 11 minutes, from 49 to 60 minutes, which is a slight decrease from the 2018 case weight but provides adequate time to address issues that likely were not captured during the time study due to the focus on serious felonies. Adoptions were increased by 1 minute as judges argued there are more adoptions occurring now than in previous years, and that they take somewhat longer than in previous years. Family Violence/Stalking Petitions were increased by 10 minutes in 50% of the cases (for a net increase of 5 minutes) to account for cases in which the alleged perpetrator/abuser attends the hearing, and judges need to meet both in chambers and hold a hearing in court. Finally, Modifications of Custody, parenting, or Visitation were increased by 14 minutes, from 86 to 100 minutes to account for additional hearings required in nearly all such cases; parties rarely, if ever, settle on these cases.

¹² This case weight was adjusted back to 532 minutes after the non-statutory accountability court minutes were added to the appropriate case type categories.

Exhibit 13: Preliminary and Quality Adjusted Case Weights

State Court

	Preliminary Case Weight (minutes)	Final Case Weight (minutes)
Non-Traffic Serious Misdemeanor & Misdemeanor	27	27
Serious Traffic	48	48
Other Traffic	2	2
Accountability Courts	812	532
Probation Revocation	18	18
General Tort	84	92
Complex Tort	1,205	1,205
Landlord/Tenant	47	47
General Contract/Contract Collections	13	17
Civil Appeals	45	45
Garnishment	3	3
Other Civil	20	20

Superior Court

	Preliminary Case Weight (minutes)	Final Case Weight (minutes)
Death Penalty/Habeas	13,276	13,276
Serious Felony	526	601
Felony	42	42
Serious Traffic	45	48
Misdemeanor	9	20
Accountability Courts	423	532
Probation Revocation	12	25
General Tort	81	92
Complex Tort	1,009	1,205
Contract	37	37
Real Property	37	37
Civil Appeals	37	37
Habeas Corpus	191	191
Other Civil	24	24
Divorce/Paternity/Legitimation	49	60
Support: IV-D and Private	6	6
Adoption	29	30
Family Violence/Stalking Petition	23	28
Other Domestic	27	27
Modification of Custody, Parenting or Visitation	86	100
Contempt	32	32
Parental Accountability Court	307	307

V. JUDICIAL NEED

In the weighted caseload model, three factors contribute to the calculation of judicial need: caseload data (filings), case weights, and the year value. The year value is equal to the amount of time each full-time judge has available for case-related work on an annual basis. The relationship among the filings, case weights, and year value is expressed as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Filings x Case Weights (minutes)}}{\text{Year Value (minutes)}} = \text{Resource Need (FTE)}$$

Multiplying the filings by the corresponding case weights calculates the total annual workload in minutes. Dividing the workload by the year value, then adding the .10 FTE administrative adjustment for the Chief Judge yields the total number of full-time equivalent (FTE) judges needed to handle the workload.

Judge Year Values

To develop the year values for State Court and Superior Court judges, it was necessary to determine the number of days each judge has available for case-related work in each year (judge year), as well as how to divide the workday between case-related and non-case-related work (judge day value).

Judge Year

As shown in Exhibit 14, the judge year value was constructed by beginning with 365 days per year, then subtracting weekends, holidays, annual leave, and sick leave, and full-day

participation in statutorily mandated judicial training. The steering committee from the 2000 NCSC judicial workload studies adopted a judge year of 220 case-related days for both State and Superior Courts. During the 2018 workload assessment, JNAC decided to incorporate additional time for judicial education to enhance the quality of justice, resulting in a judge year of 215 case-related days for Superior Court and State Court judges, and this judge year was also retained for the current study.

Exhibit 14. Judge Year

Total days per year		365
Weekends	-	104
Holidays	-	12
Annual leave	-	15
Sick leave	-	9
Judicial education	-	10
Case-related days per year		215

Judge Day

The judge day value represents the amount of time each judge has available for case-related work each day. This value is calculated by subtracting time for lunch, breaks, and non-case-related work (e.g., administration, travel, training) from the total working day.

State Court judges do not travel on a regular basis during the course of their workday. Time study data indicated that the State Court judges spend an average of approximately 2 hours per day on non-case-related work (124 minutes per judge per day), such as attending meetings, addressing local issues, and administrative issues, so their case-related day equates to 6 hours.

For Superior Court judges, who do travel, the advisory committee established separate judge day values for five geographic strata, based on the time study data. Specifically, circuits with one county are allocated 8 minutes of travel each day per judge, circuits with 2 to 5 counties receive a travel credit of 31 minutes per day per judge, circuits with 6 counties receive a 51-minute travel credit, circuits with 7 counties receive an average travel allocation of 62 minutes per day, and circuits with 8 counties were allocated a 73-minute travel credit. The allocation of these travel credits results in five separate day values ranging from 4.7 hours to 5.8 hours, depending on the number of counties

in their circuits. The smaller day value circuits reflect the additional travel required of Superior Court judges in these circuits. Exhibit 15 provides an overview of the case-related year values for State Courts and Circuit Courts, based on the travel allocations described above.

Judge Year Values

To calculate the final year values for case-related work, the number of days in the working year was multiplied by the day value for case-related work. This figure is then expressed in terms of minutes per year. Exhibit 15 shows the calculation of the year values for State Court and Superior Court.

Exhibit 15. Judge Year Values with Varied Travel Allocations

	Judge year (days)	x	Judge day (hours)	x	Minutes per hour	=	Year value (minutes)*
State Court	215	x	6.0	x	60	=	77,400
Superior Court							
1 county	215	x	5.8	x	60	=	74,820
2 -5 counties	215	x	5.4	x	60	=	69,875
6 counties	215	x	5.1	x	60	=	65,575
7 counties	215	x	4.9	x	60	=	63,210
8 counties	215	x	4.7	x	60	=	60,845

*Year value minutes are calculated based on judge day values with extended decimal points.

Administrative Adjustment

The previous time study revealed that statutorily mandated administrative responsibilities create additional non-case-related work for Superior Court Chief Judges. This information was not collected for the current study; however, it was agreed that the model should continue to credit each Superior Court Chief Judge with an additional judicial need of 0.1 FTE to accommodate this work.

Judicial Need

To calculate the number of judges needed in each of Georgia’s State Courts, the annual filings for each case type was multiplied from calendar year 2019 by the corresponding case weight to calculate the annual judicial workload associated

with that case type, in minutes.¹³ Judicial workload was summed across all case types, then divided by the case-specific judge year value, or the amount of time each full-time judge has available for case-related work in one year. For the Superior Courts, the annual average filings count for each case for the calendar years 2018, 2019, and 2021 were used and the same process was applied.¹⁴ This yielded the total number of judges required to handle the court's case-related workload, as well as judges' ordinary non-case-related responsibilities, in full-time equivalent (FTE) terms. In Superior Court, the chief judge administrative adjustment was then added to arrive at total judicial need. For State Courts, only those with at least one full-time judge are included in the model.

In some courts, workload-based judicial need exceeds the number of currently allocated judicial positions. For the 2018 workload assessment study, JNAC adopted a uniform threshold of 1.20 FTE workload per judge to qualify for a new judgeship in State and Superior Courts of all sizes, and this threshold was retained for the current study.

Exhibits 16 (State Court) and 17 (Superior Court) present the final calculation of judicial workload and need, as well as the number of judges required to bring per-judge workload below the 1.20 FTE threshold, for each court.

¹³ For the State Court model, filings from calendar year 2019 were applied to the model to generate judicial need because, during the pandemic (calendar years 2020 and 2021) cases were not being filed at a normal level, and this trend continued into the early months of 2022.

¹⁴ For Superior Courts, an average of the two years of case filings from calendar years 2019, and 2021 were applied to the model to generate judicial need. Filings from calendar year 2020 were not used because they were significantly depressed due to the pandemic.

Exhibit 16. Judicial Workload and Need, State Courts

County	Total Judicial Officer Need	Currently Allocated Full-Time Judges	Current Workload per Judge	Full-Time Judge Need with 1.20 FTE Workload per Judge Upper Boundary	Workload per Judge when Upper Boundary is 1.20 or lower
Bibb County	2.57	2.00	1.29	3	0.86
Bulloch County	1.13	1.00	1.13	1	1.13
Carroll County	1.18	1.00	1.18	1	1.18
Catoosa County	0.80	1.00	0.80	1	0.80
Chatham County	4.26	3.00	1.42	4	1.07
Cherokee County	2.84	3.00	0.95	3	0.95
Clarke County	1.90	2.00	0.95	2	0.95
Clayton County	6.50	5.00	1.30	6	1.08
Cobb County	10.79	12.00	0.90	10	1.08
Colquitt County	0.55	1.00	0.55	1	0.55
Coweta County	2.56	2.00	1.28	3	0.85
DeKalb County	8.99	11.00	0.82	8	1.12
Dougherty County	0.98	1.00	0.98	1	0.98
Douglas County	2.39	2.00	1.19	3	0.80
Effingham County	0.60	1.00	0.60	1	0.60
Fayette County	1.63	1.00	1.63	2	0.82
Forsyth County	2.22	2.00	1.11	2	1.11
Fulton County	10.74	10.00	1.07	10	1.07
Glynn County	1.41	1.00	1.41	2	0.71
Gwinnett County	6.77	7.00	0.97	6	1.13
Hall County	3.60	3.00	1.20	4	0.90
Henry County	3.15	4.00	0.79	3	1.05
Houston County	1.78	1.00	1.78	2	0.89
Liberty County	0.77	1.00	0.77	1	0.77
Lowndes County	2.39	2.00	1.20	3	0.80
Mitchell County	0.27	1.00	0.27	1	0.27
Muscogee County	4.83	2.00	2.41	5	0.97
Richmond County	3.21	4.00	0.80	3	1.07
Rockdale County	1.88	2.00	0.94	2	0.94
Spalding County	1.14	1.00	1.14	1	1.14
Tift County	1.06	1.00	1.06	1	1.06
Troup County	1.42	1.00	1.42	2	0.71
Walker County	0.59	1.00	0.59	1	0.59
State Total Full-time Judges	96.90	93.00		99.00	

Exhibit 17. Judicial Workload and Need, Superior Courts

District	Circuit	Total Judicial Officer Need (FTE)	Currently Allocated Judges	Current Workload per Judge	Full-Time Judge Need with 1.20 FTE Workload per Judge Upper Boundary
1st District	Atlantic Circuit	5.64	4	1.41	5
	Brunswick Circuit	5.66	5	1.13	5
	Eastern Circuit	6.44	6	1.07	6
	Ogeechee Circuit	4.80	4	1.20	5
	Waycross Circuit	4.31	4	1.08	4
2nd District	Alapaha Circuit	2.86	2	1.43	3
	Douglas County Circuit	6.75	3	2.25	6
	Pataula Circuit	1.71	2	0.85	2
	South Georgia Circuit	2.96	2	1.48	3
	Southern Circuit	6.30	5	1.26	6
3rd District	Tifton Circuit	2.53	2	1.27	3
	Chattahoochee Circuit	7.45	7	1.06	7
	Houston Circuit	4.22	3	1.41	4
4th District	Macon Circuit	4.35	5	0.87	5
	Southwestern Circuit	4.27	3	1.42	4
5th District	Stone Mountain Circuit	13.31	10	1.33	14
	Rockdale Circuit	2.05	2	1.03	2
6th Circuit	Atlanta Circuit	18.89	20	0.94	20
	Clayton Circuit	7.53	5	1.51	7
	Covington Circuit	9.62	7	1.37	9
	Harris Circuit	3.58	4	0.90	4
	Griffin Circuit	5.10	6	0.85	6
7th District	Towaliga Circuit	2.45	2	1.22	3
	Cherokee Circuit	5.88	4	1.47	5
	Colts Circuit	12.62	11	1.15	11
	Conasauga Circuit	3.71	4	0.93	4
	Douglas Circuit	4.37	3	1.46	4
	Lookout Mountain Circuit	5.07	4	1.27	5
	Paulding Circuit	3.30	3	1.10	3
	Rome Circuit	5.73	4	1.43	5
	Talbot Circuit	2.73	2	1.36	3
	8th District	Carlele Circuit	2.66	3	0.89
Dublin Circuit		2.67	3	0.89	3
Middle Circuit		2.76	2	1.38	3
Oconulgee Circuit		6.58	5	1.32	6
Oconee Circuit		2.44	3	0.81	3
9th District	Appalachian Circuit	3.55	3	1.18	3
	Blue Ridge Circuit	4.64	3	1.55	4
	Mountain Circuit	2.81	2	1.41	3
	Shell County Circuit	2.73	3	0.91	3
	Franklin Circuit	3.84	3	1.28	4
	Northwestern Circuit	6.81	5	1.36	6
10th District	Gwinnett Circuit	14.16	11	1.29	12
	Alcoy Circuit	6.01	5	1.20	6
	Augusta Circuit	6.49	5	1.30	6
	Columbia Circuit	2.56	3	0.85	3
	Northwestern Circuit	3.99	3	1.33	4
	Piedmont Circuit	4.84	4	1.21	5
	Toombs Circuit	1.45	2	0.73	2
State Total	Western Circuit	3.68	4	0.92	4
		260.87	220		256

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

The final weighted caseload model provides an empirically grounded basis for analyzing judicial workload and need in each of Georgia's State and Superior Courts. The following recommendations are intended to ensure the effective use of the weighted caseload model and to preserve the model's integrity and utility over time.

Recommendation 1

To account for jurisdiction-specific contextual factors, NCSC recommends that the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Judicial Council conduct a secondary analysis before recommending the removal of current judicial positions or the creation of additional judicial positions in a court. Factors that should be considered during the secondary analysis include, but need not be limited to:

- Availability of judicial assistance (e.g., senior judges, magistrate judges) to perform Superior Court or State Court work,
- Geography and travel requirements, and
- Availability of law clerks and support staff.

Recommendation 2

A critical assumption of Georgia's State Court and Superior Court weighted caseload models is that case filings are counted consistently and accurately. NCSC strongly recommends that Georgia's trial courts continue

their efforts to improve the reliability of caseload reporting across all jurisdictions.

Recommendation 3

Over time, the integrity of any weighted caseload model may be affected by external factors such as changes in legislation, case law, legal practice, court technology, and administrative policies. NCSC recommends that the Judicial Council of Georgia and the Administrative Office of the Courts conduct a comprehensive review of the State Court and Superior Court weighted caseload models every five to seven years. This review should include a time study and a comprehensive quality adjustment process. Between updates, if a major change in the law appears to have a significant impact on judicial workload, a Delphi panel can be convened to make interim adjustments to the affected case weight(s).

When future weighted caseload studies are conducted in Georgia, care should be taken to ensure that all case type and activity categories capture case type groupings that allow for the case processing differences involved in each category. For example, several judges in the Delphi panels and focus groups indicated they thought the case type categories were too broad, citing felonies as an example. There were also questions regarding the reasoning for joining contracts with real property cases. Similar concerns were raised about the case type activity categories, with judges stating they could not accurately reflect the work they were doing.

Finally, the next weighted caseload study should include a comparison of the travel time collected during the time study with travel reimbursement data submitted by judges. Travel varies significantly across circuits, and there is a concern that the one-month time study may not accurately reflect the true travel time for each circuit. By using travel reimbursement data, the analyst can assign a rate of speed (e.g., 50 mph) to the miles traveled and convert that information to time. This data can then be compared to the travel time data captured in the time study, and the advisory committee can determine which data is more reflective of circuit travel activity.

Recommendation 4

Given concerns raised by several judges through both the Sufficiency of Time Survey and the focus groups, the Judicial Council and the Administrative Office of the Courts should consider ways to encourage law clerks to work for judges, whether it is done by raising salaries to make the positions more enticing to young

lawyers or is done in some other fashion to make the positions more desirable.

Recommendation 5

The Judicial Council and the Administrative Office of the Courts should consider offering judges the ability to hire paralegals in lieu of judicial secretaries, at a competitive pay rate. Paralegals could attend to work that must be completed by someone trained in the law, while also attending to the random traditional secretarial task when needed.

Recommendation 6

The Judicial Council and the Administrative Office of the Courts should consider providing technical assistance positions to each Circuit or District. Judges indicated that, with a greater reliance on remote hearings and other technological needs, such as using audio-visual presentations in court, when problems arise, they must rely on county technological assistance, which is not always readily available.

APPENDIX A: GLOSSARY OF TERMS: STATE COURTS

CASE TYPE CATEGORIES

Criminal

- 1. Non-traffic serious misdemeanor and misdemeanor**
Includes all misdemeanors, including cases ranging from shoplifting to domestic violence, that are not traffic offenses.
- 2. Serious traffic**
Includes serious traffic offenses such as misdemeanor DUI, homicide by vehicle, serious injury by vehicle, reckless driving, hit and run, aggressive driving, fleeing an officer.
- 3. Other traffic**
Includes less serious traffic offenses such as speeding, failure to stop at a stop sign, failure to signal.
- 4. Accountability courts**
Includes all statutorily recognized accountability court dockets.
- 5. Probation revocation**
Probation revocation petitions filed by either private or public probation officers, including waivers signed by defendants and first offender adjudications.

Civil

- 1. Complex tort**
Includes medical malpractice and product liability.
- 2. General tort**
Includes all other torts such as professional negligence, premises liability, libel, slander.
- 3. Landlord/tenant**
- 4. General contract/contract collections**
Includes all contract cases, such as breach and suits on promissory notes.
- 5. Civil appeals**
Includes all civil appeals from a lower court.
- 6. Garnishment**
Includes garnishment, continuing garnishment, and levy cases.

7. Other civil

Includes civil cases that do not fall into any other category.

CASE-RELATED EVENTS

Trial, In-Person

Includes all on-bench and off-bench activity related to a bench or jury trial, when conducted in-person. Includes all research and preparation related to trials, as well as sentencing following conviction at trial that was held in-person. Does **not** include pretrial activities (e.g., pretrial hearings, conferences, dispositive motions). Some examples of trial activities include:

- Jury selection
- Jury trial
- Bench trial
- Sentencing after conviction at trial
- Preparation of orders related to trials

Trial, Remote

Includes all on-bench and off-bench activity related to a bench or jury trial, when held remotely, or when at least one party appears remotely. Includes all research and preparation related to trials, as well as sentencing following conviction at trial, when the trial was held remotely, or at least one person appeared remotely. Does **not** include pretrial activities (e.g., pretrial hearings, conferences, dispositive motions). Some examples of trial activities include:

- Jury selection
- Jury trial
- Bench trial
- Sentencing after conviction at trial
- Preparation of orders related to trials

Other, In-Person

Includes all on-bench and off-bench activity NOT related to a bench or jury trial, when conducted in-person. Includes all research and preparation related to trials, as well as sentencing following conviction at trial, when the bench work was conducted in person, such as pretrial activities (e.g., pretrial hearings, conferences, dispositive motions). Jury selection

Other, Remote

Includes all on-bench and off-bench activity related to a bench or jury trial. Includes all research and preparation related to trials, as well as sentencing following conviction at trial. Does **not** include pretrial activities (e.g., pretrial hearings, conferences, dispositive motions). Some examples of trial activities include:

- Jury selection
- Jury trial
- Bench trial

- Sentencing after conviction at trial
- Preparation of orders related to trials

NON-CASE-RELATED EVENTS

1. Non-Case-Related Administration

Includes all non-case-related administrative work such as:

- Staff meetings
- Bench meetings
- Personnel matters
- Staff supervision and mentoring
- Court management

2. Judicial Education and Training

Includes all educational and training activities such as:

- Judicial education/continuing legal education
- Conferences

3. General Legal Reading

Includes all reading and research that is **not** related to a particular case before the court. Examples include:

- Reading journals
- Reading professional newsletters
- Reviewing appellate court decisions

4. Committee, Conference, and Work Group Meetings and Related Work

Includes all work related to and preparation for meetings of state and local committees, conferences, work groups, boards, and task forces on which you serve in your official capacity as a judge, such as:

- Community criminal justice board meetings
- State committees, conferences, and work groups

5. Community Activities and Public Outreach

Includes all public outreach and community service that is performed in your official capacity as a judge. This category does not include work for which you are compensated through an outside source, such as teaching law school courses, or personal community service work that is not performed in your official capacity as a judge. Examples of work-related community activities and public outreach include:

- Speaking at schools about legal careers
- Judging moot court competitions
- Board of Governors
- Bar Participation

6. Work-Related Travel

Work-Related Travel includes time spent traveling **to or from a court other than your primary court**. For purposes of the time study, your primary court is the court where you most frequently sit. You should not

record travel time spent on your commute between your home and your primary court. You should record any travel time between your home and other courts that is ***greater than the length of your commute between your home and your primary court***. You should also record travel between two courts.

Record travel related to judicial education and training, committee meetings, or community activities and public outreach in the applicable category.

7. Vacation, Sick Leave, and Holidays

Includes all time away from work due to vacation, personal leave, illness or medical leave, and court holidays.

8. Lunch and Breaks

Includes all routine breaks during the working day.

9. NCSC Time Study

Includes time spent filling out time study forms and entering time study data using the Web-based form.

APPENDIX B: GLOSSARY OF TERMS: SUPERIOR COURTS

CASE TYPE CATEGORIES - Many of the case types are counted individually, but for purposes of the workload assessment study, many have been collapsed into broader categories. The broader categories generally include case types that are expected to take similar amounts of time to process. For example, individual case types such as restraining petitions and garnishments were included in the Superior Courts' broader category of "other civil."

Criminal

- 1. Death penalty/habeas**
Includes all death penalty cases and death penalty habeas cases.
- 2. Serious felony**
Includes murder, armed robbery, kidnapping, rape, aggravated child molestation, aggravated sodomy, aggravated sexual battery, RICO, and home invasion.
- 3. Felony**
Includes all other felonies.
- 4. Serious Traffic**
Cases including misdemeanor DUI, reckless driving, homicide by vehicle, aggressive driving, and fleeing, or attempting to elude a police officer.
- 5. Misdemeanor**
All misdemeanor offenses, except for those listed in *Serious Traffic*, above.
- 6. Accountability courts**
Includes all statutorily recognized accountability court dockets
- 7. Probation revocation**
Probation revocation petitions filed by either private or public probation officers, including waivers signed by defendants and first offender adjudications.

Civil

- 1. Complex tort**
Includes medical malpractice and product liability.
- 2. General tort**
Includes all other torts such as professional negligence, premises liability, libel, slander.
- 3. Contract**

4. Real property

Includes boundary disputes.

5. Civil appeals

Includes all civil appeals from a lower court.

6. Habeas Corpus

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

7. Other civil

Includes civil cases that do not fall into any other category, such as injunctions/mandamus/other writs, restraining petitions, landlord/tenant, and garnishments. Reopened cases include contempt and medication.

Domestic

1. Divorce/paternity/legitimation

2. Support (IV-D and private)

Includes private (non-IV-D) and DHS child support cases. Private (non-IV-D) includes 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.

3. Adoption

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

4. Family Violence/Stalking Petition

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

5. Other Domestic

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

6. Modification of Custody, Parenting, or Visitation

The new definition for Modification of Custody is: 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.

7. Contempt

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

8. Parental Accountability Court

A count of new participants into a Parental Accountability program.

CASE-RELATED EVENTS

Trial, In-Person

Includes all on-bench and off-bench activity related to a bench or jury trial, when conducted in-person. Includes all research and preparation related to trials, as well as sentencing following conviction at trial that was held in-person. Does **not** include pretrial activities (e.g., pretrial hearings, conferences, dispositive motions). Some examples of trial activities include:

- Jury selection
- Jury trial
- Bench trial
- Sentencing after conviction at trial
- Preparation of orders related to trials

Trial, Remote

Includes all on-bench and off-bench activity related to a bench or jury trial, when held remotely, or when at least one party appears remotely. Includes all research and preparation related to trials, as well as sentencing following conviction at trial, when the trial was held remotely, or at least one person appeared remotely. Does **not** include pretrial activities (e.g., pretrial hearings, conferences, dispositive motions). Some examples of trial activities include:

- Jury selection
- Jury trial
- Bench trial
- Sentencing after conviction at trial
- Preparation of orders related to trials

Other, In-Person

Includes all on-bench and off-bench activity NOT related to a bench or jury trial, when conducted in-person. Includes all research and preparation related to trials, as well as sentencing following conviction at trial, when the bench work was conducted in person, such as pretrial activities (e.g., pretrial hearings, conferences, dispositive motions). Jury selection

Other, Remote

Includes all on-bench and off-bench activity related to a bench or jury trial. Includes all research and preparation related to trials, as well as sentencing following conviction at trial. Does **not** include pretrial activities (e.g., pretrial hearings, conferences, dispositive motions). Some examples of trial activities include:

- Jury selection
- Jury trial
- Bench trial
- Sentencing after conviction at trial
- Preparation of orders related to trials

Non-Case-Related Events

1. Non-Case-Related Administration

Includes all non-case-related administrative work such as:

- Staff meetings
- Bench meetings
- Personnel matters
- Staff supervision and mentoring
- Court management

2. Judicial Education and Training

Includes all educational and training activities such as:

- Judicial education/continuing legal education
- Conferences

3. General Legal Reading

Includes all reading and research that is **not** related to a particular case before the court. Examples include:

- Reading journals
- Reading professional newsletters
- Reviewing appellate court decisions

4. Committee, Conference, and Work Group Meetings and Related Work

Includes all work related to and preparation for meetings of state and local committees, conferences, work groups, boards, and task forces on which you serve in your official capacity as a judge, such as:

- Community criminal justice board meetings
- State committees, conferences, and work groups

5. Community Activities and Public Outreach

Includes all public outreach and community service that is performed in your official capacity as a judge. This category does not include work for which you are compensated through an outside source, such as teaching law school courses, or personal community service work that is not performed in your official capacity as a judge. Examples of work-related community activities and public outreach include:

- Speaking at schools about legal careers
- Judging moot court competitions
- Board of Governors
- Bar Participation

6. Work-Related Travel

Work-Related Travel includes time spent traveling **to or from a court other than your primary court**. For purposes of the time study, your primary court is the court where you most frequently sit. You should not record travel time spent on your commute between your home and your primary court. You should record any travel time between your home and other courts that is **greater than the length of your commute**

between your home and your primary court. You should also record travel between two courts.

Record travel related to judicial education and training, committee meetings, or community activities and public outreach in the applicable category.

7. Vacation, Sick Leave, and Holidays

Includes all time away from work due to vacation, personal leave, illness or medical leave, and court holidays.

8. Lunch and Breaks

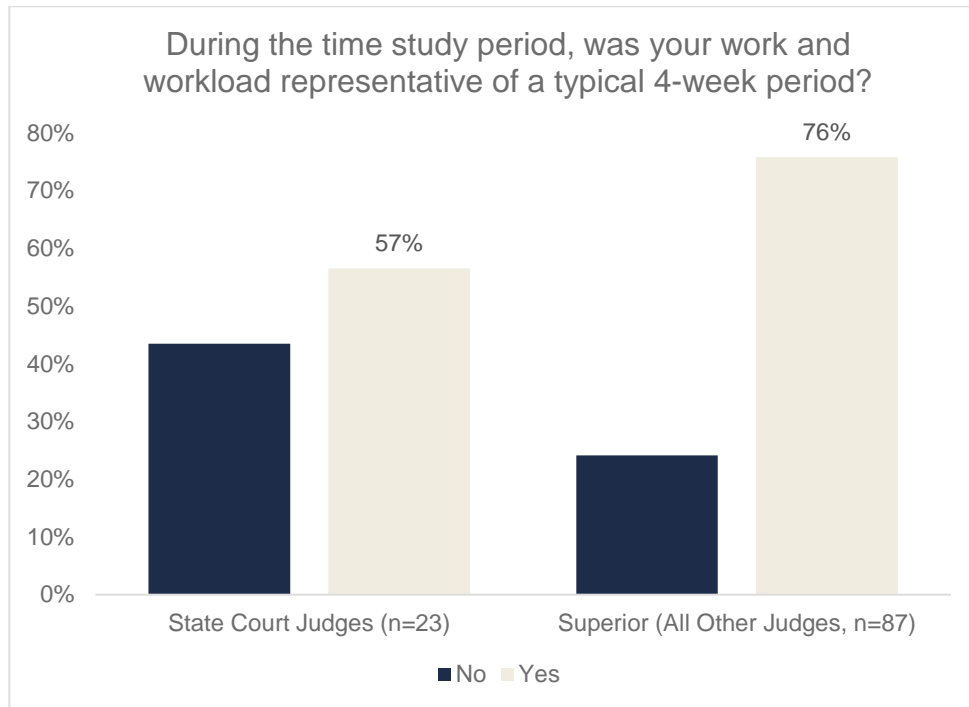
Includes all routine breaks during the working day.

9. NCSC Time Study

Includes time spent filling out time study forms and entering time study data using the Web-based form.

APPENDIX C: SUFFICIENCY OF TIME SURVEY RESULTS

Time Study Period Questions

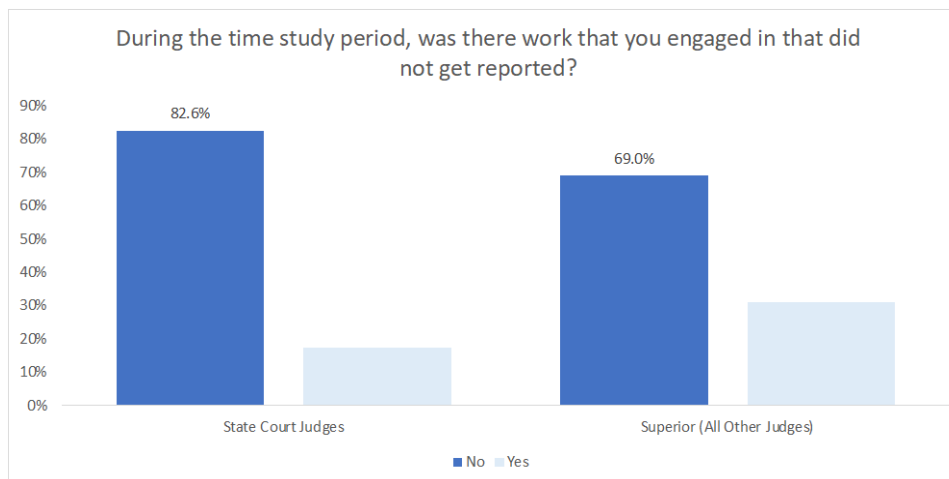
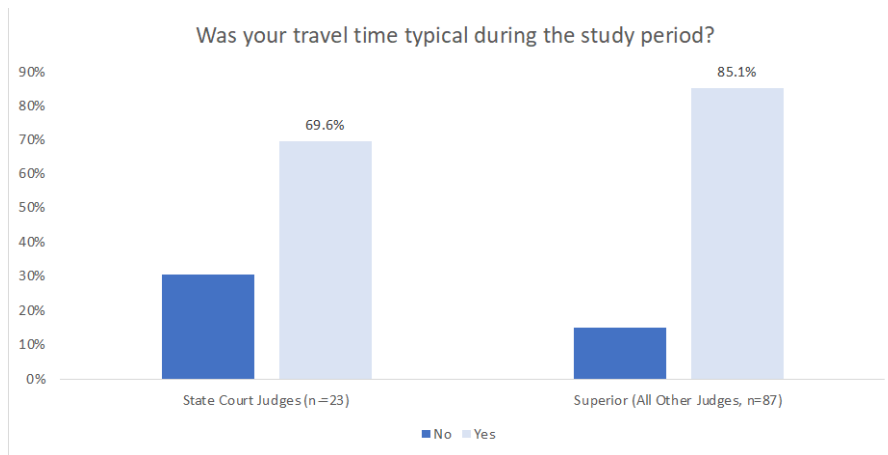


STATE COURTS: Workload was different during the data collection period because:

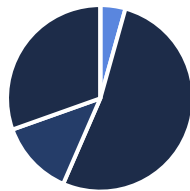
TRIAL SCHEDULES	March is not a trial term month for Dougherty State Court. April and every other month is trial term month. March was typical for a non-trial term month though I did have more travel time available to me
	I have jury trials every OTHER month and this was a non-jury trial month.
	I did not have any jury trial weeks scheduled. I usually do during a 4 week period.
	Vacation, no trials
LESS BUSY	I wasn't very busy in March. This timeframe was not representative of my schedule.
	I had scheduled a one week vacation.
COVID-RELATED	The COVID related caseload is under represented. Beginning in April Chatham County State Court added approximately 45 additional arraignment dockets employing pro temp and senior judges to address the 6000 cases that are accused but not yet arraigned. This is in addition to the 3000 cases that have been sent up to State Court from local committal courts and are awaiting accusation. The March time study will vastly under count the impact of the COVID backlog.
	Still not back to normal because of COVID - e.g., not working as much still.
	My court schedule is still affected by not being able to have in person court in my own courtroom because of Covid-19. I have to rely on mostly remote Zoom hearings that are attended by a limited number of litigants who appear in person and on Zoom. Based upon this situation, the ability to handle my workload has been hampered by this situation.
	Reduced jury trials due to COVID. I was also doing an online National Judicial College course that took a lot of time.

SUPERIOR COURTS: Workload was different during the data collection period because:

<p>TRIALS OR HEARINGS DID NOT GO, OR WERE LENGTHY</p>	<p>A scheduled Jury trial didn't proceed and there was some days that were not fully scheduled.</p> <p>I did not have a jury trial during this month.</p> <p>i ended up not having a trial that month, which was not representative.</p> <p>I had a few lengthy hearings settle or otherwise come off of my calendar, with no time to replace them with something else. I also had an entire week of civil trials come off due to settlement/dismissal.</p> <p>I had a large complex civil trial scheduled to start at the end of March, and there were many hearings related to that single case that took up a healthy portion of the civil case work that I preformed during March.</p> <p>I had a single case that took eleven days.</p> <p>I typically have 2 serious criminal jury trials lasting a week (occasionally 2) during a given month. Through a combination of factors, I had none during the month of March and I had a civil jury trial settle the Friday before trial was to begin on Monday. The month of the time study didn't accurately reflect a typical month of jury trials.</p> <p>No jury trial week was scheduled during the period selected for the study,. whereas I typically have at least one jury trial week every 4 weeks.</p> <p>The amount of court days/trial days varies depending on the county covered in that particular month.</p>
<p>UNABLE TO TRACK TIME</p>	<p>I ended up not being able to complete the survey for all days of the month. Also, during the time period I had an unusual amount of extra-judicial obligations. In short, in the 14 prior months, I had not had a month like that.</p> <p>I input time for two weeks then frankly was too busy to input daily. Court is almost daily to address the needs after COVID.</p>
<p>MORE TIME OFF THAN USUAL</p>	<p>i had more scheduled off time and less court time than usual due to some family demands concerning my elderly parents and the fact that i am retiring at the end of April so i had to spend time clearing my docket</p> <p>I had several days off that I normally would not have taken in a typical four week period.</p> <p>I took more vacation time during the study period than I do in a typical 4-week period. (It was my daughter's spring break.)</p> <p>I was on vacation for one week (Spring Break for kids)</p> <p>Time off concurrent with child's spring break.</p>
<p>OTHER</p>	<p>It was less as some of the calendars were canceled due to the assigned attorneys having CLE conferences, or individual litigants not being served and present.</p> <p>More office time than usual due to cancellations of some hearings and settlements of others.</p> <p>My workload is on a six-week cycle of criminal/domestic/civil matters that have different degrees of time requirements and the four-week period of the study period was a snapshot of a portion of that time block.</p> <p>COVID restrictions still require Zoom hearings, prevent full courtroom, limit days for jury trials and limit the number of inmates that can be transported to the courthouse and the number of days a judge has inmates available for transport to the courthouse.</p>



State Court Judges: Sufficient Time to Complete Work

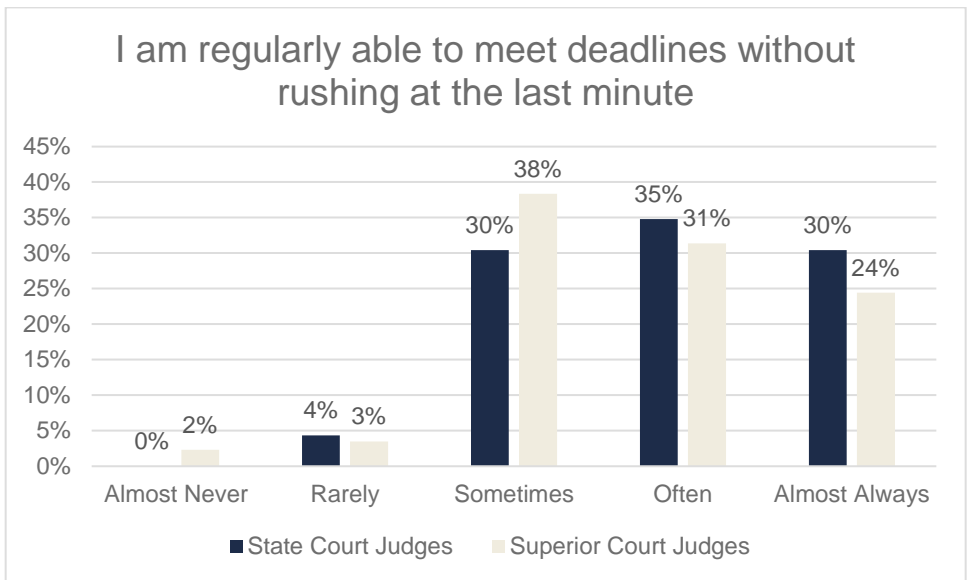
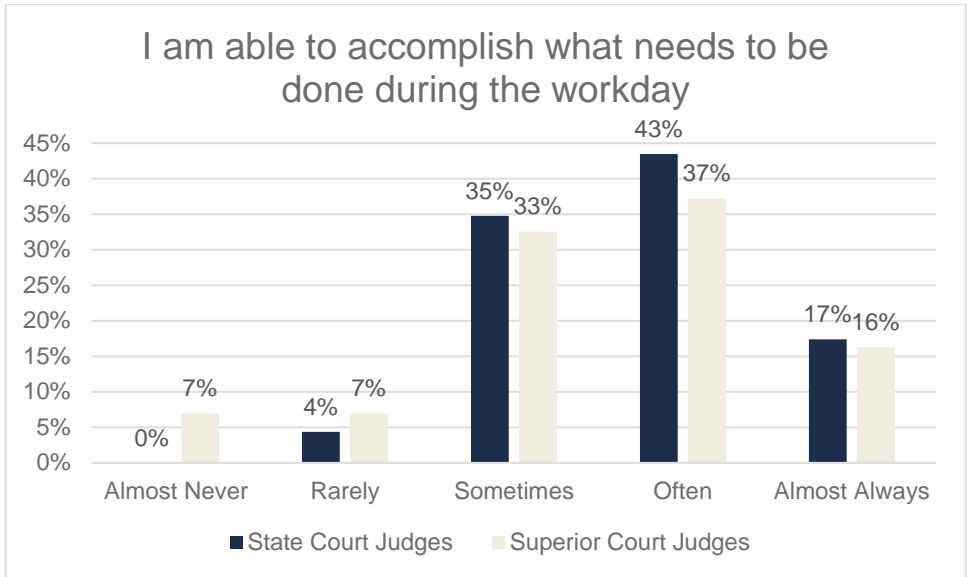


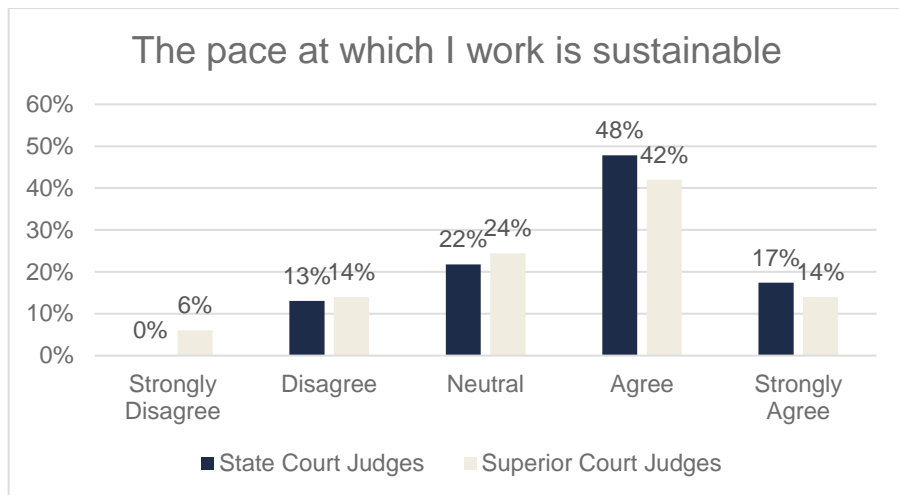
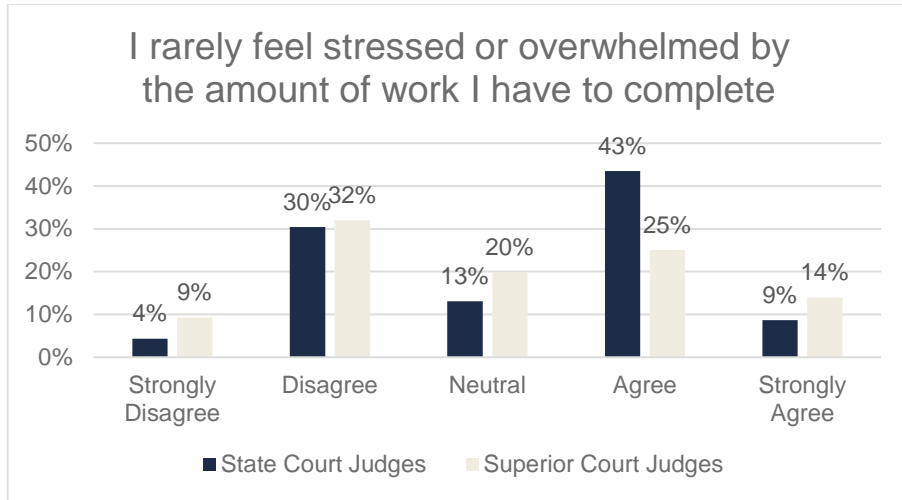
■ Almost Never ■ Rarely ■ Sometimes
■ Often ■ Almost Always ■ N/A

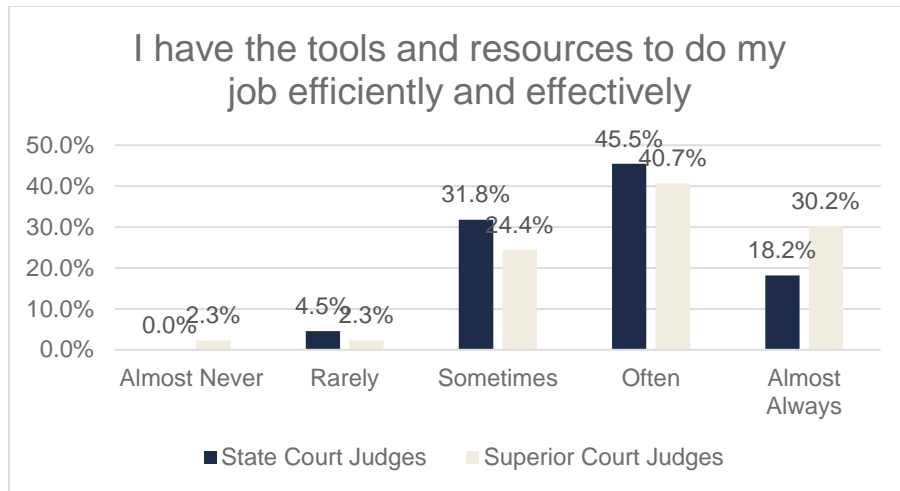
Superior Court Judges: Sufficient Time to Complete Work



■ Almost Never ■ Rarely ■ Sometimes
■ Often ■ Almost Always ■ N/A







Superior Court: What additional tools and resources do you need?

STAFFING NEEDS	1) An additional judge, 2) An additional staff attorney, 3) Additional mediators for domestic cases.
	A Staff Attorney - I currently don't have one assigned to me (expecting one in June).
	A staff attorney would be nice.
	Additional staff attorneys.
	We cannot find law clerks for our circuit.
	I could use an additional staff attorney to assist in the preparation of orders.
	Increase in staff/help.
	Greater staff support. Also our circuit has just gotten a fourth judgeship and I am hopeful that will help with the workload.
	It would be nice if State provided more community supervision officers and a Day Reporting Center in every county. In our rural counties sentencing alternatives are limited by the resources available.
	Computer programs, court personnel, clerks, bailiffs, technology.
	Could use a law clerk. Our circuit hasn't had one for a year. The salary we offer is not feasible for attracting law school graduates facing student loan debts. At most, we've had to split one 3 ways. On occasion, I spend after hours or weekends conducting legal research while drafting orders. Law clerks save time with pro-se litigants by reviewing pleadings for obvious shortcomings to be corrected prior to hearings. Could also use a case management system to identify pending motions which require attention. We could also use IT support for equipping courtrooms with internet access and computers on the benches. Could use audio equipment updates in all our counties as well. We don't know what to request. An IT consultant could help us immensely.
	As a senior judge I often have need of a staff attorney. I can usually reach out to someone in my home circuit. If I am in another circuit those resources not always available.
	As a senior judge I would be helped very much by access to a Law clerk and some secretarial staff support even if the positions were in a pool of labor situation.
	More staff.
	Secretarial assistance - MINIMAL.
	Staff attorney for legal research and assistance in drafting orders with more complex matters.
	Staff attorney, more attorneys dedicated to juvenile law for cases.
	Staff!
Support Staff.	
The pandemic has increased our workload. We have a much larger workload due to the backlog caused by the pandemic. More staff would be helpful.	
Our Circuit normally has 4 law clerks. Right now we are down to 1.	
Competent ADAs and PDs who know what they are doing and how to try a criminal case.	
CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS & IT	Additional case management tools.
	A case management system.
	Case management system and calendar clerk.
	We need a case management system.
	An I-Pad for taking and storing case notes.
	Better internet connections.
	Better IT. Our Zoom capabilities rarely work right for video hearings. We only have 1 of 4 law clerk positions filled at this time. More courtroom space.
	Better technology is needed in some of the courtrooms in our circuit. We also have limited resources for accountability courts since we are grant funded and do not always have sufficient staff and supplies.
	Better video conference capability. More ability to examine case assignments.
	County internet filters prohibit legal study in one of my counties.
My internet works intermittently. My West Law is on the blink. I have only one employee, so I have to collaborate to get anything done.	
COURTROOM RELATED	increased time and space to consider the law and facts on some more complex matters.
	Larger courtrooms, MORE CONFLICT ATTORNEYS.
	More courtrooms and more judges to try murder and sexual assault cases.
	More frequent in-person jail calendars, More frequent Zoom jail calendars, more jurors.
	My courtroom is sound challenged. I would be more effective with a working courtroom system.
TRAINING	I would need appropriate domestic relations and jury trial manuals and training.
	More superior court training. Once appointed to preside over Superior Court, it would be helpful if we got the same NJO training as a new Superior Court judge.
TIME	More hours in the day with less backlog of cases from covid shutdown.
	More hours in the day.
	Time.

State Court: What additional tools and resources do you need?

STAFFING NEEDS	Law clerk; assistance of a senior judge.
	Assigned staff attorney, reliable internet connection; ability to work remotely.
	Competent staff on departments that work in State Court. (Solicitor, clerk, etc...)
	Additional personnel from the Solicitor's office.
	Chatham County State Court needs an additional judge and the related infrastructure.
	Prosecutors...there is a severe shortage.
	More court reporters and court space to run more courtrooms.
	A law clerk to assist in research and drafting orders, additional funding for courtroom personnel and furniture and other fixtures, additional office personnel to assist in the management of day to day caseload.
	Need more senior judge money for fill in.
	Another judge.
TECHNOLOGY	Better courtroom audio-visual.
	Better case management software.
	current technology, more IT specialist, additional support staff
	My county does not have enough courtrooms to accommodate all of the court dates needed by all of the different courts.
COURT-ROOM RELATED	A courtroom dedicated to my office. I'm currently sharing several courtrooms with Judges who have priority over the available courtrooms.
	We are in desperate need of another courtroom so that both judges can have jury trials simultaneously without logistical concerns.

Are there specific case types for which you feel more time would improve the quality of justice?
Please select all that apply.

State Court		
	N	%
Criminal:		
Non-Traffic Serious Misdemeanor & Misdemeanor	15	45.5%
Serious Traffic	6	18.2%
Other Traffic	2	6.1%
Accountability Courts	7	21.2%
Probation Revocation	4	12.1%
Civil:		0.0%
General Tort	7	21.2%
Complex Tort	11	33.3%
Landlord/Tenant	1	3.0%
General Contract/Contract		
Collections	2	6.1%
Civil Appeals	1	3.0%
Garnishment	0	0.0%
Other Civil	1	3.0%
I don't need additional time for any case types	5	15.2%

Superior Court		
	N	%
Criminal:		
Death Penalty/Habeas	2	2.6%
Serious Felony	39	50.6%
Felony	22	28.6%
Serious Traffic	1	1.3%
Misdemeanor	6	7.8%
Accountability Courts	20	26.0%
Probation Revocation	15	19.5%
Civil:		
General Tort	11	14.3%
Complex Tort	15	19.5%
Contract/Real Property	7	9.1%
Civil Appeals	2	2.6%
Habeas Corpus	6	7.8%
Other Civil	1	1.3%
Domestic Relations:		
Divorce/Paternity/Legitimation	39	50.6%
Support: IV-D and Private	8	10.4%
Adoption	3	3.9%
Family Violence Petition	14	18.2%
Other Domestic	23	29.9%
Modification of Custody, Parenting or Visitation	0	0.0%
Contempt	0	0.0%
Parental Accountability Court	2	2.6%
I don't need additional time for any case types	17	22.1%

Please select up to 5 activities for which more time you feel would improve the quality of justice, if any.

State

Activity	N	%
Conduct legal research	10	30.3%
Conduct trials	9	27.3%
Prepare findings and orders related to dispositive pretrial motions	9	27.3%
Conduct pretrial and scheduling conferences	6	18.2%
Conduct settlement conferences	6	18.2%
Attending training and educational opportunities	5	15.2%
Prepare findings and orders related to non-dispositive pretrial motions	4	12.1%
Prepare findings and orders related to trials	4	12.1%
Prepare for trials	4	12.1%
Review and hear dispositive pretrial motions (e.g. motion for summary judgment)	4	12.1%
Address the issues surrounding self-represented litigants	3	9.1%
Personnel-related work	3	9.1%
Explain orders and rulings	2	6.1%
Review and hear non-dispositive pretrial motions (e.g. motions in limine)	2	6.1%
Staff and committee meetings	2	6.1%
Ensure that parties and their counsel feel that their questions/concerns are addressed	1	3.0%
Reading and responding to email	1	3.0%
<i>I do not need additional time for any activities</i>	4	12.1%

Superior

Activity	N	%
Conduct trials	35	45.5%
Prepare findings and orders related to dispositive pretrial motions	32	41.6%
Address the issues surrounding self-represented litigants	29	37.7%
Conduct legal research	26	33.8%
Conduct pretrial and scheduling conferences	25	32.5%
Review and hear dispositive pretrial motions (e.g. motion for summary judgment)	23	29.9%
Attending training and educational opportunities	22	28.6%
Prepare findings and orders related to trials	20	26.0%
Prepare findings and orders related to non-dispositive pretrial motions	18	23.4%
Prepare for trials	11	14.3%
Conduct settlement conferences	10	13.0%
Reading and responding to email	10	13.0%
Review and hear post-trial motions (e.g. motions for new trial)	10	13.0%
Personnel-related work	9	11.7%
Prepare findings and orders related to post-trial motions	9	11.7%
Ensure that parties and their counsel feel that their questions/concerns are addressed	8	10.4%
Review and hear non-dispositive pretrial motions (e.g. motions in limine)	8	10.4%
Staff and committee meetings	7	9.1%
Explain orders and rulings	5	6.5%
Review and hear post-trial motions	1	1.3%
		0.0%
<i>I do not need additional time for any activities</i>	10	13.0%

TAB 8

Technology

TAB 9



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 Trea Pipkin, Chair
Judge Amanda Petty, Vice-chair

RE: Ad-hoc Committee on Judicial Emergency Preparedness

DATE: April 13th, 2023

The committee continues its work and forecasts completing its mission on or before its original target of July 2023.

Early on the committee created five subcommittees, dividing the work of creating a template/shell plan amongst them. The subcommittees remain very productive, many of them having already delivered their work product to the full committee.

Tasks of consequence remaining include creating processes for change management and distribution, as well as assembling individual plan components into a first draft.

The full committee plans to meet again in May or June.

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: Michelle Barclay, Division Director

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

DATE: April 21, 2023

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. 2023 marks the 50th anniversary of the Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts, and we have retained retired Judge Tain Kell as a one-year judicial fellow to help us announce, commemorate, and celebrate that milestone especially in an effort to educate the legal community and the public about the work of the Judicial Council/AOC. In addition, we have created a commemorative logo for pins, stationary, Zoom backgrounds, etc.; have created an archive of all 50 of the JC/AOC Annual Reports, issued press releases; are producing short videos featuring former and current Judicial Council members speaking on its work over the last five decades, will be offering a short presentation on the services provided by the JC/AOC at the Judicial Section luncheon during the State Bar Annual Meeting (June 2023); are planning a service project with Habitat for Humanity (aiming for 9/23/2023); and are organizing a wellness event for JC/AOC staff at our December All Staff Meeting.

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. Court compliance with statutory timelines can now be tracked through CPRS and that functionality is being tested in several counties.

- 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 file reviews, and participant surveys. J4C has refined the pilot measures to more closely align with Georgia-specific practice and is beginning data collection in three metro counties. 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 the Cold Case Project to inform child welfare policy and practice.
- The Court Improvement Initiative (CII) brings together leading juvenile court judges and court teams to review current child welfare data and the latest research on best practices in child welfare cases. CII will meet at Calloway Gardens in August 2023.
- Georgia now has 64 attorneys and 10 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 held their sixth annual statewide Child Welfare Law Summit on November 30 – December 2, 2022. This Summit offered in-person and virtual attendance options and all presentations remained available to attendees on-demand for 90 days after the Summit ended. This year’s Summit is scheduled for November 29 – December 1, 2023.
- 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 2022 to Katherine Hamm of Hall County DFCS and attorney Jennifer Cline of Rockdale County Juvenile Court. Nominations for the 2023 Hines Awards recently closed. This year’s Hines Awards will be presented in June at the State Bar Annual Meeting in Savannah.
- **The next J4C Committee meeting will be held on May 24, 2023 at the Nathan Deal Judicial Center.**

- **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 focus 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), our Child Support Team serves as staff to the Georgia Child Support Commission. In that work, staff provides all logistical support for all Commission and Subcommittee meetings, attends all meetings, and ensures compliance with Georgia’s Open Meetings Act. Staff also maintains an online child support calculator <https://csc.georgiacourts.gov/>, for court and public use, provides training on the child support guidelines statute, O.C.G.A. § 19-6-15, and the child support calculator for courts, lawyers, and the public, supports the Parental Accountability Courts (PAC) by providing evaluations of those programs, provides self-represented litigants and the courts with resources on Georgia’s Income Deduction Order (IDO) process in private cases, and generally supports the process and the law surrounding child support.
 - The latest Child Support Commission Meeting was held virtually on Friday, November 4, 2022. Reports were made by chairs of the Economic Subcommittee, the Technology & Calculator Subcommittee, and the Statute Review Subcommittee. The Commission 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. That contract is in place and Dr. Venohr will attend meetings with the Statute Review Subcommittee to accomplish this work. The next meeting of the Commission will take place on Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at 10 a.m. and will be conducted as a hybrid meeting in Zoom Webinar and in-person at the Nathan Deal Justice Center.
 - Legislation: The Commission did not 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, but has taken that study under advisement. In addition, the Commission plans to work with Dr. Venohr on the matters of parenting time and low-income in anticipation of presenting a

- comprehensive bill for the General Assembly to consider during 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. The Low-Income Deviation Study Committee, chaired by Judge Emory Palmer, completed its work and submitted a report to the Commission in December 2020. The Parenting Time Deviation Study Committee, chaired by Attorney Kathleen “Katie” Connell, was extended through April 2022, and immediately submitted their report to the Commission. Members of both study committees will be engaged with the Commission, as needed, on the work with Dr. Venohr.
 - Subcommittees:
 - Economic Subcommittee - Chair, Dr. Roger Tutterow, held their most recent meeting on October 19, 2022, and gave an update on finalizing the 2022 Economic Study and report. A total of 16 counties were selected for the case sampling included in that report: Appling, Clayton (added to represent 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., to conduct the 2022 Economic Study at a cost of \$60,000. The final report of this study is available on the Child Support Commission website at <https://csc.georgiacourts.gov/business-of-the-child-support-commission/>, under “Economic Study Final Reports.” Staff is currently communicating with the chair to schedule a next meeting for this Subcommittee.
 - Statute Review Subcommittee - Co-Chair, Katie Connell, and Co-Chair, Judge Connie L. Williford, are conducting frequent meetings to identify any changes that may be needed to the statute, O.C.G.A. § 19-6-15. This effort includes potential amendments to parenting time and low-income deviation. The next two meetings of this Subcommittee will be on April 21, 2023 at 2 p.m., and on Friday, May 19, 2023 at 2 p.m.
 - Technology and Calculator Subcommittee – Chair Regina Quick, Esq. The last meeting of this Subcommittee was held on December 16, 2022, and the members continued looking at items that may be improved upon in the Child Support Calculator, including instructions for the Low-Income Deviation and instructions for pre-existing orders. There is not currently a next meeting scheduled for this Subcommittee.
 - Child Support Calculator: Courts, attorneys, mediators, and the public alike use the calculator deployed on August 8, 2016. (The original calculators, web-based and Excel, were initially deployed at the end of December 2006.) Internet connectivity within 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 (as requested), and the public on a routine basis. Staff is scheduling two in-person

training events in 2023 and those will be conducted in Savannah and at the State Bar Center in Atlanta. Trainings include, but are not limited to, using the child support calculator generally, the low-income deviation, steps to impute income, and how to avoid common mistakes identified in the 2022 case sampling. 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 demand on the Child Support Commission website under Training. We find that many people, including lawyers and their staff, access these videos as well.

- 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 (Immediate Past 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. To date, no additional funds are available for the rental assistance program. Recently, we discovered a new NCSC Eviction Diversion Initiative and are researching the application process.
 - 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 the Georgia State University College of Law to host a series of A2J webinars entitled "Minding the Justice Gap". Those webinars have been very successful and may be viewed here:

[Minding the Justice Gap - Chasing Justice: How to Be Part of the Solution \(Class 1\)](#)

[Minding the Justice Gap - Chasing Justice: How to Be Part of the Solution \(Class 2\)](#)

[Minding the Justice Gap - Show Me The Money: Funding for A2J \(Class 3\)](#)

[Minding the Justice Gap - Show Me the Money: Funding for A2J \(Addendum to Class 3\)](#)

[Minding the Justice Gap - The Faith Community's Role in Improving Justice \(Class 4\)](#)

- We have received a final draft of Georgia State University's ROI Study. The final report should be available within 30 days. [LSHC Report Economic Impact 9Feb2023](#)
- In 2019, we began hosting free Pop-up Legal Clinics, and the 3rd Clinic was planned for March 13, 2020 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 was held on July 29, 2022. Our last Clinic for 2022 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 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 administrative 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. CJCP granted our proposal and has awarded the Committee \$15,000. Our first Webinar was held on March 23rd and our next class is scheduled for March 29, 2023.
- The A2J Committee’s Self Represented Litigants (SRL) Forms Working Group continues work on 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 continue 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 May 10, 2023.**



SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

FILED
Administrative Minutes
April 14, 2023
Thérèse S. Barnes
Clerk/Court Executive
SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA
Thérèse S. Barnes

The Honorable Supreme Court met pursuant to adjournment.

The following order was passed:

It is hereby ordered that the Honorable Melanie B. Cross, Superior Court Judge of the Tifton Judicial Circuit, be appointed to serve as Chair of the Judicial Council Standing Committee on Grants, to fill the unexpired term of the Honorable William T. Boyett, former Chief Superior Court Judge of the Conasauga Judicial Circuit, effective April 14, 2023.

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA
Clerk's Office, Atlanta

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

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

Thérèse S. Barnes . Clerk

TAB 11



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

Since we last met, I delivered my first State of the Judiciary address to the General Assembly in the House chambers of the Capitol. I spoke about the status of grant funds used by trial courts to address the backlog of serious violent felony cases, the innovative solutions employed by judges across the state to improve the administration of justice, and ongoing initiatives aimed at upholding the rule of law. If you would like to watch the entire speech it is posted on the Court's website at <https://www.gasupreme.us/03-08-2023-state-of-the-judiciary/>.

On March 2, the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism held the 23rd Annual Justice Robert Benham Awards for Community Service at the Nathan Deal Judicial Center, and later in the month we convened a special session to honor our former colleague with a presentation of his official portrait. It was an honor and privilege to have worked alongside Chief Justice Benham, an important figure in the history of our Court and in the history of our state. As I noted during the ceremony, he was the first African-American Justice to serve on the Supreme Court, and prior to that, on the Court of Appeals. I mentioned that Justice Benham's family arrived in Georgia enslaved by Col. Willis Benham the same year that this Supreme Court was established in 1845 and 145 years later then-Governor Joe Frank Harris swore in Robert Benham as a Justice of the Supreme Court where he went on to serve as Chief Justice from 1995-2001. The portrait is displayed in the hall that includes the Justices' chambers.

The final report of The Georgia Lawyer Competency Task Force, created by former Chief Justice Harold D. Melton and chaired by former Justice Keith Blackwell, has been submitted and is attached to this report along with the related appendices. (The task force report made available for public input is also available on our website). As a reminder, the task force was charged with evaluating the current requirements for admission to practice law in Georgia and exploring alternatives to the existing regulatory framework as well as evaluating mechanisms and alternatives for ensuring the competency of experienced lawyers, including

current Continuing Legal Education requirements. I sincerely appreciate the hard work of the task force in preparing the comprehensive report and look forward to considering their recommendations over the coming months.

In February, the Judicial Council Standing Committee on Court Interpreters submitted its amended rules for Legal Interpreting in the State of Georgia to the Court. The Standing Committee was created in 2021 and charged with amending the Rules for Use of Interpreters for Non-English Speaking Persons which was last updated in 2012. The Standing Committee has made significant revisions to the substance and format of the rules, including establishing licensing programs and minimum requirements and procedures for qualifying interpreters. We made the submission available for public comment with a March 31, 2023 deadline to submit comments. Those comments are now being evaluated as the Court considers final approval of the amended rules.

As always, Presiding Justice Peterson and I are grateful to each member of Judicial Council who give most generously of their time and expertise. We rely on you to continue the sound traditions of this body.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael P. Boggs". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Michael P. Boggs
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Georgia

Access the Final Report of the Georgia Lawyer Competency Task Force at:

- <https://www.gasupreme.us/>
- <https://www.gasupreme.us/03-30-2023-georgia-lawyer-competency-task-force-submits-final-report-to-supreme-court/>



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 April 21, 2023 Meeting

Now that this year's legislative session has ended, traffic around the Capitol and our courthouse in Atlanta has died down some, and we are working hard to resolve the appeals before us. The Court of Appeals has seen an uptick in appeals and applications, mirroring the hard work of all the trial courts across the state as proceedings ramp back up.

The court continues its outreach across Georgia by holding offsite oral arguments. In March 2023, I traveled to Tallulah Falls School with Presiding Judge Stephen Louis A. Dillard and Judge Trea Pipkin to hear oral arguments. We also answered questions from the students, who were very engaged. It was a great trip to a great school, with excellent staff support all around.

And by the time you read this report, another panel will have heard arguments at RiverCenter for the Performing Arts in Columbus on April 12, with a projected high school audience of more than 800 (300 more students than we thought would attend as of my February report). Members of the Columbus Bar Association have gone to high schools throughout the area to discuss the cases, which should make the arguments more interesting for the students. Presiding Judge Anne Elizabeth Barnes has asked Judge Ben Land to preside over this court session in his hometown, and I will fill in as the third judge on the panel.

Each of the court's five three-judge panels is able to schedule one offsite oral argument annually. The court has been busy with offsite arguments since last fall, when we began traveling again with an inaugural visit to Mercer in Macon, followed by visits to UGA Law School and Valdosta State University. If you are interested in having our court hold oral arguments in your area, please give me a call or drop me a line, and we will work out a plan together. In the meantime, if you make a trip to Atlanta while the legislature is in session, or at any other time, please come by and visit us at the Nathan Deal Judicial Center.

Brian M. Rickman
Chief Judge, Court of Appeals of



Georgia State-wide Business Court Claims in Business Court Open Cases

Claim	# of occurrences
Attorney's Fees 13-6-11	27
Breach of Contract	24
Breach of Fiduciary Duty	14
Punitive Damages	13
Injunctive Relief	12
Conversion	10
Declaratory Judgment	9
Accounting	7
Fraud	5
Unjust Enrichment	5
Breach of Duty	4
Breach of Warranty	4
Money had and received	4
Receiver	4
Tortious Interference-Business Relations	4
Breach of Covenants	3
Constructive Trust	3
Interlocutory Relief	3
Promissory Estoppel	3
Quantum Meruit	3
Specific Performance	3
Aiding and Abetting Breach of Fiduciary Duty	2
Attorney's Fees 14-2-746 (1)	2
Conspiracy	2
Judicial Dissolution	2
Misappropriation	2
Negligence	2
Negligent Misrepresentations	2
Tortious Interference-Contractual Relations	2
Wrongful Termination	2
Attorney's fees 9-11-37 ©	1
Class Action	1

Claim	# of occurrences
Computer Fraud and Abuse	1
Corporate Waste	1
Deceptive Trade Practices	1
Determination of Ownership of Property	1
Disgorgement	1
Equitable Lien	1
Equitable Subrogation	1
Expenses of Litigation	1
Federal Trademark Infringement	1
Foreclosure of Lien	1
Forfeiture of Fees 10-6-31	1
Fraudulent Inducement	1
Fraudulent Misrepresentation	1
GA Common Law Trademark Infringement	1
GA Computer System Protection Act	1
Reorganization	1
RICO	1
Statutory Partition	1
Tortious Interference- Property Rights	1
Tortious Interference- Employment Relationships	1
Treble Damages	1
Wrongful Dissolution	1



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 April 2023

CSCJ is currently working with staff of the Institute for Continuing Judicial Education to plan the summer conference and training seminar which is scheduled for the first week in August. Topics will include a humanities immersion; handling the violent/problem criminal defendant; mediation; closing arguments; appellate issues for trial judges; utilizing ARPA funds effectively and correctly; government law issues; an adoption law update; civil and criminal contempt; record restriction; an update from the Judicial Qualifications Commission; Heirs Property Act; Department of Corrections programs; *Daubert* and criminal cases; not guilty by reason of insanity; jury charges in criminal cases; and evidence with a focus on family law.

Judge John E. Morse, Jr., of the Eastern Judicial Circuit will become CSCJ President on May 1, 2023. Judge Ann B. Harris of the Cobb Judicial Circuit will become President-Elect, and Judge Robert W. Guy, Jr. of the Brunswick Judicial Circuit will become Secretary-Treasurer at that time. Arthur L. Smith, III, of the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit will continue to serve as a member of the Executive Committee as Immediate Past President.

CSCJ is grateful to the General Assembly for funding a sixth step to the pay plan for state paid judicial secretaries, increasing the travel and expense allowance for court reporters, the pay increase for all full-time state employees including Superior Court Judges, and the three new judgeships in the Atlantic Judicial Circuit, the Coweta Judicial Circuit, and the Dougherty Judicial Circuit. CSCJ thanks the judges of its Legislative Support Team chaired by Judge Guy and Director of External Affairs Debra Nesbit for their work during the legislative session.

CSCJ congratulates Judge Donald Walker Gillis of the Dublin Judicial Circuit and Judge Mark Anthony Scott of the Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit on their retirement and thanks them for their service.

CSCJ welcomes our newest judges. Governor Brian Kemp appointed Judge Christopher A. Arnt of the Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit, Judge Margaret Claire Chason and Judge Lawton C. Heard, Jr. of the South Georgia Judicial Circuit, and Judge Bert Poston of the Conasauga Judicial Circuit.

CSCJ is sad to report the death of Senior Judge Frank C. Mills, III, of the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit. Judge Mills was the longtime chairman of the Pattern Jury Instructions Committee and the recipient of the most recent Emory Findley Award for outstanding leadership and dedication to the continued improvement of our court system.



Council of State Court Judges

Impartial Courts • Judicial Excellence • Accessible and Efficient Justice

Executive Committee

*Judge R. Violet Bennett
President (Wayne)*

*Judge John K. Edwards, Jr.
President-Elect (Lowndes)*

*Judge Jeffrey B. Hanson
Secretary (Bibb)*

*Judge Gregory V. Sapp
Treasurer (Chatham)*

*Judge Alvin T. Wong
Immediate Past-President (DeKalb)*

*District 1
Judge Billy E. Tomlinson (Bryan)*

*District 2
Judge Shawn Rowland (Jeff Davis)*

*District 3
Judge Ellen S. Golden (Lowndes)*

*District 4
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)*

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

Staff

*Bob Bray
Executive Director*

Report of the Council of State Court Judges **Judicial Council Meeting** **April 21, 2023**

The Council of State Court Judges thanks Chief Justice Michael Boggs and Presiding Justice Nels Peterson for meeting to discuss current challenges and matters of interest with our Council's leadership. We appreciated the ability to listen and share our thoughts on important matters affecting our class of court. We look forward to continuing this discussion.

The Council thanks the hard work of our Director and the Legislative Team of Tracy Mason and Cheryl Karounos at the Judicial Council's Administrative Office of the Courts for the successful passage of HB 543 – that provides for a 6-person jury in a civil case in State Courts when the damages are not greater than \$50,000; increased from \$25,000. We wish to acknowledge the overwhelming amount of work done by Chief Judge Al Wong who worked tirelessly with all of the stakeholders and Legislators from inception to approval of the Bill. The Council also wishes to acknowledge Chief Judge Wes Taylor, Chief Judge Eddie Barker, Chief Judge Russ McClelland, and Judge Michelle Helhoski who took time to come to the Capitol and discuss concerns – and solutions for Bills in the House and Senate Judiciary Committees. The Council also expresses its appreciation to Presiding Justice Nels Peterson and Justice Charlie Bethel for their work with the Legislative Committee and Budget Appropriations Committee meetings.

Local Legislation also successfully converted the State Court of Bryan County from a Part-Time to a Full-Time State Court and provides for the appointment of a judge pro hac vice or judge pro tempore. Other Bills increased the salary of a Judge in the State Courts of Rockdale, Cobb, and DeKalb Counties. The State Court of Coweta County was approved to add a third judge to its court.

Governor Brian Kemp recently appointed Judge Ryan Hope to the State Court of Athens-Clarke County; Judge Michael Hubbard to the State Court of Carroll County; Judge Katherine Paulk to the State Court of Coffee County; and Judge Kelley Robertson to the State Court of Hall County.

President R. Violet Bennett recently reappointed Chief Judge Russ McClelland to serve on the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism.

Congratulations to Chief Judge Clarence Cuthbert of the State Court of Rockdale County and their DUI

Accountability Court which has been recognized by the Council of Accountability Court Judges (CACJ) as a Model Court and will be featured in the next publication by CACJ. Judge Cuthpert has also recently been appointed as Chair to the Budget and Personnel Committee of the Commission on Dispute Resolution.

The Council also wishes to extend its appreciation to the AOC Communications Division for its publications of the photo collage of our State Court African American Judges for Black History month and the photo collage of our State Court women Judges for Women's History Month.

Recently, Senior Judge David Darden (Cobb) was featured as a guest speaker at the Annual National Convention of the J. Reuben Clark Legal Society on his work and experiences in prison ministry. The Society "affirms the strength brought to the law by a lawyer's personal religious conviction. Striving through public service and professional excellence to promote fairness and virtue founded upon the rule of law".

Judge Ralph Powell with the State Court of Worth County has been able to clear case backlogs caused by the Judicial Emergency in three months by holding court in the Worth County Community Center which has been repurposed as the courtroom.



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 April 21, 2023

The Council of Juvenile Court Judges was active during the course of the 2023 legislative session providing input and information for a number of bills including Senate bills SB 131, SB 133, SB 134 and SB 135, and House bills HB 460 and HB 462. CJCJ testified before multiple committees in a number of hearings involving SB 133, the “custody from the bench” bill and HB 462, 2023’s version of the “Raise the Age” bill. Ultimately, SB 133 was passed by both chambers and awaits the Governor’s signature. HB 462 did not pass out of committee in the Senate.

The Council continues to work toward modification of CPRS, the new version of which the Council hopes will be available to all Judges this summer. The Council is also working to enhance new judge training for newly appointed juvenile court judges and is now combining its efforts with ICJE’s NJO workgroup to advance this goal.

The Council’s Spring Conference which focuses on delinquency and CHINS cases 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 (Cobb)

Kevin D. Holder
Executive Director

Report to Judicial Council of Georgia April 21, 2023

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

2023 Spring Conference

Our annual Spring Conference was held April 3-6, 2023 at the UGA Center for Continuing Education and Hotel in Athens. We are thankful to the staff of the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education for yet again ensuring that we had another successful conference.

2023-2024 Council Officers

During our conference, we formally nominated and elected our 2023-2024 slate of officers. Our new slate of elected officers are as follows: Judge Danielle McRae, President (Upson); Judge Christopher Ballar, President-elect (Gwinnett); Judge Scott Chastain, Vice President (Gilmer); and Judge Darin McCoy, Secretary-Treasurer (Evans).

2023 Council Award Honorees

This year, during our annual Spring Conference awards luncheon, the following individuals were honored: Friend of the Council Award – Ms. LaShawn Murphy; Rising Star Award – Judge Stephanie Hewell (Elbert); District Director of the Year – Judge Daisy Weeks-Marisko (Forsyth); Committee of the Year: Ad Hoc Committee on Probate Fees, chaired by Judge Carrie Markham (Coweta); Meritorious Service Award – The Honorable Betty Cason, Judge Sarah Harris (Macon-Bibb), and Judge Marc D’Antonio (Muscogee); Instructor of the Year – Mrs. Hillary Cranford; Executive Committee Member of the Year – Judge Keith Wood (Cherokee); Legislative Recognition Award – Senator John F. Kennedy; Special Recognition Award – Judge Patty Walters Laine (Hall); and Outstanding Probate Judge of the Year – Judge Carrie Markham (Coweta).

Judge Staci W. Giles – Clay County

In March, Staci W. Giles won the special election to fill the remainder of Judge Patrick Bagwell’s unexpired term. Last November, Judge Bagwell unexpectedly passed away at the age of 40. We are excited for Judge Giles to join our probate court family and look forward to her contributions to our Council and class of court.

Thank You!

For the past two years, I have had the distinct privilege serving as a member of the Judicial Council. Within those two years I have had the honor to serve with judges from each of the respective classes of court and I count myself as better for having had this rewarding experience.

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 30334-5900
(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 McCoy

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) held its 40th Anniversary celebration on April 16th on St. Simons Island. The Georgia House of Representatives passed House Resolution 572 to commemorate the event. The Council recognized all of the past presidents of the Council. The following seven Judges were also recognized for 40 years of continuous service to CMCJ: Chief Judge Melinda Anderson of Liberty County, Chief Judge Rita Cavanaugh of Spalding County, Judge Jerry Day of Walker County, Judge Richard C. Foxworth of DeKalb County, Chief Judge Connie Holt of Morgan County, Chief Judge Lavern Ogletree of Green County and Judge Shelia Thompson of Walker County. A few of these Judges originally served as Justice of the Peace. All of their hard work and dedication to CMCJ is greatly appreciated.

MCTC

The New Judges 40 Hour Criminal Training was held on February 19th-24th at the Classic Center in Athens with 13 new Judges in attendance.

Judge Brandon Bryson, Judge Quinn Kasper and Judge Megan Kinsey attended ICJE's Train the Trainer event on March 13th -14th at the UGA Hotel and Conference Center. All three Judges appreciated the opportunity to attend this event.

The annual Spring Meeting & Recertification Conference was held on April 17th-19th at the King & Prince on St. Simons Island with more than 130 Judges in attendance. Elections were held prior to the annual meeting to elect a new president, president-elect, vice president and district representatives for the coming year. All new positions will take effect July 1st, 2023.

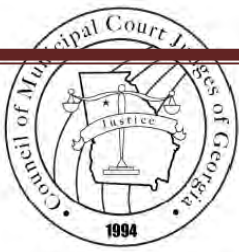
CMCJ Strategic Plan

A majority of the tasks from the CMCJ Strategic Plan have been completed. Over the next couple of months, the Council will finish up short-term strategic planning goals to assist in a smooth transition for our new executive leadership team.

In closing I would like to express what an honor it has been to serve as President of the Council of Magistrate Court Judges, and to serve with all of you on the Judicial Council. I look forward to continuing to serve in other ways in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Chief Magistrate Rebecca J. Pitts,
President CMCJ



COUNCIL OF MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGES

April 12, 2023

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

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

Judge David Will, Interim Treasurer
Cities of Alpharetta & Clarkston
dwill@royallaw.net

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
Vacant

Report to the Judicial Council of Georgia – April 2023

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

Thank You

This will be my final meeting and thus my final report. Serving on this Council has been so rewarding and informative. It is undoubtedly one of the greatest experiences of my professional career. I attended meetings before having a leadership role with our Council and I'm so grateful that I did. Having the opportunity to learn about issues impacting our judiciary throughout the State and across various classes of courts sharpened me and broadened my perspective of my service. I am proud of my colleagues and their service and have enjoyed working with each of them. I look forward to the awesome leadership of our President-Elect, Judge Matt McCord, and am immensely grateful to have worked with him and our Trial Court Liaison, Ms. LaShawn Murphy. I am also grateful for the distinguished and amiable leadership of the Chair of our Judicial Council, Chief Justice Boggs and for the welcoming warmth, assistance, and kindness of Director Cynthia Clanton, JC/AOC.

Council Meeting Endeavors

The Executive Committee met for its winter quarterly meeting at the Administrative Office of the Courts, March 8, 2023. At this meeting, members approved support of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing Subcommittee of the Judicial Council's Access to Justice (A2J) Committee Access, Equity, Justice: A Comprehensive Nuts and Bolts Review for Georgia Attorneys and Judges Handling Cases involving Persons with Disabilities. Members have taken pleasure in participating in the courses presented as of this date.

Additionally, the Council has engaged in the efforts to educate members on the [Superior and State Court Appellate Practice Act](#). The video presentation created detailing HB 916, which will be effective July 1, 2023, has been uploaded to the Behind the Bench password protected area of the website with a certificate of completion to request CJE hours in addition to the CLE hours offered. We have also conducted district Lunch & Learns with Court of Appeals Presiding Judge Christopher McFadden, Atlanta Municipal Court Judge Gary Jackson, and Darron J. Enns, Assistant General Counsel, Judicial Council/ Administrative Office of the Courts, facilitating the sessions. We look forward to scheduling more as they have proven to be beneficial for both the participants and the speakers.

Municipal Court Judges Benchbook

The E-Book of the Municipal Judges Benchbook will be updated with any new legislation passed in the 2023 Legislative session. Three separate training courses are scheduled for the current year, for seasoned and new

State Bar

TAB 12



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 April 2023

In the time since the Council of Accountability Court Judges (CACJ) last reported to the Judicial Council, several of CACJ's standing committees have been busy supporting accountability courts. A snapshot of some of CACJ's activity is detailed below.

Training Committee

- During the months of February and March 2023, CACJ's Training Committee hosted the following trainings:
 - An adult felony drug court operational tune-up training was for the first time provided by the Georgia accountability court community. Those members of the community providing the training were trained by the National Association of Drug Court Institute (NDCI) in December 2022. This two-day training is evidence of CACJ's ability to continue to find training methods that support good stewardship of state funds while leveraging state-level expertise. The following teams were in attendance: Atlantic Judicial Circuit, Griffin Judicial Circuit, Macon Judicial Circuit, Mountain Judicial Circuit, and the Muscogee Judicial Circuit.
 - NDCI provided operational tune-up training for family treatment courts. The following teams attended: Carroll County, Chatham County, Newton County, the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit, and the Western Judicial Circuit.
 - CACJ also developed and hosted a refresher training for adult mental health courts. The following teams were in attendance: Augusta Judicial Circuit, Cobb Judicial Circuit, Conasauga Judicial Circuit, Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit, Houston Judicial Circuit, Macon Judicial Circuit, Alcovy Judicial Circuit, and the Western Judicial Circuit.
 - CACJ further hosted the following training opportunities: the 2023 Winter Forum for judges and court coordinators, Thinking for a Change for treatment providers, and the judge's refresher training. Additionally, CACJ is looking forward to hosting a medication assisted treatment webinar and an in-person treatment provider refresher training in May 2023.

Funding Committee

- CACJ's Funding Committee met on March 3, 2023 to review accountability court FY23 emergency grant solicitations. Emergency grant funds are for courts that have experienced an unexpected increase in program census and need funds to support drug testing, treatment, contracted case management, and community policing. Thirty applications were received for this funding from the courts totaling \$555,466. The committee was able to approve \$448,062.
- The Funding Committee is scheduled to meet again on April 24-25, 2023 to review applications for FY24 accountability court funding for existing accountability courts.

- The Notice of Intent (NOI) to apply for state funds for FY25 is scheduled for release on June 26, 2023 and is due back to CACJ no later than July 28, 2023. All existing and any new proposed accountability courts are required to submit a NOI annually.

Standards and Certification Committee

- CACJ's Standards and Certification Committee met in February to review certification applications and waivers from 63 accountability courts including adult felony drug courts, adult mental health courts, veterans' treatment courts, DUI courts, and family treatment courts. All reviewed courts were certified, and technical assistance is being provided, as needed. The next annual certification season will start in November 2023.



GEORGIA COMMISSION ON DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The following is an update on the initiatives and activities for the Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution (GCDR):

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 Cuthpert, Jr.

Mary Donovan, Esq.

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.

Judge Pandora E. Palmer

Edith B. Primm, Esq.

Judge Vic Reynolds

Judge Renata D. Turner

Randall Weiland

Peggy McCoy Wilson

Committee Appointments

Judge Clarence Cuthpert Jr. was appointed Chair of the Budget and Personnel Committee. Other committee appointments include: Judge Pandora E. Palmer to the Ethics Committee and Judge Vic Reynolds to the Budget and Personnel Committee.

Training for Mediators

The Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution (GODR) is once again teaming up with the Commission on Child Support to provide training on the calculator exclusively to mediators. There are two (2) trainings scheduled on calculator functionality, with the first set for May 12, 2023. We would like to express our appreciation to the JC/Administrative Office of the Courts for their continued partnership, with special thanks to Ms. Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez, Ms. Elaine Johnson, and Ms. Latoinna Lawrence for co-coordinating and leading these events. GODR also plans to offer continuing education for mediators during Conflict Resolution Week, held annually in October.

30th Annual ADR Institute & 2023 Program Directors' Conference

Since 1993, the Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution and the State Bar of Georgia Dispute Resolution Section have co-sponsored this annual event, which includes sessions covering topics specifically tailored to neutrals and offers 6 hours of CE for neutrals and 6 hours of CLE (Georgia) for attorneys.

This year, the ADR Institute is scheduled for Thursday, November 16, 2023, at the State Bar of Georgia Conference Center (live webinar broadcast will also be available). Registration will open in the summer. Appreciation is given to the JC/Administrative Office IT Team, with special recognition to Mr. Ben Luke, Ms. Kristy King, and Ms. Kriste Pope for their contributions and support.

Immediately following this year's ADR Institute will be the 2023 Program Directors' Conference. Court ADR Program Directors, GCDR Members, and GODR staff will be invited to participate in this one-day event centered on the needs of court ADR programs.

GODR Newsletter: *Be Neutral*

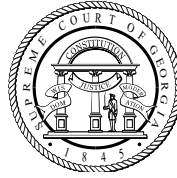
The spring edition of *Be Neutral* was recently published and may be accessed on our website at: [Be Neutral](#)

Upcoming Commission Meeting Date

The next Commission meeting date is May 3 at 2:00 p.m. 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: April 21, 2023

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 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 website at <http://cjcpga.org/commission-members-2022-2023/>. A brief update of some of the Commission's activities as of April 6, 2023, is as follows.

FINAL REPORT - PROFESSIONALISM CLE PROGRAM WITH STATE BAR PRESIDENT SALLY AKINS

The Commission hosted a "Signature Professionalism CLE Program" with State Bar of Georgia President, Ms. Sarah "Sally" B. Akins, on February 22, 2023, at the State Bar of Georgia in Atlanta. The program had a sold-out in-person crowd at the State Bar of Georgia of 139 attorneys and an additional virtual audience of 250 attendees. Approximately 90% of the attendees rated the program as very valuable or valuable.

Ms. Akins asked the Commission to design a program that showcased the history of the professionalism movement in Georgia. **Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs** provided opening remarks during the program. The Commission also appreciated the service of the other judges or retired judges who participated in the program as follows: **Justice Carla Wong McMillian**, **Justice Verda M. Colvin**, **Justice Andrew A. Pinson**, **Justice Harold Melton (Retired)**, **Judge John A. "Trea" Pipkin III**, **Judge Connie L. Williford**, **Chief Judge T. Russell McClelland**, **Judge Steven D. Grimberg**, **Judge William S. Duffey, Jr. (Retired)**, and **Judge William (Bill) Adams (Retired)**. A complete list of program participants, written materials, and additional program details, are available on the Commission's website at http://cjcpga.org/022223-cjcp-sbg_akins-cle/.

23RD ANNUAL JUSTICE ROBERT BENHAM AWARDS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Commission, with the assistance of the Benham Awards Planning Committee, co-chaired by Ms. LaToya S. Williams and Mr. Christopher P. Chan, hosted the 23rd Annual Justice Robert Benham Awards for Community Service on Thursday, March 2, 2023, at the Nathan Deal Judicial Center. The Lifetime Achievement Award, the highest recognition given by the Commission, was awarded to **J. Michael Levensgood**, member, Law Office of J. Michael Levensgood, LLC, Lawrenceville. Awards were also presented to selected attorneys in the judicial districts of Georgia from which nominations were received. This year's district award recipients were as follows: **Mary T. Benton**, pro bono partner, Alston & Bird, Atlanta; **Simon H. Bloom**, founding partner, Bloom Parham, LLP, Atlanta; **Hon. Ronald J. Freeman, Sr.**, managing member, Johnson & Freeman, LLC, Historic Union City; **Elicia N. Hargrove**, assistant district attorney, Henry County District Attorney's Office, McDonough; **Edward H. Lindsey, Jr.**, partner, Dentons US LLP, Atlanta; **Jason Banks Moon**, attorney at law, Moon Law Firm, Valdosta; **Wallace H. Wright**, retired attorney, Wright & Edwards, P.C., Metter.

The Commission is grateful to its many sponsors who made the awards ceremony possible and who are as follows:

GOLD

BakerHostetler

King & Spalding LLP

Greenberg Traurig, LLP

Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders LLP

SILVER

Alston & Bird LLP

Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP

Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner

Nelson Mullins

Dentons

Robbins Alloy Belinfante Littlefield LLC

Georgia Trial Lawyers Association

Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP

Hall Booth Smith, P.C.

Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP

BRONZE

Judge William P. "Bill" Adams

Krevolin & Horst, LLC

Ann Baird Bishop

Adwoa Ghartey-Tagoe Seymour

William C. "Bill" Gentry

Swift, Currie, McGhee & Hiers, LLP

Georgia Defense Lawyers Association

LaToya S. Williams

PATRON

Sarah B. (Sally) Akins

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Jena G. Emory

Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys

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Karlise Yvette Grier

Rebecca Holmes Liles Grist

Nekia Hackworth Jones

Kelly and Wade Malone

Judge T. Russell McClelland III

Brad Marsh and Betty Obenshain

Jason S. McCarter

Cathy L. Scarver

Rita A. Sheffey

Cathy Clark Tyler

Additional information regarding the awards ceremony, including a Program Book, the honoree videos and photographs from the ceremony are available on the Commission's website at <http://cjcpga.org/benhamcsa23/>.

APRIL IS LEGAL PROFESSIONALISM MONTH

On March 20, 2023, leadership from the State Bar of Georgia, including Commission member and President of the State Bar of Georgia, Sarah "Sally" B. Akins, and Commission liaison and the Bar's Executive Director, Damon Elmore, and members of the Bar's Committee on Professionalism joined Gov. Brian Kemp in proclaiming April 2023 Legal Professionalism Month in Georgia. Gov. Kemp's [proclamation](#) was the culmination of three years of work by the Bar's Committee on Professionalism Chair Joshua Bosin, former Committee Vice-Chair, Terrica Ganzy, Sub-Committee Chair Carlos Vilela, the Commission's Executive Director, Karlise Y. Grier, and other members of the Bar's Committee on Professionalism. The Bar's Governmental Affairs Director, Christine Butcher Hayes, was also instrumental in assisting the Bar's Professionalism Committee in getting the proclamation signed. During the month of April, in celebration of Legal Professionalism Month, please Connect with A Colleague that you do not know well and get to know them better over coffee or lunch.

April is also Professionalism Month for the American Inns of Court. According to its website: "The American Inns of Court is excited to highlight one of our organizational core tenets by designating April as Professionalism Month. During times of change, professionalism is more important than ever." As a result, in April, the American Inns of Court invite lawyers and judges to share a story or tip about how we practice with professionalism or to explore online education that reinforces professionalism. For more information visit <https://www.pathlms.com/innsocourt/courses/21083/sections/22534>.

VOLUNTEER FOR LAW DAY DURING THE MONTH OF MAY

The State Bar of Georgia Committee on Professionalism, staffed by the Commission, and the State Bar of Georgia Local and Voluntary Bar Committee will collaborate to promote Law Day activities throughout each of Georgia's ten (10) judicial districts. Elected and/or appointed officials and attorneys from Georgia's judicial districts are invited to discuss this year's Law Day theme by selecting and coordinating a visit to a high school, civic or

community meeting (i.e. Rotary, Kiwanis, sorority or fraternity, Junior League, faith-based organization, etc.) to discuss the Law Day theme. Lawyers or judges who are interested in participating may schedule and coordinate a Law Day presentation at an organization of their choice during days and times that best fit their schedules throughout the month of May. **Judge Ashley Palmer**, Chair of the State Bar of Georgia's Local and Voluntary Bar Committee will lead the effort to find volunteers in each judicial district for Law Day. **Ms. Denise Warner**, Chair of the State Bar of Georgia's Committee on Professionalism Law Day Subcommittee will ensure volunteers have materials and talking points for the presentations.

The theme for the 2023 Law Day is "Cornerstones of Democracy: Civics, Civility and Collaboration." Each year, the American Bar Association, along with other bar associations and law-related organizations around the United States recognize Law Day on May 1st. Law Day celebrates the role of law in our society and cultivates a deeper understanding of the legal profession. While Law Day is officially observed on May 1st of each year, Law Day projects are held throughout the month of May.

Please contact Karlise Y. Grier at kygrier@cjcpga.org or Denise Warner at dmwarner@dekalbcountyga.gov, or Judge Ashly Palmer at Ashley.Palmer@cobbcounty.org on or before April 28, 2023, to volunteer to present to an organization that you have identified in your judicial district to celebrate Law Day during the month of May.

VOLUNTEER AS A GROUP LEADER FOR THE LAW SCHOOL ORIENTATIONS ON PROFESSIONALISM

The Commission staffs the State Bar of Georgia Committee on Professionalism (Committee), currently chaired by Mr. Joshua I. Bosin. In that role, the Commission funds and supports the Committee's work on the Law School Orientations on Professionalism. The orientations are designed to provide incoming first year law students with their first introduction to professionalism. Georgia judges and lawyers are invited to serve as "Group Leaders" during the orientations to help students learn the meaning of professionalism and why it is important for them as law students. The sub-committee that is planning the 2023 law school orientation programs is chaired by Ms. Maria Waters and Ms. Kacey Baine. The Commission and the Committee will begin recruiting volunteers to serve as Group Leaders in May 2023. Please look for additional information about the Law School Orientations on Professionalism in the State Bar of Georgia's E-News or on the Commission's website at <http://cjcpga.org/law-school-orientations-on-professionalism-2023/>. We would love to have our judges as Group Leader volunteers. Please email Karlise Y. Grier at kygrier@cjcpga.org if you are interested in serving.

GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR PROGRAMS OR PROJECTS THAT PROMOTE LEGAL PROFESSIONALISM

The Commission's Grants Committee, which is chaired by Ms. Nekia Hackworth Jones, anticipates accepting applications electronically for grants to promote legal professionalism from **early to mid-June 2023, until July 15, 2023**. Applicants eligible for grants are limited to: 1) Charities/nonprofits organized under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; 2) Law schools and law-related educational programs; 3) Courts; or 4) Local or voluntary bar associations. More detailed Information regarding the Commission's **Grant Criteria** is currently available on the Commission's website at <http://cjcpga.org/grants/>. Please share information regarding the Commission's Grant Criteria and Application process with your courts, local and voluntary bar associations, and other eligible applicants in your networks.

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 February 2023 Georgia Bar Journal Professionalism Page entitled *The Plumb Line* is attached as “Exhibit A.”

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@cjcpgea.org for information or assistance.

COMMISSION WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

For more information on the Commission’s work, please visit www.cjcpgea.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/cjcpgea/>

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



The Plumb Line

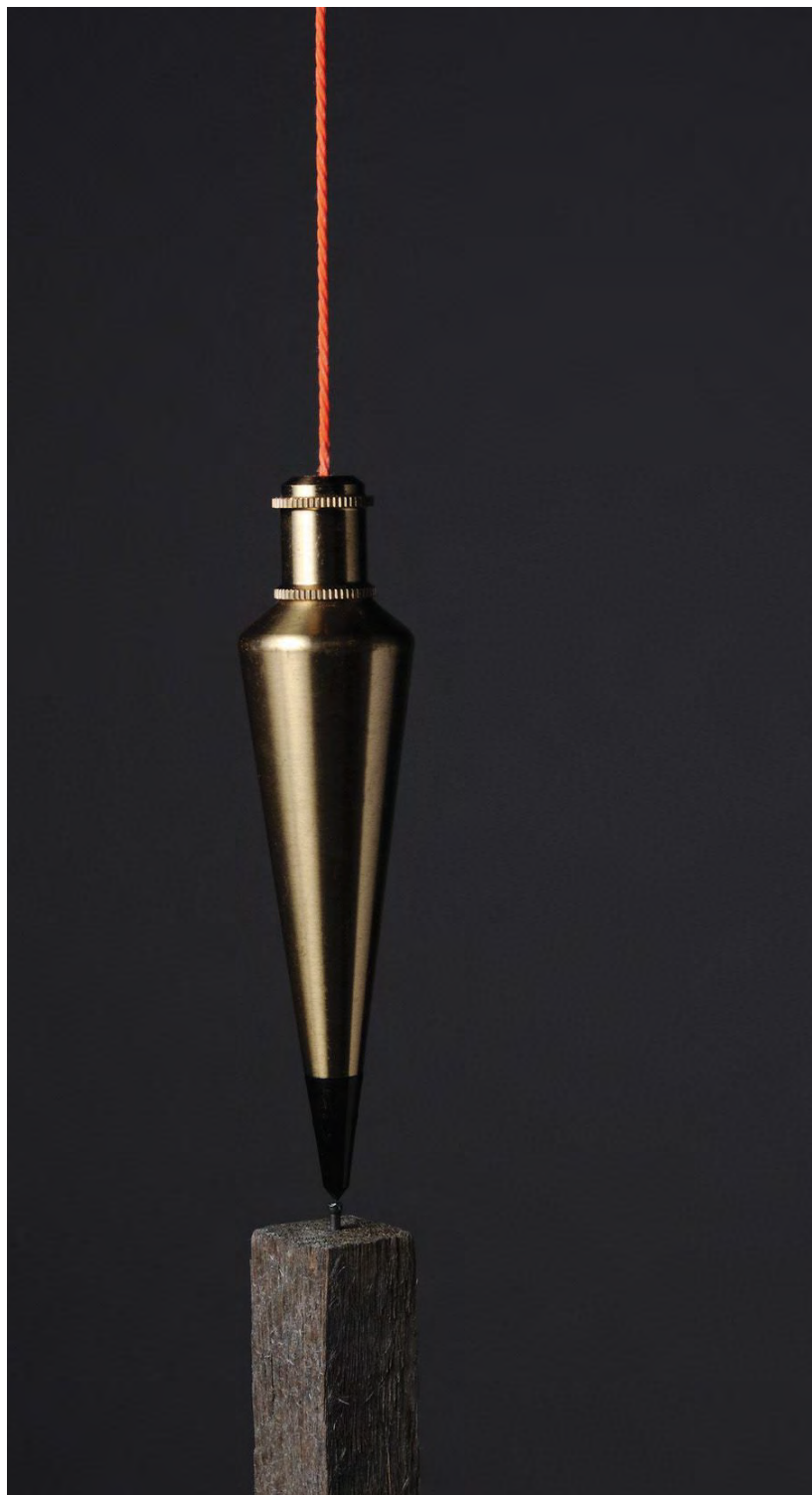
The principles embodied in A Lawyer's Creed and the Aspirational Statement on Professionalism help us remain true to what should be the normal in lawyers' dealings with their clients, opposing counsel, colleagues, courts, other legal professionals and the public in general.

BY KARLISE Y. GRIER

The plumb bob or plumb line employs the law of gravity to establish what is "plumb" (that is, what is exactly vertical, or true).¹

I once heard a speaker say that society cannot let the crazy, the abnormal and the actions that we believe are wrong become the "normal." No matter how painful it might sometimes be to face the circumstances of the day, we cannot become numb to what is wrong around us. This is true of what happens in our world. It is also true of what happens in our profession. We have to fight against the sentiment that "it's just the way things are" when we know something is wrong or abnormal. Becoming desensitized and simply ignoring unacceptable conduct should not be an option.

When you read this article, the first two months of the "new year" will be almost complete. Yet, with most of 2023 in front of us, it will still be the perfect time



GETTYIMAGES.COM/DWAUGH

One tenet of A Lawyer’s Creed and the Aspirational Statement on Professionalism states: “The dignity and the integrity of our profession is an inheritance that must be maintained by each successive generation of lawyers.”

to dust off your copy of A Lawyer’s Creed and the Aspirational Statement on Professionalism² and consider the “plumb line.” One tenet of A Lawyer’s Creed and the Aspirational Statement on Professionalism states: “The dignity and the integrity of our profession is an inheritance that must be maintained by each successive generation of lawyers.” You might ask, “What does this have to do with a plumb line?” A plumb line (or plumb bob) is a tool dating back to ancient Egypt. Evidence suggests that Egyptian architects used plumb bob-like tools to establish verticals in constructing the pyramids between 2600 BCE and 2500 BCE.

A Lawyer’s Creed and the Aspirational Statement on Professionalism also gives us principles to help establish what is true for our profession. The creed embodies principles such as honesty, truthfulness, trustworthiness, integrity, fairness and civility. These principles are our “verticals” to help us remain true to what should be the normal in lawyers’ dealings with their clients, opposing counsel, colleagues, courts, other legal professionals and the public in general.

Notice, the plumb does not change its result based on the circumstances in which it is placed. It remains a true measure of the vertical. Likewise, despite the circumstances in which we are placed as lawyers, our true principles should remain the same. The “result” we should

give when someone is rude, dishonest, condescending, untrustworthy, unfair or uncivil is not determined by our circumstances but by our plumb line, the vertical that should show our true character. Does this sound unrealistic and out of touch? If yes, perhaps that is because we have allowed—or are allowing—the abnormal and the crazy to seem normal. For our generation of lawyers to have an inheritance of dignity and integrity to share with future lawyers, we should all have a plumb line that keeps us vertical—which is also defined as upright³ or upstanding.⁴

It won’t always be easy to remain true to the aspirational goals to which the Supreme Court of Georgia in 1992 asked lawyers to adhere in A Lawyer’s Creed and the Aspirational Statement on Professionalism. We should, nevertheless, not lose sight of these aspirational goals as the normal. This generation of lawyers will, I hope, stand against accepting as normal behavior that is rude, dishonest, condescending, untrustworthy, unfair or uncivil on the occasions when we see it in our profession.

Just as Bob Vila continues to use a plumb line tool similar to the tool the Egyptians used almost 5,000 years ago, let’s continue to use the aspirational goals given to us by the Supreme Court of Georgia a little more than 30 years ago to help keep us vertical so that we may maintain the dignity and the integrity of

our profession as an inheritance for the next generation of lawyers. ●

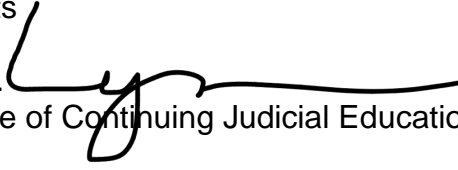


Karlise Y. Grier
Executive Director
Chief Justice’s Commission
on Professionalism
kygrier@cjcpga.org

Endnotes

1. Bob Vila, The Plumb Bob: What Is This Tool, and How Do You Use It?, Bob Vila, Tools & Workshop (Last visited Dec. 16, 2022), <https://www.bobvila.com/articles/495-the-plumb-bob/>.
2. Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism, *A Lawyer’s Creed and Aspirational Statement on Professionalism* at lines 64 - 66 (Last visited Dec. 16, 2022), <http://cjcpga.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/2-Lawyers-CreedAspStatement-v-2013-Line-Number-with-new-logo-and-seal-v07-25-19.pdf>.
3. Upright is on synonym for vertical. One definition of upright is “marked by strong moral rectitude,” Merriam-Webster, Inc, Dictionary, upstanding (Dec. 16, 2022), <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/upright>.
4. Upstanding is on synonym for vertical. One definition of upstanding is “marked by integrity,” Merriam-Webster, Inc, Dictionary, upstanding (Dec. 16, 2022), <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/upstanding>.

To: ICJE Board of Trustees
Court of Class Constituents

From: Lynne Moore Nelson, Esq. 
Executive Director, Institute of Continuing Judicial Education

RE: Executive Director Monthly Report – Feb. 2023 Financials

Date: March 28, 2023

The Executive Director's Monthly report aims to share the monthly financial overview and ICJE program updates. This is a high-level report and I welcome your feedback.

As noted in my February 2023 financial report, our monthly financial report is now distributed later in the month, so our end-of-month financial queries are aligned with AOC's reconciliation for reporting accuracy. As a result, you should expect the prior month's financial report towards the end of the following month.

The Monthly Financial Report is attached as a PDF document.

1. The fiscal year-to-date financial report covering the revenues and expenditures for all ICJE constituent groups is attached.
2. The template for this financial report was developed in consultation with a CPA Firm; the AOC Fiscal Office; and the UGA Law School Business Office. It was created to answer four (4) questions:
 - a. How much money did ICJE receive on behalf of Councils?
 - i. The monthly financial report documents all revenues (whether from appropriations, CJE support fees, contracted fees, or grants) and all expenditures about ICJE.
 - b. From whom?
 - c. How was the money spent?
 - d. What is the remaining balance?
3. Our fiscal manager, AOC, has confirmed the accuracy of our reporting, and an AOC financial source document has been added for your review. (**NEW STEP**)

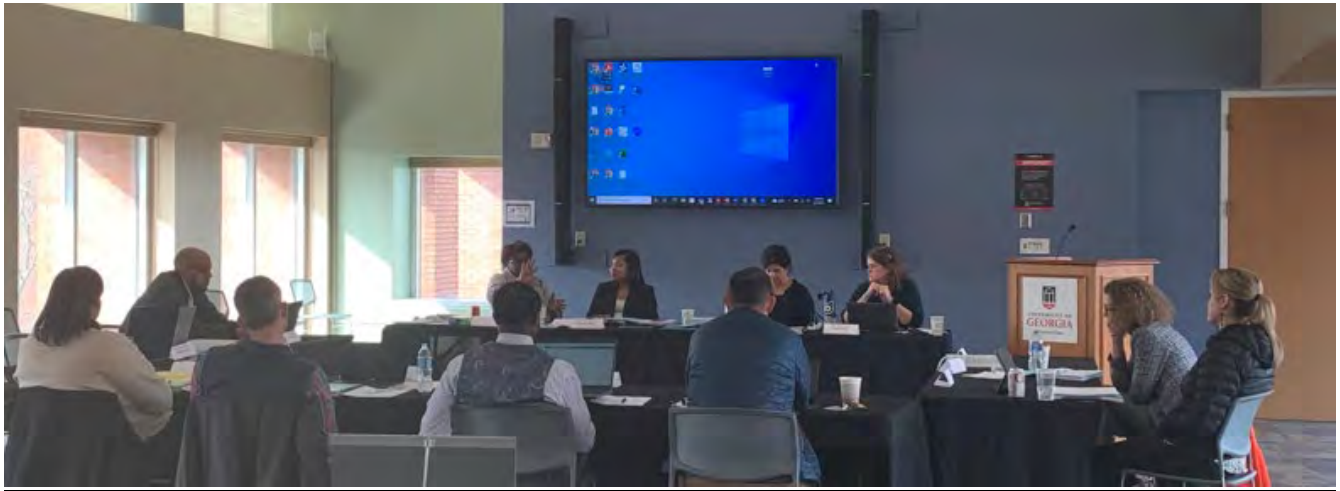
February 2023 Programming – ICJE had two synchronous learning events last month – Magistrate Court Judges 40-Hour Criminal Certification (February 19-24, 2023) and Municipal Court Clerks 16-Hour Certification (February 7-8, 2023). Both events were held at The Classic Center in Athens, Georgia.

March 2023 Programming – This month, ICJE had 3 synchronous learning events – (1) ICJE brought back its multi-class of court "Train the Trainer" workshop. In this iteration, we partnered with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government and held the training at the UGA Hotel & Conference Center in Athens; (2) Juvenile Court Clerks held their Spring Conference (March 14-17) at Lake Lanier and (3) the multi-class of court training "Preventing Sexual Harassment in the Judicial Branch" was held via Zoom on March 23rd.

Asynchronous Training Available on ICJE Website – To provide an expanded ethics curriculum to our judicial learners, I am pleased to announce that the Judicial Qualifications Commission of Georgia ("JQC") created six curriculum modules under the "Training" tab for

judges' reference. In addition, per the approval of ICJE's Board of Directors and applicable Court Councils, ICJE's website now includes password-protected posted trainings for informational purposes only. Classes of court with taped training may access the videos under the "Training" tab and use the password provided on their 2023 registration packet for the payment portal. **Neither the JQC training nor the password-protected trainings are eligible for continuing judicial credit.** They are offered to increase the learning experience by providing informational resources beyond the classroom.

ICJE in Pictures



January 30-February 2, 2023 – State Court Judges' NJO at the UGA School of Law



February 2023 – Municipal Court Clerks 16-Hour Certification at the Classic Center. ICJE Event Staff created an interactive "Where Are You From" map for the clerks' training



February 2023 - Magistrate Court Judges' 40-Hour Criminal Certification



March 2023 – ICJE collaborated with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government to facilitate a multi-class of court “Train the Trainer” workshop for judges and AOC staff.



March 2023 –Georgia Supreme Court Justice Sarah H. Warren gave opening remarks to the online multi-class of court learners on “Preventing Sexual Harassment in the Judicial Branch”. Justice Warren was a member of the 2019 Ad Hoc committee by the same name.



March 2023 – Juvenile Court Clerks held their Spring Conference at the Legacy Lodge at Lake Lanier.



On behalf of the ICJE Board of Trustees and staff, thank you for your continued commitment to Georgia’s continuing judicial education.



Judicial Qualifications Commission

State of Georgia

1995 North Park Place SE | Suite 325

Atlanta, GA 30339

404.558.6940

To: Cynthia Clanton, Director, Administrative Office of the Courts
From: Courtney Veal, Deputy Director, Judicial Qualifications Commission
Date: April 14, 2023
Re: Report for April 21, 2023 Judicial Council General Session

Director Clanton,

The Judicial Qualifications Commission has no report other than to update the Judicial Council that we have timely filed our Annual Report for 2022 with the Supreme Court and presented same to the General Assembly. A copy of our Annual Report is available to the public on our website, www.gajqc.gov.

Sincerely,

Courtney Veal
Deputy Director
Judicial Qualifications Commission