

Judicial Council of Georgia
Emergency Session

By Remote Conferencing

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

Monday, March 15, 2021
3:00 p.m.

- 1. Preliminary Remarks**
(Chief Justice Harold D. Melton, Est. Time – 2 Min.)
- 2. Roll Call of Judicial Council Members**
(Cynthia H. Clanton, Judicial Council Secretary and AOC Director, Est. Time – 2 Min.)
- 3. Discussion of Statewide Judicial Emergency Orders and COVID-19 Update by Judicial Council Members**
(Chief Justice Harold D. Melton, Est. Time – 15 Min.)
 - A. Judicial COVID-19 Task Force Update
(Justice Shawn LaGrúa, Est. Time – 5 Min.)
- 4. Reports from Courts, Councils, State Bar, and AOC (Est. Time – 20 min.)**
 - A. Supreme Court
 - B. Court of Appeals
 - C. 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
 - K. Administrative Office of the Courts

5. Reports from additional Judicial Branch Agencies (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**

6. Old/New Business
(Chief Justice Harold D. Melton, Est. Time – 5 Min.)

7. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment
(Chief Justice Harold D. Melton, Est. Time – 5 Min.)

Next Judicial Council Meeting – General Session

Friday, April 23, 2021 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Zoom Conferencing

Judicial Council Meeting Calendar – 2021

Friday, August 13, 2021 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Columbus Convention & Trade Center/Columbus, GA
Friday, December 10, 2021 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The Carter Center/Atlanta, GA

Please continue to check www.georgiacourts.gov (the Judicial Gateway) for the latest updates and information. Thank you and continue to be safe!



Supreme Court of Georgia

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DAVID NAHMIAS TO BECOME NEW CHIEF JUSTICE

Atlanta, March 11, 2021 – Presiding Justice David E. Nahmias was unanimously elected by his colleagues today to become the next Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia. He will succeed Chief Justice Harold D. Melton, who will resign from the Court on July 1, 2021 after 16 years of distinguished service as a justice.

The Court also unanimously elected Justice Michael P. Boggs as its next Presiding Justice.

The Chief Justice, who serves one 4-year term, leads Georgia’s judicial branch, as the governor leads the executive branch of government and House and Senate leaders head the legislative branch. The Chief Justice is the spokesperson for the Supreme Court as well as for the entire state judiciary. He presides over the Court’s oral arguments and the meetings at which the Court deliberates about cases, although he has only one vote as does each of the nine justices. The Chief Justice also chairs the Georgia Judicial Council, the policy-making body for the judicial branch that includes the State Bar President and 26 judges who represent the appellate courts and all classes of trial courts in the state. The Presiding Justice serves in the Chief Justice’s absence and is the vice-chair of the Judicial Council.

Presiding Justice Nahmias (pronounced “NAH-mee-iss”) has served on the Supreme Court since his appointment by Governor Sonny Perdue in August 2009, winning statewide elections to six-

year terms in 2010 and 2016. Before becoming a Justice, he was a federal prosecutor for almost 15 years, including service as a line prosecutor and as the United States Attorney in Atlanta, where he prosecuted and supervised many high-profile cases. He also served as a senior Justice Department official in Washington, where he oversaw terrorism cases and other matters for three years after the 9/11 attacks. Presiding Justice Nahmias is a graduate of Briarcliff High School in DeKalb County, where he was the state's STAR Student in 1982; Duke University, where he finished second in his class; and Harvard Law School, where he served on the Law Review with former President Barack Obama and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch. He was a law clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. Presiding Justice Nahmias has received numerous local, state, and national awards and honors for his public service, and he has served on several committees and boards that work to improve the legal system and the community. He currently chairs the Supreme Court's Committee on Justice for Children and is on the Board of Directors of Georgia Appleseed and the Board of Visitors for the College of Law at Georgia State University. Justice Nahmias's wife, Catherine O'Neil, passed away in 2017. He has two teenage sons.

Justice Michael P. Boggs has served on the Supreme Court since his appointment by Governor Nathan Deal in 2016. He won statewide election to a six-year term in 2018. Previously, Justice Boggs served as a Judge on the Court of Appeals of Georgia and as a Superior Court Judge for the Waycross Judicial Circuit, founding and serving as the first presiding judge of the Circuit's Drug Court Program. Prior to his judicial service, Justice Boggs served in the Georgia General Assembly for two terms. Justice Boggs is a graduate of Georgia Southern College and Mercer University School of Law. He was appointed by Governor Deal to serve as a co-chair of the Georgia Criminal Justice Reform Council from 2012 to 2018. He currently serves on Governor Kemp's Judicial Nominating Commission and the Georgia Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission, where he chairs the Mental Health Courts and Corrections Subcommittee. Justice Boggs also serves as Chair of the Council of State Governments' Justice Center Board of Directors and chairs the 26-member National Steering Committee of Justice Counts, a U.S. Department of Justice/Bureau of Justice Assistance-funded criminal justice data initiative. Justice Boggs is an inaugural member of the Council on Criminal Justice, as well as a member of the Board of Trustees of Mercer University, the Board of Visitors at Mercer Law School, and the Board of Directors of the Bobby Dodd Coach of the Year Foundation. Justice Boggs and his wife Heather, a kindergarten teacher in Waycross, reside in Blackshear.



CHIEF JUSTICE'S COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONALISM

The Honorable Harold D. Melton (Chair)
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Georgia
Atlanta, Georgia

March 15, 2021

Ms. LaToya Simone Bell
Houston Circuit Public Defenders Office
Warner Robins, GA

Mr. Michael Scott Boone
Atlanta's John Marshall Law School
Atlanta, Georgia

Professor Nathan S. Chapman
University of Georgia School of Law
Athens, Georgia

Professor Clark D. Cunningham
Georgia State University College of Law
Atlanta, Georgia

Mr. Gerald M. Edenfield
Edenfield, Cox, Bruce & Classens, PC
Statesboro, Georgia

The Honorable Susan E. Edlein
Fulton County State Court
Atlanta, Georgia

Ms. Elizabeth L. Fite
Rogers & Fite, LLC
Atlanta, Georgia

Ms. Rebecca Holmes Liles Grist
Bibb County Solicitor General's Office
Macon, Georgia

Mr. Norbert Daniel Hummel IV
Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP
Atlanta, Georgia

Mr. Francys Johnson
Davis Bozeman Johnson Law
Statesboro, GA

Ms. Dawn M. Jones
The Firm of Dawn M Jones LLC
Atlanta, Georgia

Professor Patrick E. Longan
Mercer University School of Law
Macon, Georgia

Mrs. Maria F. Mackay
Watkinsville, Georgia

The Honorable Shondeana Crews Morris
Superior Court of DeKalb County
Decatur, Georgia

Mr. Andrew Alan Pinson
Georgia Office of the Attorney General
Atlanta, Georgia

The Honorable William M. Ray, II
U.S. District Court, Northern District of Georgia
Atlanta, Georgia

The Honorable Clyde L. Reese III
Court of Appeals of Georgia
Atlanta, Georgia

Mrs. Adwoa Gharthey-Tagoe Seymour
Cox Enterprises, Inc.
Atlanta, Georgia

Assistant Dean Rita A. Sheffey
Emory University School of Law
Atlanta, Georgia

Mrs. Nicki Noel Vaughan
Northeastern Judicial Circuit Public Defender's Office
Gainesville, Georgia

Dr. Monica Willis-Parker
Emory University School of Medicine
Atlanta, Georgia

Supreme Court of Georgia Advisor
The Honorable Justice Shawn Ellen LaGruta
Supreme Court of Georgia
Atlanta, Georgia

Staff
Karlise Y. Grier
Executive Director

VIA E-MAIL

Dear Members and Invited Guests of the Judicial Council of Georgia:

I write to personally invite you to participate in a **Suicide Awareness Program**, which will be held on **Friday, April 30, 2021, from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. via Zoom**. During the past few months, you have received information about the Suicide Awareness Program during our virtual meetings. Beginning on March 17, 2021, with an ad in the Daily Report, the Suicide Awareness Program planning team will begin to heavily promote and encourage participation in the Program.

The Suicide Awareness Program is designed to encourage an open conversation about the mental health challenges that can lead to death by suicide and the impact of death by suicide on members of the legal community. We also hope to provide information, support, and resources to help everyone recognize the warning signs and prevent suicide. **The program is open to lawyers, non-lawyer judges, legal assistants, court clerks, court reporters, bailiffs, court administrators, and other court personnel.** Therefore, I also strongly encourage all of our legal partners to participate and share this information with your networks.

The program will be moderated by former United States Deputy Attorney General Sally Quillian Yates. Our moderator, as well as all of our invited speakers, have experience, insight, or expertise concerning death by suicide.

In closing, I ask you to join me in personally inviting members of the legal community within your sphere of influence to attend the April 30th program. I want all members of the legal community to receive information from multiple sources – not just the Commission – about the program. This is an opportunity for you to connect people in your network with support and resources that may save lives. For more information about the program and for contact information for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, please visit <http://cjcpga.org/suicide-awareness-program/>. A flyer about the program is attached for your convenience.

If you have any questions or need assistance in crafting communications to send to your network, please feel free to contact Karlise Grier via e-mail at kygrier@cjcpga.org or via telephone at (404) 225-5042. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Yours very truly,

The Honorable Harold D. Melton
Chair, Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism

THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S
COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONALISM

SUICIDE AWARENESS PROGRAM

FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 2021 | 2 - 5 P.M.

VIA **ZOOM.US**



Sally Quillian Yates
MODERATOR

CONFIRMED/INVITED SPEAKERS:

Dr. Alex Crosby	Mr. Eric Lang
Hon. William "Bill" Reinhardt	Ms. Robin Frazer Clark
Ms. R. Javoyne Hicks	Hon. Wesley B. Taylor
Dr. Ben Hunter	Dr. Mark Swancutt
Ms. Lynn Garson	Ms. Rachael Holloman

3 CLE HOURS INCLUDING 1 PROFESSIONALISM HOUR

REGISTER HERE: <http://ccpga.org/suicide-awareness-program/>



REMINDER TO ALL BAR MEMBERS

You are entitled to six prepaid clinical personal counseling sessions per calendar year through the Lawyer Assistance Program of the State Bar of Georgia. #UseYour6

FOR HELP: Bar members may contact the Bar's Lawyer Assistance Program confidential hotline at **800-327-9631** or call the Georgia Crisis Access Line at **1-800-715-4225**.

TAKE ACTION TODAY

If you are thinking of hurting yourself, or if you are concerned that someone you know may be suicidal, contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline by phone at **1-800-273-TALK (8255)**.

CO-SPONSORED BY:

Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts | State Bar of Georgia SOLACE Committee | State Bar of Georgia Wellness Committee | State Bar of Georgia Suicide Prevention Committee | Drew Eckl Farnham Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities

Learn more by contacting CJCP
at kygrier@cjcpga.org.



State Bar
of Georgia