

Judicial Council of Georgia
Emergency Session

By Zoom Conferencing

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

Friday, June 4, 2021

2:30 p.m.

- 1. Preliminary Remarks & Swearing In of New Members**
(Chief Justice Harold D. Melton, Est. Time – 3 Min.)
- 2. Roll Call of Judicial Council Members**
(Ms. Cynthia H. Clanton, Judicial Council Secretary & AOC Director, Est. Time – 2 Min.)
- 3. Adoption of Minutes – May 4, 2021, Emergency Session**
(Chief Justice Harold D. Melton, Est. Time – 2 Min.)
- 4. 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 LaGrua/Chief Judge Russell McClelland, Est. Time – 5 Min.)
- 5. Update on American Rescue Plan Act funding**
(Chief Justice Harold D. Melton, Est. Time – 3 Min.)
- 6. 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**

7. 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**

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

9. Special Presentation
(Ms. Cynthia H. Clanton, Est. Time – 5 Min.)

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

Next Judicial Council Meeting – General Session

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

Judicial Council General Session Meeting Calendar – CY 2021

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

Judicial Council General Session Meeting Calendar – CY 2022

Friday, February 11, 2022 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Zoom Conferencing

Friday, April 22, 2022 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Atlanta, GA

Friday, August 12, 2022 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Athens, GA

Friday, December 9, 2022 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Zoom Conferencing

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

Judicial Council of Georgia

Members as of June 1, 2021

Supreme Court

Chief Justice Harold D. Melton
Chair, Judicial Council
Nathan Deal Judicial Center
330 Capitol Avenue, S.E.
1st Floor, Suite 1100
Atlanta, GA 30334
404-657-3470/F 404-656-2253
meltonh@gasupreme.us

Presiding Justice David E. Nahmias
Vice-Chair, Judicial Council
Nathan Deal Judicial Center
330 Capitol Avenue, S.E.
1st Floor, Suite 1100
Atlanta, Ga 30334
404-656-3470/F 404-656-2253
nahmiasd@gasupreme.us

Court of Appeals

Chief Judge Christopher J. McFadden
Nathan Deal Judicial Center
330 Capitol Avenue, S.E., Suite 1601
Atlanta, GA 30334
404-656-3450/F 404-651-6187
mcfaddenc@gaappeals.us

Vice Chief Judge Brian M. Rickman
Nathan Deal Judicial Center
330 Capitol Avenue, S.E., Suite 1601
Atlanta, GA 30334
404-656-3450/F 404-651-6187
rickmanb@gaappeals.us

Georgia State-wide Business Court

Judge Walter W. Davis
Nathan Deal Judicial Center
3rd Floor, Suite BC320
330 Capitol Avenue, S.E.
Atlanta, GA 30334
404-656-3080
davisw@gsbc.us

Superior Court

Judge J. Wade Padgett
President, CSCJ
Augusta Judicial Circuit
PO Box 2657
Evans, GA 30809
706-321-7355
wpadgett@columbiacountyga.gov

Judge Arthur L. Smith, III
Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit
President-Elect, CSCJ
PO Box 1340
Columbus, GA 31902
706-653-4273
arthursmith@columbusga.org

Judge Jeffrey H. Kight
Waycross Judicial Circuit, 1st JAD
Ware County Courthouse
800 Church Street, STE B202
Waycross, GA 31501
912-287-4330/F 912-544-9857
jhkight@gmail.com

Judge Melanie B. Cross
Tifton Judicial Circuit, 2nd JAD
PO Box 7090
Tifton, GA 31793
229-386-7904
melanie.cross@tiftcounty.org

Judge W. James Sizemore
Southwestern Judicial Circuit, 3rd JAD
PO Box 784
Americus, GA 31709
229-924-2269/F 229-924-2269
wjsizemorejr@gmail.com

Chief Judge Asha Jackson
Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit, 4th JAD
DeKalb County Courthouse, STE 6230
556 N. McDonough Street
Decatur, GA 30030
404-371-2344/F 404-371-2002
afjackson@dekalbcountyga.gov

Chief Judge Christopher S. Brasher
Atlanta Judicial Circuit, 5th JAD
T8905 Justice Center Tower
185 Central Avenue SW STE T-8905
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-612-4335/ F 404-612-2569
chris.brasher@fultoncountyga.gov

Chief Judge W. Fletcher Sams
Griffin Judicial Circuit, 6th JAD
Fayette County Justice Center
One Center Drive
Fayetteville, GA 30214
770-716-4282/F 770-716-4862
fletcher@fayettecountyga.gov

Judge Robert Flournoy, III
Cobb Judicial Circuit, 7th JAD
70 Hayes Street
Marietta, GA 30090
678-581-5400/F 678-581-5407
robert.flournoy@cobbcounty.org

Chief Judge Sarah Wall
Oconee Judicial Circuit, 8th JAD
PO Box 1096
Hawkinsville, GA 31036
478-783-2900/F 478-783-2902
walls@eighthdistrict.org

Chief Judge Jeffrey S. Bagley
Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit, 9th JAD
101 E. Courthouse Square, Suite 5016
Cumming, GA 30040
770-205-4660/F 770-250-4661
jsbagley@forsythco.com

Judge James G. Blanchard, Jr.
Augusta Judicial Circuit, 10th JAD
P.O. Box 2656
Evans, GA 30809
706-312-7356/F 706-312-7365
jblanchard@columbiacountyga.gov

State Court

Judge Wesley B. Tailor
President, CStCJ
Fulton County
T3905 Justice Center Tower
185 Central Avenue SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-613-4497
wes.tailor@fultoncountyga.gov

Judge Alvin T. Wong
President-Elect, CStCJ
DeKalb County
556 N. McDonough St., Suite 2240
Decatur, GA 30030
404-371-2591
atwong@dekalbcountyga.gov

Juvenile Court

Chief Judge C. Gregory Price
President, CJCJ
Rome Judicial Circuit
#3 Government Plaza, Suite 202
Rome, GA 30161
706-291-5180
price@floydcountyga.org

Judge Render M. Heard, Jr.
President-Elect, CJCJ
Tifton Judicial Circuit
225 Tift Avenue North, Suite C-1
Tifton, GA 31793
229-386-7909/F 229-386-7929
render.heard@tiftcounty.org

Probate Court

Judge Thomas Lakes
President, CPCJ
Harris County
102 N. College St
Hamilton, GA 31811
706-628-5038/F 706-628-7322
tlakes@harriscountyga.gov

Judge B. Shawn Rhodes
President-Elect, CPCJ
Wilcox County
102 N. Broad St.
Abbeville, GA 31001
229-467-2220/F 229-467-2067
judgeshawnrhodes@gmail.com

Magistrate Court

Judge Quinn M. Kasper
President, CM CJ
Cobb County
32 Waddell St., 3rd Floor
Marietta, GA 30090
770-528-8900
quinnmcgill@gmail.com

Chief Judge Berryl A. Anderson*
President-Elect, CM CJ
DeKalb County
556 N. McDonough St. Suite 1200
Decatur, GA 30030
404-371-4767
baanderson@dekalbcountyga.gov

Municipal Court

Chief Judge Willie C. Weaver, Sr.
President, CMu CJ
Municipal Court of Albany
P.O. Box 646
Albany, GA 31702
229-438-9455
wweaverlaw@aol.com

*Designee

Judicial Council of Georgia Members as of June 1, 2021

Judge Lori B. Duff
President-Elect, CMuCJ
Municipal Court of Monroe
7730 B Hampton Place
Loganville, GA 30052
770-466-6149
duff@jonesandduff.com

State Bar of Georgia

Ms. Dawn Jones
President, State Bar of Georgia
1230 Peachtree St., NE Suite 1900
Atlanta, GA 30309
678-940-1251/F 470-891-5918
dawn@dawnjoneslaw.com

Judicial Council of Georgia
Emergency Session
Zoom Conferencing
May 4, 2021 • 2:00 p.m.

Members Present

Chief Justice Harold D. Melton, Chair
Presiding Justice David E. Nahmias
Chief Judge Jeffrey S. Bagley
Judge James G. Blanchard, Jr.
Chief Judge Christopher S. Brasher
Judge Melanie Cross
Judge Walter W. Davis
Judge Lori B. Duff
Ms. Elizabeth Fite (for Ms. Dawn Jones)
Judge Robert Flournoy, III
Chief Judge Asha Jackson
Judge Lisa C. Jones
Judge Quinn M. Kasper
Judge Jeffrey H. Kight
Judge Thomas Lakes
Chief Judge Christopher J. McFadden
Judge B. Shawn Rhodes
Judge W. James Sizemore, Jr.
Judge Arthur L. Smith, III
Chief Judge Sarah Wall
Judge Wesley B. Taylor

Chief Judge Willie C. Weaver, Sr.
Judge Alvin T. Wong

Members Absent

Chief Judge Berryl A. Anderson
Vice Chief Judge Brian M. Rickman
Judge J. Wade Padgett
Chief Judge C. Gregory Price
Chief Judge W. Fletcher Sams

Staff Present

Mr. Darron Enns
Ms. Jessica Farah
Ms. Stephanie Hines
Ms. Cheryl Karounos
Ms. Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez
Mr. Ben Luke
Ms. Tracy Mason
Ms. LaShawn Murphy
Ms. Tiffanie Robinson
Mr. Bruce Shaw
Ms. Maleia Wilson

Guests (Appended)

Preliminary Remarks & Swearing in of New Members

The meeting of the Judicial Council of Georgia (Council) was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chief Justice Melton. Chief Justice Melton administered the Council oath to two new members to the Council: Judge Arthur Smith of the Chattahoochee Circuit was sworn in in his capacity as the President-Elect of the Council of Superior Court Judges, and Judge Shawn Rhodes of Wilcox County was sworn in in his capacity as the President-Elect of the Council of Probate Court Judges.

Chief Justice Melton also recognized Judge Wade Padgett as the new President of the Council of Superior Court Judges, Judge Thomas Lakes as the new President of the Council of

Probate Court Judges, and Judge Quinn Kasper as the new President of the Council of Magistrate Court Judges.

Roll Call of Judicial Council Members

Ms. Mason called roll for Council members; staff and guests were instructed to submit their attendance for the purpose of the minutes.

Discussion of Statewide Judicial Emergency Orders and COVID-19 Update by Judicial Council Members

Chief Justice Melton opened with a discussion on the Fourteenth Order Extending Declaration of Judicial Emergency (Order), scheduled to go out May 8th. Chief Justice Melton explained that this Order has been streamlined to reflect the current status of court operations and recognized the efforts of Presiding Justice Nahmias on restructuring the Order. Chief Justice Melton clarified that provisions of previous orders still need to be considered and reported that the Order lifts the suspension of the two provisions that govern the 90-day grand jury process and 120-day jury process for juvenile courts, effective May 14th. Chief Justice Melton also reiterated that when Governor Kemp no longer renews the statewide Public Health Emergency, the Judicial Public Health Emergency authority will end as well. Along those lines, Chief Justice Melton pointed toward the passage of Senate Bill 163, which will soon be signed by the Governor. Senate Bill 163 will give greater flexibility for statutory speedy trial requirements, allowing circuits to issue orders suspending those requirements at the local level; draft model orders are being worked on to assist courts. House Bill 635 also passed and will be signed by the Governor as well. Chief Justice Melton asked courts to continue to favor remote proceedings where possible, and to reach out if they encounter areas that may require future court rule or legislative changes. He also reminded local courts to review the Judicial Emergency Act prior to issuing any local orders. Presiding Justice Nahmias encouraged the Council to begin thinking about how best to proceed when the statewide Public Health Emergency ends and other deadlines begin to be implemented again.

Reports from Courts, Councils, State Bar, and AOC

Court of Appeals. No report was provided.

Business Court. No report was provided.

Council of Superior Court Judges. No report was provided.

Council of State Court Judges. No report was provided.

Council of Juvenile Court Judges. No report was provided.

Council of Probate Court Judges. No report was provided.

Council of Magistrate Court Judges. No report was provided.

Council of Municipal Court Judges. No report was provided.

State Bar. Ms. Fite reminded everyone about the State Bar's upcoming Annual Meeting on June 10th. She encouraged everyone to attend and shared there would be a virtual attendance option.

Administrative Office of the Courts. Ms. Tracy Mason shared that the AOC remains fully functional and recognized the week as Public Service Employee Recognition Week and thanked Council members for their dedicated service.

Reports from Other Judicial Branch Agencies

Council of Accountability Court Judges. No report was provided.

Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution. No report was provided.

Council of Superior Court Clerks. No report was provided.

Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism. Ms. Karlise Grier thanked everyone who assisted with the recent CLE.

Georgia Council of Court Administrators. No report was provided.

Institute of Continuing Judicial Education. No report was provided.

Judicial Qualifications Commission. No report was provided.

Old Business

No old business was offered.

New Business

No new business was offered.

Adjournment

Chief Justice Melton then asked everyone to review the upcoming Council meeting schedule. The next General Session meeting will be held in person on August 13 in Columbus, followed by a Zoom meeting on December 9 to close out the year. Chief Justice Melton adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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

The above and foregoing minutes
were approved on the _____ day of
_____, 2021.

Harold D. Melton
Chief Justice

DRAFT

**Judicial Council of Georgia
Emergency Session
Zoom Conferencing
May 4, 2021 • 2 p.m.**

Guest Present

Mr. Doug Ashworth, Institute of Continuing Judicial Education
Mr. Joseph Baden, Third Judicial Administrative District
Mr. Tracy J. BeMent, Tenth Judicial Administrative District
Mr. Josh Becker, Council of Accountability Court Judges
Judge R. Violet Bennett, State Court of Wayne County
Mr. Bob Bray, Council of State Court Judges
Chief Judge Geronda V. Carter, Clayton Judicial Circuit
Mr. Richard Denney, First District Court Administrator
Ms. Karlise Grier, Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism
Ms. LeNora Hawkins-Ponzo, Fourth Judicial Administrative District
Mr. Kevin Holder, Council of Probate Court Judges
Mr. Michael Holiman, Council of Superior Court Clerks
Individual, Superior Court of Cobb County
Ms. Taylor Jones, Council of Accountability Court Judges
Ms. Natasha MacDonald, Council of Superior Court Judges
Chief Judge Russell T. McClelland, State Court of Forsyth County
Mr. David Mixon, Second Judicial Administrative District
Mr. Bob Nadekow, Eighth Judicial Administrative District
Ms. Debra Nesbit, Association County Commissioners of Georgia
Ms. Jody Overcash, Seventh Judicial Administrative District
Chief Judge Rebecca J. Pitts, Magistrate Court of Butts County
Ms. Sharon Reiss, Council of Magistrate Court Judges
Ms. Jimmonique R.S. Rodgers, Ge
Ms. Robin Rooks, Georgia Council of Court Administrators
Ms. Tina Robinson, Council of Superior Court Clerks
Mr. Robert W. Smith, Jr., Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia
Ms. Kirsten Wallace, Council of Juvenile Court Judges
Mr. Shannon Weathers, Council of Superior Court Judges
Ms. Emily Youngo, Council of Superior Court Judges



Judicial Council of Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Harold D. Melton
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Director

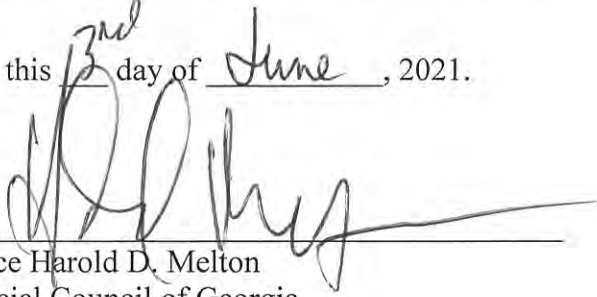
Judicial COVID-19 Task Force

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

On May 14, 2020, the undersigned established the "Judicial COVID-19 Task Force" as an ad hoc committee of the Judicial Council. Pursuant to its initial creation, the term of the Task Force is set to expire on June 30, 2021. However, as the work of the Task Force is still needed, and upon request of the Committee Chair, the term of the Task Force is hereby extended to December 31, 2021.

The mission and membership of the Task Force shall remain the same.

So decided this 3rd day of June, 2021.



Chief Justice Harold D. Melton
Chair, Judicial Council of Georgia



Presiding Justice David E. Nahmias
Vice-Chair, Judicial Council of Georgia