

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA

General Session

Wednesday, June 17, 2015

12:00 pm. – 3:00 p.m.



James H. “Sloppy” Floyd Building – Floyd Room
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
West Tower, 20th Floor
Atlanta, GA 30334

Judicial Council of Georgia

James H. “Sloppy” Floyd Building – Floyd Room
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
West Tower, 20th Floor
Atlanta, GA 30334

Wednesday, June 17, 2015

Noon - 3:00 p.m.

Lunch will be served at noon; a group photograph will be taken after lunch.

1. **Preliminary Remarks and Introductions**
(Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson, Est. Time – 5 Min.)
2. **Approval of Minutes, April 23, 2015** (*Action Item*) **TAB 1**
(Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson, Est. Time – 2 Min.)
3. **Supreme Court Committee on Justice for Children: Cold Case Project**
(Ms. Michelle Barclay, Est. Time – 5 min.)
4. **Judicial Council Committee Reports**
 - A. **Policy and Legislative Committee** **TAB 2**
(Chief Judge Herbert Phipps, Est. Time – 5 Min.)
 - B. **Judicial Council/AOC Director Search Committee**
(Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson, Est. Time – 5 Min.)
 - C. **Strategic Plan Implementation Committee** (*Action Item*) **TAB 3**
(Presiding Judge Sara Doyle, Est. Time – 10 Min.)
 - D. **Court Reporting Matters Committee** (*Action Item*) **TAB 4**
(Presiding Judge Sara Doyle, Est. Time – 10 Min.)
 - E. **Judicial Workload Assessment Committee** (*Written Report*) **TAB 5**
 - F. **Accountability Courts Committee**
(Judge Brenda Weaver, Est. Time – 5 Min.)
 - G. **Budget Committee** **TAB 6**
(Justice Harold Melton, Est. Time – 15 Min.)
5. **Statewide Judiciary Civil E-Filing Steering Committee** **TAB 7**
(Justice Harold Melton, Est. Time – 5 min.)
6. **Report from Judicial Council/AOC** **TAB 8**
(Ms. Cynthia Clanton, Est. Time – 20 Min.)

7. Reports from Appellate Courts and Trial Court Councils
(Est. Time – 10 min.)

TAB 9

- A. **Supreme Court** (*Written Report*)
- B. **Court of Appeals**
- C. **Council of Superior Court Judges** (*Written Report*)
- D. **Council of State Court Judges** (*Written Report*)
- E. **Council of Juvenile Court Judges**
- F. **Council of Probate Court Judges** (*Written Report*)
- G. **Council of Magistrate Court Judges**
- H. **Council of Municipal Court Judges** (*Written Report*)

8. Written Report from the Council of Superior Court Clerks

TAB 10

- 9. **Old/ New Business**
(Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson, Est. Time – 5 Min.)
- 10. **Outgoing Members**
(Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson, Est. Time – 5 Min.)
- 11. **Concluding Remarks and Adjournment**
(Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson, Est. Time – 5 Min.)

Judicial Council Meeting Calendar

August 6, 2015	9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.	The Loudermilk Center, Atlanta, GA
September 30, 2015	Noon - 5 p.m.	Macon Marriott City Center, Macon, GA
December 9, 2015	9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.	The Carter Center, Atlanta, GA

Judicial Council Members

As of June, 2015

Supreme Court

Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson
Chair, Judicial Council
507 State Judicial Building
Atlanta, GA 30334
404-656-3475/F 657-9586
thompsoh@gasupreme.us

Presiding Justice P. Harris Hines
Vice-Chair, Judicial Council
501 State Judicial Building
Atlanta, GA 30334
404-656-3472/F 651-8642
hinesph@gasupreme.us

Court of Appeals

Chief Judge Herbert E. Phipps
47 Trinity Avenue, Suite 501
Atlanta, GA 30334
404-656-3457/F 657-8945
phippsh@gaappeals.us

Presiding Judge Sara Doyle
47 Trinity Avenue, Suite 501
Atlanta, GA 30334
404-656-3458/F 657-9764
doyles@gaappeals.us

Superior Court

Chief Judge Brenda S. Weaver
President, CSCJ
Appalachian Judicial Circuit
P.O. Box 545
Jasper, GA 30143
706-253-8729/ F 253-8734
basw54@gmail.com

Judge Horace J. Johnson, Jr.
President-Elect, CSCJ
Alcovy Judicial Circuit
1132 Usher Street, NW
Covington, GA 30014
770-784-2080/F 784-2130
hjohnson@co.newton.ga.us

Judge John E. Morse Jr.
Eastern Judicial Circuit, 1st JAD
213 Chatham County Courthouse
133 Montgomery Street
Savannah, GA 31401
912-652-7236/F 652-7361
jemorse@chathamcounty.org

Chief Judge Harry J. Altman II
Southern Judicial Circuit, 2nd JAD
PO Box 1734
Thomasville, GA 31799
229-228-6278/F 225-4128
thosct@rose.net

Judge Edward D. Lukemire
Houston Judicial Circuit, 3rd JAD
201 Perry Parkway
Perry, GA 31069
478-218-4850/F 218-4855
elukemire@houstoncountyga.org

Chief Judge Tangela M. Barrie
Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit, 4th JAD
5230 DeKalb County Courthouse
556 N. McDonough Street
Decatur, GA 30030
404-371-2338/F 371-3081
tbarrie@dekalbcountyga.gov

Chief Judge Gail S. Tusan
Atlanta Judicial Circuit, 5th JAD
T8955 Justice Center Tower
185 Central Avenue SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-612-8520/F 302-8524
gail.tusan@fultoncountyga.gov

Chief Judge Matthew O. Simmons
Clayton Judicial Circuit, 6th JAD
Harold R. Banke Justice Center
9151 Tara Boulevard
Jonesboro, GA 30236
770-477-3484/F 477-3487
matthew.simmons@co.clayton.ga.us

Judge S. Lark Ingram
Cobb Judicial Circuit, 7th JAD
70 Haynes Street
Marietta, GA 30090
770-528-1831/F 528-1834
larkingram@mindspring.com

Chief Judge Kathy Palmer
Middle Judicial Circuit, 8th JAD
PO Box 330
Swainsboro, GA 30401
478-237-3260/F 237-0949
kspalmer@bellsouth.net

Judge Kathlene Gosselin
Northeastern Judicial Circuit, 9th JAD
PO Box 1778
Gainesville, GA 30503-1778
706-253-8729/F 253-8734
kgosselin@hallcounty.org

Chief Judge J. Carlisle Overstreet
Augusta Judicial Circuit, 10th JAD
735 James Brown Blvd., Suite 4203
Augusta, GA 30901
706-821-2347/F 721-4476
joverstreet@augustaga.gov

State Court

Judge Charles Wynne
President, CSCJ
Hall County
PO Box 737
Gainesville, GA 30503-0737
770-531-7007/F 531-3975
cwynne@hallcounty.org

Judge Wayne M. Purdom
President-Elect, CSCJ
DeKalb County
556 N. McDonough St., Suite 3220
Decatur, GA 30030-3355
404-687-7180/ F 687-7185
wmpurdom@dekalbcountyga.gov

Juvenile Court

Judge John Sumner
President, CJ CJ
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit
90 North Street, Suite 310
Canton, GA 30114
678-293-6250/F 493-6255
jbsumner@cherokeega.com

Chief Judge Benjamin P. Brinson
President-Elect, CJ CJ
Atlantic Judicial Circuit
P.O. Box 667
Claxton, GA 30417
912-739-2533/F 739-2513
bpbrinson@aol.com

Probate Court

Judge Don Wilkes
President, CPCJ
Emanuel County
PO Box 70
124 S. Main Street
Swainsboro, GA 30401
478-237-7091/F 237-2633
judgetwilkes@yahoo.com

Judge Alice Padgett
President-Elect, CPCJ
Columbia County
P.O Box 1520
Evans, GA 30809
706-312-7254/F 312-7251
apadgett@columbiacountyga.gov

Magistrate Court

Judge W. Allen Wigington
President, CMCJ
Pickens County
35 W. Church Street
Jasper, GA 30143
706-253-8747/F 253-8750
awigington@pickenscountyga.gov

Judge Robert "Bob" Turner
First Vice-President, CMCJ
Houston County
89 Cohen Walker Drive
Warner Robins, GA 31088
478-987-4695/F 987-5249
bturmer@houstoncountyga.org

Municipal Courts

Judge E.R Lanier
President, CMCJ
Municipal Court of Monticello
PO Box 269
Monticello, GA 31064
706-468-0129/F 468-0129
erlanier@aol.com

Judge Leslie Spornberger-Jones
President-Elect, CMCJ
Municipal Court of Athens-Clarke County
PO Box 1705
Athens, GA 30603
706-613-3695/F 613-3696
leslie.jones@athensclarkecounty.com

Directions to the James H. “Sloppy” Floyd Building - Floyd Room

2 Martin Luther King, Jr., Drive

West Tower, 20th Floor

Atlanta, GA 30334

Note: Directions include parking information for the Pete Hackney Garage; however you can park in any number of parking lots around the Capitol and then walk to the Floyd Building (see map attached). Parking will be provided for Judicial Council members in the Pete Hackney Garage, through the main entrance on Jesse Hill Jr. Drive.

Southbound on I-75/I-85:

Take Exit 248-A (MLK Jr. Dr.). Stay in right lane on exit ramp. Yield to the right onto Jesse Hill Jr. Drive. The entrance to the parking deck is on your right immediately after the pedestrian bridge (Pete Hackney Garage, \$5.00 per day). To enter the Floyd Building, you will need to show a valid picture I.D. *The Floyd Room is on the 20th floor of the West Tower.*

Northbound on I-75/I-85:

Take Exit 246 (Fulton Street). Take the right exit. Turn right at the traffic light. Move to the left lane. Turn left at the traffic light onto Capitol Avenue. Stay in the right lane. Stay on Capitol Ave. past the State Capitol on your left. Turn right at traffic light onto MLK Jr. Drive. Next, turn left at the traffic light onto Jesse Hill Jr. Drive. The entrance to the parking deck is on your right immediately after the pedestrian bridge (Pete Hackney Garage, \$5.00 per day). To enter the Floyd Building, you will need to show a valid picture I.D. *The Floyd Room is on the 20th floor of the West Tower.*

Westbound on I-20:

Take Exit 58A (Capitol Avenue). Stay in the right lane. Take a right onto Capitol Avenue. Stay on Capitol Ave. past the State Capitol on your left. Turn right at traffic light onto MLK Jr. Drive. Next, turn left at the traffic light onto Jesse Hill Jr. Drive. The entrance to the parking deck is on your right immediately after the pedestrian bridge (Pete Hackney Garage, \$5.00 per day). To enter the Floyd Building, you will need to show a valid picture I.D. *The Floyd Room is on the 20th floor of the West Tower.*

Westbound on I-20: Alternate Route

Take Exit 58B (Hill Street). Stay in the right lane. Take a right onto Hill Street. Get in the left lane. Stay on Hill Street past two traffic lights and after going under railroad tracks. At the next traffic light, turn left onto Decatur Street. At the second traffic light, turn left onto Jesse Hill Jr. Drive. The entrance to the parking deck is on your left immediately before the pedestrian bridge (Pete Hackney Garage, \$5.00 per day). To enter the Floyd Building, you will need to show a valid picture I.D. *The Floyd Room is on the 20th floor of the West Tower.*

Eastbound on I-20:

Take Exit 56B (Windsor St/Spring St). Continue on ramp to third traffic light. Turn left onto Central Ave. Stay in right lane. At the MARTA overpass traffic light (5-way intersection), take right onto Memorial Drive. Continue on Memorial Dr. to third traffic light. Turn left onto Capitol Avenue. Stay in right lane. You will pass the State Capitol on the left then turn right at the traffic light onto MLK Jr. Drive. Next, turn left at the traffic light onto Jesse Hill Jr. Drive. The entrance to the parking deck is on your right immediately after the pedestrian bridge (Pete Hackney Garage, \$5.00 per day). To enter the Floyd Building, you will need to show a valid picture I.D. *The Floyd Room is on the 20th floor of the West Tower.*

STATE GOVERNMENT COMPLEX



CAPITOL HILL Parking Map

GEORGIA BUILDING AUTHORITY

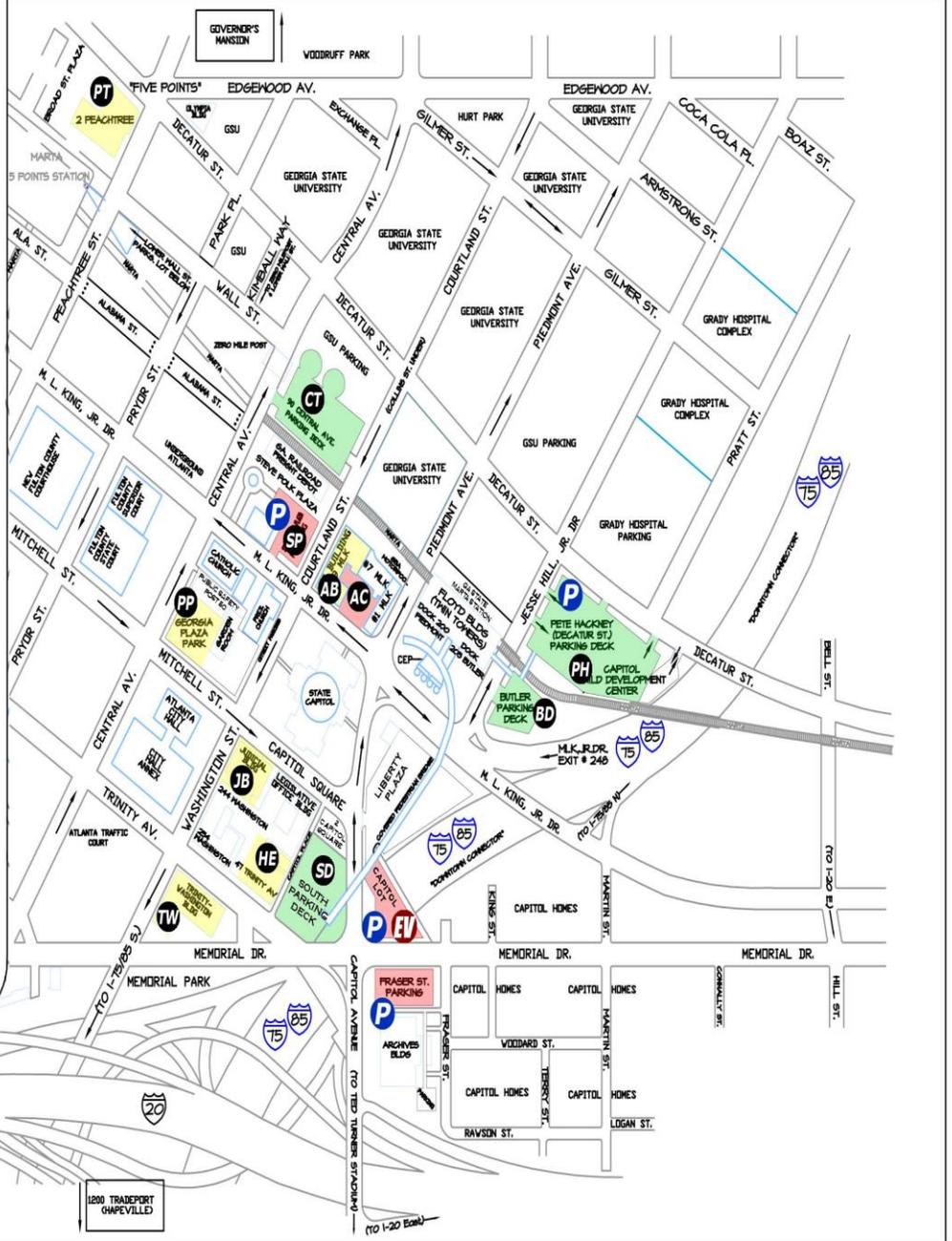
1 Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. SW, Atlanta, GA 30334

- PT** 2 Peachtree
- CT** 90 Central
- AC** Agriculture Courtyard
- AB** Agriculture Building
- BD** Butler Deck
- HE** Health Deck
- JB** Judicial Building
- PP** Plaza Park
- PH** Pete Hackney
- SD** South Deck
- SP** Steve Polk
- TW** Trinity Washington

- Underground Parking
- Multi-Level Deck Parking
- Surface Lot/Courtyard Parking
- Public Parking
- Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

1-26-15

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1050 MURPHY
1150 MURPHY

1200 TRADEPORT
CHAPEVILLE

Administrative Office of the Courts

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

Cynthia H. Clanton, Interim Director
404-656-5171

As of June 1, 2015

Director's Office

Yolanda Mashburn
404-657-6269

Budget

Ashley Garner
404-656-6404

Governmental & Trial Court Liaison

Michael Cuccaro
404-651-7616

Christopher Causey
404-463-6296

Catherine Fitch
404-463-1023

Tracy Mason
404-463-0559

LaShawn Murphy
404-651- 6325

Human Resources

Stephanie Hines
404-657-7469

Jacqueline Booker
404-463-0638

General Counsel

Jessica Farah
404-463-3805

Court Services

Vacancy
Division Director
404-463-5420

Accountability Courts & Grants Management

Lateefah Thomas
404-463-1906

Joshua Becker
404-463-6298

Rachel Gage
404-463-1453

Stacey Seldon
404-463-0043

Certification and Licensing

Shinji Morokuma
404-463-3785

Bianca Bennett
404-463-6478

Shawn DeVaney
404-463-3927

Shevondah Fields
404-656-6447

Herbert Gordon
404-232-1409

Mary Interiano
404-463-5001

Matthew Kloiber
404-463-1319

Tynesha Manuel
404-463-3785

Aquaria R. Smith
404-651-8707

Linda Smith
404-657-4219

LaDonna Varner
404-463-4266

Children, Families, & the Courts

Michelle Barclay
404-657-9219

Patricia Buonodono
404-463-0044

Araceli Jacobs
404-656-6703

Elaine Johnson
404-463-6383

Paula Myrick
404-463-6480

Bruce Shaw
404-463- 6106

Jennifer Thomas
404-463-1662

Jenny Aszman
404-232-1830

Jameelah Ferrell
404-656-5586

Alexis Champion
404-463-3178

***Research, Planning, &
Data Analysis***

Christopher Hansard
404-463-1871

Kimberly Miller
404-463-6887

Wendy Hosch
404-656-6413

Robert Aycock
404-656-0371

Communications

Ashley G. Stollar
404-656-6783

Derrick Bryant
404-656-6784

Financial Administration

Randy Dennis
Division Director
404-651-7613

Kim Burley
404-463-3816

Roxanne Harkcom
404-463-9016

Monte Harris
404-656-6691

Nancy Nevels
404-463-1907

Tanya Osby
404-463-0237

Andrew Theus
404-463-5177

Information Technology

Jorge Basto
Division Director
404-657-9673

***Network Administration/
Desktop***

Tony Mazza
404-657-4006

Gilberto Alcantara
404-463-0016

Bradley Allen
404-657-1770

Carl Carey
404-656-7694

Application/ Web Development

Christina Liu
404-651-8180

Angela He
404-651-8169

Software Maintenance/ Support

Michael Neuren
404-657-4218

Wanda Paul
404-538-0849

Kriste Pope
404-731-1358

Pete Tyo
404-731-1357

Georgia Judicial Exchange

Tajsha Dekine
404-656-3479

Kevin Kirk
404-275-8372

Rory Parker
404-656-3478

Arnold Schoenberg
404-463-6343

**Council of State Court
Judges**

Bob Bray
404-651-6204

Annette Williams
404-463-2982

**Council of Magistrate Court
Judges**

Sharon Reiss
404-463-4171

Judicial Council of Georgia
General Session
Sheraton Atlanta Atlanta, GA
April 23, 2015 • 9:30 a.m.

Members Present

Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson, Chair
Judge Brian Amero (for Judge Matthew O. Simmons)
Judge Tangela M. Barrie
Judge J. Lane Bearden
Judge Sara L. Doyle
Judge David T. Emerson (for Judge S. Lark Ingram)
Judge H. Gibbs Flanders, Jr. (for Judge Kathy Palmer)
Judge Kathlene Gosselin
Justice P. Harris Hines
Judge E.R. Lanier
Judge Edward D. Lukemire
Judge J. Carlisle Overstreet
Judge Alice Padgett
Chief Judge Herbert E. Phipps
Judge Wayne M. Purdom
Judge Gary Jackson (for Judge Leslie Spornberger-Jones)
Judge Mary Staley
Judge John Sumner
Judge James G. Tunison (for Judge Harry J. Altman, II)
Judge Robert Turner
Judge Gail S. Tusan
Judge Brenda S. Weaver
Judge W. Allen Wigington
Judge Don Wilkes
Judge Charles Wynne

Members Absent

Judge Harry J. Altman, II
Judge S. Lark Ingram
Judge John E. Morse, Jr.
Judge Kathy Palmer
Judge Matthew O. Simmons
Judge Leslie Spornberger-Jones

Non-Member Committee Chairs Present

Justice Harold Melton, Budget Committee

Staff Present

Ms. Marla S. Moore, Director
Ms. Jenny Aszman
Ms. Cynthia Clanton
Ms. Betty Daniels
Mr. Randy Dennis
Ms. Ashley Garner
Mr. Christopher Hansard
Ms. Stephanie Hines
Ms. Tracy Mason
Mr. Tony Mazza
Ms. LaShawn Murphy
Ms. Erin Oakley
Ms. Molly Perry
Ms. Ashley Stollar
Ms. Jennifer Thomas

Guests (Appended)

Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting of the Judicial Council of Georgia (Council) was called to order at 9:34 a.m. by Chief Justice Thompson. Members and guests introduced themselves for the purposes of roll call. Chief Justice Thompson recognized the Council's newest member, Judge Padgett, and administered the Council's oath.

Emerging Trends in Addressing Adult Abuse in Georgia

Ms. Patricia King, Georgia Department of Human Services, presented an overview of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation Work Group's effort to create an At-Risk Adult Crime Tactics certification course; a flyer was provided¹ with a calendar of upcoming training sessions. She summarized developments in Georgia since 2012 and described other current projects designed to address this issue. She encouraged Council members to attend the certification course, noting its value to any judge with cases involving at-risk adults in their courts.

Domestic Violence Fatality Review Report

Ms. Jennifer Thomas presented the 11th Annual Domestic Violence Fatality Review, which was released March 8, 2015. A copy of the report was provided at each member's seat and is available through the Georgia Commission on Family Violence website.² This annual project has reviewed over 100 domestic violence-related deaths since 2004, and the 2015 report is designed to highlight the top ten findings of the first ten years of the review. Ms. Thomas reviewed and summarized the findings across ten categories: children exposed; teen dating violence; economic abuse; the criminal legal system; civil protective orders and the courts; firearms and domestic violence fatalities; family, friends and the faith connection; detachment, separation and the risks of leaving; the suicide-homicide connection; and, barriers to accessing services.

Adoption of Minutes, February 27, 2015

Chief Justice Thompson directed the Council's attention to the minutes of the February 27, 2015 meeting. A motion to approve was offered by Judge Wigington, followed by a second from Judge Staley. The motion passed unanimously.

¹ Appended.

² www.gcfv.org

Committee Reports

Policy and Legislative Committee. Justice Hines referred to the written report provided in the materials and summarized the recently completed legislative session. He highlighted the final status of each item in the Judicial Council's legislative package, including misdemeanor probation and judicial pay raise legislation. Justice Hines announced the Committee will meet on July 16, in conjunction with the Budget Committee, to begin the process for the 2016 session. He reminded members that all legislative proposals should be vetted through the committee process, as it helps in representing a unified voice to the legislature. Justice Hines thanked everyone for their work this year; this sentiment was echoed by Chief Justice Thompson.

Strategic Plan Implementation Committee. Judge Doyle reported that the meeting scheduled for April 2 was cancelled in order to analyze the impact of several pieces of key legislation on the Judicial Council/AOC Strategic Plan. The next meeting will take place June 2. The Committee is continuing work on Priority Initiative #6 (bylaws, committee structure, and leadership continuity); comments on the draft bylaws should be submitted to Ms. Clanton by May 19. Judge Doyle stated the Committee's next focus will be communications (Priority Initiative #5). She thanked members and staff for their work.

Judicial Workload Assessment Committee. Judge Emerson began his report by thanking Mr. Hansard for staff support to the Committee. Judge Emerson presented the Georgia Model Time Standards, provided in the materials, for the Council's consideration. The standards are intended for superior courts only. The Committee is also beginning discussion on model standards for court resources, to address the variations seen across the state.

The Chief Justice called for a fifteen minute break. Upon reconvening, Judge Emerson restated his motion to adopt the Georgia Model Time Standards. No dissent was offered and the motion passed unanimously.

Access, Fairness and Public Trust and Confidence Committee. Judge Tusan referred to the written report provided in the materials. She stated the Committee has been meeting regularly, with the next meeting scheduled for September. The Committee's human trafficking and immigration subcommittee is working with the Center for Court Innovation to host a training in the fall for a pilot Human Trafficking Court; a subcommittee is working with the State ADA Coordinator's office on a revision of *A Meaningful Opportunity to Participate: A Handbook for Georgia Court Officials on Courtroom Accessibility for Individuals with Disabilities*; and, the

National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) 2017 Conference planning subcommittee will host an NAWJ delegation in early May for site visits to potential conference venues.

Budget Committee. Justice Melton thanked those involved in the budget process for their work this session, with particular recognition given to Ms. Garner. Justice Melton reviewed the enhancements and adjustments made in the Amended Fiscal Year (AFY) 2015 and Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 budgets; a written report was provided in the materials. Six enhancement requests were funded for FY 2016. Justice Melton announced that White Papers for the AFY 2016 and FY 2017 budget cycles will be accepted May 1 – June 15. The Budget Committee will meet July 16 to consider all requests and will make recommendations at the August 6 Council meeting.

Statewide Judiciary Civil E-filing Steering Committee Report

Justice Melton reported that the FY 2016 budget included funding for the implementation of a statewide e-filing portal. The Committee will meet on May 1 to discuss a plan to meet this charge. The Supreme Court has moved forward with receiving records electronically and the process has been advantageous to the Court.

Report from Judicial Council/AOC Director

Ms. Moore highlighted the busy nature of the legislative session and recognized Mr. Cuccaro and his staff for their work. She recognized Mr. Jorge Basto as Chief Information Officer and noted the Judicial Council/AOC has continued to support the SUSTAIN, TIPS, and PCIS applications through his leadership. Ms. Moore reported on the status of the Juvenile Justice Data Information Exchange, the Tax Refund Intercept Program and the annual caseload data analysis. The following staff was recognized by Ms. Moore for their service: Ms. Perry, Ms. Oakley, Ms. Clanton, Ms. Garner, Ms. Murphy, Mr. Dennis, Ms. Hines, and Ms. Stollar. She stated this would be her last of over 100 Judicial Council meetings, as her retirement date will be effective April 30. She thanked the Council for their support and confidence. Chief Justice Thompson thanked Ms. Moore and wished her the best in her retirement.

Reports from Appellate Courts and Trial Court Councils

Supreme Court. Chief Justice Thompson referred members to the written report provided in the materials. He highlighted the successful passage of judicial pay raise legislation and expressed gratitude to those who worked on this issue. With the legislative establishment of an additional panel of the Court of Appeals, Chief Justice Thompson has asked judges of both courts to continue discussions on jurisdiction.

Court of Appeals. Chief Judge Phipps referred members to the written report provided in the materials. He stated the Court is planning to hold oral arguments in Dougherty County later this year, and invited members to the investiture of Judge Doyle as Chief Judge of the Court on June 24.

Council of Superior Court Judges. Judge Staley referred members to the written report provided in the materials. She highlighted the continued expansion of accountability courts.

Council of State Court Judges. Judge Wynne referred members to the written report provided in the materials. He noted the Council's anticipation of the signing of House Bill 310 (misdemeanor probation reform) and House Bill 674 (creation of the State Court of Catoosa County). He noted the 50th anniversary celebration of Cobb County State Court was held on February 20, 2015, and thanked Chief Justice Thompson for being the featured speaker at the event.

Council of Juvenile Court Judges. Judge Bearden reported that the Council will adopt a complete copy of its Uniform Rules at the upcoming spring conference. Implementation of the new juvenile code (effective July 1, 2014) continues and the Council was pleased with the legislative fix to the jurisdiction of traffic cases involving 17-year-old drivers.

Council of Probate Court Judges. Judge Wilkes referred members to the written report provided in the materials. The Council welcomed changes to the weapons carry renewal process provided by House Bill 60, and Judge Wilkes recognized the impact of certain provisions of the bill on superior and state courts. He stated on the record that the Council did not seek those provisions; Judge Padgett noted the Council did not seek the legislation at all. The Council continues to be proactive ahead of the U.S. Supreme Court's expected decision this summer on the issue of same-sex marriage.

Council of Magistrate Court Judges. Judge Wigington reported on the status of the Council's bench book update, the Access to Courts Filing Wizard, and participation in the Georgia Courts Registrar. The Council's Uniform Rules, following a public comment period, are expected to be submitted to the Supreme Court for final approval shortly. Judge Wigington invited all to join the Council at its 33rd Annual Meeting on May 17-19, and congratulated Ms. Moore on her retirement.

Council of Municipal Court Judges. Judge Lanier referred members to the written report in the materials. The Council's Executive Committee met on April 16 and conducted a post-

session review of its legislative agenda. Judge Jackson stated that the Judicial Council legislative process is critical and provides the perception of a thorough vetting process to all stakeholders. He thanked Mr. Cuccaro and Judicial Council/AOC staff for their work, and commended all councils for working together on a drivers' license bill that included a provision that would have negatively impacted the courts.

Council of Superior Court Clerks. Mr. Mike Holiman referred members to the written report in the materials and wished Ms. Moore a happy retirement.

Chief Justice Thompson commended the councils for their work.

Adjournment

Chief Justice Thompson moved that Ms. Clanton be named Interim Director of the Judicial Council/AOC. Judge Wigington offered a second and the motion was approved unanimously. Judge Staley, whose term will come to an end on April 30, commended the Chief Justice for his leadership of the Council and praised Ms. Moore on a job well done. There being no further business, Chief Justice Thompson adjourned the meeting at 11:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Tracy Mason
Program Administrator, AOC

The above and foregoing minutes
were approved on the _____ day of
_____, 2015.

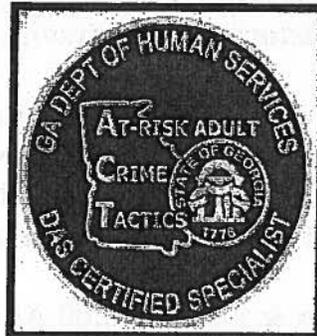
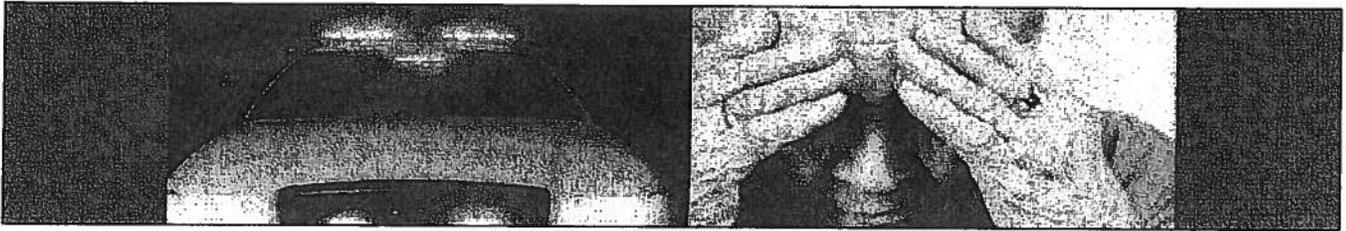
Hugh P. Thompson
Chief Justice

**Judicial Council of Georgia
General Session
Sheraton Atlanta
April 23, 2015 • 9:30 a.m.**

Guests Present

Mr. Joe Baden, Third Judicial Administrative District
Ms. Tee Barnes, Supreme Court of Georgia
Mr. Tracy J. BeMent, Tenth Judicial Administrative District
Mr. Bob Bray, Council of State Court Judges
Ms. Jacqueline Bunn, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
Mr. Jeff Davis, State Bar of Georgia
Mr. Richard F. Denney, First Judicial Administrative District
Mr. Steven Ferrell, Ninth Judicial Administrative District
Mr. Joe Hood, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
Mr. Mike Holiman, Council of Superior Court Clerks
Mr. Eric John, Council of Juvenile Court Judges
Judge Horace Johnson, Superior Courts, Alcovy Judicial Circuit
Ms. Kathleen Joyner, Fulton County Daily Report
Ms. Pat King, Georgia Department of Human Services
Ms. Sandy Lee, Council of Superior Court Judges
Ms. Yolanda Lewis, Fifth Judicial Administrative District
Trooper Moses Little, Georgia State Patrol
Ms. Tia Milton, Supreme Court of Georgia
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
Ms. Sharon Reiss, Council of Magistrate Court Judges
Mr. William Simmons, Sixth Judicial Administrative District
Judge Richard Slaby, State Court of Richmond County
Mr. Chuck Spahos, Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia
Ms. Kirsten Wallace, Council of Juvenile Court Judges
Mr. Shannon Weathers, Council of Superior Court Judges
Mr. Thomas Worthy, State Bar of Georgia

CERTIFIED ACT SPECIALIST



Co-Sponsored by the Prosecuting Attorney's Council of Georgia.

ACT Certification provided through the GA Department of Human Services DAS in cooperation with: AOCG; GACP; GBI; POST; GPSTC; GSA; IJCE; and PACGA.

Mission: To equip primary and secondary responders with knowledge and skills to address the needs of at-risk adult crime victims in Georgia as part of a multi-disciplinary team, thus advancing public safety.

Georgia is home to approximately 2.5 million at-risk adults.

At-risk adults (adults 65+ & adults 18+ with any disability)

CRITICAL THINGS ATTENDEES WILL LEARN:

Joint accounts & legal documents are not licenses to steal

Undue influence – are transactions “voluntary?”

Power of Attorney (what does that mean exactly?)

Investigations and overcoming challenges

Georgia criminal law relating to at-risk adults

New changes to Georgia Law

When is a death suspicious?

Prosecution of crimes against at-risk adults

Communication skills, and much more

PREVENTION - PROTECTION - PROSECUTION

CURRENT TRAINING LOCATIONS

May 19 & 20, 2015 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Host: Worth County Sheriff's Office and Probate Court

**Location: Worth County Community Center
1212 North Monroe Street, Sylvester, GA 31791**

June 24 & 25, 2015 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Host: Union County Sheriff's Office

**Location: Union County Emergency Management
507 Shoe Factory Rd., Blairsville, GA 30512**

August 4 & 5, 2015 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Host: Atlanta Police Department & Office of the Solicitor General

**Location: Atlanta Police Headquarters
226 Peachtree Street, SW Atlanta, GA 30303**

September 16 & 17, 2015 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Host: Carroll County Sheriff's Office

**Location: Carroll County Sheriff's Office
1000 Newnan Rd., Carrolton, GA 30116**

October 19 & 20, 2015 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Host: Reinhardt University

**Location: Reinhardt University School of Professional Studies
4100 Old Milton Parkway, Alpharetta, GA 30005**

The ACT class is open to law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, EMS, bank investigators/trainers/risk management, regulatory agencies and social services agencies that respond to the abuse, neglect, and exploitation of at-risk adults.

This training is not for the general public.

16 hours POST credit, 16 hours EMS credit, 10 hours CLE

Officers must attend both days to receive POST credit.

There is no charge for the training. Any associated costs are the responsibility of attendee.

Seating is limited R.S.V.P. to reserve a slot.

To register on-line, visit the Forensic Special Investigations Unit website:

<http://aging.dhs.georgia.gov/forensic-special-investigations-unit-fsiu>

Questions may be directed to: David Blake 404-232-1257

David.Blake@dhs.ga.gov



Judicial Council of Georgia
Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Interim Director

Memorandum

TO: Judicial Council Members P. H. H.

FROM: Presiding Justice P. Harris Hines
Chair, Policy and Legislative Committee

RE: Committee Report

DATE: May 21, 2015

As previously announced, the Policy and Legislative Committee ("Policy Committee") will meet on **Thursday, July 16, 2015** (in conjunction with the Judicial Council Budget Committee) to begin considering proposals for the 2016 legislative session. The deadline to submit legislative proposals and related materials for discussion and/or adoption is **Tuesday, June 30**. Any action taken on July 16 will be forwarded to the Judicial Council for consideration at the August 6 meeting.

The Policy Committee will meet on **Wednesday, September 16** to continue the process of vetting legislative proposals, and will forward any recommendations to the Judicial Council for consideration at the September 30 meeting.

As reported previously, enhancements were made to the Policy Committee recommendations process last year, most notably the participation of council legislative chairs in Policy Committee meetings, conference calls and e-mail communications. The contributions of the legislative chairs have been valuable.

Building on these enhancements to our process and strategy, staff will be working with Policy Committee members and councils to formulate policy position statements on select issues, which may be recommended for consideration by the Judicial Council. Prepared position statements are often used by other organizations and could benefit the Judicial Council by providing an early consensus in the event of fast-moving legislation and inquiries as to the judiciary's opinion on given issues. Policy statements can also help legislators better understand the perspective of the courts on matters they may confront during the upcoming legislative session.

Again, please pay particular attention to the Policy Committee schedule. When we are diligent in preparing our Judicial Council proposals, we have a better opportunity to coordinate related budget requests, to find enthusiastic sponsors, and more time to work with other stakeholders.



Judicial Council of Georgia

Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice **Hugh P. Thompson**
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Interim Director

Memorandum

TO: Judicial Council Members

FROM: Presiding Judge Sara Doyle, Chair
Strategic Plan Implementation Committee

RE: Committee Update

DATE: June 2, 2015

The Judicial Council's Strategic Planning Implementation (SPI) Committee is responsible for implementing the Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts (JC/AOC) Strategic Plan for FY 2014-FY 2016. The Strategic Plan contains nine priority initiatives that guide our work and align with the following strategic objectives:

- Improve Citizen Experience with Georgia Courts
- Improve Collaboration and Planning
- Build Thought Leadership

At the SPI Committee's June 2 meeting, work continued on Initiatives 4 through 9, detailed below. The Committee approved new Judicial Council bylaws and AOC research priorities. In addition, an outside consultant facilitated an in-depth discussion of Judicial Council and AOC communication.

Priority Initiative 6: Solicit input and develop recommendations for Judicial Council bylaws, committee structure, and leadership continuity

The SPI Committee debated proposed changes to a previously vetted draft of Judicial Council bylaws. After the Committee came to agreement on all proposed changes, Judge Wigington made a motion to submit the bylaws to the Judicial Council for approval at its June 17 meeting. Judge Lanier seconded his motion and all members voted in favor. The proposed bylaws are attached for approval by the Judicial Council.

Priority Initiative 7: Annual defining of research priorities for the coming fiscal year

The SPI Committee voted to approve the research priorities proposed by the AOC's Office of Research, Planning and Data Analysis and present them to the Judicial Council. The research priorities are included in the attached memo from Christopher Hansard, Assistant Director of Research and Regulatory.

Priority Initiative 4: Implement new approaches to engage the Judicial Council in preparation for the legislative sessions

The AOC's Governmental and Trial Court Liaison team has analyzed the effects of legislation passed during the 2015 legislative session on the Strategic Plan. At the June 2 meeting, Mr. Cuccaro explained the impact of recently enacted legislation, focusing on the work of the Criminal Justice Reform Council, as well as the need to continue working collaboratively with the executive and legislative branches. He explained the coming year will see major changes that will include the realignment of criminal justice agencies and the creation of the Department of Community Supervision. The SPI Committee is well positioned to address these issues thanks to its Strategic Plan, with improving citizen experience as an ongoing strategic objective.

Priority Initiative 5: Develop and implement new two-way communication strategies for the JC/AOC to engage with judges

North Highland consultant Jim Neal led a brainstorming session on communication. He focused the discussion on branding and voice of the JC/AOC, what the content of communication should be, and how it should be delivered. There was consensus that a letter from the Chief Justice be sent to all judges about the mission of the JC/AOC, along with information from AOC interim director Cynthia Clanton explaining the services offered by the AOC. Committee members and trial court council staff expressed a willingness to collaborate on communication efforts that will inform judges about significant issues impacting the judiciary.

Priority Initiatives 8 & 9: Create open repository of information for all classes of courts; Identify and share innovations and best practices across Georgia's courts

The AOC staff is identifying customer perspectives regarding these initiatives through interviews, surveys and focus groups of judges, court administrators and other court professionals. After sufficient feedback is gathered, the AOC staff will develop a proposal for presenting and managing an open repository of information and sharing best practices, along with any resource needs. This proposal will be presented to the SPI Committee at its August meeting for discussion and approval. A memo on Initiatives 8 & 9 is attached.

The next meeting of the SPI Committee will be held on Aug. 18, 2015.

Thank you to members of this Committee for their tireless efforts in moving our Strategic Plan forward.

SPI Committee

Presiding Judge Sara Doyle, Chair

Judge Mary Staley

Judge Charles Wynne

Judge J. Lane Bearden

Chase Daughtrey

Judge E.R. Lanier

Cynthia Clanton

Randy Dennis

Judge W. Allen Wigington

Jorge Basto

Mike Cuccaro

Attachments: Proposed Bylaws, Memo on Priority Initiative 7, and Memo on Priority Initiatives 8 & 9.

Bylaws of the Judicial Council of Georgia

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DRAFT

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Judicial Council is to establish policy for Georgia's judiciary, effectuate its statutory responsibilities, and improve the administration of Georgia's courts.

ARTICLE I: OFFICERS

Officers of the Council shall be the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary.

Chair

The Council Chair shall be the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The Chair, or his or her designee, shall: serve as the presiding officer of the Council; call the meetings, affording written notice as hereinafter required; preside at Council meetings and control debate; serve as ex-officio member on all committees; and serve as the official spokesperson for the Council.¹ In the event the Chair, or Vice-Chair, is not present to preside at Council meetings, the Chair will appoint a presiding officer.

Vice-Chair

The Vice-Chair shall be the Presiding Justice of the Supreme Court. The Vice-Chair shall assist the Chair as needed and preside at meetings in the event the Chair is unable to do so.² The Vice-Chair shall serve as chair of designated committees.

Secretary

The Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts shall serve as Secretary for the Judicial Council. The Director, or his or her designee, shall be responsible for an accurate recordation and distribution of meeting minutes, for updating and distributing Judicial Council Handbooks, and for providing a copy of the bylaws and other governing documents to all members. The Director shall not be considered a member of the Judicial Council for purposes of voting or determining a quorum.

ARTICLE II: COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

Council Membership and Terms

Council members should be committed to improving justice through collaboration, innovation and information. Members of the Council and their terms shall be as provided by the Supreme Court of Georgia.³

¹ Supreme Court Order dated August 5, 1983.

² Supreme Court Order dated August 5, 1983.

³ O.C.G.A. §15-5-23.

Vacancies

A vacancy occurs when a Council member no longer serves in the capacity of representative for his or her respective group. The vacancy shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term as provided by Supreme Court order.

ARTICLE III: MEETINGS

Call to Meetings/Notification

Regular Council meetings may be called at least four times a year by the Chair, or by a majority of the voting members of the Council, at such times and places as may be deemed necessary and convenient. A proposed schedule of future meetings shall be published at the last regular meeting of each fiscal year.

Council members must be notified of regular meeting times and locations at least thirty (30) business days in advance. Notice may be sent by mail or electronic communication.

In case of an emergency, or other event necessitating an unscheduled meeting as deemed by the Chair, notice shall be given at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting.

Quorum

A quorum consisting of a majority of Council members is required for voting and conducting business.

Conduct of Meetings

Regular Council meetings shall be conducted in person unless otherwise authorized by the Chair. Emergency meetings may be conducted electronically.

Rules

Except as otherwise provided in these bylaws, all meetings of the Council and its committees shall be conducted in accordance with the most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

Voting

All members shall be entitled to vote, except that the presiding officer shall vote only in the event of a tie.⁴ A member unable to attend a meeting for good cause shall be entitled to designate a meeting representative to cast his or her vote. The absent member shall notify the Chair in writing of the designated representative. The designated representative may be heard, entitled to vote, and be considered part of the quorum for the meeting.

When a quorum is present at a Judicial Council meeting, or a committee meeting, a simple majority of votes cast will pass an item unless specified by Supreme Court order, Council policy,

⁴ Supreme Court Order dated August 5, 1983.

or the Chair. When a vote is called and a member, or his or her designated representative, takes no position, that vote will not be counted in favor of or against the item being voted upon.

Any member of the Council, or his or her designated representative, shall have the right to dissent or abstain from the majority of any official action, and request that their vote be reflected in the minutes.

ARTICLE IV: COMMITTEES

Standing Committees

Standing Committees and their memberships shall be determined by Supreme Court order or the Council Chair, and should include at least one current Council member. The Council Chair should endeavor to include as members on each committee representatives from every affected entity represented on the Council. Committee membership may include advisory members appointed, as needed, by each committee chair. All chairs and members shall serve at the pleasure of the Council Chair. Advisory members may be heard but shall not be entitled to vote.

Ad-Hoc Committees

The Council Chair shall name ad-hoc committees as are necessary to conduct the business of the Council.⁵ The Chair of the Council shall appoint the chairs of the ad-hoc committees who shall be current or past Council members. The ad-hoc committee chair may appoint the remaining committee members after receiving the approval of the Council Chair. At least one current Council member shall be appointed to serve on each ad-hoc committee. Advisory members may be heard but shall not be entitled to vote.

ARTICLE V: DUTIES

The Council shall effectuate its duties as defined by statute and Supreme Court order. In addition, the Council shall engage in ongoing strategic planning.

The Council shall issue, publish, and distribute official opinions or policies concerning matters of court administration.

The Council shall appoint a Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, who shall serve at the pleasure of the Council.⁶ The appointment of a Director shall be confirmed by a majority vote of the Council. Duties of the Director shall be defined by law and as directed by the Council.

⁵ Supreme Court Order dated August 5, 1983.

⁶ O.C.G.A. §15-5-23.

ARTICLE VI: AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

The Council shall vote on any proposed bylaw amendments during its final regular meeting of the fiscal year. Proposed amendments shall be sent to the Chair no later than December 31. Council members shall receive at least sixty (60) days' notice of proposed amendments prior to the date of the meeting. The bylaws shall be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Council. The bylaws may also be amended at any time as a result of a Supreme Court order.

DRAFT



Judicial Council of Georgia

Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Interim Director

Memorandum

TO: Judicial Council of Georgia

FROM: Presiding Judge Sara L. Doyle

RE: Strategic Plan Priority Initiative 7

DATE: June 2, 2015

Background

Priority Initiative 7 in the Judicial Council's Strategic Plan calls for an annual defining of research priorities for the coming fiscal year. The Strategic Plan Implementation Committee met on June 2, 2015 and reviewed the proposed research priorities for Fiscal Year 2016. The Committee now presents those priorities to the Judicial Council for adoption. Also presented are successfully completed research priorities from Fiscal Year 2015.

Research Priorities – Fiscal Year 2015

Recurring Research Priorities

1. Trial Court Caseload Reporting
 - A. Increased amount of data collected from all classes of courts, including data on number of limited English participants and self-represented litigants
 - B. Developed improved electronic data reporting portal to allow for electronic transmission of caseload data between court clerks and the AOC
2. Judicial Workload Assessment Committee
 - A. Updated and revised Superior Court Workload Assessment policy
 - B. Created Georgia Model Time Standards for superior courts

Strategic Planning Priorities

3. Priority Initiative 1: Establish a baseline evaluation of current customer experience with Georgia courts, focusing on access and fairness measures
4. Priority Initiative 2: Encourage Georgia courts to assess performance and develop improvements plans

Judicial Council Program Priorities

5. Georgia Courts Registrar Participant Surveys
6. Office of Dispute Resolution Caseload Reporting
7. Accountability Court Caseload Reporting

Technical Assistance Priorities

8. Reengineering Study of the Fulton County Superior, State, and Magistrate Courts
9. Fulton County Family Division Task Force

Research Priorities – Fiscal Year 2016

Recurring Research Priorities

1. Trial Court Caseload Reporting
 - A. Work with the Council of Probate Court Judges to improve caseload reporting forms and data analysis
 - B. Continue to improve the caseload reporting system to increase Georgia's alignment with national and best practices and ease of use by court clerks
2. Judicial Workload Assessment Committee
 - A. Continue work on charge given by the Chief Justice
3. Data Warehouse
 - A. To facilitate access and analysis of all AOC data to Research staff

Strategic Planning Priorities

4. Priority Initiatives 8 and 9

Judicial Council Program Priorities

5. Georgia Courts Registrar Participant Surveys
6. Office of Dispute Resolution Caseload Reporting
7. Child Support Problem Solving Court Evaluation

Technical Assistance Priorities

8. Records Management Training

Additionally, Research continues to support all Judicial Council stakeholders through specific data collection and analysis, survey creation, program evaluation, judicial workload and salary assessments, and general research and technical assistance requests.

The completed and proposed priorities above do not constitute a comprehensive or exhaustive list of all work performed by the Office of Research, Planning, and Data Analysis. Instead, the priorities represent the projects of primary Research focus that are undertaken to meet the immediate policy needs of the Judicial Council and its stakeholders.



Judicial Council of Georgia

Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Interim Director

Memorandum

TO: Cynthia H. Clanton, Interim Director
Judge Doyle, Chair, Strategic Plan Implementation Committee
Christopher Hansard, Assistant Director of Research and Regulatory

FROM: Kimberly Miller, Research and Statistical Analyst

RE: Strategic Plan Initiatives 8 and 9

DATE: May 12, 2015

Summary

Beginning in March, contact was made to trial court liaisons and other entities that work closely with judges and court administrators to introduce Strategic Plan Initiatives 8 and 9 and ask for help and support to complete surveys among their groups. In April, Judge Doyle provided a signed letter to staff to use when continuing to contact liaisons. Each group was asked about upcoming conferences, meetings, and times when a large number of judges and court administrators would be in attendance as an opportune time to distribute a short survey. Please find below the schedule of confirmed events.

Schedule of Confirmed Events

Date	Entity	Location	Time
April 22, 2015	GCCA Conference	Young Harris, GA	
May 13, 2015	State Court meeting	Georgia Conference Center Athens, GA	2pm
May 18, 2015	Magistrate Court meeting	Lake Lanier, GA	10am
June 23 & 25, 2015	Municipal Court Executive and Board Meetings	Jekyll Island, GA	TBD

Forty-seven surveys were completed at the GCCA conference. Mr. Bray requested 115 surveys to distribute at the State court meeting on May 13, 2015. Follow-up with Ms. Reiss and Ms. Murphy is needed to provide the correct number of surveys to distribute at the Magistrate court meeting on May 18th and the Municipal court meetings in June. Additionally, discuss with Ms. Murphy the possibility to meet with a subset of judges after the initial survey is distributed during the June meetings.

Unscheduled Survey Distribution

Unfortunately, the Probate Court judges meeting passed and they will not meet again until October. This is outside our project window. Juvenile Court is meeting the week of May 3, 2015; however, they were unable to find time for staff to distribute surveys. Mr. John suggested a seminar in the fall or the Executive Committee meeting, as alternative times to survey the judges. Ms. Lee suggested the Superior Court judges would not be willing to allow time for staff to administer surveys at their meetings. She suggested emailing the survey link for judges to complete.

Recommendations

1. Staff should continue to disseminate surveys in person at meetings when possible.
2. Provide Probate, Juvenile, and Superior court judges the survey link. Ms. Oakley, Mr. John, and Ms. Lee should send the email asking judges to complete the survey along with the letter from Judge Doyle. This will provide more buy-in from a recognized source. If this is not an available option, the AOC staff recommends that the survey link be emailed with the letter from Judge Doyle.
3. Staff will request each liaison to identify ten judges they feel are active in their respective councils and would be willing to provide more in-depth feedback.

Methodology

Physical surveys will need to be entered into SurveyMonkey. Ms. Miller will take the lead to enter surveys. Additional support will come from Research staff. Surveys should be entered no later than two weeks after the completion date. Immediately after completing the surveys, the ten individuals identified will be contacted to set up a date and time to discuss the initiatives with staff. If possible, assemble focus groups or conference calls with multiple judges. For those not able to meet in person or find time to call in for a conference call, individual phone calls will be made.

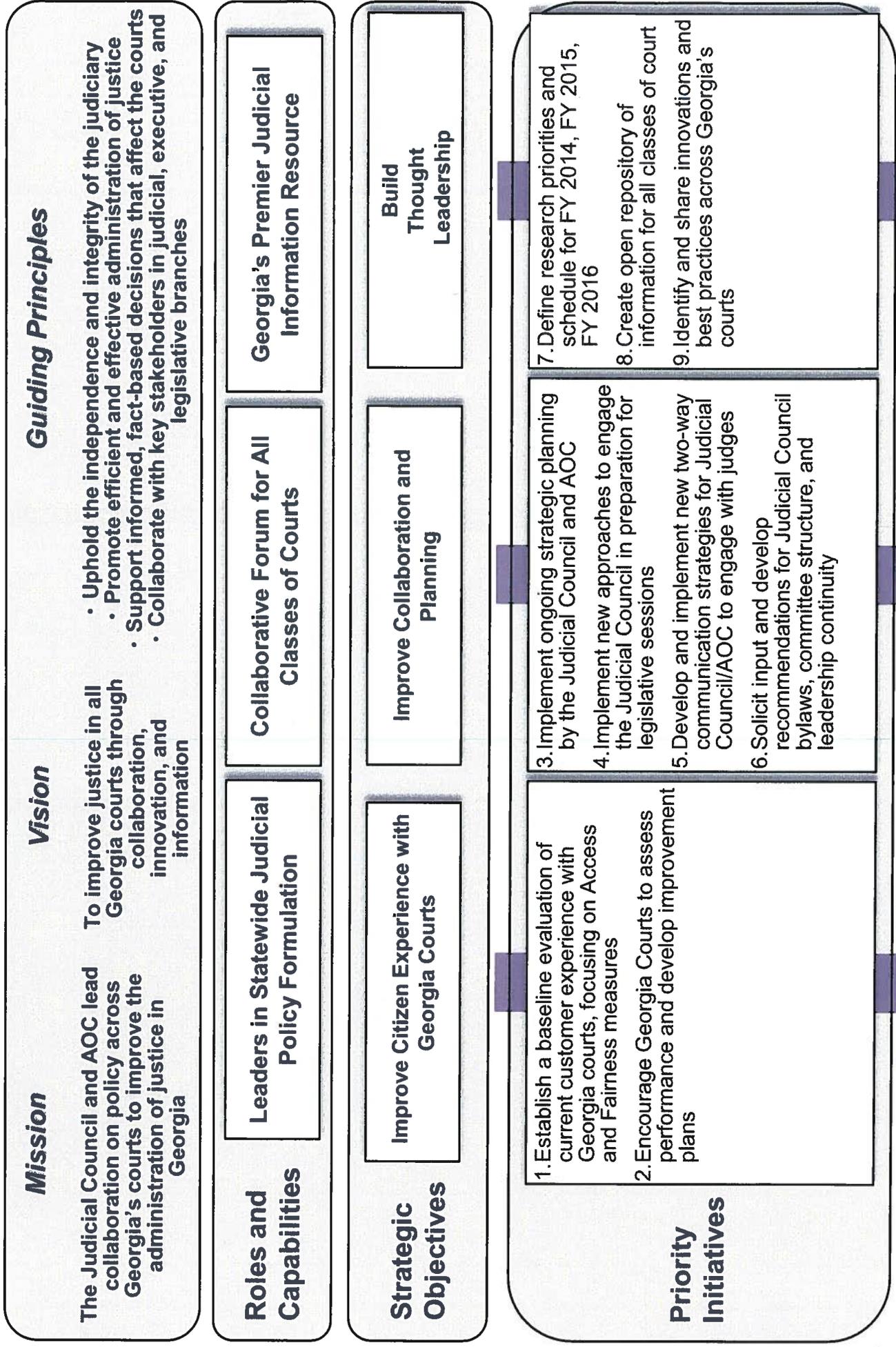
Timeline

To ensure data is captured and prepared for the August meeting, all surveys will be completed by the end of June. Direct contact with judges will be done during May, June, and July. Please see below the proposed schedule of events.

Event	Date	Comments
Surveys completed	June 25, 2015	Last day to attend meetings to distribute surveys and last day to collect electronic surveys.
Surveys entered	July 3, 2015	All surveys will be entered into SurveyMonkey.
Judicial outreach	May - July	Talk to every judge individually or as a group.
Analysis begins	June	Analysis will begin.
Draft of final product	August 7, 2015	Draft of final product will be due to Mr. Hansard.
Disseminate results	August 21, 2015	Provide results based on desired format for the JWAC meeting.

Judicial Council of Georgia - Administrative Office of the Courts

Strategy Map FY 2014-2016





Judicial Council of Georgia

Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Interim Director

Memorandum

TO: Judicial Council of Georgia

FROM: Presiding Judge Sara L. Doyle, Chair
Court Reporting Matters Committee

RE: Court Reporting Matters Committee Report

DATE: June 17, 2015

The Judicial Council Court Reporting Matters Committee (CRMC) represents the Council on all matters relating to court reporting, including recommending qualified individuals for membership to the Board of Court Reporting. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 15-14-24, the Judicial Council appoints the members of the Board for two-year terms.

The CRMC met on May 12, 2015 to determine its nominees for the five open seats on the Board of Court Reporting and its policy recommendation for realtime services in Georgia trial courts.

Board Nominations

After review of the candidates' qualifications and geographical region from the letters of interest and resumes submitted, the CRMC agreed to nominate the following individuals for appointment and reappointment to Board membership beginning July 1, 2015.

Attorney James M. Anderson, III (Incumbent), Sandy Springs (Atlanta Circuit). Mr. Anderson received his J.D. from University of Georgia School of Law. He is active member of the State Bar Association, Sandy Springs Bar Association, the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association (GTLA), Council of Municipal Court Judges, and Council of Magistrate Court Judges. Mr. Anderson is a graduate of Leadership Sandy Springs and appeared regularly on "The Law Show" broadcast by WGST radio. He lectures frequently for the GTLA Peoples Law School and the Institute for Continuing Judicial Education for Municipal and Magistrate Court Judges. Mr. Anderson served as president, vice-president, secretary, and past board director to the Sandy Springs Bar Association, and several civic and community organizations. He seeks reappointment as the State Bar attorney representative.

Maxine Bursky, a Freelance Reporter, Machine Shorthand (Flint Circuit). Ms. Bursky achieved the Registered Professional Reporter and Certified Realtime Reporter certifications from the National Court Reporters Association.

She has authored books of practical tips and stories for court reporters, such as *Way off the Record, Talk to the Hands!*, and *TheTERM-inator*. Ms. Bursky served on the Georgia Bar Pro Bono Court Reporting Project, Brown College of Court Reporting Advisory Council, and founder of the Hallyboy Foundation, an underwriter of student reporter scholarship. Ms. Bursky speaks to many court reporting schools around the country and facilitates webinars for Bridges Court Reporters online program. She resides in the Flint Circuit.

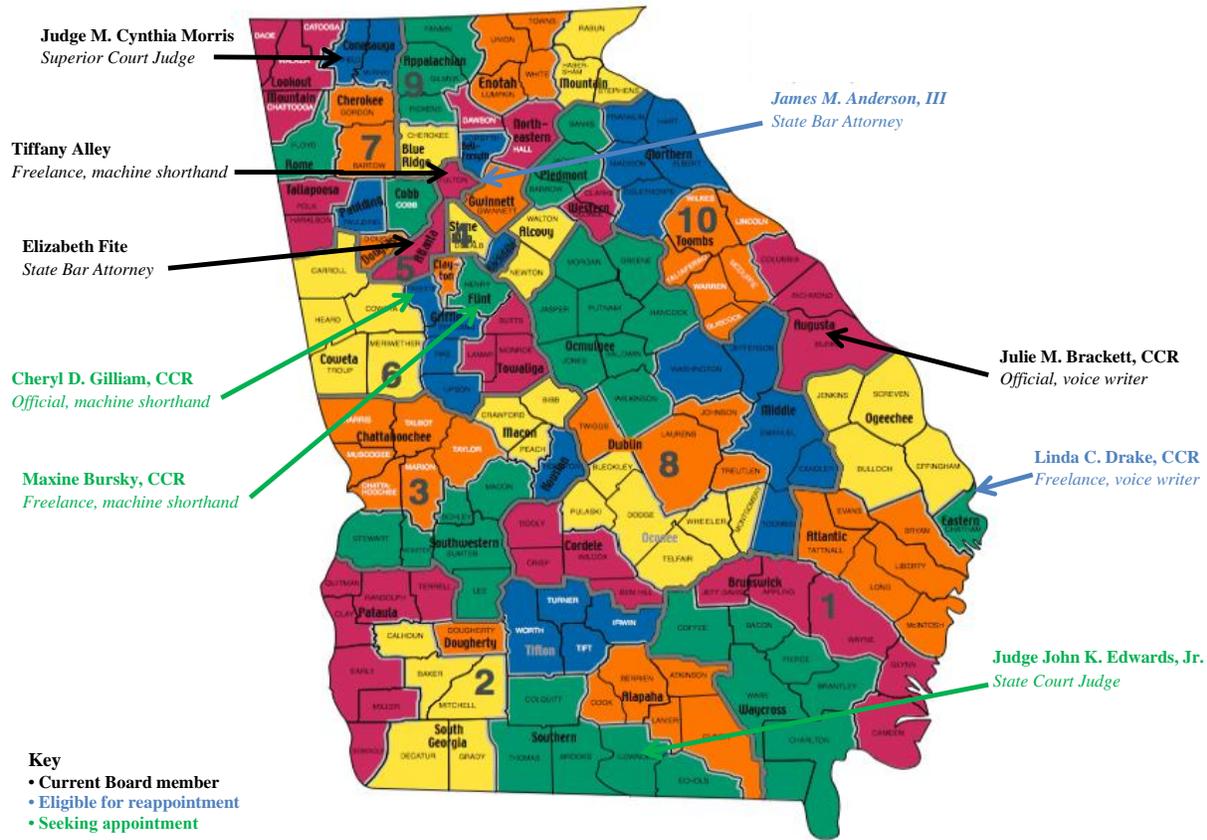
Linda Drake, (Incumbent), a Freelance Reporter, Voice Writer (Eastern Circuit). She became a Georgia court reporter in 1982 and subsequently achieved the Certified Verbatim Reporter certification from the National Verbatim Reporter Association in 1994. Ms. Drake became a member to its board of directors in 1999, and president from 2003 through 2005. Ms. Drake served as Vice-President to the Court Reporters' Training Council and led the re-design of its current Continuing Education Manual. She currently serves Vice-Chair to the Board of Court Reporting and Chair of the Certification Committee. Ms. Drake resides in the Eastern Circuit. She seeks reappointment.

Judge John K. Edwards, Jr., State Court, Lowndes County (Southern Circuit). Judge Edwards has served in the Lowndes County State Court since 2006. He also served as municipal judge and solicitor for the city of Valdosta. Judge Edwards is a member of the State Court Judges Executive Council as the District Representative. He received a Bachelor's of Science from Wake Forest University and his Juris Doctorate from the Walter F. Mercer School of Law.

Cheryl Gilliam, an Official Reporter, Machine Shorthand (Griffin Circuit). She has over thirty years' experience reporting various court proceedings, to include death penalty, medical malpractice, product liability, and domestic relations cases. She provides realtime feed in all court proceedings and to the hearing impaired. Ms. Gilliam successfully achieved the Registered Professional Reporter and Registered Merit Reporter certifications from the National Court Reporters Association. Her service to the Georgia Shorthand Reporters Association includes President and former Board of Director. Ms. Gilliam resides in the Griffin Circuit.

The nine-member Board of Court Reporting is comprised of: five court reporters certified by method of machine shorthand and voice; two representatives from the State Bar of Georgia; and two members of the judiciary (one Superior Court judge and one State Court judge). The remaining four members' terms will expire June 30, 2016.

Geographical Map of Recommended Board Membership



Realtime Reporting Policy

In September 2014, the CRMC asked the Judicial Council to remove from its consideration certification requirements regarding realtime reporting in Georgia to give the CRMC further time to evaluate this issue. At the behest of the CRMC, the Board of Court Reporting, in consultation with the Court Reporters' Training Council, examined the existing realtime policy requirements. Deliberation and feedback from the state associations, the Georgia Shorthand Reporters Association, and the Georgia Certified Court Reporters Association, resulted in the development of proposed certification and training standards for realtime services offered in Georgia trial courts.

The CRMC reviewed the proposed certification and training standards and requests that the Judicial Council approve the following:

3.2 Georgia Realtime License

1. Qualifications

To obtain a Georgia Realtime License (GRL), an applicant must:

- A. Qualify as a Georgia certified court reporter in good standing; and
- B.
 - 1) Successful achievement on the realtime certification exam administered by the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) or the National Verbatim Reporters Association (NVRA); or
 - 2) Achieve a minimum score of 90 percent on the realtime certification exam administered by the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) or the National Verbatim Reporters Association (NVRA); or
- C. Be grandfathered as a realtime reporter by April 1, 2016. To satisfy the grandfathering requirement, a court reporter shall make an application on an approved Board form documenting the judge's affirmation of the reporter's capability to deliver a realtime feed.

2. Certification and Training Requirements

- A. The Board shall issue the designation, Georgia Realtime License (GRL), to display on the court reporters certificate annually; and
- B. Each court reporter issued a GRL shall comply with the training requirements as determined by the Court Reporters' Training Council.

3. Fees

In order to charge for realtime services, court reporters must possess a GRL as set forth above.



Judicial Council of Georgia

Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Interim Director

Memorandum

TO: Judicial Council of Georgia

FROM: Judge David Emerson

RE: Judicial Workload Assessment Committee Update

DATE: May 22, 2015

Introduction

The Judicial Workload Assessment Committee determines the methodology for the Judicial Council's annual superior court workload assessment that serves as the basis for recommendations for additional judgeships or circuit boundary adjustments to the Governor and General Assembly. The Committee also guides discussion and activity related to improvements in caseload data collection and analysis.

The Judicial Workload Assessment Committee membership is composed of the Chief Justice, nine superior court judges, and one judge from each class of limited jurisdiction court. Two court clerks and three court administrators serve as advisory members.

Charge Update

On September 23, 2013, the Chief Justice charged the Judicial Workload Assessment Committee with four items. Below are those four items and a status update for each.

1. Identify data elements from all classes of court for annual caseload study.
 - Update: Staff worked with all classes of courts over the past year to increase the number of data elements reported and the elements' adherence to best practices and national standards. The Committee has approved these adjustments and encouraged staff to continue to work closely with judge councils to improve their data collection. Staff's primary focus this year is to work closely with the Council of Probate Court Judges to provide them with new caseload reporting forms.

2. Recommend a new, electronic approach for collecting caseload and other data from court which will include criminal and civil filing and disposition information.
 - Update: The AOC has developed an improved caseload reporting portal which can accept electronic transmission of data from local court clerks. With the exception of probate courts, the portal now includes collection of criminal and civil filing and disposition information for all classes of court. This charge has been completed as the remaining probate issue will be addressed by Charge 1.
3. Update the methodology and policy used to analyze the need for superior court judgeship, including (1) re-establishing collection of open and disposed cases, (2) establishing a regular schedule for updating Georgia's case weights, and (3) studying the need for workload analysis of limited jurisdiction courts.
 - Update: Superior court caseload reporting forms now include open and disposed cases. Item 1 has been completed. Items 2 and 3 are incomplete at this time.
4. Develop statewide performance standards for all classes of courts to aid in their court management.
 - Update: At its last meeting the Council adopted the superior court standards recommended by the Committee. The Committee will now explore working with judge councils and committee members to create standards for other classes of courts.

Superior Court Workload Assessment

The following circuits have requested a study to determine their qualification to receive an additional superior court judgeship.

- Cherokee
- Clayton
- Griffin

Studies will be completed by July 17, 2015, and appeal notifications will be due July 31, 2015.

The Judicial Workload Assessment Committee will hear workload assessment appeals on August 21, 2015 and present workload studies to the Judicial Council on September 30, 2015.

Vacancy

The Committee has one superior court vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Cynthia J. Becker.



Judicial Council of Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice **Hugh P. Thompson**
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Interim Director

Memorandum

TO: Judicial Council Members

FROM: Justice Harold D. Melton, Budget Committee Chair

RE: Budget Committee Report

DATE: June 17, 2015

During the 2015 Legislative Session three agencies were legislatively transferred out of the Judicial Council/AOC. Affected agencies included the County and Municipal Probation Advisory Council, the Georgia Commission on Family Violence, and Accountability Courts. During recent months the Judicial Council/AOC has worked with executive leadership in the Legislative and Executive Branch as well as the staff and leadership of those impacted to cultivate positive working relationships and facilitate graceful transitions. The Judicial Council will continue to provide varying levels of service and support to some groups through partnerships and Memoranda of Understanding. As a result of these new partnerships, they may continue to be presented on Judicial Council financial reports for a period of time.

Amended Fiscal Year 2015 and Fiscal Year 2016

The Judicial Council of Georgia received \$ 13,620,400 in State Appropriations for Amended Fiscal Year 2015 and \$ 15,411,761 in State Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2016. The attached reports outline the enhancements and adjustments received. Also included is a Fiscal Year 2015 overview highlighting expenditures through May 31, 2015.

The Judicial Council Budget Committee accepted White Paper Enhancement Requests for the Amended FY 2016 and FY 2017 budget cycles between May 1 - June 15, 2015. The Committee will meet on July 16, 2015 to review all requests for funding. Requests accepted by the Committee will be presented to the Council for approval at the August 6, 2015 meeting.

Please let me know if you have any questions.



Judicial Council Operations FY15

Financial Report as of May 31, 2015

DEPARTMENT	BUDGET	YTD TOTAL EXPENDITURES	REMAINING	Budget Spent
Judicial Council - Administrative Office of The Courts	6,316,077	5,574,459	741,618	88%
County & Municipal Probation Advisory Council	364,942	315,416	49,526	86%
Child Support Collaborative	109,578	102,495	7,083	94%
Georgia Council of Court Administrators	4,057	4,162	(105)	103%
Council of Magistrate Court Judges	170,355	139,361	30,994	82%
Council of Probate Court Judges	61,216	49,792	11,424	81%
Council of State Court Judges	226,366	212,508	13,858	94%
Council of State Court Judges Ret.	1,630,102	1,262,370	367,732	77%
Council of Municipal Court Judges	16,185	7,867	8,318	49%
Legal Services for Domestic Violence	2,113,749	2,113,749	0	100%
Georgia Commission on Family Violence	370,221	343,905	26,316	93%
Other Judicial Council Subprograms	5,066,771	4,551,626	515,145	90%
Accountability Courts	318,057	263,482	54,575	83%
Accountability Courts Conference	120,000	120,000	0	100%
Appellate Resource Center	800,000	733,333	66,667	92%
Judicial Qualifications Commission	527,706	322,934	204,772	61%
Inst of Continuing Jud Ed Operations	471,789	375,085	96,704	80%
Separate Judicial Council Programs	2,237,552	1,814,834	422,718	81%
TOTAL JUDICIAL COUNCIL	13,620,400	11,940,919	1,679,481	88%

Amended FY 2015 Judicial Council State Appropriation
HB 75 (Section 6)

Continuation	\$	13,461,113
AFY 15 Final	\$	13,620,400
Difference	\$	159,287

Changes	Continuation	Adjustment	Enhancement	AFY 15
Judicial Council Program and Subprogram	11,223,561			11,382,848
County & Municipal Probation Advisory Council			42,022	
Judicial Retirement System (CStCJ)		117,265		
Accountability Courts	438,057			
no changes				
Institute of Continuing Judicial Education	471,789			
no changes				
Judicial Qualifications Commission	527,706			
no changes				
Appellate Resource Center	800,000			
no changes				
Total	13,461,113	117,265	42,022	13,620,400

FY 2016 Judicial Council State Appropriation
HB 76 (Section 6)

Continuation	\$	13,461,113
FY 16 Final	\$	<u>15,411,761</u>
Difference	\$	1,950,648

Changes	<u>Continuation</u>	<u>Adjustment</u>	<u>Enhancement</u>	<u>FY 16</u>
Judicial Council Program and Subprogram	11,223,561			13,113,420
Civil Legal Services for Victims of DV			193,126	
Cold Case Project			100,000	
Council of Magistrate Court Judges Wizard			10,000	
County & Municipal Probation Advisory Council			277,167	
E-Filing Portal			120,000	
Georgia Council of Court Administrators			7,500	
Agency insurance premiums DOAS		43,951		
Employer share of the ERS - Judicial Council and CStCJ		329,738		
ERS eligible county employees				
Judicial Retirement System (CStCJ)		809,110		
Merit-based pay adjustments (7/1/2015)		43,218		
Teamworks billings		5,859		
Accountability Courts	438,057			446,319
Employer share of the Employees' Retirement System		6,126		
Merit-based pay adjustments (7/1/2015)		2,136		
Institute of Continuing Judicial Education	471,789			471,789
no changes				
Judicial Qualifications Commission	527,706			530,423
Employer share of the Employees' Retirement System		2,015		
Merit-based pay adjustments (7/1/2015)		702		
Appellate Resource Center	800,000			800,000
no changes				
Total	<u>13,461,113</u>	<u>1,242,855</u>	<u>707,793</u>	<u>15,411,761</u>



Judicial Council of Georgia

Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Interim Director

Memorandum

TO: Judicial Council Members

FROM: Justice Harold D. Melton 
Chair, Statewide Judiciary Civil E-filing Steering Committee

RE: Committee Report

DATE: May 26, 2015

The Statewide Judiciary Civil E-filing Steering Committee met on May 1, 2015 to discuss next steps for funding provided in the FY 2016 General Budget for the implementation of a statewide e-filing portal. A subcommittee was appointed to develop a Request for Proposal seeking a design recommendation to advance a statewide e-filing portal towards implementation. The request was issued May 15 and proposals will be accepted through June 1. The Committee will meet on June 4 to consider the subcommittee's recommendation for a vendor and a recommended design is expected to be delivered by August.

Proposed Uniform Superior Court Rule 36.16 (Electronic Filing) and Rule 36.17 (Sensitive Information) received final approval and publication from the Supreme Court on May 7.



Judicial Council of Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Interim Director

Memorandum

TO: Judicial Council of Georgia

FROM: Michelle Barclay, Assistant Director, AOC Office of Children, Families and the Courts

RE: Office of Children, Families and the Courts

DATE: June 4, 2015

In alignment with the strategic plan of the Judicial Council of Georgia to improve the administration of justice, the AOC, under Interim Director Cynthia Clanton, recently reorganized AOC's Office of Children, Families the Courts in an effort to include and cross-train all staff working with vulnerable populations in Georgia. The Office of Children, Families and the Courts already included the staff for the Supreme Court of Georgia Committee on Justice for Children, chaired by Presiding Justice P. Harris Hines; the Georgia Commission on Family Violence, chaired by Holly Tuchman; and the Georgia Commission on Child Support, chaired by Superior Court Judge Louisa Abbott.

As of May 15, 2015, the Office of Children, Families and the Courts expanded to include the staff for the Accountability Courts (which is in transition to serve the Accountability Court Council); the Judicial Council of Georgia's Access, Fairness, and Public Trust and Confidence Committee, which is co-chaired by Justice Robert Benham and Justice Carol Hunstein; and the AOC communications staff.

The staff within this section of the AOC is committed to working more closely together to be knowledgeable about each other's work, to have a view of work for our state's most vulnerable populations that goes beyond one's assigned project, to share knowledge about upcoming changes in law and policy that affect these populations, and to implement the recommendations set forth from these committees, commissions, charges and statutes.

Following is a brief synopsis of the work the Office of Children, Families and the Courts is doing.

- **Committee on Justice for Children:** The staff of the J4C are working in partnership with many executive branch agencies on the Cold Case Project, which provides expert attorney reviewers for children who have been in Georgia's foster care system for many years, to see what legal or due process problems exist in each case which could be resolved to help these children achieve legal permanency. The staff is also working to set up judicial summits around Georgia for both child

welfare outcome measures and school climate initiatives, as well as supporting the Case Process Report System (a shared child specific data information system between the judicial and executive branch). A J4C Committee meeting will be set for the fall of 2015.

- **Communications:** Improving communications for internal and external judicial branch audiences is a priority under the Judicial Council Strategic plan and a consultant has been engaged for helping the AOC develop a stronger communications plan and to provide coaching for the staff. In the meantime, the daily tasks of the Communications department include working on next Courts Journal; updating the Georgia Courts Directory; assisting with drafting and distribution of press releases; updating Judicial Council outgoing certificates and letterhead; updating Facebook/Twitter; uploads to georgiacourts.gov; updated agency organizational chart; taking photos and drafting communications
- **Child Support Commission:** Our Statute Review Committee met recently to discuss our proposed legislation that did not pass last session, and other issues for staff to research for the next session of the General Assembly. We are in the process of building an alternative child support calculator, which will be web-based. Staff attorney Pat Buonodono presented at the Family Law Institute last month with Commission member Katie Connell. Pat Buonodono and Elaine Johnson are participating in the Council of Superior Court Judges' Subcommittee on Problem Solving Courts. We continue to present trainings to judges, attorneys, and Division of Child Support Services employees throughout the state. We have made videos on how to prepare a child support worksheet and how to prepare income withholding documentation that are available to the public on our website. We respond to telephone calls every day from judges, attorneys and the public with child support worksheet questions, as well as to questions submitted through our website from the public.
- **Access, Fairness, and Public Trust and Confidence Committee:** The Committee is currently in transition, with Erin Oakley leaving for the private sector, and Lateefah Thomas coming in as the new Director. The Committee last met on April 9, 2015, when they heard a report from the JC/AOC Office of Research, Planning and Data Analysis regarding a statewide Baseline Customer Experience Survey, examining access and fairness measures within Georgia Courts. This report was presented to the Judicial Council at its February meeting. The Committee also heard reports on ongoing work and formed subcommittees accordingly: the ADA Handbook Revision Subcommittee, the National Association of Women Judges Conference Planning Subcommittee, and the Subcommittee on Human Trafficking and Immigration. The Committee will meet next on September 17, 2015. Thanks to Erin Oakley for all of her good work on behalf of the Committee; she will be missed.
- **Georgia Commission on Family Violence:** The Georgia Commission is pleased to announce that Governor Deal appointed the following Judges to the Georgia Commission:

Judge Jeffery Kight- Judicial District #1
Chief Judge Joe Bishop- Judicial District #2
Judge Katherine Lumsden- Judicial District #3
Judge Jeanette Little- Judicial District #6
Judge Mike Green- Judicial District #8

Chief Judge David Sweat- Judicial District #10

The Commission has provided the following trainings since May 1st: Connecting Law Enforcement to Local Resources (four trainings in three judicial circuits); three-day training for Family Violence Intervention Programs - Men Stopping Violence Men at Work curriculum - in Forsyth County; Fatality Review Project webinar on engaging the media. The Commission is now taking registrations for its 21st Annual Statewide Family Violence Conference, to be held at the Classic Center in Athens on September 27-30.



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SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA
STATE JUDICIAL BUILDING
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

HUGH P. THOMPSON
CHIEF JUSTICE

(404) 656-3472

SUPREME COURT REPORT

May 26, 2015

The Supreme Court of Georgia just approved a revised Code of Judicial Conduct which will take effect on January 1, 2016. It is the first major revision in more than 20 years. The issuing order expresses the Court's great appreciation to the members of the Study Committee and its reporter, Rich Reaves, for their diligent and thoughtful work on the project. I also want to thank my colleague Justice Nahmias for his leadership on this project.

Presiding Justice Hines has constituted a Search Committee for a new Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts. I am confident that the Committee will recruit a highly-qualified individual who has effective leadership skills, and talent, and is someone who can foster strong partnerships with Georgia's Executive and Legislative Branches. I note that during this time of transition, Cynthia Clanton has been doing an excellent job as interim director.

We are working on a project to preserve the history of the Supreme Court of Georgia for future generations by conducting videotaped interviews of former Justices and key former staff members. Their memories and perspectives about the Court, its people, and its rulings are what we hope to capture.

In my last report, I mentioned the Court implemented the part of the technology plan that gives trial court clerks the ability to electronically file an appellate record. We continue to forge ahead and have now opened the portal that provides attorneys in the case remote access to the record. This time-saving feature eliminates the need for counsel to travel to the Court to secure the record cites. I want to express my appreciation to Justice Melton, the IT-Department and Clerk's Office for their hard work on this project and also want to reiterate my appreciation to the Legislature as its past funding and continued funding is vital to the success of this endeavor.

Finally, our emphasis on making this Court's business accessible to the public continues to bear fruit. We regularly get media coverage of this Court's rulings, as well as of the cases coming up for oral argument. In addition, with Presiding Justice Hines' help, we have begun letting trial judges know of those rulings which may be of particular interest to them.



Council of Superior Court Judges of Georgia

Suite 104, 18 Capitol Square, Atlanta, Georgia 30334

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Council of Superior Court Judges Report to Judicial Council June 2015

The Council of Superior Court Judges will meet for its semi-annual conference and continuing education seminars in St. Simons Island, Georgia, July 26-30, 2015. The conference will provide training seminars on such topics as court technology; changes to the Code of Judicial Conduct; the implications of social media for courts, including accessing cell phone information and internet accounts in relation to criminal activity; and updates on case law, evidence code changes, and other legislative enactments. Approximately 250 superior court judges and senior judges are expected to attend the conference.

CSCJ will soon welcome another new judge: on May 12, Gov. Nathan Deal announced the appointment of Jean-Paul “JP” Boulee as a superior court judge for the Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit. New Judge Boulee will fill the vacancy created by the retirement of former judge Cynthia J. Becker, who retired effective March 1, 2015. Mr. Boulee is a partner with Jones Day in Atlanta and previously served as a captain in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General’s Corps. Mr. Boulee earned a bachelor’s degree in Politics from Washington & Lee University and a law degree from the University of Georgia School of Law. The appointment will become effective upon his swearing-in.

As of July 2014, Superior Courts had 84 accountability courts, an increase of 38 courts since July 1, 2011. More courts will continue to be added throughout 2015. Felony accountability courts saved Georgia taxpayers \$23 million in 2013. The Department of Corrections has estimated they saved \$30 million in 2014. During this year’s grant cycle, an additional six judicial circuits were awarded grants to start new accountability courts, bringing the total number of circuits participating to 44 of 49 judicial circuits.



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

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Bob Bray
Executive Director

Executive Committee

Judge Charles S. Wynne
President (Hall)

Judge Wayne H. Purdom
President Elect (DeKalb)

Judge Richard A. Slaby
Secretary (Richmond)

Judge Richard T. Kent
Treasurer (Colquitt)

Judge Linda S. Cowen
Past President (Clayton)

District 1
Judge Leon H. Braun, Jr. (Liberty)

District 2
Judge R. Violet Bennett (Wayne)

District 3
Judge John K. Edwards, Jr. (Lowndes)

District 4
Judge Aaron Mason (Clayton)

District 5
Judge Alan W. Thrower (Baldwin)

District 6
Judge Joseph C. Iannazzone (Gwinnett)

District 7
Judge Wesley B. Taylor (Fulton)

District 8
Judge T. Russell McClelland (Forsyth)

Report of the Council of State Court Judges
Judicial Council Meeting
June 17, 2015

The Council of State Court Judges continues to be proud of the work of our judges in the effective handling of the criminal and civil cases that are filed in our State Courts.

The Council of State Court Judges recently held its Spring Conference at The Georgia Center, in Athens, from May 12 – 15th. At this conference, our State Court Council elected new officers for the 2015-2016 year, as follows: Judge Wayne M. Purdom (DeKalb County) as President, Judge Richard A. Slaby (Richmond County) as President-Elect, Judge Richard T. Kent (Colquitt County) as Secretary, and Judge H. Gregory Fowler (Chatham County) as Treasurer. As the new President and President-Elect, Judge Purdom and Judge Slaby will be our representatives on the Judicial Council, beginning on July 1.

At our Spring Conference, our Council enjoyed inspiring messages by Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson at our Wednesday evening dinner, and by incoming State Bar President Robert J. Kauffman at our Thursday lunch. Our Council also recognized Marla Moore for her outstanding service with the Administrative Office of the Courts and her service to our Council over many years.

The past administrative year of the Council of State Court Judges (July 1, 2014 and ending on June 30, 2015) has been an active and successful one. We have welcomed nine new State Court judges who have taken office since last July 1, either through elections or appointments. They are all now actively involved in our Council. During this administrative year, Judge John K. Edwards, Jr. (State Court of Lowndes County) received the Faculty Medallion from the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education for his outstanding commitment to judicial education. Judge Janis Gordon (State Court of DeKalb County) was recently appointed by the Supreme Court of Georgia to the Board to Determine Fitness of Bar Applicants. Our Council commends Judge Edwards and Judge Gordon for these recognitions.

It has been my privilege to have served on the Judicial Council over the past two years, under the excellent leadership of Chief Justice Thompson, and to have worked with all of the dedicated members of this Judicial Council. I also am deeply grateful for the opportunity to have served as President of the Council of State Court Judges over the past year, and for the support of many State Court colleagues throughout Georgia. I look forward to the astute leadership that Judge Purdom will bring to our State Court Council in the coming year. I want to especially thank our Executive Director, Bob Bray, for the continued invaluable service that he has provided to our Council and to me over the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles S. Wynne
President, Council of State Court Judges



COUNCIL OF JUVENILE COURT JUDGES OF GEORGIA

Council of Juvenile Court Judges
Report to Judicial Council
June 17, 2015

The Council of Juvenile Court Judges met at its annual conference and continuing education seminar May 4-6 with over 100 full and part time judges attending. The new slate of executive committee officers began their term on June 1. Judge John Sumner of Cherokee County will serve as President, Judge Ben Brinson of Evans County will serve as President-Elect, Judge Jim Whitfield of Cobb County will serve as Vice-President, Judge Phil Spivey of the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit will serve as Treasurer, and Judge Juliette Scales of Fulton County will serve as Secretary.

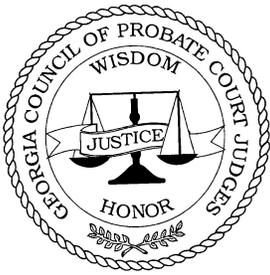
The following judges have retired over the past year: Cliff Jolliff of the Northeastern Circuit and Bryant Henry of the Lookout Mountain Circuit.

The Council welcomes the following new judges appointed over the past year: Alison Toler and Robert Weber of the Northeastern Circuit and Steve Ellis of the Lookout Mountain Circuit.

Our diverse courts, which include urban, rural, suburban, multi county circuits, full time, part time, and associate judges, exercise exclusive jurisdiction over cases of child abuse, neglect, and juvenile offenses as well as the new classification of Children In Need of Services (CHINS). As we enter the second full year of the juvenile code rewrite, our council continues to implement the code. We are also assisting in the data depository project of Georgia Council on Criminal Justice Reform with the goal to create a single repository case management system.

Respectfully submitted

Hon. John Sumner
President
Council of Juvenile Court Judges



Council of Probate Court Judges

Judge Don Wilkes
President (Emanuel)

Judge Alice W. Padgett
President Elect (Columbia)

Judge Rooney Bowen, III
First Vice President (Dooly)

Judge Darin McCoy
Secretary- Treasurer (Evans)

Judge L. Chase Daughtrey
Immediate Past President (Cook)

Memorandum

To: Judicial Council Members

From: Judge Don Wilkes, CPCJ President

Re: Council of Probate Court Judges Report

Date: June 17, 2015

Spring 2015 has been a season of training and planning with the Council of Probate Court Judges.

Leadership Retreat & Strategic Planning

Council leadership met at Flat Creek Lodge in Swainsboro for a three day retreat, setting priorities and discussing goals for the next year. We are anticipating our strategic planning retreat in July, where we will review our Council's strategic plan and the accomplishments of each of the teams responsible for the strategic objects found in the plan.

Vital Records Training

The State Office of Vital Records offered six trainings to probate judges on judges' responsibilities in vital records management. From May 11 to May 21, six trainings were completed in strategic communities throughout the state. The Council thanks the staff of the State Office of Vital Records for their time and dedication to these trainings.

Traffic Judges Training

The Carl Vinson Institute of Government and the Institute of Continuing Education of Georgia again provided excellent training for judges with traffic jurisdiction in late May.

Elections Training

Probate judges with elections responsibilities participated in the Georgia Election Officials Association training on May 3-6 of this year.

Marriage Licenses

The Council awaits the decision from the U.S. Supreme Court regarding same sex marriage. We are working on talking points for the Council as well as a new application form if needed. We have asked the JC/AOC General Counsel to look into any law that may create any obstacles for issuing such licenses.

Caseload Reporting

A working group of judges continues to assist the JC/AOC Office of Research, Planning, and Data Analysis in revising the probate judges' caseload reporting process. The intent of the workgroup is to accurately capture the duties of probate courts and the diversity of daily tasks that occur in our courts. Staff and judges met recently with several probate judges, reviewing files and workload in an effort to define the diversity of probate court duties, and council membership looks forward to reporting the data in 2016.



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District One
Judge Keith Barber
Judge W. Scott Brannen

District Two
Judge Richard T. Kent
Judge Willie Weaver, Sr.

District Three
Judge Michael P. Cielinski
Judge Jim Thurman

District Four
Judge LaTisha Dear Jackson
Judge Tisha Tallman

District Five
Judge Rashida Oliver
Judge Christopher Ward

District Six
Judge John Clayton Davis
Judge Christopher E. Chapman

District Seven
Judge Timothy McCreary
Judge Roger Rozen

District Eight
Judge Charles Butler
Judge E.R. Lanier

District Nine
Judge William F. Brogdon
Judge Margaret Gettle Washburn

District Ten
Judge Lori Duff
Judge Dale Samuels

Report to the Judicial Council of Georgia June 17, 2015

Among the current initiatives and projects of the Council of Municipal Court Judges are:

Legislation

For the 2015 session of the General Assembly, there were three primary legislative items sought by the Municipal Court Council. A major legislative initiative of the Council was to amend OCGA § 36-32-1, 2 regarding removal for cause of Municipal Court Judges. Municipal courts are the only class of court for which almost all of the judges are appointed officials serving at the pleasure of the political branches of government.

Additionally, the Council pursued legislation to designate Municipal Courts as courts “of record.” The last legislative initiative dealt with the matter of mandatory prosecutors in Municipal Courts. In 2012, a statute was enacted allowing the governing authority of a municipality to create the office of prosecuting attorney for Municipal Courts. O.C.G.A. § 15-18-91(a). That statute does not however mandate the creation of such office.

The three Council bills, which have draft legislation, were held over until next year’s session and will be worked on over the summer with the Georgia Municipal Association, the sponsors, and other interested parties.

Training Initiative and Strengthening the Council

The Council of Municipal Court Judges in conjunction with the Municipal Judges Training Council is conducting a series of “Lunch 'n' Learn” programs throughout the judicial districts to educate members regarding the function of the Executive Committee, that of the District Representatives, and the role of a Judge. The two hour class, which was approved for MCJE Credit, includes the following topics:

1. Recusals-When you should recuse; How to recuse; and How District Representatives should handle making appointments when they receive a recusal from a judge, per the Uniform Municipal Court Rules. (40 minutes)
2. About the Council of Municipal Court Judges, the Council's Executive Committee and District Representatives Responsibilities (20 minutes)
3. The Role of a Judge: Balancing Being a Judge and an Attorney (30 minutes)
4. Discussion, Questions and Answers (30 minutes)

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With a successful meeting in the City of Albany in early May several training sessions are scheduled to take place within the next few months. Additional meetings will be planned for the latter half of the year. Forums are scheduled for May 29th in Brunswick, Georgia, and June 19th in the Blue Ridge/Fannin County area.

Along these same lines, a separate training for District Representatives only, is planned to be held in conjunction with the Summer Law and Practice Update Seminar in Jekyll Island. Judge Leslie Spornberger Jones will facilitate a meeting for the seasoned and newly elected representatives on their functions in the Council.

Information Technology (IT) Strategic Planning

In recent years a technology plan was developed to enable the Municipal Court Council to continue to prioritize and deliver the IT services which would best support the courts across the judicial system of Georgia. As a critical component to the yearly development of the CMuniCJ and the services and representation it provides its membership, contributors met in Columbus, Georgia, to re-examine those strategic goals, assess progress in implementing them, and set goals for accomplishing those parts of the plan which have not yet been implemented and derive new initiatives. Additionally, as a part of this process, participants aligned the Strategic IT Plan with the Council's current Strategic Business Plan.

The Council plans to meet in the first quarter of CY16 to assess its progress with the Strategic Business Plan.

Leadership Session

As a critical component in assuring continuity in leadership and the yearly development of the CMuniCJ and the services and representation it provides its membership, representatives from the Council are scheduled to meet June 12-13, 2015 in Eatonton, Georgia, for a two day session. Normally held annually following the election of new leadership, its purpose is for the President and other officers of the Council to share their vision for the upcoming year and to hold discussions regarding any pertinent association initiatives from previous years and those moving forward.

Continuing Judicial Education

The Council is scheduled to hold its annual Summer Law and Practice Seminar June 24-26, 2015, in Jekyll Island, Georgia, conducted through the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education (ICJE). The three day program will provide accreditation for those serving as of January 1, 2015, in addition to recertifying judges. The curriculum will include JQC Issues; The 2015 Probation Bill-What you need to Know; Social Media; Toxicology-A General Overview; Technology in the Courts; DDS; Revised Judicial Code of Conduct; Immigration Issues; Domestic Violence Issues; 17-18 Year Olds in Municipal Court; Case Law Update and Evidence. Additional subject matter tracks will be provided to new judges as well.

The Council will also hold its Executive Committee, Business and Training Council meetings during this conference.

Next Meeting

The Municipal Judges Executive Committee is scheduled to meet June 23rd in Jekyll Island, Georgia, in conjunction with the Summer Law and Practice Update Seminar.



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COUNCIL OF SUPERIOR COURT CLERKS OF GEORGIA

Report to Judicial Council
June 17, 2015

From our civil efilings project to criminal transcripts, we have instituted several mechanisms for receiving electronic data. The Council's portal for civil efilings has 55 counties currently accepting efilings from any filer. These counties are all with a single case management vendor. When our second largest vendor comes online, we expect the number of counties accepting efilings to reach 138 total by September 2015.

Our secure FTP portal for receiving criminal transcripts has been very well received by those court reporters who have used it and 110 counties are using that portal to receive eTranscripts. Court reporters are embracing the ease and simplicity of this mechanism for filing their transcripts.

We held a training meeting on May 21, 2015 at the Bibb county courthouse regarding correct data entry for case management data. A number of initiatives arose from this session with future discussions scheduled for this summer.

Thank you for the opportunity to update you on our work.

Cinda Bright President
Council of Superior Court Clerks
and
Clerk of Superior Court
Wilkinson County.

Mike Holiman
Executive Director
Council of Superior Court Clerks
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