



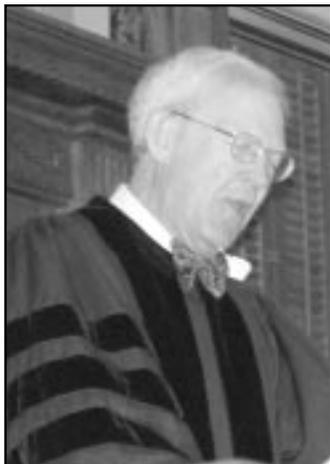
## State of Judiciary Address: Georgia Courts at Work

**C**hief Justice Norman S. Fletcher delivered his State of the Judiciary address to a joint session of the General Assembly on Friday, January 16, 2004.

The Chief Justice spoke of “the things that are working well, about court system needs, and about those things which, if implemented, will make our justice system work even better.”

### *Indigent Defense*

Quoting Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Chief Justice Fletcher characterized the indigent defense issue by saying, “It is always the right time to do that which is right.” He praised the legislature for its work in establishing the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council and asked the lawmakers to avoid making changes that might well “destroy the contemplated uniform, accountable system.”



**Chief Justice Norman S. Fletcher addresses the General Assembly.**

### *Court Fee Study*

Chief Justice Fletcher reported that the current Court Fee Program has brought about enhanced efficiency in calculation, collection, and remittance of fees across all levels of courts. Training classes have been held during the past year for over 500 court officials. The Administrative Office of the Courts entered into an agreement with the Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission to act as the receiving and monitoring agent for fees. The result has been a much higher participation rate by the courts and a higher rate of collection.

### *Court Technology*

In December 2003 based on the recommendations of an independent study by the BearingPoint consulting firm, the Supreme Court created the Committee on Court Technology.

continued on pg 3

## Chief Justice Receives NCSC Carrico Award

**T**he National Center for State Courts has named Chief Justice Norman S. Fletcher its inaugural Harry L. Carrico Award honoree. Chief Justice Fletcher was selected in recognition of his leadership and commitment to improving indigent defense in Georgia. The award presentation was made at the mid-year meeting of the Conference of Chief Justices held in San Francisco, CA, January 18-21, 2004. ☪

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# People, Places and Events ...

## *In Memoriam*

\* **Senior Judge Edward Wheeler** of Decatur died on October 9, 2003. Judge Wheeler served as a juvenile court judge in DeKalb County from 1975 until his retirement in 1995.

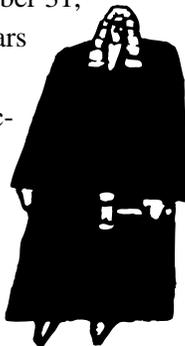
\* **Senior Judge Jack Gunter** of Cornelia died on November 24, 2003. Judge Gunter retired in 1992 after serving as a superior court judge in the Mountain Judicial Circuit for 20 years.

\* **Sr. Judge Oscar D. Smith, Jr.** of Columbus died December 17, 2003. Judge Smith served on the bench of the Columbus City Court from 1962-69 and as a superior court judge in the Muscogee Judicial Circuit from 1970-1980. After graduating from Georgia Southwestern College, he joined the Army Air Corps where he earned the Distinguished Flying Cross. Judge Smith earned his law degree from the University of Virginia Law School.

## *Retirements*

\* **Judge Margaret Huff**, Probate Court of Gilmer County, retired in September after 24 years. Judge Huff was first elected in 1980, at the age of 21. **Chief Clerk Anita Mullins** has assumed the duties as judge.

\* **Juvenile Court Judge Donald Manning**, Brunswick Judicial Circuit, retired on December 31, 2003, after serving 15 years on the bench. **Judge George M. Rountree** succeeded Judge Manning on January 1, 2004.



## *Resignations*

\* **Judge Tripp Barwick**, Decatur County Probate Court, resigned in October to enter private practice. **Judge Edwin J. Perry, III**, was sworn in to serve as probate court judge until a special election is held in March 2004.

\* DeKalb County District Attorney **J. Tom Morgan** has announced his resignation effective January 31, 2004. Mr. Morgan will return to private practice.

## *Appointments*

### *Superior Courts*

\* At a swearing-in ceremony held November 7, 2003 in the Senate Chambers of the State Capitol, Governor Sonny Perdue administered the oath of office to **Judge David L. Dickinson** of the Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit and **Judge J. Bryant Durham, Jr.** of the Rome Judicial Circuit. Judge Dickinson fills the vacancy left by the recent death of **Chief Judge Stan Gault**. Judge Durham succeeds **Chief Judge Robert G. Walther** who retired Nov. 1, 2003.

## *State Courts*

\* **Judge Carla E. Brown**, appointed by Gov. Perdue to the State Court of Gwinnett County, was also sworn-in on November 7. Judge Brown fills the seat vacated by **Judge David Fuller**.

\* **Judge Troy Russell McClelland, III**, took the oath of office December 30, 2003 to become judge of the State Court of Forsyth County. Judge McClelland succeeds Judge David L. Dickinson.

## *Elected*

\* **Judge Pam Ferguson** was elected on November 1, 2003, as Probate Judge of Clayton County. The special election was held to fill the unexpired term of Judge Eugene Lawson who retired June 31, 2003.

## *Equality Commission*

\* The Supreme Court Commission on Equality has a new name. The change to the **Georgia Commission on Access and Fairness in the Courts (GCAFT)** reflects the expanded mandate of the Commission to address broader issues of fairness and accessibility, including access for individuals with disabilities.

Contact Ms. Stephanie Chambliss at 404-463-3927 for more information on the Commission's new and on-going projects.

# People, Places ... cont.

## *Awards for Community Service*

\* Recipients of the **2003 Justice Robert Benham Awards for Community Service** were announced on January 16, 2004 at the State Bar of Georgia mid-year meeting. The individuals recognized have combined a professional career with outstanding service and dedication to their community through voluntary participation in the community.

- **Judge William P. Adams**,  
Bibb County State Court
- **Judge Stephen E. Boswell**,  
Clayton County Superior Court
- **Ms. Cynthia Hinrichs Clanton**,  
AOC General Counsel
- **Mr. James J. Dalton, II**,  
Jonesboro
- **Judge James E. Drane**,  
Cherokee Cty Magistrate Court
- **Mr. Kenneth B. Hodges**,  
DA, Dougherty Judicial Circuit
- **Ms. Constance McManus**,  
Marietta
- **Mr. John B. Miller**,  
Savannah
- **Judge Robin S. Nash**,  
DeKalb County Juvenile Court
- **Jacquelyn H. Saylor**,  
Atlanta
- **David M. Zacks**,  
Atlanta

## *JQC Election Rule*

\* The Supreme Court of Georgia has issued the final version of the new rule governing judicial elections in the state. The rule includes the proposed changes published for comment on September 15, 2003. A new section specifies how sanctions will be applied. A new preamble to the Georgia Code of Judicial Conduct sets out ethical standards for the judicial and personal conduct of judges.

The new rules for judicial elections apply both to incumbents and to candidates. Unsuccessful candidates are still subject to discipline by the Judicial Qualifications Commission or the State Bar of Georgia.

The full text of the final rule can be viewed at [www.georgiacourts.org](http://www.georgiacourts.org)

## *Staff Notes*

\* **Mr. Al Frazier**, AOC Grants Manager, was named Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Atlanta Chapter of the Association of Fund-Raising Professionals (AFP), effective January 1, 2004. The executive committee meets monthly to discuss funding opportunities, trends, and strategies. ♪

# State of the Judiciary cont.

Mr. Bill Ide of Atlanta and Judge Timothy Pape, Floyd County Juvenile Court will serve as co-chairs. (See related story pg 5.)

## *Success Stories*

Chief Justice Fletcher highlighted the work of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission, the Commission on Interpreters, and the drug court initiative as ongoing projects that reflect well on the court system.

The Chief Justice also noted that new projects such as a pilot business court and a study on revision of jury panels are in process.

## *Requests and Needs*

Chief Justice Fletcher renewed requests for legislative support for: nonpartisan election of probate and magistrate court judges, as well as district attorneys; new superior court judgeships for five judicial circuits; sentencing reform; and the Legal Loan Forgiveness Program.

“The judicial branch is most concerned about suggested reductions in our already meager budget,” Chief Justice Fletcher said. “It has been far too long since our judges, prosecutors, and other court personnel have received any salary increases.” While he realizes the budget shortfalls at this time, the Chief Justice stated that salary concerns of the judiciary need to be addressed. ♪

The full text of the State of the Judiciary address can be viewed at <http://www2.state.ga.us/Courts/Supreme/>

Click onto what's new at ...

[www.georgiacourts.org](http://www.georgiacourts.org)

# Alternative Dispute Resolution turns 25

In 1978 Georgia pioneered one of the first alternative dispute resolution (ADR) programs in the nation. The tiny seed that was first planted at Atlanta's Neighborhood Justice Center has now grown into a hardy plant with off-shoots in counties throughout the state.

The Office of Dispute Resolution celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary at a two-day meeting held at Lake Lanier Conference Center in November. More than 270 people attended.

Keynote speaker Harvard Law School professor Frank E. A. Sander, widely regarded as the "parent" of ADR, noted that Georgia responded energetically to the opportunities and challenges presented by ADR. Two Georgians, then-President Jimmy Carter and then-Attorney General Griffin Bell, initiated the first ADR programs in Neighborhood Justice Centers.

The ADR conference was sponsored by the Institute of Continuing Legal Education, the Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution, the Alternative Dispute Resolution Section of the State Bar, and the Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution.

## Local Programs

Chief Judge H. Gibbs Flanders, Jr., Dublin Judicial Circuit, a strong proponent of ADR, chairs the Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution. Judge Flanders has had an ADR program in his four-county circuit for

10 years, using it mostly for domestic cases.

"In the courtroom setting, all too often, parents feel they have to advance their cause by criticizing their spouse. ADR lets you avoid discussions that are counter-productive. If people are able to reach an agreement, it's so much better than if the court or the judge has to make these decisions for them," Judge Flanders said. The local bar, originally skeptical, now supports the program and frequently refers cases, he added.

While trained mediators or neutrals are used in the Dublin Circuit, Superior Court Judge Philip F. Etheridge of the Atlanta Circuit serves as the neutral himself. Civil cases are referred to him by his colleagues. He is assisted by his staff attorney, Nancy Grossman.

Judge Etheridge said he offers litigants a "reality check," reviewing their cases and letting them know whether they are likely to prevail in court. For ADR to be effective, it is essential to have a good neutral, Judge Etheridge said. "I try to be patient, to listen and let them know I'm actively interested in their case, and not to be critical. I give them an opportunity to have some control over the outcome. They have to

understand the reality of the situation, and that goes back to the neutral." If mediation does not succeed, the litigants retain the right to proceed in court.

Acceptance of ADR by judges is growing, Judge Etheridge said. "Most judges believe, as I do, that judges are there to resolve disputes. And whatever is the most efficient way to do that is what we ought to be doing. ADR is a much cheaper, more efficient way to get disputes resolved. It's nice to see

how far we've come and the progress we've made in twenty-five years."

## Challenges Ahead

ADR still faces challenges according to Justice Leah Ward Sears. She cited the lack of public funding for mediation services and decreasing support from private foundations. Speakers noted tensions between lawyers and non-lawyers trained as neutrals. The supply of qualified non-lawyer mediators now exceeds demand in Georgia. Maintaining the high quality of neutrals also needs to be addressed.

Ms. Leila Taaffe, director of the Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution expects continuing development of ADR services. "I envision that ADR processes will become fully integrated in all trial courts in Georgia as an ordinary means for litigants to take responsibility for resolving their disputes," she said.

More information is available at [www.ganet.org/gadr](http://www.ganet.org/gadr)



Judge Philip Etheridge



Chief Judge Gibbs Flanders

**"ADR is a much cheaper, more efficient way to get disputes resolved."**

## Georgia ICM Graduates: Past and Present

**M**s. Leslie E. Johnson, of the AOC (right center) and Mr. John Cowart, Second District Court Administrator (left center) are recent graduates of the Court Management Program offered by the Institute for Court Management. They join a growing number of Georgia court officials, including Ms. Marla Moore (left) and Mr. David Ratley (right) who have gained professional certification from the Institute.



Ms. Johnson now supervises the Regulatory Unit of the AOC Court Services Division which certifies and licenses court reports, court interpreters, and private probation providers. The State Justice Institute awarded a scholarship to Ms. Johnson for completion of the advanced level phase of the program. Mr. Cowart has served as district court administrator for the superior courts of the southwestern corner of the state for many years. He now enters Phase III of the Court Executive Development Program. ☪

## Court Technology Committee Formed

**C**hief Justice Norman S. Fletcher has announced the formation of the Supreme Court Committee on Court Technology. Mr. R. William Ide of Atlanta and Judge Timothy A. Pape of Floyd County Juvenile Court will serve as co-chairs.

The Committee will examine the governance structure of information technology (IT) in the Georgia courts and make recommendations for improvements. Additionally, the Committee will study e-filing guidelines, make recommendations on

their applicability to the Georgia Courts and develop a time-line for e-filing implementation.



“I am confident the committee will be able to accomplish our mission of improving technology and moving positively forward in our automation efforts for all of Georgia’s courts,” the Chief Justice stated. ☪

### Court Technology Committee:

**Judge John D. Allen**, Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit;  
**Mr. Carlton W. Blair, Jr.**, Clerk, Chatham County State Court;  
**Judge William M. Coolidge, III**, Duluth Municipal Court;  
**Ms. Gayle Collins**, Clerk, Whitfield County Magistrate Court;  
**Mr. John E. Cowart, Jr.**, District 2 Court Administrator;  
**Mr. Malvern Ulysses Griffin, III**, Atlanta;  
**Ms. Jane Gaguski**, Clerk, Lawrenceville Municipal Court  
**Judge N. Jackson Harris**, Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit;  
**Ms. Kimberly Hunnicutt**, Court Reporter;  
**Judge Joseph Iannazzone**, State Court of Gwinnett County;  
**Judge Cliff L. Jolliff**, Juvenile Court of Hall County;  
**Mr. Steven D. Kelley**, District Attorney, Brunswick Circuit;  
**Mr. William L. Martin, III**, Clerk, Georgia Court of Appeals;  
**Ms. Jodie Overcash**, District 7 Court Administrator;  
**Judge John C. Pridgen**, Cordele Judicial Circuit;  
**Mr. Rudolph N. Patterson**, Macon;  
**Judge Thomas W. Reed**, Magistrate Court of Dade County;  
**Ms. Jean H. Rogers**, Clerk, Crisp County Superior Court;  
**Judge William J. Self, II**, Probate Court of Bibb County;  
**Ms. V. Natasha Perdew Silas**, Public Defender Standards Council  
**Ms. Rosa Stroud**, Clerk, Henry County Probate Court  
**Judge Brenda S. Weaver**, Appalachian Judicial Circuit;  
**Ms. Sherie M. Welch**, Clerk, Supreme Court of Georgia; and  
**Mr. F. Barry Wilkes**, Clerk, Liberty County Superior Court

## Circuit Public Defenders: Office Space Wanted

Judson S. Bryant, Jr., A.I.A.

House Bill 770, establishing the new public defender system, is very specific about two issues, the courts served and the staff assigned. Only cases in the Superior Court and Juvenile Court will be defended by the Circuit Public Defender. Staff for the Circuit Public Defender's office is prescribed as follows:<sup>\*</sup>

- Circuit Public Defender (CPD) [1]
- Assistant Circuit Public Defenders (ACPD) one for each superior court judge
- ACPD for each full-time juvenile court judge.
- Investigator [1]
- Administrative Assistants [2]

<sup>\*</sup>(see OCGA §§ 17-12-23; -27, -28, -29)

### Facility Needs

In many ways the Circuit Public Defender's facility needs are not much different from the District Attorney or the Solicitor. The Circuit Public Defender will require an office of approximately 350 ft.<sup>2</sup> and each Assistant Circuit Public Defender will require an office of at least 250 ft.<sup>2</sup>. This will allow each lawyer a personal work space and an area for conferences with clients, opposing counsel, etc. The ACPD designated for defendants in juvenile court may need an additional 100 ft.<sup>2</sup> to separate children from adult clients.

An Investigator can be adequately provided for in an area of 125 ft.<sup>2</sup> - 150 ft.<sup>2</sup>. Since most of their work is done in the field, they will be using their offices primarily for filing reports and conducting meetings.

Administrative Assistants can adequately discharge their responsibilities in an open office environment where a space of 80 ft.<sup>2</sup> is provided for work stations.

Record storage space will vary depending on the caseload of each circuit. An area of 200 ft.<sup>2</sup> should be adequate. Storage to disk, especially CD's, can limit the amount of paper files maintained. Inactive files should be stored, securely, off-site.

Finally, a reception area of approximately 200 ft.<sup>2</sup> is required. Public restrooms must be provided if none are available elsewhere in the building.

### Planning Ahead

A location for the Public Defender's office must be designated. As with any circuit-wide, state-funded service, offices are often located in each county courthouse. The courts would be best served if the entire Public Defender's office were housed under one roof. In other courthouses an office of approximately 150 ft.<sup>2</sup> should be designated for the CPD to take initial information on the assigned cases and conduct initial interviews.

Most of the courthouses in Georgia are full to overflowing and do not have a contiguous area of the size required. Constructing an addition for the Public Defender could cost \$100-\$150 per ft.<sup>2</sup> or \$30,000-\$40,000 for an addition of 2,400 - 3,000 ft.<sup>2</sup>. Finding rental space would cost \$8 -\$10 per ft.<sup>2</sup> or even \$12 -\$15 per ft.<sup>2</sup>.

### Conclusion

When the General Assembly appropriates funds for staffing Circuit Public Defender offices, counties will be relieved of certain costs. But those costs will be replaced with new costs for housing the state-paid staff. Each of the forty-nine circuits will be required to provide between 2,500 - 5,000 ft.<sup>2</sup> of centrally-located office space within the circuit. ⚡

Contact Marla Moore or David Ratley at the AOC, 404-656-5171, for information on assistance for local facilities planning.

# Making the Most of a SPLOST ... Part Two

Judson S. Bryant, Jr., A.I.A.

*Editor's Note: Part One of this article appeared in the October, 2003 issue of the Georgia Courts Journal. Mr. Bryant previously addressed development of a **Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax** initiative to fund capitol projects. Please refer to the earlier article for information on SPLOST Master Planning, Project Needs, and Cost Projections. Part Two continues the discussion of financing building projects and local community involvement.*

## **Pay as you go or borrow?**

Borrowing against the revenue stream versus a "pay as you go" philosophy assumes that the county has a borrowing agent in the form of a Building Authority or is willing to pursue Certificates of Participation (COPs). A Building Authority, created by local legislation, allows a county to borrow funds without voter approval using the county revenue stream to secure the debt.

## **Costs of Bonds**

With bond rates at historic lows, interest paid on bonds can be as little as two percent. Construction projects that are high on the priority list are good candidates for bond consideration.

Bond issuance has its costs. There are legal fees, bond counsel fees, cost of issuance, etc. The total cost of the bond issuance may approach ten percent of the face value of the amount bonded. These costs must be covered from either existing county funds or as a deduction against the revenue stream.

For example: a courthouse is to be built at a projected cost of \$20,000,000; securing bonds against the sales tax revenues could cost the county as much as \$1.8 million. If the county has no additional revenue source for interest and bond costs, the \$1.8 million must come directly from the revenue stream. In effect this lowers funds available for all projects by \$1.8 million. If a project is budgeted at \$180 per square foot, a cost to the project of \$1.8 million will reduce the building area by 10,000 square feet.

Cash flow becomes key in the cost analysis. Since regular payments including POI are made against bond indebtedness, sales tax revenues can be invested and used to make payments. Such investments yield a fixed percentage while the bond indebtedness is also fixed. If the sales tax revenues can be invested to produce income equal to the interest on the bond, then the net effect on project scope is zero.

## **The Role of a SPLOST Committee**

Every major corporation on the Fortune 500 operates with a Board of Directors. These are people from diverse backgrounds who bring to the table points of view that support good decision-making. A SPLOST Committee functions in a similar manner. The extensive research developed in the early phases of the SPLOST Master Planning can be rendered useless if an error in judgment or data is perceived. The Master Plan must address community concerns.

The committee guides each step the Master Planning process. Their recommendations define each project on the critical list, each funding approach, and the size and budget for each project. The committee prioritizes the project list and informs and motivates voters.

The committee should consist of representatives of county constituencies, as well as leaders from the business community. The chair should be an individual capable of finding consensus and pushing for decisions. While discussion and discord is the way of all committees, the chair should strive for unanimity.

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*From Our Facilities Consultant*

## Local Programs Showcase

### DeKalb Juvenile Court Project Destiny Assists At-Risk Teens

The Juvenile Court of DeKalb County recently launched Project Destiny — a program that links members of the business community with at-risk teenagers. Through partnerships with local businesses, the DeKalb County School System and community organizations, the program provides at-risk teens with the skills to enter the workforce.

Chief Judge Gregory A. Adams of the DeKalb Juvenile Court believes, “the level and magnitude of services to be provided to youth under this initiative is unprecedented in DeKalb’s recent history. This effort is the bridge to assist many of these youth to become productive, law-abiding citizens.”

The program now serves 160 juveniles, some of whom are current probationers and others who have already completed probation. A two-year, \$600,000 Youth Offender Reentry grant from the U.S. Dept. of Labor funds the program.

Lack of education is one of the main risk factors for teens who enter the criminal justice system, according to DeKalb program manager Gloria G. Leslie. Eligible juveniles must be 14 - 21 years old, at least two years behind in school or school drop-outs. Teens must be drug free and willing to participate.

#### Achievement Plan

In collaboration with the school system, an individual achievement plan is developed for each child,



(l-r) Dr. Gary McGiboney, DeKalb County Schools; Chief Judge Gregory A. Adams, DeKalb Juvenile Court; Mr. Ben Jakes, Executive Director, Project Destiny; and Dr. Johnny Brown, Superintendent, DeKalb County Schools, look on as a student learns to use the computer.

based on their level of educational attainment. The plan may focus on achieving the skills to return to school, pass the GED, or to upgrade basic skills. Tutoring and other services are offered outside the school setting in a county building. Teens who participate may be paid a stipend of up to \$250 for successfully reaching their goals. Job training is also part of the program.

For more information, contact Ms. Gloria Leslie at (404) 294-2394. ☎

### Cobb Magistrate Court Adopts e-filing

Cobb County Magistrate Court will go live in 2004 with an e-filing system that is custom-designed for the court.

“We have tried to make the system as convenient as we could for our citizens,” noted Chief Magistrate Judge Frank R. Cox. “It also helps us because now the users themselves will be inputting the information we need into the system, which reduces data entry for our employees. We wanted something that would interface with our case-tracking system and eliminate unnecessary steps and duplication of effort, given that over 5,000 small claims were filed in this court in 2003.”

Initially, e-filing will be used only for small claims and landlord-tenant/

dispossessory procedures, said Magistrate Court Administrator Ms. Bobbie C. Ely.

Filings become official when the user receives an e-mail confirmation from the court. Later, a hard copy and case number will be sent to the filer by mail. In addition, a copy will go to the sheriff’s office to be served on the defendant.

The system accepts credit card payments, according to Sherry Head, Civil Division Manager for the court. There is no cost to the user beyond the normal filing fees. Best of all, the service will be available around the clock, allowing users to avoid parking problems and lines at the clerk’s office.

For more information, contact Ms. Bobbie Ely at 770-528-8900. ☎



Judge Cox and Ms. Sherry Head, Cobb County Magistrate Court

## Local Programs Showcase

### Recorder's Court of Chatham County

**M**unicipal court, for most Americans, is where the rubber meets the road. For many, it will be their only encounter with the court system. That's why Judge LeRoy Burke, III sees himself partly as an ambassador, not just for the Recorder's Court of Chatham County, but for the court system as a whole.

Given the court's annual case-load of some 72,000 cases, and as one of only two full-time judges of the Recorder's Court, Judge Burke has plenty of opportunity to practice his diplomatic skills. The judge expects to get further practice when the G-8 Summit is held in nearby Sea Island in June 2004. The court is deep in preparations for dealing with the hundreds of protesters who

are likely to show up in Savannah. Mr. Brian Hart, Court Administrator, is fine-tuning plans for processing those arrested in an orderly way without creating too much backlog in the court's ordinary business.

Under normal conditions, traffic and local ordinance violations take up much of the court's time. Judges conduct commitment hearings in misdemeanor and felony cases as well as bond and first appearance hearings. The court serves both the City of Savannah and unincorporated Chatham County.



Judge LeRoy Burke, III

Judge Burke, first appointed to the bench in 1993, has been reelected three times. He is active in the Council of Municipal Court Judges and serves on the Municipal Court Judges Training Council.

Judge Burke is especially mindful of the needs of pro se litigants. "Often we have to administer both justice and mercy, and help people along," he said. "I try to make sure pro se's understand from the beginning what the stakes are. I explain that traffic violations are criminal offenses and what the penalties are. For certain types of violations I advise them that a lawyer would be helpful, and that they have the right to an attorney." ♠

### Drug Court Evaluation Workshop a Success

**O**ver 140 people from across Georgia gathered in Savannah in September to learn more about strategies for evaluating the effectiveness of drug courts. Judges, prosecutors, probation officers, treatment providers, law enforcement officers, case managers, defense attorneys and public

defenders came to discover what evaluation requires, and how to go about it in their own courts.

The workshop was sponsored by the AOC, the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the NCSC.

Ms. Debra Nesbit, AOC Assistant Director for Legislative and Governmental Affairs, stated that, "although there are no plans to mandate evaluations for drug court programs in Georgia, the attendance reflects the widespread interest in demonstrating that drug court programs are effective."

An effective evaluation can reveal not just whether a program is working, but where it could be improved. It can identify gaps in service, factors associated with drop-out rates, where resources are most needed, and allows for rapid adjustments, according to the invited speakers.

For information on Georgia's drug courts, see the AOC website, [www.georgiacourts.org](http://www.georgiacourts.org), or contact Ms. Nesbit, (404) 651-7616, or Program Manager Mr. James Banks, (404) 463-4155. ♠

Please  
Recycle



# 2003-2004 Georgia Courts Directory Corrections

*Please note these corrections.*

## **SUPERIOR COURT**

### Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit

Judge David L. Dickinson  
100 W. Courthouse Square, Ste. 30  
Cumming, GA 30040  
770-781-2133/F 888-8862

### Rome Judicial Circuit

Judge J. Bryant Durham, Jr.  
Three Government Plaza, Suite 310  
Rome, GA 30161  
706-291-5124/F 290-6080

## **SENIOR JUDGE**

Correction:

Judge Wm. Dan Knight, Sr. (*not Jr.*)

Add: Judge Robert G. Walther  
One Old Shorter Hill  
Rome, GA 30161-3264  
706-291-1433

## **STATE COURT**

### Forsyth County

Judge Troy Russell McClelland, III  
100 W. Courthouse Square  
Cumming, GA 30040  
770-781-2130/F 886-2834

### Gwinnett County

Judge Carla E. Brown  
75 Langley Drive  
Lawrenceville, GA  
770-822-8503/F 822-8536  
cebrown@co.gwinnett.ga.us

## **JUVENILE COURT**

### Brunswick Circuit

Judge George Rountree  
1725 Reynolds Street  
Brunswick, GA 31520  
912-554-7039  
grountree@glynncounty.org

## **MAGISTRATE COURT**

### Clayton County

Delete:  
Judge Barbara Briley  
Judge Clara E. Bucci

Add:

Judge Edward R. Downs, Jr.  
Judge Gloria Darty Reed

### Cobb County

Delete: Judge Laura Austin

Add: Judge Doug Davis  
8010 Roswell Road, Suite 200  
Atlanta, GA 30350  
770-993-3300

### Coffee County

Delete: Judge Mitchell Allen  
McCrimmon

Add: Judge Joe Allen Dillard  
1238 Timber Trail  
Nicholls, GA 31554  
912-345-5542

### Cook County

Chief Magistrate  
from: Judge Ellen Wood  
to: Judge Ellen Graham

### Hall County

Chief Magistrate  
Judge Margaret Gregory

### Polk County

Chief Magistrate  
Delete: Judge Rick Crawford  
Add: Judge Jean Crane

### Rockdale County

Add: Judge Garland C. "Gary" Moore  
PO Box 289  
Conyers, GA 30012  
770-929-4075

## **SPECIAL COURT**

### City Court of Atlanta

Judge Gary E. Jackson  
150 Garnett Street, SW, Suite 623  
gejackson@atlantaga.gov

## **MUNICIPAL COURT**

### Bartow

Add: Judge Annie L. Durden  
PO Box 267  
Bartow, GA 30413

### Blairsville

Delete: Judge Joyce Kitchens

### Cave Spring

Delete: Judge Ronald D. Hunter

Add: Judge Steven Burkhalter  
Three Government Plaza  
Rome, GA 30160

### Dillard, Mountain City, Sky Valley

Delete: Judge Frank Sutton

### Hephzibah

Judge Ben Swain McElmurray, Jr.  
407 Telfair Street  
Augusta, GA 30901  
706-724-0702

### Metter

Delete: Judge Ogden Doremus

Add: Judge J. Kendall Gross  
PO Box 695  
Metter, GA 30439  
912-985-4619

## Justice Hines Speaks to Accountants



Supreme Court Justice Harris Hines (second from left) spoke to the Association of Government Accountants at their monthly meeting held on November 20, 2003, at the Atlanta Merchandise Mart. Members of the AOC Fiscal Department, (l-r) Mr. Vince Harris, Ms. Roxanne Harkcom, and Mr. Randy Dennis are pictured with Justice Hines. ☪

## Making the Most of a SPLOST ... cont.

### *Educating the Community*

Do not attempt to secure a SPLOST if you are unsure of the projects to be funded. A public that does not understand the need for a project, will not fund a project. A SPLOST initiative is sensitive to timing and education of the community regarding the county's facility needs.

Knowing voter opinion is critical. Many constituents have limited need to use the county courthouse; therefore, they are generally uninformed as to the need for adequate space.

In the early phases of a SPLOST during the needs analysis, an outside consultant can be the fastest way to secure accurate analysis of estimated needs and costs. The Administrative Office of the Courts can provide the assistance of a facility planner to help define the scope of space needed by the courts. Assistance can also be sought from private consulting firms.

Contingency funds should be set aside in case of unforeseen conditions that might arise. Being prepared for the worst can mean the difference between having a project ready as promised, or one left unfinished because of a funding shortfall. ☪

*Judson Bryant is Facilities Coordinator for the Administrative Office of the Courts. To request his services contact Marla Moore or David Ratley, 404-656-5171.*

## Directory Corrections cont.

### **MUNICIPAL COURT cont.**

#### Peachtree City

Delete: Judge Mitchell Powell

#### Thomson

Delete: Judge H. Bradford Morris, Jr.

#### Whitesburg

Judge Betty Cason  
PO Box 338  
Carrollton, GA 30112  
770-830-5840

#### Zebulon

Judge Ben Miller, Jr.  
PO Drawer 671  
Thomaston, GA 30286  
706-647-5466

### **FEDERAL JUDGES**

#### Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals

Senior Judge James C. Hill  
Suite 14-400, US Courthouse  
300 N. Hogan Street  
Jacksonville, GA 32202-4259  
904-301-6630/F 301-6635

### **SUPERIOR COURT CLERK**

#### Brantley County

M. Anthony Ham  
PO Box 1067  
Nahunta, GA 31553

# Mears Named Executive Director of Public Defender Standards Council

The Georgia Public Defender Standards Council (GPDS) has named Mr. Mike Mears as its first Executive Director. The decision was announced by Mr. Emmett Bondurant in December.

As the former director of the Georgia Multi-County Public Defender office, Michael Mears is already a familiar figure to many judges. "I have defended death penalty cases in the vast majority of Georgia counties. For the most part, I have never seen a judge who does not understand

that the defendant's attorney has a duty to represent him vigorously,"

Mr. Mears said. "The response from judges to my appointment has been very positive. That's significant because death penalty cases have the most potential for conflict built-in."

Mr. Mears plans to meet with the chief judge in every circuit to answer their questions about the new system. He noted that the public defender system cannot be established "by edict from Atlanta. I will

listen to judges and take advice from them and from county commissioners."

GPDS's other officials are: Chief Legal Officer, Mr. Jim Martin, former Commissioner of DHR; Deputy Director of Training and Performance Standards; Mr. Gary Parker, of Columbus, former State Senator and a criminal defense lawyer; Deputy Director of Legislative and Governmental Affairs, Ms. Sarah Smith Haskin.

For more information, contact GPDS, 104 Marietta Street, Atlanta, GA, 30303, telephone: 404-232-8900. ☎



**Executive Director  
Mike Mears**



*Georgia Courts Journal*  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
244 Washington Street, S.W., Suite 300  
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