



A Publication of the
 Judicial Council of Georgia

Bibb Mental Health Court “Opens its Doors”

Courtroom D of the Bibb County Courthouse was packed when Judge Phillip

Brown officially opened the Bibb County Mental Health Court on April 4, 2007. “People are at our door,” Judge Brown explained to the group of assembled judges, participating partners, advocates, and community members in attendance.

With 15% of the nation’s prison population diagnosed as having serious mental health issues, something more is needed to

address what Judge Brown described as the “revolving door syndrome.” A person is arrested and put on medication, after release the person, unable to maintain a treatment plan, is eventually rearrested.



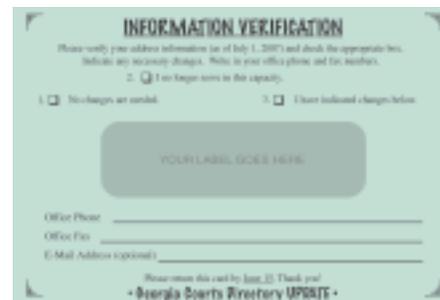
“People are at our door.” Judge Phillip Brown at the official opening of the Bibb County Mental Health Court on April 4, 2007.

Mental health problems reduce a person’s ability “to impact the world,” Judge Brown said. Whether that means maintaining a job, establishing family relationships, reaching educational goals, or staying on medication. Courts designed to assist people with mental health issues can help.

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It’s That Time Again!

Your “Green Card” is Coming



Courts Directory Verification postcards are in the mail. Don’t miss out on updating your information.

See page 9 for more details.

2006 Probate Judge of the Year

The Council of Probate Court Judges of Georgia has named **Judge Helen Harper** of Laurens County as the **2006 Outstanding Probate Judge of the Year**. The award presentation was made at the Council’s Spring Banquet held in Athens on April 11, 2007. ♪



Judge Helen Harper (left) accepts the award from Judge Mary Jo Buxton, Co-Chair of the Awards Committee.

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People, Places and Events ...

In Memoriam

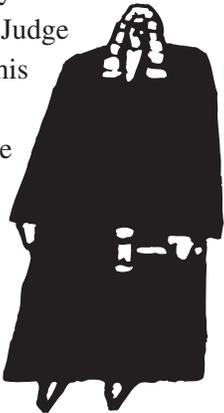
* **Judge Robert H. Cofer** of Thomson died February 7, 2007 of cancer. Judge Cofer served as Chief Magistrate of McIntosh County since 1993.

* **Senior Judge Clarence Vaughan** of Conyers died

March 26, 2007. Judge Vaughan earned his law degree from UGA after service as a Captain in the US Army during WWII.

Judge Vaughan also served in the Georgia General Assembly, both as a State Senator and State Representative, and was instrumental in the creation of the Rockdale Judicial Circuit. He won election as the new circuit's first judge and served as Chief Judge until his retirement in 1999.

* **Judge Linwood Slayton** of Atlanta died March 27, 2007 of cancer. Judge Slayton, a Fulton County magistrate, began his legal career in 1978 as Director of the Atlanta Neighborhood Justice Center. The Atlanta program was a nationwide model for emerging dispute resolution centers. Judge Slayton served as president of the Gate City Bar Association and vice-president of the National Bar Association.



* **Senior Judge Andrew J. Whalen, Jr.**, of Griffin, died April 10, 2007. Judge Whalen served in the US Army during WWII; he earned his law degree from Emory University in 1950.

Judge Whalen was an early leader of the Judicial Council of Georgia and also chaired the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education.

He served as a superior court judge in the Griffin Judicial Circuit from 1969 until his retirement in 1999.

Appointments

* **Judge William B. Swan, Jr.**, has been named Chief Magistrate of McIntosh County, filling the vacancy left by Judge Robert Cofer's death. Judge Swan was appointed by the Atlantic Circuit's superior court judges.

* **Mr. Paul Threlkeld** has been named Solicitor General of the State Court of Toombs County. Gov. Sonny Perdue announced the appointment on February 2, 2007.

* On April 9, 2007, Gov. Sonny Perdue appointed **Judge B. Daniel Dubberly** as a Senior State Court Judge and **Judge Sam T. Dills** as a Senior Probate Court Judge.

Transitions

* Fulton County Superior Court Clerk **Juanita Hicks** retired February 22, 2007 after serving the court 18 years. Chief Deputy Clerk **Cathlene Robinson** succeeds Ms. Hicks until the expiration of the current term.

In Memoriam

* **Senior Judge Ogden Doremus** of Metter died April 4, 2007, of congestive heart failure. Judge Doremus served as State Court Judge of Candler County from 1985 until his retirement in 2005. A veteran of WWII, he earned his law degree from Emory University in 1949.

Judge Doremus was an early and tireless advocate for the environment. For his work on the 1970 Coastal Marshlands Protection Act, he was honored by the Georgia General Assembly as Georgia's "Mr. Environment" in 1996.

In his lifetime, two awards were established in his honor: the State Bar of Georgia Ogden Doremus Award for Excellence in Environmental Law and the Council of State Court Judges' Ogden Doremus Award. ♂♂



In this 1993 photo, Judge Doremus (left) receives the inaugural State Court Judges Award named in his honor from Former Court of Appeals Judge Marion T. Pope.

People, Places and Events ... cont.

* **Ms. Sharon Martin**, Irwin County Superior Court Clerk, resigned her position effective January 31, 2007. **Ms. Nancy Ross** was elected to the post on April 17.

* **Mr. Michael Mears**, Director, Georgia Public Defender Standards Council, will retire July 1, 2007. Mr. Mears, who practiced law for 30 years and has headed the GPDSC since its inception, will join the faculty of John Marshall Law School in Atlanta.

Honors

* On March 14, 2007, **Presiding Justice Carol W. Hunstein** received the Shining Light Award from the Atlanta Women's Foundation. Justice Hunstein was selected based on her work with the Georgia Commission on Gender Bias in the Judicial System and her efforts on revising Georgia's child support guidelines.

Past recipients of the Shining Light Award include, Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears and Judge Phyllis Kravitch, 11th Circuit Court of Appeals.

* **Mr. Skip Chesshire**, Cobb County Superior Court Administrator, was honored on January 24, 2007, by a resolution of the Georgia House of Representatives. HR 64 commends Mr. Chesshire's 20 years of service as a court administrator. He is the current president of the National Association of Court Managers.

30 Years of AOC Service

* **Ms. Leslie Johnson** was recognized on April 3, 2007, by Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears for her 30 years of service to the Administrative Office of the Courts. Ms. Johnson began her career on January 27, 1977, as Clerk of the Board of Court Reporting, a position she held for 25 years.

During that time, she worked tirelessly to improve Georgia's court reporter certification process and to upgrade the court reporting profession.

Ms. Johnson currently staffs the Supreme Court Jury Composition Committee. ♪



Ms. Leslie Johnson, with certificate, is congratulated by Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears along with (from left) Mr. Chris Patterson, AOC Associate Director for Court Services; Mr. David Ratley, AOC Director, and Mr. Michael Kendrick, AOC Assistant Director for Human Resources.

AOC News

* **Ms. Cynthia H. Clanton**, AOC General Counsel, has been reappointed to the Georgia Commission on Family Violence.

* On January 25, 2007, **Ms. Jill Radwin**, AOC, was honored by the State Bar of Georgia for her work with the Child Support Guidelines Commission. The Joseph T. Tuggle Jr. Professionalism Award was presented to Ms. Radwin by the Family Law Section at the Annual Family Law Convocation on Professionalism held in Atlanta. ♪

Calendar of Events

May 30 - June 1

2007 Drug and DUI Conference
Bridges to Recovery through
Accountability
Wyndham Peachtree Conf. Center
Peachtree City

June 12

Judicial Council Meeting
Jekyll Island Club, Jekyll Island

June 14 - 17

State Bar Annual Meeting
Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida

August 29

Judicial Council Meeting
Atlanta Gwinnett Marriott
Duluth

2007 Legislative Session: In Brief

Before leaving town last month the General Assembly authorized new superior court judgeships in the **Cobb, Cordele, Dublin, Enotah,** and **Gwinnett** judicial circuits.

Under the provisions of **HB 118**, Governor Purdue will appoint the initial judges. Terms will begin January 1, 2008 and end December 31, 2008 for the Cordele, Enotah, and Gwinnett judgeships. The Cobb and Dublin judgeships take effect at date of appointment. Successors will be chosen in the November 2008 General Elections.

Travel Allowance for Appellate Judges

HB 120 provides travel allowances for judges of the Court



of Appeals and Justices of the Supreme Court who reside 50 miles or more from Atlanta. Judges are

allowed to claim one round-trip per week from his or her residence to Atlanta.

Local bills

HB 190 provides for the State Court judgeship in **Mitchell County** to become a full-time position, effective July 1, 2007.

HB 215 creates a second state court judgeship in **Clarke County**, initial judge to be appointed by the Governor, for a term beginning July 1, 2007.

For more detailed information contact the AOC Governmental Affairs Division at 404-656-5171 or visit www.georgiacourts.org ☞

GSCCCA Court Fee Collection Report

The Georgia Superior Court Clerks Cooperative Authority has issued collections totals for the six month period June 2006, to December 2006, as follows:

Funds Remitted (i.e., collected & distributed by GSCCCA):\$43,419,713
Funds collected and reported to GSCCCA: \$204,701,371
Combined total\$248,000,000

The report shows compliance rates for the eleven separate remittable funds of 95% or above for Superior, State, Probate, Magistrate and Juvenile courts. Compliance rates for municipal courts were only slightly lower at 91% for December 2006.

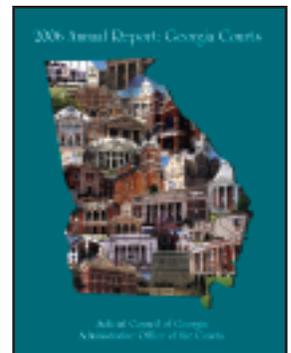
Compliance rates were similar for the 16 individual reportable funds: above 95% for superior, state, probate and magistrate courts; between 89 and 95% for juvenile and municipal courts.

For more information, contact David Williams, GSCCCA Executive Director, or John Earle, Project Manager, at 404-327-9058. ☞

'06 Annual Report

The *Georgia Courts FY 06 Annual Report* is now available.

The annual report includes trial and appellate court caseload information for Calendar Year 2005.



Call 404-656-5171 to request a copy. ☞

Bibb Mental Health Court cont.

Mental Health Screening

One step in the process is already in place in Bibb County. The Sheriff's office screens incoming inmates for mental health issues. New inmates are evaluated by a counselor from River Edge, a behavioral health center.

An inmate who meets the criteria to participate is notified of the option of Mental Health Court. Each new client is assigned to the treatment team - representatives from the District Attorney's office, caseworkers from River Edge and the Department of Family and Children Services, and the Circuit Public Defender's office. Once a defendant is accepted into the program, a treatment plan is created. Under supervision, the participant usually stays out of jail and over time is able to live independently.

Early Goals

In its first year, Judge Brown anticipates the Mental Health Court will accommodate 30 cases. As participants continue in the program and need less supervision, caseworkers will have the capacity to expand to 110-120 participants.

The architects of the Bibb County Mental Health Court spent time reviewing the workings of the Dougherty, Muscogee, and Hall County Mental Health

Courts. An evaluation of the Muscogee County Court, Judge Brown noted, showed an 85% reduction in recidivism for participants and a cost savings of \$800,000. The goal in Bibb County is to save twice the amount of the court operation costs - about \$170,000.

Special Guests

Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears, Supreme Court of Georgia, spoke at the opening ceremony underscoring the nationwide support Mental Health Courts and other accountability courts are now receiving. Chief Justice Sears lauded the community-based treatment approach of these "very important problem-solving courts" for getting at the root of

criminality. She noted that their participation in a Mental Health Court may be the first time participants have any semblance of stability in their lives.

The Chief Justice also announced that the Supreme Court of Georgia was recently selected by

the Council of State Government's Justice Center to participate in the Chief Justices' Criminal Justice/Mental Health Leadership Initiative. This national project is designed to assist state supreme

court justices in guiding efforts to improve the response of the criminal justice system to people with mental illnesses. Chief Justice Sears will work with other leaders in state government on mental health issues.

Chief Justice Sears ended her remarks by expressing confidence that Mental Health Courts will enjoy the same success as the Drug and DUI courts in Georgia.

Other speakers at the event were Chief Judge Bryant Culpepper, Macon Judicial Circuit; Bibb County Sheriff Jerry Modena; Mr. Frank Fields, River Edge CEO, and Mr. Lee Robinson, Circuit Public Defender.

For more information on the Mental Health Courts, contact Jane Martin at 404-463-4266. ☪



Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears joined in the launch of the Bibb County Mental Health Court.

2008 Calendar: Courthouses of Georgia

Think your courthouse should be featured in next year's calendar? Now's your chance to let us know which courthouses you would like to see in the 2008 calendar.

Contact Ashley Stollar at stollara@gaaoc.us for more information.

DUI COURTS: Study Proves Effectiveness

Success stories of DUI Court participants are well known to judges and others who work in these “therapeutic court” settings. Now a follow-up study conducted by Applied Research Services of Atlanta provides impressive numbers demonstrating that DUI Courts are successful at reducing re-arrest rates.

The Study

The study reviewed court records in three of the ten counties operating DUI Courts: Chatham, Clarke, and Hall counties. A total of 647 people were monitored — 366 DUI court participants, and 281 people whose cases were handled through conventional judicial processes.

Activity monitored for the study included new arrests for periods of 12 and 24 months after disposition of cases: i.e. graduation from a DUI Court program; adjudication for non-DUI Court participants.

ARS found a significant reduction in recidivism rates among the group that participated in DUI court for both 12 and 24 months.

What is a DUI Court?

DUI Courts work similarly to Drug Courts to integrate the use of treatment, evaluation, community service, and judicial oversight to

steer participants from past behavior. Goals of the state's DUI Courts include improving public safety and reducing crime related to DUI and/or abuse of alcohol and other drugs.

The average DUI court defendant, a 35 year old white male who has at least three DUI convictions, is not deterred by traditional DUI sanctions. Without appropriate intervention and treatment, chronic offenders continue to drink and

drive, endangering lives. DUI courts address the alcohol problem head on — using an integrated approach. Client evaluation, substance abuse treatment, community service and intensive judicial oversight can steer participants away from past behaviors.

Georgia has

ten counties operating DUI courts, the first of which was opened in the State Court of Clarke County in October 2002, followed by Hall County in March 2003 and Chatham County in May 2003.

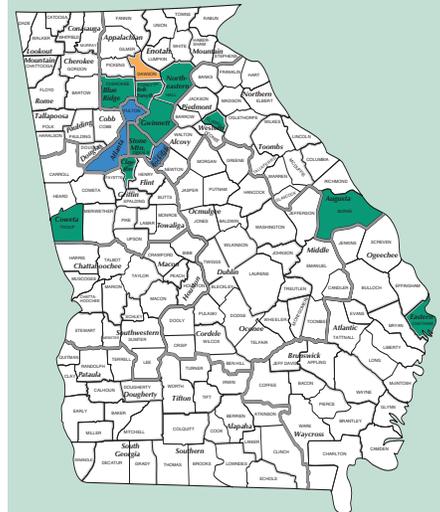
Plans are underway for DUI Courts in the State Courts in Rockdale and Fulton counties. Dawson County Superior Court recently began a hybrid adult felony-DUI Court.

For more information on the ARS study or DUI Courts, contact Jane Martin at 404-463-4266. ♪

STUDY FINDINGS

- After 12 months: graduates are 3 times less likely to have new DUI arrest
- After 24 months: graduates are 4 times less likely to have new DUI arrest
- Graduates are 20% less likely to be arrested for a new felony.

Where are Georgia's DUI Courts?



State Courts with DUI Program:

- Burke County
- Chatham County
- Cherokee County
- Clarke County
- Clayton County
- DeKalb County
- Forsyth County
- Gwinnett County
- Hall County
- Troup County

Superior Court with DUI Program:

- Dawson County

Planned DUI Courts:

- Fulton County State Court
- Rockdale County State Court

Supreme Court Committees

Committee on Interpreters Rule Change

In March 2007, the Supreme Court Commission on Interpreters initiated a rule change regarding certified interpreters.

The new rule requires all registered interpreters to pass an oral certification exam by January 2009, for the following languages: Arabic, Cantonese, French, Haitian-Creole, Korean, Laotian, Mandarin, Portuguese, Russian, Serbian, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

This rule change was promulgated in an effort to align certification requirements more closely with the National Center for State Courts Consortium for State Court Interpreters.

Registered status will be available only to those who speak a lan-

guage where the NCSC has not developed a standardized test.

For more information, contact Ms. Katherine Cadena, Program Manager, at 404-657-4210 or coi@gaaoc.us

Committee for Justice for Children

The Supreme Court Committee on Justice for Children (J4C), formerly the Child Placement Project, has released its Annual Report for 2006. The report details the history of the committee, goals, key strategies, and profiles of the state's juvenile courts.

The report can be accessed at <http://www.georgiacourts.org/agencies/cpp/index.html>

For more information, contact Ms. Michelle Barclay, J4C Director, at 404-657-9219.

Committee on Legal Education

On April 5, 2007, the Supreme Court of Georgia created the Committee on Legal Education to study legal education developments, including alternative forms of legal education.

The 15-member body will be composed of representatives from the Georgia Board of Bar Examiners, the State Bar of Georgia, judges, legal educators, the public, and members of the General Assembly.

Findings and recommendations of the committee will be presented to the Board of Bar Examiners and the Supreme Court. Any revisions to the Rules Governing Admission to the Practice of Law in Georgia regarding educational eligibility or other relevant issues will be proposed by the committee.

The committee will be staffed by the Office of Bar Admissions, 404-656-3490. ♪

From the Board of Court Reporting...

Fee Schedule for Official Court Reporters

Effective July 1, 2007, the new rates of compensation for court reporters appearing in court proceedings are as follows:

Per Diem \$231.20 to 8 hours
 \$258.90 to 9 hours
 \$277.43 maximum.

Looking Ahead: Licensing Renewals On-line

Effective January 1, 2008, a certified court reporter eligible for certification renewal will have the option to process the License Renewal application online. The Board of Court Reporting will maintain a licensing site at www.georgiacourts.org/agencies/bcr.

License renewals by mail will continue to be offered as well.

Contact the Board of Court Reporting by phone 404-656-6422, or by e-mail at bcr@gaaoc.us ♪



Publications Update

Courts Journal: The Look is Changing

You might not recognize the *Georgia Courts Journal* the next time you see it.

Over the past 34 years, the *Courts Journal* has brought you news about Georgia's judiciary, overwhelmingly in black and white.

The past eight years have seen the most change, including a masthead change and the introduction of full color printing in 2004. (See timeline below.)

In July, the *Courts Journal* will unveil a new magazine-style format

in our continuing effort to enhance the services that the AOC provides the state's judiciary and public.

Your suggestions and comments are welcome. Have an article idea? Call Ashley Stollar at 404-656-6783 or email stollara@gaoc.us ☮



1978, black and white.

Georgia Courts Journal: Design Through the Years



1993, a new masthead, no color



1999, A new masthead & highlights in color.



2004, full color.



2007. What's in store?

Publications Update

Georgia Courts Directory: Green Cards!

It's hard keeping up with all the comings and goings in court personnel. Just check out our "Courts Directory Correction" feature in most issues of the *Georgia Courts Journal*, and you can see how quickly things change.

Each year in May, we ask for your help so we can publish the most accurate and complete information in the annual *Georgia Courts Directory*.

What to Do?

It's very simple. Keep an eye out for your "green" postcard and follow the printed instructions carefully.

Place your removable address label onto the return portion of the postcard. Review your name, title, and address; check the appropriate box (see sample). Write your office phone and fax numbers on the lines provided. If you would like your e-mail address published, write it in. Return the postage-paid portion by June 15 for processing.

What Happens Next?

When your card is received, the information you provide is checked against the information we currently have. Corrections, additions, and deletions will appear in the new *Directory*.

Address corrections are also entered into the AOC database of court personnel for use by the agency, court councils, and others.

Return Portion of Directory Postcard

INFORMATION VERIFICATION

Please verify your address information (as of July 1, 2007) and check the appropriate box. Indicate any necessary changes. Write in your office phone and fax numbers.

1. No changes are needed. 2. I no longer serve in this capacity. 3. I have indicated changes below.

YOUR LABEL GOES HERE

Office Phone _____
Office Fax _____
E-Mail Address (optional) _____

Please return this card by June 15. Thank you!
• Georgia Courts Directory UPDATE •

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. I no longer serve in the capacity listed on the verification postcard. Why should I return it?

A. Notice of staff changes do not always make their way to Atlanta!

This year, look for **Box #2** on the return portion to let us know you've moved on. Check **Box #2**, place your address label in the appropriate space, then mail it.

Q. I serve as a judge in the Probate Court and as Chief Magistrate. Why do I receive two cards?

A. Each class of court is reviewed independently when the Directory is updated.

Having separate cards for each entry reduces the chance of error for

those who have multiple roles.

Please review and return all cards.

Q. What's the production time on a project like the Georgia Courts Directory?

A. About four months, from May to August, are dedicated to producing the new Directory. It will be on your desk in late August. ⚡

Contact Ashley Stollar at 404-656-6783 or stollara@goaac.us

A Look at the Numbers

2,300 Postcards Mailed
2,647 Names listed in the Directory
3,200 Number of Entries
13 Levels of Court, including Federal
38 Judicial Agencies

Courts Directory Corrections

SUPERIOR COURT

Atlantic Circuit

Judge D. Jay Stewart
PO Box 842
Claxton, GA 30417
912-739-4922/F 739-4950

Coweta Circuit

Judge Jack Kirby
770-683-0424

Piedmont Circuit

Judge David Motes
770-307-3032/F 307-3033

JUVENILE COURTS

Atlantic Circuit

Judge C. Jean Bolin
PO Box 726
Darien, GA 31305
912-437-4402

Assoc. Judge Kimberly Copeland
256 N. Brunswick Street
Jesup, GA 31546
912-530-2317

Judge Pro Tem. Kenneth Pangburn
405 Richmond Lane
Hinesville, GA 31313
912-368-8623

Blue Ridge Circuit

Judge Anthony Baker
90 North Street, Suite 360
Canton, GA 30114

Conasauga Circuit

Judge Jim E. Wilbanks
PO Box 475
Cohutta, GA 30710
706-694-0055/F 694-2504
(also Municipal Court of Varnell)

Dublin Circuit

Add: Judge Pro Tem. Jon F. Helton
PO Box 188
Dublin, GA 31040
478-272-1998/F 274-1003

Delete:

Assoc. Judge Elizabeth Rutrough

Mountain Circuit

Add: Judge Robert Cullifer
PO Box 386
Toccoa, GA 30577
706-886-4195

Delete: Judge Joanna Temple

Paulding Judicial Circuit

Add: Judge Dean C. Bucci
1387 Industrial Boulevard N.
Suite 103
Dallas, GA 30132
770-443-7532/F 505-3867

PROBATE COURTS

Rabun County

Judge Lillian W. Garrett
rabunlaw@windstream.net

MAGISTRATE COURTS

Barrow County

Judge June Schuenemann
Chief Magistrate
change name to June Davis

Delete: Judge Monica Hunter Durden

Bleckley County

Add: Judge Carolyn P. Martin
112 North Second Street
Cochran, GA 31014
478-934-3202/F 934-7826

Carroll County

Judge Cynthia M. Dailey
770-830-5874

Clayton County

Add: Judge Eunice A. McMurtry
7545 Fielder Road
Jonesboro, GA 30236
770-477-3444/F 473-5750

Delete: Judge J. Michael Upton

Clinch County

Add: Judge Linda C. Peterson
100 Courthouse Square
Homerville, GA 31634
912-487-2514/F 487-5507

Cobb County

Delete: Judge Douglas Davis

Fulton County

Judge Sterling Eaves
5600 Stonewall Tell Road
College Park, GA 30349

Judge Joseph A. Fried
4400 Peachtree Road
Atlanta, GA 30319
404-591-1800/F 591-1801
joe@jafpc.com

Judge Roy Roberts
404-730-4245

Delete: Judge Tyrus Atkinson, Jr.
Judge George O. Lawson
Judge R. David Ware

Franklin County

Judge William David Buffington
Judge Gladys R. Davison
7085 Highway 145, Suite B
Carnesville, GA 30521

Monroe County

Add: Judge Bill Clifton
PO Box 974
Forsyth, GA 31029-0974
478-994-7018/F 994-7284

Pierce County

Judge Glenda Dowling
gdowling@piercecountyga.org

Toombs County

Judge E. Kay Stafford, Jr.
ekslaw@bellsouth.net

SPECIAL COURTS

Recorders Court of DeKalb County

Add: Judge Pro Hac Richard Green II
3630 Camp Circle
Decatur, GA 30032-1394
404-294-2635/F 377-6720

MUNICIPAL COURT

Alpharetta

Add: Judge Brian Hansford
327 Dahlonega St., Suite 1703A
Cumming, GA 30040
770-889-0846/F 889-9666
(also Milton)

Courts Directory Corrections

Blackshear

Chief Judge Kenneth E. Futch
110 Screven Avenue
Waycross, GA 31516
912-490-3911/F 490-6323
kfutch@keflaw.com

Byron

Add: Judge Laurens C. Lee
PO Box 129
Byron, GA 31008
478-825-2060/F 825-1893

Canton

Add: Judge David L. Cannon, Sr.
181 E. Main Street
PO Box 1207
Canton, GA 30114-1207
770-479-6264/F 720-1770

Chauncey

Add: Judge C. Michael Johnson
5414 Anson Avenue
PO Drawer 40
Eastman, GA 31023
478-374-4255/F 374-4432
cmjlaw@bellsouth.net

Delete: Mark Straughan

Irwinton

Add: Judge Jon F. Helton
PO Box 188
Dublin, GA 31040
478-272-1998/F 274-1003

LaFayette

Judge Barry C. Hollis
706-638-1026

Locust Grove

Add: Judge Donald Patten
102 Club Drive
PO Box 116
Stockbridge, GA 30281-0116
770-389-0208/F 474-2602
dpatten@bellsouth.net
(also Stockbridge)

Delete:

Judge W. Franklin Freeman, Jr.

McIntyre

Add: Judge Samuel A. Hilbun
PO Box 188
Dublin, GA 31040
478-272-1998/F 274-1003

Midway

Judge J.D. Harvey, Jr.
10164 Ford Avenue, Suite A
PO Box 1569
Richmond Hill, GA 31324
912-756-4775

Nelson

Add: Judge Richard Jones
PO Box 100
Nelson, GA 30151
770-235-2211/F 235-3957

Rome

Delete: Judge Douglas D. Slade

Stillmore

Add: Judge Angela M. Magruder
512 Telfair Street
Augusta, GA 30901
706-724-6000/F 724-3363
(also Wadley)

Stone Mountain

Add: Judge Michael G. Leeper
315 W. Ponce de Leon Ave., Suite 700
Decatur, GA 30030
404-373-3989/F 373-3990

Delete: Judge Ronald Ramsey

COURT ADMINISTRATORS

Clarke County

Tracy J. BeMent
Superior Court Administrator
Clarke County
325 E. Washington Street, Suite 400
Athens, GA 30601
706-613-3173/F 613-3174

SUPERIOR COURT CLERK

Effingham County

Elizabeth Z. Hursey
Effingham Co. Judicial Complex
700 N. Pine Street, Suite 110
Springfield, GA 31329

Fulton County

Delete: Juanita Hicks
Add: Cathlene Robinson

JUVENILE COURT CLERK

Polk County

Debbie Bright
100 Prior Street, Room 202
Courthouse No. 2
Cedartown, GA 30125
770-749-2151

OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

Jan E. Roberts
PO Box 3204
Atlanta, GA 30302
404-730-5053 ⚖️

On the Move...

Gwinnett County Juvenile Court

115 Stone Mountain Street
Lawrenceville, GA 30045

Dawson County Magistrate Court

Judge Johnny Holtzclaw
Judge Lisa Thurmond
32 Jack Heard Road, Suite 110
Dawsonville, GA 30534

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

As of July 1, 2007
104 Marietta Street, Suite 440
Atlanta, GA 30303

9th District Court Administrator

Steve Ferrell
PO Box 1319
Dahlonega, GA 30533
706-482-0185/F 482-0187



Supreme Court Visits Putnam County Courthouse

As a part of Putnam County's bicentennial celebration, the Georgia Supreme Court heard oral arguments in Eatonton on Thursday, February 28, 2007.

The court session, held at the Putnam County courthouse, was attended by local judges, attorneys, citizens, and students from local schools.

On Wednesday evening, the local bar association hosted a dinner for the justices of the Supreme Court at Reynolds Plantation. After dinner, Justice Hugh Thompson, from nearby Milledgeville, reminisced on his time as an Ocmulgee



The Supreme Court of Georgia heard oral arguments at the Putnam County Courthouse.

Judicial Circuit superior court judge. Justice Harris Hines presented gifts of appreciation to local attorneys and judges in attendance.

In conjunction with the Supreme Court's visit to Putnam County, the Clerk of the Supreme Court, Ms. Therese Barnes, hosted a dinner on

Wednesday evening for the Clerks of the Superior Courts of the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit: Ms. Jody Moss, Morgan County; Ms. Deborah Jackson, Greene County; Mr. Dan Jordan, Jasper County; Ms. Sheila Layson, Putnam County; Mr. Leroy Wiley, Hancock County; Mr. Bart Jackson, Jones County; Ms.

Rosemary Phillips, Baldwin County; and Ms. Cinda S. Bright, Wilkinson County.

The Supreme Court of Georgia schedules oral arguments outside of Atlanta several times a year. ♪

Ashley G. Stollar
Billie Bolton
COURTS JOURNAL STAFF
Director
DAVID L. RATLEY
Chief Justice
LEAH WARD SEARS

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