

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA

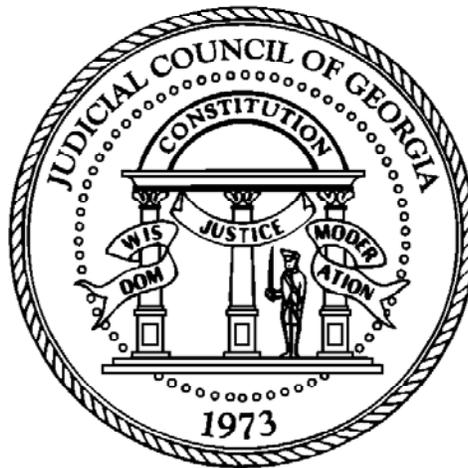
General Session

Tuesday, August 26, 2008

Atlanta Marriott Gwinnett Place

9:00 a.m.

*Centennial Ballroom
Salon A & B*



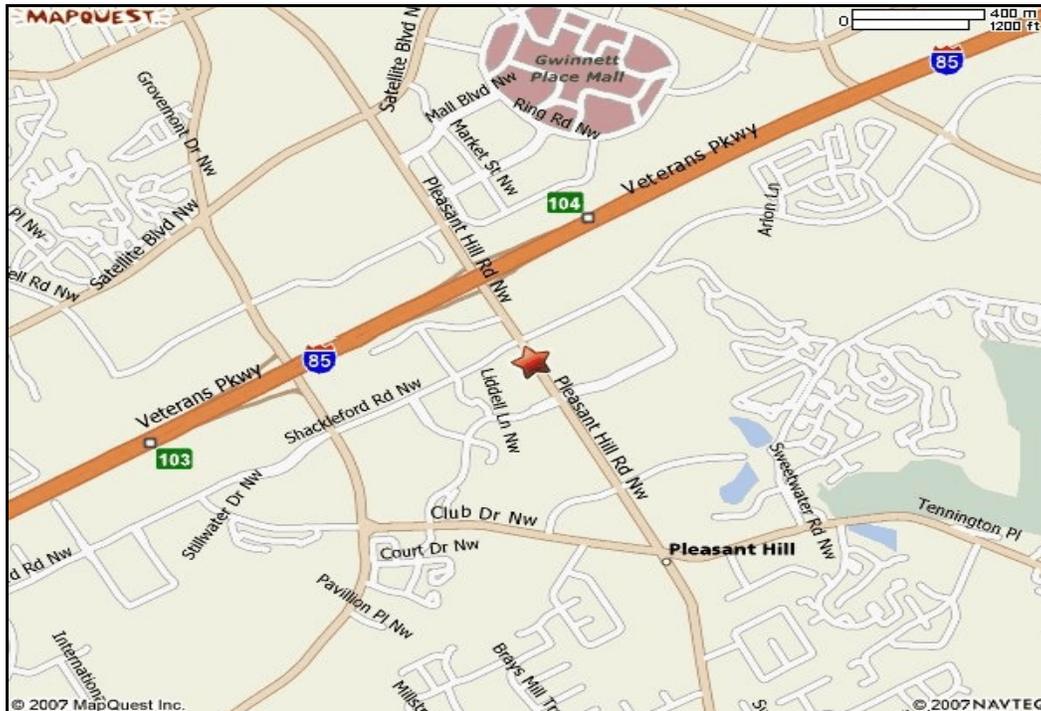
Luncheon

12 Noon

*Georgia Ballroom
Salon 6-8*

*1775 Pleasant Hill Road
Duluth, GA 30096*

***Driving Directions to Atlanta Marriott Gwinnett Place Hotel
1775 Pleasant Hill Road at Crestwood
Duluth, GA 30096
770-935-3859***



From North Georgia Traveling Southbound on I-85

Continue South on I-85 to Exit 104 (Pleasant Hill Road). At top of exit ramp turn left and travel approximately 1/4 mile. After crossing Shackleford Road, NW / Breckinridge Blvd., NW take the 1st right (Crestwood Parkway, NW). The hotel will be on your right.

From North Georgia Traveling Southbound on I-75

Continue South on I-75 to I-285 Eastbound. Exit onto I-85 Northbound and continue to Exit 104 (Pleasant Hill Road). At top of exit ramp turn right and travel 1/4 mile. After crossing Shackleford Road, NW / Breckinridge Blvd., NW take the 1st right (Crestwood Parkway, NW). The hotel will be on your right.

From South Georgia Traveling Northbound on I-85

Continue north on I-85 to Exit 104 (Pleasant Hill Road). At top of exit ramp turn right and travel 1/4 mile. After crossing Shackleford Road, NW / Breckinridge Blvd., NW take the 1st right (Crestwood Parkway, NW). The hotel will be on your right.

From South Georgia Traveling Northbound on I-75

Continue north on I-75 merging onto I-85 Northbound. Follow directions above.

From I-20 East or I-20 West

From I-20 merge onto I-85 Northbound and follow directions above.

Judicial Council of Georgia
Atlanta Marriott Gwinnett Place
Duluth, GA

Tuesday, August 26, 2008

9:00 a.m.

Continental Breakfast will be served beginning at 8:00 a.m.

1. **Introductions and Preliminary Remarks**
(Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears, Est. Time—5 Min.)
 2. **Approval of June 3, 2008 Minutes** Tab 1
(Chief Justice Sears, Est. Time—3 Min.)
 3. **Analysis of Calendar Year 2007 Case Census Data Presented to the Judicial Council of Georgia to Support the Need for Additional Judgeships and Alteration of Circuit Boundaries** Tab 2
(Mr. Ratley, Mr. Bray, Ms. Pete, Est. Time—30 Min.)
- Memorandum:** Explanation of Judgeship Needs Assessment Documents Page 3
- A. **Judicial Council Policy for Judgeship & Circuit Boundary Studies** Page 7
 - B. **Supreme Court of Georgia Order for Designee Voting** Page 14
 - C. **Trial Court Caseload Report** Page 15
- Judgeship Needs Assessment Charts:**
- 1) Judgeship Case Weight Needed to Qualify Page 16
 - 2) Number of Judges & Details of the Circuit & Per Judge Weights Page 17
 - 3) Superior Court Circuit Time Line Page 20
 - 4) 2007 Circuits, Personnel, & Weighted Caseload Page 21
 - 5) 2007 Criminal Filings by Rank & 5-year Percentage Change Page 22
 - 6) 2007 Civil Filings by Rank & 5-year Percentage Change Page 23
 - 7) 2007 Population Page 24
- 4-Factor Chart Page 25
Sample Ballot (Qualifying) Page 26
Sample Ballot (Ranking) Page 27
- D. **Letters of Request and Comments from Invited Respondents**
- New Request: First Year Consideration**
- 1) Appalachian Judicial Circuit (4th Judge) Tab 3
 - 2) Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit (3rd Judge) Tab 4
 - 3) Clayton Judicial Circuit (5th Judge) Tab 5
 - 4) Western Judicial Circuit (4th Judge) Tab 6

E. Carryover Circuit Requests and Comments

- 1) Douglas Judicial Circuit (4th Judge) Tab 7
- 2) Flint Judicial Circuit (4th Judge) Tab 8
- 3) Mountain Judicial Circuit (3rd Judge) Tab 9
- 4) Northeastern Judicial Circuit (5th Judge) Tab 10
- 5) Piedmont Judicial Circuit (4th Judge) Tab 11
- 6) Southern Judicial Circuit (6th Judge) Tab 12
- 7) Tifton Judicial Circuit (3rd Judge) Tab 13

4. **Vote on New Judgeship Requests by Written Ballot**
(Est. Time—5 Min.)

5. **Report from AOC Director**
(Mr. Ratley, Est. Time—10 Min.)

6. **Rank Judgeship Recommendations** [Including all carryover requests]
(Est. Time—5 Min.)

***** **15 Minute Break** *****

7. **Budget Matters** Tab 14
(Justice Hines, Ms. Pryor, Est. Time—15 Min.)
FY 2010 General Appropriations & Enhancements

8. **Reports from Judicial Agencies**
- a) Supreme Court Commission on Children, Marriage and Family Law Tab 15
Committee on Justice for Children
(For Informational Purposes Only)
No Action Required by the Council
 - b) Supreme Court Equal Justice Commission Tab 16
Committee on Civil Justice
(Ms. Lewis, Est. Time—15 Min)
 - c) Board of Court Reporting Tab 17
(For Informational Purposes Only)
No Action Required by the Council
 - d) Domestic Violence Committee Report Tab 18
(For Informational Purposes Only)
No Action Required by the Council
 - e) Standing Committee on Drug Courts Tab 19
(Judge Kreeger, Est. Time—10 Min.)
 - f) Georgia Courts Automation Commission Tab 20
(For Informational Purposes Only)
No Action Required by the Council

- g) Child Support Commission
(For Informational Purposes Only)
No Action Required by the Council

9. Reports from Appellate Courts and Trial Court Councils

- a) Supreme Court
(Chief Justice Sears, Est. Time—5 Min.)
- b) Court of Appeals
(Chief Judge Barnes, Est. Time—5 Min.)
- c) Council of Superior Court Judges
(Judge Goss, Est. Time—5 Min.)
- d) Council of State Court Judges
(Judge Carbo, Est. Time—5 Min.)
- e) Council of Juvenile Court Judges
(Judge Teske, Est. Time—5 Min.)
- f) Council of Probate Court Judges
(Judge Brown, Est. Time—5 Min.)
- g) Council of Magistrate Court Judges
(Judge Holt, Est. Time—5 Min.)
- h) Council of Municipal Court Judges
(Judge Stokes, Est. Time—5 Min.)

10. Old/New Business
(Chief Justice Sears, Est. Time—15 Min.)

Date and Place of Next Regular Council Meeting
Date: Tuesday, December 9, 2008
Place: Atlanta Marriott Gwinnett Place

11. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment
(Chief Justice Sears, Est. Time—5 Min.)

GROUP PHOTOGRAPH WILL BE TAKEN OUTSIDE IN FRONT OF HOTEL

12 Noon — Lunch Served in the Georgia Ballroom (Salon 6-8)

Judicial Council of Georgia

Atlanta Marriott Gwinnett Place
1775 Pleasant Hill Road
Duluth, GA 30096

NEW MEMBERS WHO HAVE JOINED THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL SINCE THE JUNE 3, 2008 MEETING

1. Chief Judge Lawton E. Stephens, Superior Court, Western Judicial Circuit
2. Judge John D. Allen, Superior Court, Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit
3. Judge Michael C. Clark, Superior Court, Gwinnett Judicial Circuit
4. Judge David T. Emerson, Superior Court, Douglas Judicial Circuit
5. Judge Richard T. Alexander, President Elect, Council of Magistrate Court Judges
6. Judge Tammy Stokes, President, Council of Municipal Court Judges

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA

Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears
Chairperson
Supreme Court
507 State Judicial Building
Atlanta, GA 30334
404-656-3474/F 657-6997

Presiding Justice Carol W. Hunstein
Vice Chairperson
Supreme Court
501 State Judicial Building
Atlanta, GA 30334
404-656-3475/F 657-9586

Judge Richard T. Alexander, Jr.
Magistrate Court
Gwinnett Justice &
Administration Center
75 Langley Drive
Lawrenceville, GA 30045-6900
770-822-8081/F 822-8075

Judge John Allen
Superior Court
Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit
Post Office Box 1340
Columbus, GA 31902-4269
706-653-4277/F 653-4275

Judge A. Quillian Baldwin, Jr.
Superior Court
Coweta Judicial Circuit
Post Office Box 1364
LaGrange, GA 30241
706-883-1633/F 298-3706

Chief Judge Anne Elizabeth Barnes
Court of Appeals of Georgia
47 Trinity Avenue, Suite 501
Atlanta, GA 30334
404-656-3454/F 463-8303

Judge Lillis J. Brown
Probate Court
Rockdale County
Rockdale County Courthouse
922 Court Street, NE, Room 107
Conyers, GA 30012
770-929-4057/F 918-6502

Judge Tammy S. Brown

Probate Court
Bartow County
30 North Broad Street
Winder, GA 30680
770-307-3045/F 307-4470

Judge John C. Carbo, III
State Court
Clayton County
Harold R. Banke Justice Center
9151 Tara Boulevard, Rm. 3JC202
Jonesboro, GA 30236
770-477-4500/F 477-4595

Judge Michael C. Clark
Superior Court
Gwinnett Judicial Circuit
Gwinnett Justice &
Administration Center
75 Langley Drive
Lawrenceville, GA 30045
770-822-8609/F 822-8637

Chief Judge Doris L. Downs
Superior Court
Atlanta Judicial Circuit
T7955 Justice Center Tower
185 Central Avenue, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-730-4991/F 335-2828

Judge David T. Emerson
Superior Court
Douglas Judicial Circuit
Douglas County Courthouse
8700 Hospital Drive
Douglasville, GA 30134
770-920-7227/F 920-7377

Judge Ronald E. Ginsberg
State Court
Chatham County
133 Montgomery Street, Room 209
Savannah, GA 31401
912-652-7556/F 912-652-7557

Judge Stephen S. Goss
Superior Court

Dougherty Judicial Circuit
Post Office Box 1827
Albany, GA 31702-1827
229-434-2683/F 431-2174

Judge Connie J. Holt
Magistrate Court
Morgan County
Post Office Box 589
Madison, GA 30650
706-342-3088/F 343-6364

Judge Ronnie Joe Lane
Superior Court
Pataula Judicial Circuit
Post Office Box 636
Donalsonville, GA 39845-0636
229-524-2149/F 524-8817

Judge M. Yvette Miller
Court of Appeals of Georgia
47 Trinity Avenue, Suite 501
Atlanta, GA 30334
404-463-3032/F 656-4717

Judge Robert V. Rodatus
Juvenile Court
Gwinnett Judicial Circuit
115 Stone Mountain Street
Lawrenceville, GA 30045
770-619-6188/F 619-6096

Judge Charles Paul Rose, Jr.
Superior Court
Atlantic Judicial Circuit
Post Office Box 9671246
Hinesville, GA 31310
912-877-4770/F 877-2104

Judge Stan Smith
Superior Court
Dublin Judicial Circuit
Post Office Box 2069
Dublin, GA 31040-2069
478-272-4131/F 272-1639
Chief Judge Lawton E. Stephens
Superior Court

Western Judicial Circuit
P. O. Box 1623
Athens, GA 30655
706-613-3175/F 613-3179

Judge Steve Teske
Juvenile Court
Clayton Judicial Circuit
Clayton County Courthouse
Annex 3
3rd Floor
121 S. McDonough Street
Jonesboro, GA 30236
770-477-3260/F 473-5967

Judge Melvin K. Westmoreland
Superior Court
Atlanta Judicial Circuit
T4655 Justice Center Tower
185 Central Avenue, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-335-2570/F 335-2685

Chief Judge Anne Workman
Superior Court
Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit
5230 DeKalb County Courthouse
556 N. McDonough Street
Decatur, GA 30030
404-371-2338

Ex-Officio Member

Judge Tammy Stokes
Recorder's Court of
Chatham County
133 Montgomery Street, Room 104
Savannah, GA 31401
912-652-7429/F 912-652-7412

Judicial Council of Georgia
DeSoto Hilton Savannah
Savannah, Georgia
June 3, 2008

Members Present:

Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears
Presiding Justice Carol Hunstein
Chief Judge Anne Elizabeth Barnes
Judge Quillian Baldwin
Judge David Barrett
Judge Lillis Brown
Judge Tammy Brown
Judge John C. Carbo
Judge Ronald Ginsberg
Judge Stephen Goss
Judge Connie Holt
Judge Shepherd Lee Howell
Judge Ronnie Joe Lane
Judge Yvette Miller
Judge John Ott
Judge Paul Rose
Judge Rucker Smith
Judge Stan Smith
Judge Steve Teske
Judge Kim Warden
Judge Melvin Westmoreland
Judge Anne Workman

Judge Bill Clifton, Ex-Officio Member

Members Absent:

Judge Doris L. Downs
Judge Robert Rodatus

Staff Present:

Mr. David L. Ratley
Ms. Billie Bolton
Ms. Kelly Moody
Ms. Vonnetta Pryor
Ms. Debra Nesbit

Ms. Cynthia Clanton
Mr. Chris Patterson
Mr. Randy Dennis
Ms. Jane Martin
Mr. Bob Bray
Ms. Terry Cobb

Guests Present:

Ms. Shawn Amacher, Chatham County Court Administrator
Ms. Tee Barnes, Clerk of Supreme Court of Georgia
Judge Joe Bishop, Pataula Judicial Circuit
Judge William Boyett, Conasauga Judicial Circuit
Judge Michael C. Clark, Gwinnett Judicial Circuit
Ms. Judy Cramer, Fifth District Court Administrator
Mr. Mack Crawford, Public Defender Standards Council
Mr. John E. Cowart, Second District Court Administrator
Judge David Darden, State Court of Cobb County
Mr. Danny DeLoach, First District Court Administrator
Ms. Marsha Elzey, Council of Superior Court Judges
Judge David Emerson, Douglas Judicial Circuit
Mr. Steve Ferrell, Ninth District Court Administrator
Mr. Trip Fitzner, Eighth District Court Administrator
Judge Kathy Gosselin, Northeastern Judicial Circuit
Mr. Tom Gunnels, Tenth District Court Administrator
Mr. Steve Hagen, North Highland Group
Justice P. Harris Hines, Supreme Court of Georgia
Mr. Mike Holiman, Council of Superior Court Clerks
Mr. Greg Jones, Third District Court Administrator
Ms. Sandy S. Lee, Council of Superior Court Judges
Mr. Bill Martin, Court of Appeals of Georgia
Ms. Cathy McCumber, Fourth District Court Administrator
Judge Arch McGarity, Flint Judicial Circuit
Mr. Tom Merriam, Council of Superior Court Judges
Ms. Tia Milton, Chief of Staff, Supreme Court
Mr. Shinji Morokuma, Office of Dispute Resolution
Mr. George Nolan, Georgia Courts Automation Commission
Judge Tim Pape, Juvenile Court of Floyd County
Judge Donny Peppers, State Court of Walker County
Mr. Rich Reaves, Institute of Continuing Judicial Education
Ms. Sharon Reiss, Council of Magistrate Court Judges
Mr. Will Simmons, Sixth District Court Administrator
Judge Lawton E. Stephens, Western Judicial Circuit
Judge Tammy Stokes, Chatham County Records Court
Mr. Shannon Weathers, Council of Superior Court Judges
Ms. Carolyn Williams, Pike County Clerk of Superior Court

Call to Order

Chief Justice Sears called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. She welcomed everyone and recognized each new Council member: Judge Paul Rose, Judge Ronald Ginsberg, Judge Melvin Westmoreland, and Judge Tammy Brown. She noted that Judge Robert Rodatus, incoming president-elect of the Council of Juvenile Court Judges, is absent due to illness. In addition Judge Downs of Atlanta was not able to attend.

Following remarks by Mr. Danny DeLoach expressing appreciation to Chatham County Sheriff's Department personnel providing security, Justice Sears asked the members of the Council to introduce themselves, followed by those in the audience.

Approval of Minutes

Chief Justice Sears called attention to the minutes of the meeting held on December 11, 2007. Judge Barrett moved approval of the minutes as prepared. Judge Lillis Brown seconded. The motion carried.

Status of 2008 Judgeship Requests

Mr. Ratley reported new judgeship requests as follows: Appalachian Circuit, 4th judge; Bell-Forsyth Circuit, 3rd judge; Clayton Circuit 5th judge; Western Circuit, 4th judge. In addition recommendations will carry over from last year for the following circuits: Douglas, Flint, Mountain, Northeastern, Piedmont, Southern and Tifton. Legislation creating new judgeships in the Atlanta, Alcovy and Brunswick Circuits passed the General Assembly and has been signed by the Governor.

Budget Matters

Justice Hines noted that Judicial Council base budgets for FY09 reflect the 2.5% reduction mandated by the General Assembly. Detailed figures for all departments are in

the agenda material. Justice Hines stated that decision-makers for the various budget units determined where specific reductions were made.

Justice Hines moved acceptance of the Judicial Council budget as approved by the Budget Committee. Judge Baldwin seconded. The motion carried.

Reports from Judicial Council Committees

Nominating Committee. Judge Ott reported that the nominating committee recommends reappointment of two court reporter members of the Board of Court Reporting: Ms. Vickey Riggins and Ms. Vickie Wiechec. Mr. Derek White of Pooler is the nominee for the attorney vacancy and Judge Harry Altman of the Southern Judicial Circuit is the superior court judge nominee. Chief Justice Sears called for a vote on the recommendations. The Council voted to approve.

Standing Committee on Policy. Reporting on the 2008 session of the General Assembly, Ms. Nesbit noted that to the dismay of the judicial leadership, Governor Perdue recently vetoed the five percent judicial pay increase. She distributed a summary report of all passed measures affecting the judiciary and details of appropriations increases and/or cuts beyond the initial 2.5 percent base budget reduction. She stated that the judicial branch has adopted the governor's preference for "white papers" to explain each new funding request. Ms. Vonnetta Pryor of the AOC can be contacted for help with any questions re the FY10 budget process.

Standing Committee on Drug Courts. Ms. Martin reported for Judge Kreeger, chair of the committee. The statewide Drug Court Conference will take place June 17-19, 2008 in Peachtree City. Currently 475 participants have registered for the conference which will feature national experts, a panel of drug court graduates and team-building

exercises. Ms. Martin invited all Judicial Council members to participate in the conference proceedings. In other areas, implementation of local drug-testing capability is underway at seven pilot sites through a contract with Siemens Laboratory. Ms. Martin noted that the Georgia's drug courts are moving to a standardized case management system available under a statewide contract. A subcommittee chaired by Judge Jeannette Little has developed treatment standards/best practices which were recently adopted by the Standing Committee. She requested that the Judicial Council ratify these drug court standards. Chief Justice Sears called for a vote on the matter. The standards were ratified unanimously.

Report from AOC Director

Mr. Ratley reported that public health emergency kits developed by Justice Melton's Pandemic Committee will soon be distributed to chief judges across the state. A report on AOC internal accounting procedures has been completed by the National Center for State Courts. A second NCSC study regarding AOC staffing is pending; results of constituent surveys regarding future program directions for the AOC is being drafted. Mr. Ratley noted that the report of a special state audit requested by Chief Justice Sears was recently provided to Judicial Council members. Turning to the 2007 caseload effort, Mr. Ratley stated that software problems have been encountered with civil case reporting; criminal case data is already complete for five of the ten judicial districts. He proposed that in the near future the Council consider establishing an Information Technology Standing Committee to set priorities for statewide IT projects. In closing he stated that 2008 marks the 35th anniversary of the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Reports from Appellate Courts and Trial Court Councils

Supreme Court. Chief Justice Sears asked Supreme Court Clerk Tee Barnes to introduce the video presentation. Ms. Barnes reported that the video reflects efforts by the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals to implement e-filing as well as a new docketing and case management system. Copies of the presentation can be obtained by contacting Mr. Bob McAteer of the Supreme Court staff.

Court of Appeals. Chief Judge Barnes stated that while the General Assembly restored some funding to their FY08 budget, the Court of Appeals continues to press for additional funds to create three positions for courtroom security staff and a public information officer. She also noted that long-time Presiding Judge John H. Ruffin, Jr. will retire at the end of December. His successor will be chosen in the November General Election.

Superior Courts. Judge Goss expressed appreciation to the State Bar, Ms. Sandy Lee and Ms. Nesbit for their efforts in gaining Legislative approval of the judicial pay increase. He noted that the council's public outreach committee, under the leadership of Judge Becker, has produced and distributed two promotional videos regarding the work of superior court judges. The court security committee will meet in July.

State Courts. Judge Carbo introduced Judge Ronald Ginsberg of Savannah, president-elect of the Council of State Court Judges. He noted that Judge Ginsberg, not Judge Sam Edgar, should be listed as a new Judicial Council member. Judge Carbo invited members of the Judicial Council to attend the fall meeting of the Council of State Court Judges to be held October 15-17 at Jekyll Island. As previously announced, Georgia will host the 2009 National High School Mock Trial Competition at the Fulton

County Courthouse in Atlanta. Judge Carbo urged Council members to make themselves available as volunteers at the conference.

Juvenile Courts. Judge Teske began by expressing his appreciation to outgoing council president Judge Velma Tilley. He noted that Judge Tilley, author of the proposed model juvenile court code, will assist with code revision efforts during the 2009 legislative session. Judge Teske advised that while some jurisdictional revisions will be considered, prior consultation with superior court judges and others will be part of the process. He asked Council members to support passage of the federal JJDP Act which is up for reauthorization this year. CJ CJ has recently established two awards honoring long-time judges. The Aaron Cohn Award and the Martha Glaze Award will recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice. Finally, the council's sub-committee on salary and retirement is working to bring juvenile court judges under the state judicial retirement system.

Probate Courts. Judge Lillis Brown noted that probate judges are being trained to conduct federal background checks required for applicants seeking a concealed weapons permit. The council has obtained funds to produce two videos detailing the duties of guardians and conservators appointed by the probate courts. Production will begin this summer under the direction of Dan Sperling Video, Inc. A probate bill introduced during the session addressed inconsistencies in the code involving access to certain court records, order recordation, deed rooms, and administrative matters.

Magistrate Courts. Judge Warden reported that the \$100,000 in training funds designated for magistrates had been restored to the ICJE budget. Their strategic planning in July will address IT issues and other concerns. She expressed appreciation to the AOC

for help with the magistrate's website. The council continues to work on implementation of mental health courts.

Municipal Courts. Judge Clifton announced that because Judge John Roberts recently resigned as a municipal court judge; Judge Tammy Stokes of Savannah will become president of the council for the coming year. The municipal court judges will continue to work with the House Judiciary Committee on legislation establishing standard qualifications for the office of municipal court judge and four-year terms of office. A data transmission project allowing the AOC to capture municipal court caseload data as transmitted to DDS is underway to provide documentation of the monetary contribution of the municipal courts to the state.

Reports from Judicial Agencies

The Chief Justice noted that written reports could be found in the agenda from the Commission on Children, Marriage and Family Law, Committee on Justice for Children, Georgia Courts Automation Commission and the Chief Justice Led Task Force to Promote Mental Health/Criminal Justice Collaboration, Child Support Commission, and Committee on Civil Justice.

Reporting on the activities of the Georgia Council of Court Administrators, Ms. Judy Cramer announced that Will Simmons is president-elect of the organization and district court administrator Greg Jones is a new board member. Their goal of increasing in-state training opportunities for Georgia court administrators has been realized through a certification program accredited by Michigan State University. These programs will focus on the ten core competencies for court administrators adopted by NACM, ICM and others. Curriculum for the fall conference addresses case-flow management issues. The

Georgia council is also partnering with ICJE to develop undergraduate and master's degree programs in court administration. The Program of the Year Award was recently presented to the Villa Rica Municipal Court for their successful warrant amnesty month.

Old Business

Judge Joe Bishop put forward three Workload Assessment Committee recommendations tabled at the December 2007 Judicial Council meeting.

Item One:

The deadline for receipt of letters of request for Judicial Council consideration of the need for an additional judgeship or the alteration of circuit boundaries shall be the close of business on the date of the deadline with the time stamp of the AOC affixed to the letters.

Judge Goss moved to accept Item One as presented. Judge Baldwin seconded.

The motion carried.

Item Two:

Letters of request for consideration of the need for an additional judgeship or the alteration of circuit boundaries shall be sent to the Chief Judge of each judicial circuit, the Governor, the Lt. Governor and the Speaker of the House.

Judge Goss moved approval of Item Two. Judge Baldwin seconded. The motion carried.

Item Three:

A "revocation of probation" shall be defined, for the purposes of counting cases, as the filing of a Petition for Revocation with the court or the issuance of an order with the signature of the judge concerning Revocation of Probation.

Judge Goss moved adoption of Item Three. Judge Baldwin seconded. Following some discussion, the motion carried.

New Business

On behalf of the Board of Court Reporting, Mr. Ratley presented a framed Resolution and plaque to Judge Anne Workman for service on the Board from July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2008. The resolution states that Judge Workman is well-respected in the judiciary as a person of ability, intelligence and fortitude. The members of the Board of Court Reporting acknowledge her service and diligence as significant contributions to the integrity of the court reporting profession. Chief Justice Sears joined Mr. Ratley in making the presentation and congratulating Judge Workman.

Adjournment

Chief Justice Sears presented certificates of appreciation to members of the Council whose terms are ending: Judge Barrett, Judge Clifton, Judge Howell, Judge Ott, Judge Rucker Smith and Judge Warden. She announced the next meeting of the Judicial Council on August 26, 2008 at the Atlanta Marriott Gwinnett Place.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Billie Bolton, Assistant Director

The above and foregoing minutes were approved at the meeting held on _____ day of _____, 200_.

Analysis of Calendar Year 2007

Caseload Data

**Prepared for the Judicial Council of Georgia to
Support the Need for Additional Judgeships**



Provided by:

The Administrative Office of the Courts

Research

August 26, 2008

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Judgeship Need Assessment Charts:

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Letters of Request and Comments from Invited Respondents

New Request: First Year Consideration

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Clayton	Tab -	5
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Carryover Request

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Tifton	Tab -	13

Judicial Council of Georgia
Administrative Office of the Courts

David L. Ratley
Director

M E M O R A N D U M

To: All Judicial Council Members
From: Research Staff
Date: July 29, 2008
Re: Explanation of Judgeship Needs Assessment Documents

On August 26, 2008 the Judicial Council of Georgia will meet. Again this year, at the request of Chief Judge Joe C. Bishop, Chair of the Judicial Workload Assessment Committee, the Office of Research (AOCOR) will provide each of you with a copy of the Judicial Workload Assessment Guide (JWAG). This Guide was developed as a comprehensive handbook to provide detailed information concerning the judgeship process. The Guide is an essential tool, particularly for first time members of the Judicial Council, to understanding these processes and includes detailed information about policy, caseload analysis, and information concerning circuit qualification. The bound copy will be provided at the August 26th meeting and will also be available on-line at http://www.georgiacourts.org/aoc/research_planning.php

Processes:

The data presented in the Agenda on the Judgeship *Super Table* for calendar year 2007 was collected in a number of different ways. The general civil and the domestic relations data was downloaded from the Georgia Superior Court Clerks Cooperative Authority in early May of 2008. The data was sent, very shortly thereafter, to the Superior Court Clerks of each county and was verified by the clerks. Then, adjustments were submitted in writing to the AOCOR. Subsequently, the adjusted general civil and domestic relations data was forwarded to each of the District Court Administrators (DCAs). The DCAs, in turn, conducted a final verification of the case load data and reported changes to the AOCOR. Any adjustments to the data submitted by the DCAs during their final verification were updated and finalized prior to presentation to the Judicial Council.

The criminal data was collected from a variety of sources. The number of Unified Appeal filings was reported to the AOCOR by the District Attorney of each circuit. The felony and misdemeanor filings were reported by the Superior Court Clerks to Research in summary form by defendant index, docket index, or the criminal calendar. In addition, the Research staff counted the filings and defendants from bound dockets or from computer screens in the Clerks' offices. The Chief Probation Officers reported the number of

probation revocation petitions filed in the Superior Courts. In many instances, private probation providers reported the number of misdemeanor revocation petitions filed in the Superior Courts still handling misdemeanors.

Specific Processes for Completion of the Judgeship Chart

All caseload data was entered into a secure computer program. The data on the Judgeship *Super Table* is computer generated. All data was updated independently by Research staff from final verification from the Clerk of Court, the DCAs, or both. All corrections to the data must be in writing and are held for two years in a secure area in the AOCOR.

Letters of support are sent, primarily, to the Director of the AOC and are forwarded to the Chairperson of the Judicial Council. Copies are submitted to Research staff for compiling reports and introductory comments. Each part of the agenda is described by title and page numbers.

EXPLANATION OF DOCUMENTS WITH PAGE NUMBERS

- A. Judicial Council Policy for Judgeship & Circuit Boundary Studies:**
Page 7, Description - *Official policy of the Judicial Council governing the methodology applied in judgeship assessment process. These policies have been in place since 1973 and are revised by the Judicial Council when circumstances require.*

- B. Supreme Court of Georgia Order for Designee Voting:**
Page 14, Description – *Dated April 10, 2003, this order distinguishes the circumstances under which a judge, acting as a designee for a Judicial Council member, may not vote or may vote.*

- C. Trial Court Caseload Report:**
Page 15, Description: *Oral presentation of caseload data reports for all trial courts including State, Juvenile, Magistrate, and Probate Court.*

JUDGESHIP NEED ASSESSMENT CHARTS

- A. Judgeship Case Weight Needed to Qualify:**
Page 16, Description - *The current case weights were approved by the Council on June 8, 2005. Each circuit must have a weight equal to or greater than that presented on this table for the number of judges currently authorized. For example: a circuit with 5 judges would need to have a weight of at least 6.60 to qualify for a recommendation for the 6th judgeship.*

- B. Number of Judges and Details of the Circuit and Per Judge Weights:**
Page 17, Description - *This table displays the weight needed to qualify for a recommendation for an additional judge by circuit and per judge. Each value is paired with the actual weight generated from the calendar year 2007 data.*

C. Superior Court Circuit Timeline:

Page 20, Description - *Displays the detailed history of newly created judgeships and new circuits by year. This timeline assists Council members by displaying the information concerning the number of active judge vs. authorized positions.*

D. Chart 1: 2007 Circuits, Personnel, & Weighted Caseload:

Page 21, Description – *This table shows the current number of judgeships for all classes of courts in the circuit. In the last column, the chart includes the circuit judge year value, also called the “**weighted caseload**,” computed from caseload data collected by or reported to the AOC from calendar year 2007. Circuits requesting judgeship studies for presentation to the General Assembly in 2009 are highlighted in yellow. In order to “**qualify**” for a recommendation, one of two conditions must be met. The first condition requires a circuit to have a weight that is equal to or greater than the “**value to qualify**” currently approved by the Judicial Council. For example, if a circuit has three (3) judges it must have a “**value to qualify**” equal to or greater than 4.02. When this first condition is met the circuit is said to “**qualify**” and is eligible for recommendation to the General Assembly upon a simple majority of the votes cast by the Judicial Council. Second, if a circuit does not have a sufficiently large enough “**value to qualify**,” using the same definition presented in the first condition, it must receive a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes cast by the Judicial Council to be recommended to the General Assembly.*

E. Chart 2: CY 2007 Criminal Filings by Rank & 5-year Percentage Change:

Page 22, Description - *Caseload figures in this table are ranked from high to low and permit the reader to determine the position of the requesting circuit for that value. Each case type defined by the Judicial Council is displayed. The increase or decrease in the number of cases for each case type is shown, as a percentage, compared with the data from calendar year 2003.*

F. Chart 3: CY 2007 Circuit & Civil Filings by Rank & 5-year Percentage Change:

Page 23, Description - *Caseload figures in this are ranked from high to low and permit the reader to determine the relative position of the requesting circuit for that value. Each case type, as defined by the Judicial Council, is displayed. The increase or decrease in the number of cases for each case type is shown, as a percentage, based on a comparison with the data from calendar year 2003.*

G. Chart 4: CY 2007 Population Estimate:

Page 24, Description - *This data reflects the 2007 population estimate released on July 1, 2008 by the U.S. Census and the 2010 projections published by the Office of Planning and Budget.*

4 FACTOR CHART (2008 presentation of 2007 data)

Page 25, Description: *This chart is **not an official part** of the studies conducted by the Judicial Council associated with Requests for Additional Superior Court Judgeships. It was developed to highlight the objective criteria used during the formal Judicial Council Deliberations, see paragraphs 2 and 3 on Page 2 of the Judicial Council Policy presented earlier in this memorandum. The purpose of the chart is to aid Judicial Council members in their personal deliberations regarding how they will vote. Since, the case count methodology was revised, the factors with ranking and the sum of the ranks, have been limited to the numerical values for criminal, general civil, and domestic relations cases along with the estimated and projected population. As in the past, the general meaning of the Weighted Caseload in Minutes per Judge will be explained during the staff presentation to the Judicial Council.*

Sample Ballot (Qualifying)

Page 26

Sample Ballot (Ranking)

Page 27

LETTERS OF REQUEST AND COMMENTS FROM INVITED RESPONDENTS

New Judgeship Requests

Description: *These letters are from circuits requesting new judgeship recommendations sent to the Judicial Council during calendar year 2008. Letters received by the AOC, up to the date of the actual meeting, will be provided to the Judicial Council at the time of the meeting.*

Appalachian	4 th	Tab - 3
Bell-Forsyth	3 rd	Tab - 4
Clayton	5 th	Tab - 5
Western	4 th	Tab - 6

Carryover Judgeship Request

Description: *Judicial Council policy allows a circuit that has been recommended for an additional judgeship to the General Assembly to be presented for three (3) years. This means that the circuit does not have to re-qualify for a recommendation unless the caseload decreases by more than 10%.*

Douglas	4 th	Approved August 2007	Tab - 7
Flint	4 th	Approved August 2007	Tab - 8
Mountain	3 rd	Approved August 2007	Tab - 9
Northeastern	5 th	Approved August 2007	Tab - 10
Piedmont	4 th	Approved August 2007	Tab - 11
Southern	6 th	Approved August 2007	Tab - 12
Tifton	3 rd	Approved August 2007	Tab - 13

Judicial Council Policy for Judgeship and Circuit Boundary Studies*

Initiation

Recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly for judicial personnel allocations for the superior courts shall be made annually prior to the beginning of the regular session of the General Assembly. Studies by the Administrative Office of the Courts of the need for judgeships or of the need for changes in circuit boundaries may be authorized by the Judicial Council upon the request of the governor, members of the General Assembly, or by a judge of the county or counties affected. Such requests shall be submitted in writing by June 1, prior to the session of the General Assembly during which the judgeship or change in circuit boundaries is sought. Any request received after June 1 shall not be considered until the following year. Any judge who intends to make a request for a study must notify the Judicial Council of any special circumstances or data of the courts involved in the request by June 1 so that these special circumstances may be investigated during the studies conducted by the Administrative Office of the Courts. (Rev. 12/07/2005)

Purpose

The Judicial Council seeks to achieve a balanced and equitable distribution of case load among the judges of the state to promote speedy and just dispositions of citizens' cases. The Judicial Council recognizes that the addition of a judgeship is a matter of great gravity and substantial expense to the counties and the state and should be approached through careful inquiry and deliberate study before action is taken. (10/27/1981)

Policy Statements

The Judicial Council will recommend the creation of additional judgeships or changes in circuit boundaries based only upon needs demonstrated through comparative "objective" studies. The Judicial Council will not recommend the addition of a judgeship not requested by the circuit under study unless there is clear and convincing evidence that an additional judgeship is needed. (10/27/1981)

As a matter of policy, the Judicial Council recommends that no new part-time judgeship be created. Because of the advantages of multi-judge circuits, the Judicial Council generally will not recommend the creation of additional circuits. (10/27/1981)

* Reprinted and reformatted from the original published in Georgia Courts Journal.

Judgeships

1. Part-time judgeships

As a general rule, part-time judgeships are not an effective method of handling judicial workload. The disadvantages of part-time judgeships are many; a few specific ones are:

a. The cost of training a part-time judge is the same as that of training a full-time judge, but the benefits to the state or local government of training a part-time judge are only a fraction of those realized by training a full-time judge, since a part-time judge will hear only a fraction of the cases heard by a full-time judge receiving the same training. Additionally, part-time judges are generally not paid for the time they spend in continuing education. This creates a financial disincentive for part-time judges to attend continuing education, whom might ordinarily spend time practicing law or conducting law or conducting other business. (10/27/1981)

b. Conflicts of interest often arise in professional relationships for part-time judges. It is often difficult for other attorneys to litigate against an attorney and have to appear before the same attorney, sitting as judge, the next day. Additionally, cases in which part-time judges are disqualified usually arise in their own court, thus eliminating a large potential portion of their law practice. (10/27/1981)

2. Promotion of Multi-Judge Circuits

Multi-judge courts are more effective organizations for administrative purposes. Some specific advantages of multi-judge courts are:

a. Accommodation of judicial absences. Multi-judge circuits allow better management in the absence of a judge from the circuit due to illness, disqualification, vacation, and the demands of other responsibilities such as continuing legal education. (10/27/1981)

b. More efficient use of jurors. Better use of jury manpower can be effected when two judges hold court simultaneously in the same county. One judge in a multi-judge circuit may use the other judge's excess jurors for a trial of a second case rather than excusing them at an added expense to the county. Present courtroom space in most counties may not permit two trials simultaneously; but such a practice, if implemented, may justify the building of a second smaller courtroom by the county affected, or the making of other arrangements. (10/27/1981)

c. Accommodation of problems of impartiality or disqualification. A larger circuit with additional judges may permit hometown cases where acquaintances are involved to be considered by an out-of-town judge without the appearance that the local judge is avoiding responsibility. (10/27/1981)

d. Improves court administration. Multi-judge circuits tend to promote impartiality and uniformity of administrative practices and procedures by making court administration something more than the extension of a single judge's personality. Multi-judge circuits also permit economies in the deployment of auxiliary court personnel. (10/27/1981)

e. Expedites handling of cases. Probably most important of all, under the arithmetic of calendar management, the judges of a multi-judge court can handle substantially more cases than an equal number of judges operating in separate courts. Besides the advantage of improved efficiency to be realized through the use of multi-judge circuits, there are also a number of other reasons as to why this approach should be taken. Under the existing law, a new judgeship may be created without the addition of another elected district attorney, although an assistant district attorney is added. However, when the circuit is divided and a new circuit thereby created, another elected district attorney is needed. A second reason supporting the use of multi-judge circuits is that upon division of an existing circuit into two new ones, one new circuit may grow disproportionately to the other, or population or other factors suggesting division may diminish, thus negating the factors which initially led to the division and compounding future problems of adjustment. (10/27/1981)

Methodology

1. Criteria for Superior Court Judgeship Requests

In establishing the need for additional superior court judgeships, the Judicial Council will consider weighted caseloads per judge for each circuit. If the per judge weighted caseload meets the threshold standards established by the Council for consideration of an additional judgeship, additional criteria will be considered. The threshold standard is a value set by the Judicial Council in open session. (06/08/2005)

Additional criteria considered may include, but are not limited to, the following and are not necessarily in the order of importance as listed below:

- a. Filings per judge
 - b. Growth rate of filings per judge
 - c. Open cases per judge
 - d. Case backlog per judge
 - e. Population served per judge
 - f. Population growth
 - g. Number and types of supporting courts
 - h. Availability and use of senior judge assistance
 - i. Number of resident attorneys per judge
 - j. Responses to letters to legislators, county commissioners, presidents of local bar associations, district attorneys, and clerks of superior court asking for their input.
- (8/25/2000)

2. Criteria for Studying Requests to Alter Circuit Boundaries

The criteria used by the Judicial Council in reviewing proposals to alter circuit boundaries will include the following criteria:

a. Weighted Caseload per Judge - After the proposed change in circuit boundaries, caseload should be more evenly distributed. In addition, a proposed circuit's workload should not vary significantly from the statewide average weighted caseload per judge. (10/27/1981)

b. Caseload Growth Trends - Caseload growth trends should be examined so that an imbalance in growth rates when a circuit boundary is changed will not necessitate a reallocation of manpower or alteration of circuit boundaries again in the near future. Such continual shifts in circuit boundaries or manpower could be very unsettling and, thereby, significantly reduce judicial efficiency. If a reliable caseload projection method is available, this technique will be used to determine future case filings; if one is not available, caseload growth rates, increases in the number of attorneys per capita and population projections will be analyzed. The population per judge should be evenly divided among the geographical areas affected by the proposed circuit boundary change if a recommendation is to be made. Secondly, population projections should be examined to insure that disparate population growth rates will not create a great imbalance in the population to be served by each judge within a short period of time from the date of the alteration of the circuit boundaries. Lastly, the population per judge of the altered circuit should not be substantially different from the statewide average population per judge. (10/27/1981)

c. Changes in Judicial Travel Time - Travel time diminish total judicial time available for case processing; therefore, travel time should not be significantly increased for judges in circuits affected by a change in circuit boundaries before such a change should be recommended. Terms of court in and the number of times each county was visited on case-related business by the judges should be determined and these trips should be translated into travel time by using official distances between courthouses and road conditions determined by the Georgia Department of Public Safety. (10/27/1981)

d. Projected Changes in Cost to State and Local Government - Cost savings or additional expenditures required of local and state governing authorities should be determined. Changes in cost for personnel, facilities, and travel should be considered. A recommendation for change should not be made unless additional expenditures required are minimal or balanced by equivalent cost savings. (10/27/1981)

e. Characteristics of populace in areas of circuits sought to be separated, such as rural or urban. (12/11/1981)

f. Operational policies of circuit as presently constituted as might involve inattention to smaller counties in circuit. (12/11/1981)

g. Whether creation of new circuit would obviate necessity of one or two additional judges in parent circuit. (12/11/1981)

- h. Travel and other expenses incident to serving smaller counties. (12/11/1981)
- i. Alleviation of case assignment problems in larger counties of circuit. (12/11/1981)
- j. Population growth of counties of circuit which would reflect need for new circuit. (12/11/1981)
- k. Comparison population per judge in new circuit with standards approved by Judicial Council in recent years. (12/11/1981)
- l. 1. The Judicial Council will presume that a multi-judge circuit is preferred over a single-judge circuit. (12/11/1981)
- m. If a county is to be split off from the circuit of which it is a part, the possibilities of adding that county to another circuit should be exhausted prior to the council's recommending a single- judge circuit. (12/11/1981)

Judicial Council Deliberations

1. Testimony

Judges, legislators, and others deemed appropriate by the chair shall be invited to make written remarks or present data regarding the need for judgeships or to alter circuit boundaries. Any special circumstance or data of a circuit for which a request is to be made must be brought to the attention of the Judicial Council by a judge of the requesting circuit by June 1 of the year prior to the year of the legislative session during which the judgeship or change in circuit boundaries will be considered. The written testimony of the judges, legislators and other persons shall be reviewed and considered by the Judicial Council in their deliberations regarding judicial manpower. Oral arguments will not be made. (6/6/1984)

2. Final Deliberations

After all written presentations, the Judicial Council and key Administrative Office of the Courts staff, in open session, will discuss the merits of each request. (6/6/1984)

3. Staff Presentations

The Administrative Office of the Courts will present data evaluating the need to add judgeships or to alter circuit boundaries based on council approved criteria and will make staff recommendations. (10/27/1981)

4. Vote

After final deliberations, the Council will, in open session, approve or disapprove recommended changes in judicial manpower allocations. Votes on such motions shall be by secret written ballot. A two-thirds vote of the council membership present at the session will be required to override an unfavorable recommendation based on the criteria contained in these by-laws (policy). After determining those circuits in which the council recommends an additional judgeship, the council will rank the recommendations based on need. Any ranking ballot that does not rank each and every judgeship recommendation presented on the secret ballot shall not be counted. (12/07/2005)

5. Length of Recommendations

Upon a recommendation of an additional judgeship or to alter circuit boundaries for a judicial circuit by the council, the recommendation shall remain approved by the council for a period of three years, unless the caseload of that circuit changes by plus or minus ten percent. (Rev. 12/13/1996)

6. Disqualifications

Any council member in a circuit or county affected by a council recommendation shall be eligible to vote by secret ballot on motions affecting that circuit, but shall not be present or participate in the council's final deliberations regarding his or her circuit. (Rev. 6/6/1984)

Dissemination of Recommendations

1. Study of the Need for Additional Superior Court Judgeships

The Administrative Office of the Courts shall prepare a report, including data required by the council for their deliberations and council policy statement, on the Judicial Council's recommendations as to the need for additional superior court judgeships. Such report shall be distributed to the governor, members of the judiciary and special judiciary committees of the Senate and House, all superior court judges and other interested parties approved by the director of the Administrative Office of the Courts. Additionally, the Administrative Office of the Courts shall prepare and distribute a press release summarizing the council's recommendations. (10/27/1981)

2. Special Studies of Judicial Manpower. Including Alteration of Circuit Boundaries

a. The Administrative Office of the Courts shall prepare reports on the Judicial Council's recommendations for special studies, including reports on requests to alter circuit boundaries and for judgeships of courts other than the superior court and shall distribute them to the requestor, and, in the discretion of the director, to other interested parties. (10/27/1981)

b. In preparing special reports, written remarks of judges, legislators, and others deemed appropriate by the chairperson shall be solicited by the Administrative Office of the Courts and considered by the Judicial Council. (12/11/1986)

Printed April 30, 2006



SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

Atlanta April 10, 2003

The Honorable Supreme Court met pursuant to adjournment.

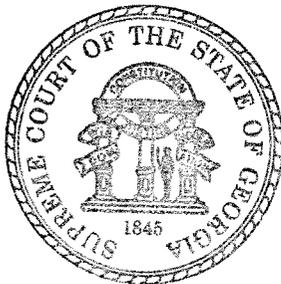
The following order was passed:

It is ordered that this Court's order of August 5, 1983, establishing rules for the Judicial Council of Georgia, be hereby amended to provide for an absent member's designee to vote in certain circumstances, to read as follows:

All members shall be entitled to vote, except as hereinafter specified. A member unable to attend a meeting shall be entitled to be represented by a judge, designated by the absent member, who may be heard but shall not be entitled to vote. In the event that the member is unable to attend a meeting due to illness, incapacitation, or the death of an immediate family member, the designee shall be entitled to vote.

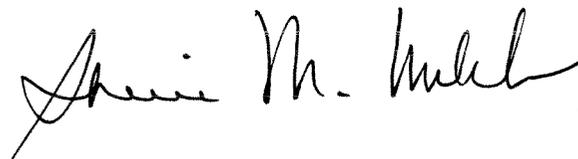
SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

Clerk's Office, Atlanta



I hereby certify that the above is a true extract from
The minutes of the Supreme Court of Georgia

Witness my signature and the seal of said court hereto
Affixed the day and year last above written.

 , Clerk

Judicial Council of Georgia
Administrative Office of the Courts

David L. Ratley
Director

Reply to:
Office of Research

MEMORANDUM

TO: Judicial Council Members
FROM: Research Staff
DATE: July 21, 2008
RE: Status of Trial Court Caseload Reports as of July 21, 2008

1. State: 68 out of 71 State courts have reported
2. Juvenile: 148 out of 159 Juvenile courts have reported
3. Probate: 142 out of 159 Probate courts have reported
4. Magistrate: 144 out of 159 Magistrate courts have reported

Judgeship Table
Judgeship Case Weight Needed to Qualify

Number of Judges	Value to Qualify
2	2.700
3	4.020
4	5.320
5	6.600
6	7.860
7	9.100
8	10.320
9	11.520
10	12.700
11	13.860
12	15.000
13	16.120
14	17.220
15	18.300
16	19.360
17	20.400
18	21.420
19	22.420
20	23.400
21	24.360
22	25.300
23	26.220
24	27.120
25	28.000

**Number of Judges and
Details of the Circuit and Per Judge Weights**

Circuit	Number of Judges	Circuit		Per Judge	
		Weight		Weight	
		To Qualify	Actual 2007	To Qualify	Actual 2007
Alapaha	2	2.70	3.41	1.35	1.71
Alcovy	4	5.32	7.87	1.33	1.97
Appalachian	3	4.02	4.13	1.34	1.38
Atlanta	19	22.42	19.59	1.18	1.03
Atlantic	4	5.32	3.86	1.33	0.97
Augusta	8	10.32	6.58	1.29	0.82
Bell-Forsyth	2	2.70	2.36	1.35	1.18
Blue Ridge	3	4.02	3.57	1.34	1.19
Brunswick	4	5.32	7.02	1.33	1.76
Chattahoochee	6	7.86	6.86	1.31	1.14
Cherokee	4	5.32	6.84	1.33	1.71
Clayton	4	5.32	4.98	1.33	1.24
Cobb	10	12.70	12.16	1.27	1.22
Conasauga	4	5.32	5.47	1.33	1.37
Cordele	2	2.70	3.44	1.35	1.72
Coweta	6	7.86	9.64	1.31	1.61
Dougherty	3	4.02	3.50	1.34	1.17
Douglas	3	4.02	4.50	1.34	1.50
Dublin	3	4.02	3.62	1.34	1.21
Eastern	6	7.86	4.38	1.31	0.73
Enotah	2	2.70	3.67	1.35	1.83
Flint	3	4.02	4.97	1.34	1.66
Griffin	4	5.32	5.49	1.33	1.37
Gwinnett	9	11.52	11.55	1.28	1.28
Houston	3	4.02	4.07	1.34	1.36
Lookout Mountain	4	5.32	6.35	1.33	1.59
Macon	5	6.60	6.51	1.32	1.30
Middle	2	2.70	3.00	1.35	1.50
Mountain	2	2.70	3.05	1.35	1.53
Northeastern	4	5.32	5.62	1.33	1.40
Northern	3	4.02	5.36	1.34	1.79
Ocmulgee	5	6.60	7.23	1.32	1.45
Oconee	2	2.70	3.20	1.35	1.60
Ogeechee	3	4.02	3.28	1.34	1.09
Pataula	2	2.70	2.78	1.35	1.39
Paulding	3	4.02	5.05	1.34	1.68
Piedmont	3	4.02	5.61	1.34	1.87
Rockdale	2	2.70	1.96	1.35	0.98
Rome	4	5.32	5.57	1.33	1.39
South Georgia	2	2.70	2.73	1.35	1.36
Southern	5	6.60	7.56	1.32	1.51
Southwestern	3	4.02	3.08	1.34	1.03
Stone Mountain	10	12.70	11.43	1.27	1.14
Tallapoosa	2	2.70	3.03	1.35	1.51
Tifton	2	2.70	2.83	1.35	1.41
Toombs	2	2.70	2.58	1.35	1.29
Towaliga	2	2.70	3.38	1.35	1.69
Waycross	3	4.02	4.51	1.34	1.50
Western	3	4.02	3.90	1.34	1.30

Total as of 12/31/07 199

Color Code:

	New Judgeship Request
	Carryover
	Qualified but Not Requested

Summary: Number of Judges and Details of the Circuit and per Judge Weights

1. New Judgeship Requests: Lists the new judgeship requests and presents the value to qualify, actual weight, and qualification for a recommendation.

Circuit	Value to Qualify	Actual Value to Qualify	Qualification
Appalachian (4 th) ¹	4.02	4.13	Yes
Bell-Forsyth (3 rd)	2.70	2.36	No
Clayton (5 th)	5.32	4.98	No
Western (4 th)	4.02	3.90	No

2. Carry Over Request: Lists the circuits in carry over status, the year qualified, and the year the recommendation for consideration by the General Assembly and the Governor expires.

Circuit	Year Qualified	Year of Expiration
Douglas (4 th)	2007	2010
Flint (4 th)	2007	2010
Mountain (3 rd)	2007	2010
Northeastern (5 th)	2007	2010
Piedmont (4 th)	2007	2010
Southern (6 th)	2007	2010
Tifton (3 rd)	2007	2010

3. Qualified Circuits not Requesting an Additional Judgeship: Lists the circuits that are qualified but did not request an additional by circuit, weight to qualify, and actual weight.

Circuit	Value to Qualify	Actual Value to Qualify
Alapaha (2) ²	2.70	3.41
Alcovy (4) ³	5.32	7.87
Brunswick (4) ³	5.32	7.02
Cherokee (4)	5.32	6.84
Conasauga (4)	5.32	5.47
Cordele (2) ³	2.70	3.44
Coweta (6)	7.86	9.64
Enotah (2) ³	2.70	3.67
Griffin (4)	5.32	5.49
Gwinnett (9) ³	11.52	11.55
Houston (3)	4.02	4.07
Lookout Mountain (4)	5.32	6.35
Middle (2)	2.70	3.00
Northern (3)	4.02	5.36
Ocmulgee (5)	6.60	7.23
Oconee (2)	2.70	3.20
Pataula (2)	2.70	2.78
Paulding (3)	4.02	5.05

Circuit	Value to Qualify	Actual Value to Qualify
Rome (4)	5.32	5.57
South Georgia (2)	2.70	2.73
Tallapoosa (2)	2.70	3.03
Towaliga (2)	2.70	3.38
Waycross (3)	4.02	4.51

Notes: ¹ Circuits with judgeship in the form (2nd) indicates the judgeship being requested. ² Circuits in the form (2) represent the judges as of 12/31/07. ³ Indicates circuits that added a judge in 2008 or is authorized to add a judge in 2009.

Superior Court Circuit Judgeship Timeline: 1992 - 2008

Circuit	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Alapaha	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Alcovy (created 1972)	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4*
Appalachian (created 1983)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3
Atlanta	15	15	15	15	15	15	17	17	18	18	19	19	19	19	19	19	19*
Atlantic	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Augusta	6	6	6	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Bell-Forsyth (created 1998)							1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Blue Ridge	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3
Brunswick	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4*
Chattahoochee	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Cherokee	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4
Clayton	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Cobb	7	7	7	8	8	8	8	8	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	10	10
Conasauga	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Cordele	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3
Coweta	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	6	6
Dougherty	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Douglas (created 1983)	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Dublin	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3
Eastern	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Enotah (created 1992)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3
Flint	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3
Griffin	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Gwinnett	6	6	6	6	6	6	7	7	7	7	8	8	8	8	9	9	10
Houston (created 1971)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3
Lookout Mountain	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Macon	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Middle	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Mountain	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Northeastern	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Northern	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Ocmulgee	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Oconee	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Ogeechee	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Pataula	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Paulding (created 2002)											2	2	2	2	2	3	3
Piedmont	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Rockdale (created 1983)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Rome	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
South Georgia	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Southern	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5
Southwestern	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Stone Mountain	9	9	9	9	9	9	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Tallapoosa	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	3	2	2	2	2	2	2
Tifton	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Toombs	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Towaliga (created 1999)								1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Waycross	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Western	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Total	159	159	159	169	169	169	175	176	183	184	189	188	188	188	193	199	202

* The 5th judgeship for the Alcovy Judicial Circuit, the 20th judgeship for the Atlanta Judicial Circuit, and the 5th judgeship for the Brunswick Judicial Circuit have already been approved by the General Assembly and will begin on 07/01/2009.

CHART 1

2007 Circuits, Personnel, and Weighted Caseload

Circuit	Counties	Superior Court	State Court	Juvenile Court	Probate Court	CY07 Weighted Caseload
		Judge Positions Authorized ¹	Judges Authorized ¹	Judges and Associate Judges ¹	Judges Hearing Traffic Cases ¹	
Alapaha	5	2	1	2	4	3.41
Alcovy	2	4 ²	0	3	2	7.87
Appalachian	3	3	0	2	3	4.13
Atlanta	1	19 ³	10	7	0	19.59
Atlantic	6	4	6	5	0	3.86
Augusta	3	8	5	7	1	6.58
Bell-Forsyth	1	2	2	2	0	2.36
Blue Ridge	1	3	2	2	0	3.57
Brunswick	5	4 ⁴	4	6	1	7.02
Chattahoochee	6	6	2	3	5	6.86
Cherokee	2	4	0	2	2	6.84
Clayton	1	4	4	3	0	4.98
Cobb	1	10 ⁵	12	4	0	12.16
Conasauga	2	4	0	2	2	5.47
Cordele	4	2 ⁶	0	1	4	3.44
Coweta	5	6	4	4	2	9.64
Dougherty	1	3	1	2	0	3.50
Douglas	1	3	1	1	0	4.50
Dublin	4	3 ⁷	1	2	3	3.62
Eastern	1	6	3	3	0	4.38
Enotah	4	2 ⁸	0	1	4	3.67
Flint	1	3	3	3	0	4.97
Griffin	4	4	2	3	2	5.49
Gwinnett	1	9 ⁹	6	5	0	11.55
Houston	1	3	1	1	0	4.07
Lookout Mountain	4	4	2	4	2	6.35
Macon	3	5	1	3	2	6.51
Middle	5	2	5	2	0	3.00
Mountain	3	2	2	1	1	3.05
Northeastern	2	4	2	2	1	5.62
Northern	5	3	1	2	4	5.36
Ocmulgee	8	5	2	1	6	7.23
Oconee	6	2	0	2	6	3.20
Ogeechee	4	3	4	0	0	3.28
Pataula	7	2	2	2	5	2.78
Paulding	1	3	0	3	1	5.05
Piedmont	3	3	1	1	2	5.61
Rockdale	1	2	1	1	0	1.96
Rome	1	4	0	2	1	5.57
South Georgia	5	2	3	2	2	2.73
Southern	5	5	4	6	1	7.56
Southwestern	6	3	1	1	5	3.08
Stone Mountain	1	10	7	10	0	11.43
Tallapoosa	2	2	0	3	2	3.03
Tifton	4	2	3	1	1	2.83
Toombs	6	2	0	1	6	2.58
Towaliga	3	2	0	1	3	3.38
Waycross	6	3	5	2	1	4.51
Western	2	3	2	3	1	3.90
Totals:	159	199	118	132	88	263.14

Notes: ¹ as of 12/31/07 ² 5th on 7/1/09 ³ 20th on 7/1/09 ⁴ 5th on 7/1/09 ⁵ 10th on 12/7/07 ⁶ 3rd on 01/01/08

⁷ 3rd on 12/10/07 ⁸ 3rd on 01/01/08 ⁹ 10th on 01/01/08

CHART 2

CY07 Criminal Filings by Rank and Five-Year Percentage Change Per Judge by Defendant

Circuit	Total Criminal Filings	Rank	% Change CY03 - CY07	Unified Appeals	Felony Defendants	Misdemeanor Defendants	Probation Revocations
Alapaha	1,353	1	21.13%	0.00	382	773	199
Alcovy	1,136	7	38.51%	0.25	478	294	364
Appalachian	798	25	0.21%	0.00	344	356	98
Atlanta	906	20	-1.65%	0.00	712	0	194
Atlantic	356	49	-22.11%	0.00	252	4	100
Augusta	577	42	-16.73%	0.38	384	104	88
Bell-Forsyth	567	45	54.92%	1.50	395	0	171
Blue Ridge	783	26	31.87%	0.00	495	72	217
Brunswick	857	22	34.04%	1.25	520	60	276
Chattahoochee	478	47	1.74%	0.00	259	73	147
Cherokee	1,238	3	31.89%	0.00	491	305	441
Clayton	782	28	4.34%	0.00	536	46	200
Cobb	1,097	8	17.48%	0.00	718	8	372
Conasauga	771	31	31.84%	0.00	379	295	97
Cordele	1,023	12	26.47%	0.00	405	261	357
Coweta	1,034	11	72.76%	0.00	569	75	390
Dougherty	861	21	-6.68%	0.00	560	5	296
Douglas	990	13	38.33%	0.00	542	61	387
Dublin	650	38	0.31%	0.00	318	147	186
Eastern	735	35	8.12%	0.00	499	17	219
Enotah	1,205	4	30.34%	0.00	482	437	287
Flint	777	29	58.25%	0.33	501	21	254
Griffin	762	32	-3.24%	0.00	454	106	202
Gwinnett	759	33	31.56%	0.00	488	20	251
Houston	927	16	50.05%	0.00	534	74	320
Lookout Mountain	772	30	41.61%	0.00	421	166	185
Macon	677	36	-16.68%	0.00	418	20	238
Middle	741	34	34.15%	0.00	520	9	212
Mountain	1,137	6	59.02%	0.00	374	172	592
Northeastern	941	15	18.89%	0.25	525	179	237
Northern	914	18	33.71%	0.00	505	200	208
Ocmulgee	1,055	9	24.01%	0.00	466	363	226
Oconee	909	19	4.84%	0.00	421	293	196
Ogeechee	530	46	-8.57%	0.00	320	41	169
Pataula	820	23	13.82%	0.00	347	206	267
Paulding	980	14	123.14%	0.00	372	563	45
Piedmont	1,304	2	58.79%	0.33	531	534	238
Rockdale	571	44	18.10%	0.00	425	0	147
Rome	1,197	5	5.09%	0.00	402	397	399
South Georgia	628	40	13.05%	0.00	436	24	169
Southern	805	24	15.31%	0.00	562	22	221
Southwestern	572	43	-11.83%	0.00	309	102	161
Stone Mountain	666	37	-2.72%	0.10	508	0	157
Tallapoosa	782	27	32.43%	0.00	355	249	179
Tifton	389	48	-13.07%	1.50	268	43	77
Toombs	592	41	-4.21%	0.00	222	217	154
Towaliga	634	39	11.43%	0.00	361	202	71
Waycross	918	17	57.22%	0.00	564	39	315
Western	1,049	10	22.46%	0.00	556	125	368

Mean: 837 0.12 446 159 231

CHART 3

CY07 Civil Filings by Rank and Five-Year Percentage Change Per Judge

Circuit	Total Circuit Filings (Criminal + Civil)	Rank	% Change CY03 - CY07	Total Civil Filings	Rank	% Change CY03 - CY07	General Civil	Domestic Relations
Alapaha	2,891	5	30.78%	1,538	22	40.65%	641	898
Alcovy	3,411	1	47.93%	2,276	1	53.13%	1,374	901
Appalachian	2,051	35	18.76%	1,253	38	34.62%	756	497
Atlanta	1,808	43	4.03%	903	47	10.43%	278	625
Atlantic	1,404	48	8.00%	1,048	45	24.32%	395	653
Augusta	1,430	47	-20.80%	852	48	-23.34%	332	520
Bell-Forsyth	1,977	38	18.85%	1,410	26	8.67%	572	839
Blue Ridge	2,074	34	31.63%	1,291	34	31.48%	542	749
Brunswick	2,494	15	41.29%	1,637	13	45.40%	741	896
Chattahoochee	1,990	37	8.90%	1,511	23	11.39%	705	807
Cherokee	3,049	3	26.53%	1,811	7	23.11%	1,080	732
Clayton	2,144	30	-0.43%	1,362	30	-2.97%	564	798
Cobb	2,268	26	18.05%	1,170	39	18.60%	255	915
Conasauga	2,336	24	155.97%	1,565	20	96.61%	1,006	559
Cordele	2,671	10	23.23%	1,649	12	30.63%	717	932
Coweta	2,846	6	56.06%	1,813	6	47.91%	763	1,050
Dougherty	2,010	36	6.97%	1,149	41	20.14%	488	661
Douglas	2,560	14	28.17%	1,570	18	22.49%	894	677
Dublin	1,816	42	8.12%	1,166	40	13.02%	520	646
Eastern	1,243	49	-6.57%	508	49	-21.90%	223	285
Enotah	2,785	8	26.34%	1,580	17	23.45%	928	652
Flint	2,789	7	11.59%	2,012	2	0.18%	1,007	1,005
Griffin	2,379	23	14.22%	1,617	15	24.85%	760	857
Gwinnett	2,383	22	8.56%	1,624	14	0.36%	490	1,134
Houston	2,476	16	43.81%	1,549	21	40.31%	459	1,090
Lookout Mountain	2,743	9	75.47%	1,971	4	93.59%	1,004	968
Macon	2,462	18	24.14%	1,784	9	52.49%	302	1,482
Middle	2,150	29	8.07%	1,410	27	-1.95%	574	836
Mountain	2,413	20	25.58%	1,276	35	5.76%	603	673
Northeastern	2,423	19	34.54%	1,482	24	46.81%	791	691
Northern	2,623	11	47.63%	1,710	11	56.32%	810	899
Ocmulgee	2,193	27	24.90%	1,138	43	15.74%	672	467
Oconee	2,475	17	18.96%	1,566	19	29.05%	630	936
Ogeechee	1,598	45	16.21%	1,069	44	34.25%	449	620
Pataula	2,144	30	43.47%	1,324	31	71.06%	570	754
Paulding	2,928	4	130.46%	1,947	5	134.34%	1,368	579
Piedmont	3,307	2	78.26%	2,003	3	93.71%	1,273	730
Rockdale	1,710	44	10.82%	1,139	42	7.50%	375	764
Rome	2,597	12	10.85%	1,400	28	16.31%	814	585
South Georgia	1,951	41	24.83%	1,323	32	31.33%	567	756
Southern	2,123	32	4.53%	1,318	33	-1.11%	639	679
Southwestern	1,479	46	0.00%	907	46	0.01%	514	393
Stone Mountain	2,086	33	10.43%	1,420	25	17.90%	385	1,035
Tallapoosa	2,575	13	27.22%	1,793	8	25.08%	1,156	638
Tifton	1,974	39	27.64%	1,585	16	30.72%	692	894
Toombs	1,971	40	41.81%	1,379	29	52.40%	648	731
Towaliga	2,393	21	30.27%	1,760	10	38.71%	999	761
Waycross	2,173	28	12.11%	1,255	37	-7.33%	577	678
Western	2,319	25	17.44%	1,270	36	13.60%	576	694
Mean:	2,288			1,451			683	768

CHART 4 Population

CY07 U.S. Census Population per Superior

2010 GA O.P.B. Projected Population per Superior

Circuit	Court Judge	Rank	Court Judge	Rank
Alapaha	28,158	44	26,026	45
Alcovy	44,791	17	49,157	11
Appalachian	27,152	45	30,380	43
Atlanta	52,218	10	43,178	23
Atlantic	37,010	33	35,731	36
Augusta	41,153	29	40,780	28
Bell-Forsyth	79,457	2	90,981	2
Blue Ridge	68,121	5	71,381	5
Brunswick	45,976	16	44,725	18
Chattahoochee	41,320	28	41,730	25
Cherokee	36,220	34	39,583	31
Clayton	68,054	6	77,080	4
Cobb	69,191	4	77,588	3
Conasauga	33,511	38	35,206	38
Cordele	29,990	43	30,519	42
Coweta	54,760	8	57,801	8
Dougherty	31,898	41	31,351	41
Douglas	41,498	26	39,745	30
Dublin	24,757	48	24,863	48
Eastern	41,412	27	38,775	32
Enotah	41,718	25	44,433	19
Flint	62,012	7	70,609	6
Griffin	53,434	9	57,568	9
Gwinnett	86,264	1	91,218	1
Houston	43,672	19	43,022	24
Lookout Mountain	42,423	23	44,962	17
Macon	38,573	32	38,448	33
Middle	49,115	12	46,962	13
Mountain	42,030	24	44,285	20
Northeastern	50,415	11	52,107	10
Northern	36,178	35	37,662	34
Ocmulgee	32,131	40	33,734	40
Oconee	35,724	36	33,797	39
Ogeechee	46,845	15	45,923	15
Pataula	25,254	46	25,947	46
Paulding	42,635	21	46,024	14
Piedmont	47,650	14	47,244	12
Rockdale	41,026	31	41,014	27
Rome	23,905	49	23,722	49
South Georgia	43,802	18	43,717	21
Southern	42,455	22	40,103	29
Southwestern	30,040	42	30,201	44
Stone Mountain	73,709	3	66,335	7
Tallapoosa	35,089	37	36,573	35
Tifton	41,050	30	41,428	26
Toombs	25,237	47	25,832	47
Towaliga	32,933	39	35,349	37
Waycross	43,451	20	43,369	22
Western	48,477	13	45,301	16
Mean:	43,957		44,969	

**2008 Circuit Judgeship Requests
by Rank, Weighted Caseload, and Population Per Judge**

Judicial Circuit	Final Rank on Factors 1-4 2008	Current Superior Court Judges	Previous Year Rank of Priority	Factor 1			Factor 2				Factor 3			Factor 4			Total of Ranks	Judicial Circuit			
				Weight in Minutes Per Judge	Rank	Rank	Felony Rank	Misdem Rank	Probation Revocation Rank	General Civil Rank	Domestic Relations Rank	2007 Population Per Superior Court Judge	Rank	2010 Population Per Superior Court Judge	Rank						
APPALACHIAN	11	3	NA	100,565.06	11	344.00	10	356.00	2	97.67	10	756.33	5	497.00	11	27,152	11	30,380	11	71	APPALACHIAN
BELL-FORSYTH	7	2	NA	103,352.16	9	395.00	8	0.00	11	170.50	9	571.50	10	838.50	3	79,457	1	90,981	1	52	BELL-FORSYTH
CLAYTON	6	4	NA	108,854.50	8	535.75	4	46.00	7	200.00	8	564.00	11	797.75	4	68,054	2	77,080	2	46	CLAYTON
DOUGLAS	5	3	6	131,359.87	3	541.67	3	61.33	6	387.00	2	893.67	3	676.67	9	41,498	9	39,745	10	45	DOUGLAS
FLINT	2	3	4	145,062.18	2	501.00	7	21.33	10	254.33	4	1,007.00	2	1,005.00	1	62,012	3	70,609	3	32	FLINT
MOUNTAIN	8	2	8	111,551.37	6	373.50	9	172.00	4	591.50	1	603.00	8	673.00	10	42,030	8	44,285	7	53	MOUNTAIN
NORTHEASTERN	3	4	2	122,821.37	4	525.25	6	178.50	3	237.00	6	791.00	4	691.00	7	50,415	4	52,107	4	38	NORTHEASTERN
PIEDMONT	1	3	7	163,463.77	1	531.00	5	534.00	1	238.33	5	1,272.67	1	730.33	5	47,650	6	47,244	5	29	PIEDMONT
SOUTHERN	9	5	11	110,430.40	7	561.80	1	22.20	9	220.60	7	639.20	7	679.00	8	42,455	7	40,103	9	55	SOUTHERN
TIFTON	10	2	9	103,339.73	10	267.50	11	43.00	8	77.00	11	691.50	6	893.50	2	41,050	10	41,428	8	66	TIFTON
WESTERN	4	3	NA	113,739.04	5	556.33	2	124.67	5	367.67	3	576.00	9	694.00	6	48,477	5	45,301	6	41	WESTERN

VOTE ON JUDGESHIP REQUESTS

AUGUST 26, 2008

CIRCUIT REQUESTING

APPROVE

YES

NO

1. APPALACHIAN (4TH Judgeship)

2. BELL-FORSYTH (3RD Judgeship)

3. CLAYTON (5TH Judgeship)

4. WESTERN (4TH Judgeship)

Policy Change:

Current Judicial Council Policy requires that each member of the Council fill in all ballots COMPLETELY. This rule extends to voting on judgeship requests and ranking priority. All unranked and/or partially completed ballots will be removed from voting consideration.

SAMPLE BALLOT

PRIORITY RANKING OF JUDGESHIP REQUESTS

AUGUST 26, 2008

(1 = HIGHEST; 11 = LOWEST)

<u>CIRCUIT REQUESTING</u>	<u>RANK</u>
1. APPALACHIAN (4 TH Judgeship)	_____
2. BELL-FORSYTH (3 RD Judgeship)	_____
3. CLAYTON (5 TH Judgeship)	_____
4. DOUGLAS (4 TH Judgeship)	_____
5. FLINT (4 TH Judgeship)	_____
6. MOUNTAIN (3 RD Judgeship)	_____
7. NORTHEASTERN (5 TH Judgeship)	_____
8. PIEDMONT (4 TH Judgeship)	_____
9. SOUTHERN (6 TH Judgeship)	_____
10. TIFTON (3 RD Judgeship)	_____
11. WESTERN (4 TH Judgeship)	_____

Policy Change:

Current Judicial Council Policy requires that each member of the Council fill in all ballots COMPLETELY. This rule extends to voting on judgeship requests and ranking priority. All unranked and/or partially completed ballots will be removed from voting consideration.

SAMPLE BALLOT

Appalachian Judicial Circuit

Summary

Original Request and Comment Letters Appalachian Judicial Circuit Request for the 4th Judgeship

<u>Date of Letter</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Content</u>
May 21, 2008	Chief Judge Brenda S. Weaver	Request study for 4 th judgeship
June 17, 2008	Representative David Ralston District 7	Letter of support for additional judgeship



BRENDA S. WEAVER
CHIEF JUDGE

SUPERIOR COURTS
APPALACHIAN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

POST OFFICE BOX 545
JASPER, GEORGIA 30143

(706) 253-8729
FAX (706) 253-8734

May 21, 2008



PICKENS
GILMER
AND FANNIN COUNTIES

Honorable Leah Ward Sears
Chief Justice of Supreme Court of Georgia
507 State Judicial Building
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

RE: Fourth Judgeship for the Appalachian Judicial Circuit

Dear Chief Justice Sears:

I have been informed by Mr. Steve Ferrell, District Court Administrator for the Ninth Judicial Administrative District, that his preliminary count of the caseload indicates that our circuit would qualify for a fourth judge.

As you know, our circuit consists of three counties and we currently have three Superior Court Judges. We do not have a state court in our circuit, therefore, we handle both felony and misdemeanor criminal cases, as well as civil cases. In addition, we currently are operating an Adult Drug Court, a Family Drug Court, a Family Violence Court and a Child Support Court.

Therefore, I am requesting that the Administrative Office of the Courts conduct a formal study to determine if an additional judgeship is needed in the Appalachian Judicial Circuit.

Sincerely,

Brenda S. Weaver
Chief Judge
Appalachian Judicial Circuit

BSW:ttg

cc: Mr. David L. Ratley
Judge Roger E. Bradley, Superior Court
Judge Oliver Harris Doss, Jr., Superior Court
Chief Judge John E. Worcester-Holland, Juvenile Court
Mr. Joe Hendricks, District Attorney
Mr. Michael Parham, Circuit Public Defender
Mr. Robert Jones, Pickens County Commissioner
Mr. Jerry Farist, Chairman, Gilmer County Board of Commissioners
Mr. Howell Bruce, Chairman, Fannin County Board of Commissioners





House of Representatives

DAVID RALSTON
REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 7
P. O. BOX 1196
BLUE RIDGE, GEORGIA 30513
(706) 632-2221 (O)
(404) 657-8277 (FAX)
E-MAIL: dralston@legis.state.ga.us

STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 132
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334
(404) 656-5943
June 17, 2008

STANDING
COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS
LEGISLATIVE & CONGRESSIONAL
REAPPORTIONMENT
JUDICIARY (NON-CIVIL), CHAIRMAN
RULES

Mr. David L. Ratley
Judicial Council of Georgia
Administrative Office of the Courts
244 Washington Street, SW
Suite 300
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900

Dear Mr. Ratley:

This letter will acknowledge and thank you for yours of June 9, 2008 regarding the need for an additional Superior Court judgeship in the Appalachian Judicial Circuit.

I support the creation of a fourth Superior Court judgeship in the Appalachian Judicial Circuit very strongly.

The three counties which comprise this circuit, include Fannin, Gilmer, and Pickens. These are three of the fastest growing counties in the State of Georgia. The case load data, as well as population information, would seem to strongly justify this additional judgeship.

Please feel free to share with the Judicial Council my support.

Please do not hesitate to let me know if you should have any questions.

Very truly yours,


David Ralston



DR/pr

Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit

Summary

Most Recent Request and Comment Letters Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit Request for the 3rd Judgeship

<u>Date of Letter</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Content</u>
May 9, 2008	Chief Judge Jeffrey S. Bagley Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit	Request for physical hand count of cases to determine the need for another judgeship
May 30, 2008	Chief Judge Jeffrey S. Bagley Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit	Request study for 3 rd judgeship



State of Georgia
Superior Court
of the
Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit

Jeffrey S. Bagley
CHIEF JUDGE
SUPERIOR COURT

TELEPHONE (770) 205-4660
FACSIMILE (770) 205-4661

May 9, 2008

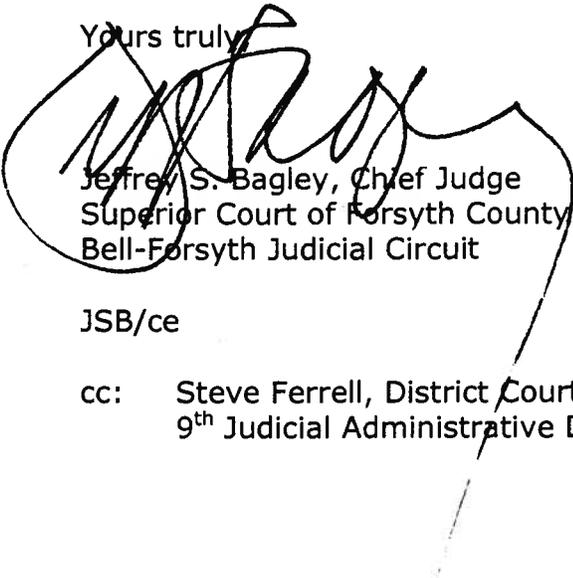
Mr. David Ratley
Administrative Office of the Courts
244 Washington Street, SW
Suite 300
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900

Re: Case Count for Superior Court

Dear Mr. Ratley:

Please perform a physical hand counting of all Superior Court cases for calendar year 2007 to definitively determine our numbers to see where we stand in relation to an additional Superior Court judgeship.

Yours truly,


Jeffrey S. Bagley, Chief Judge
Superior Court of Forsyth County
Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit

JSB/ce

cc: Steve Ferrell, District Court Administrator
9th Judicial Administrative District



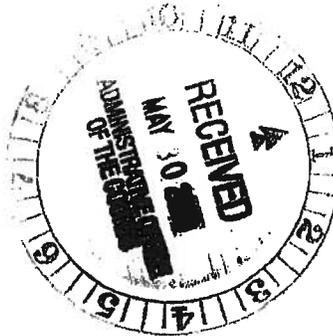


State of Georgia
Superior Court
of the
Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit

Jeffrey S. Bagley
CHIEF JUDGE
SUPERIOR COURT

TELEPHONE (770) 205-4660
FACSIMILE (770) 205-4661

May 30, 2008



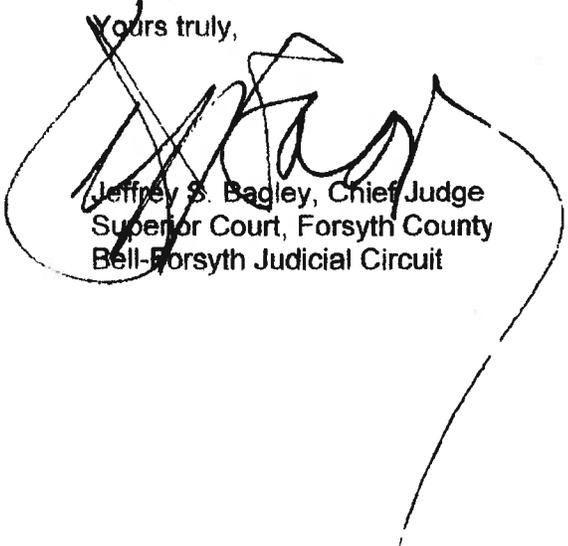
Mr. David Ratley
Administrative Office of the Courts
244 Washington Street, SW
Suite 300
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900

Re: Case Count for Superior Court

Please consider this letter as the written request from the judges of the Bell-Forsyth Circuit that you study the need for an additional judgeship and also as our formal request for an additional judgeship, should we qualify. As you know, we have asked for and appreciate you sending a team up here to verify our counts. It is my understanding that they are still analyzing the data which might result in us qualifying, and I want to ensure that we do not miss any deadlines in this process. Should the data analysis show us as qualifying, we do have additional information to gather and submit on our behalf, but, again, we need to know if we actually do qualify prior to performing all of this work.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to hearing back from your team as soon as possible.

Yours truly,


Jeffrey S. Bagley, Chief Judge
Superior Court, Forsyth County
Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit

Clayton Judicial Circuit

Summary

Original Request and Comment Letters Clayton Judicial Circuit Request for the 5th Judgeship

<u>Date of Letter</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Content</u>
January 31, 2008	Chief Judge Matthew O. Simmons Clayton Judicial Circuit	Request study for 5 th judgeship
July 8, 2008	Chief Judge Matthew O. Simmons Clayton Judicial Circuit	Letter of support cites county population and caseload increases
July 9, 2008	James J. Dalton, II, Esq.,CFP President, Clayton County Bar Association	Letter of support cites county population growth and increase in criminal and civil filings



Matthew O. Simmons
Chief Judge, Superior Court
Clayton Judicial Circuit

January 31, 2008

David L. Ratley, Director
Administrative Office of the Court
Suite 300
244 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900

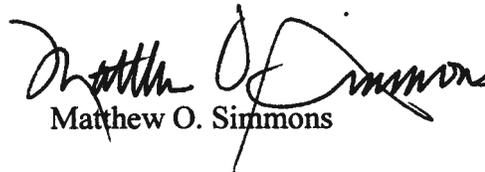


Dear Mr. Ratley:

Pursuant to the recent letter from Chief Justice Sears, please accept this letter as a formal request that a study be undertaken to assess the need for an additional superior court judgeship in the Clayton Judicial Circuit. We have been without a new judgeship since 1985 and feel that our caseload, which now includes eleven pending cases in which the death penalty is being sought, justifies consideration by the Judicial Council.

Thank you very much for your assistance on this matter and please let me know if I can assist you in any way.

Very truly yours,


Matthew O. Simmons

cc: Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears
Hon. Deborah C. Benefield
Hon. Albert B. Collier
Hon. Geronda V. Carter
William T. Simmons, Court Administrator



Matthew O. Simmons
Chief Judge, Superior Court
Clayton Judicial Circuit



July 8, 2008

David L. Ratley, Director
Administrative Office of the Courts
Judicial Council of Georgia
244 Washington Street, S.W.
Suite 300
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Re: Clayton County Superior Court's Request for Additional Judgeship

Dear Mr. Ratley:

Thank you for affording our Court an opportunity to provide comments regarding the Judgeship Study currently underway for the Clayton Judicial Circuit. We sincerely appreciate your responsiveness and work towards our efforts to seek a fifth judgeship.

The Clayton County Superior Court bench has not received an additional judgeship since 1984. Nearly 24 years later, the Court now finds itself in a position of unprecedented need. Clayton County has experienced continued growth over the years moving our court closer to an urban status. Although the circuit has experienced great change, the number of authorized judgeships has remained the same. In 1980, four years prior to our last judgeship, the county's population was reported at 150,357. In 2007, census estimates indicate that our population has grown to 272,212, more than an 81 percent increase. Under the current structure of our bench, there is one Superior Court judge for every 68,000 residents, as compared to the statewide average of approximately 48,400 per judge.

Our caseload has risen with the continual growth of our populace. From 2000 to 2005, the Clayton Superior Court experienced an 18 percent increase in criminal and civil filings. By virtue of our location along Interstate 75 as well as our court serving the Hartsfield Jackson International Airport, we have a very demanding caseload. The Clayton Judicial Circuit currently maintains the highest number of criminal filings per judge in the Sixth Judicial Circuit. While these numbers tell a portion of the story, it should also be noted that a large portion of criminal cases in our court, excluding

July 8, 2008
Page Two

murders, are serious felonies such as rape, kidnapping, and armed robbery. All of these offenses are evaluated equitably with other felony offenses in the case count, but these proceedings can be extremely complex. Each case carries a ten year minimum sentence and typically requires extensive judicial resources to resolve. We also hear a substantial number of drug trafficking cases that arise from the airport. The minimum sentence in these cases is twenty-five years and therefore, many of these cases result in jury trials.

Our circuit lacks specialty courts to address the significant influx of mentally ill, homeless and/or drug addicted defendants entering our courts. The judges of this court understand the need for proactive programs such as a drug court, but have had to focus our attention on the current status of managing cases. As the largest single county circuit in the Sixth District, we continue to lack the adequate judgeship authorizations to move our court in the direction we seek in the future.

In 2006, Clayton also had the highest per judge ratio for domestic relations cases in the metro area (Atlanta 655, Gwinnett 560, Cobb 886, St Mountain 1,006; Clayton, 1124). Additionally, we have seen a significant increase in the number of pro se filings. The judges spend a great deal of time sorting through improper filings and handwritten pleadings filed by parties who cannot afford to hire an attorney.

Clayton is ranked 6th in the state for population per judge. I ask that these factors and more be taken into consideration for the Clayton Judicial Circuit request for a fifth judgeship. Should you desire any additional information from me at any time, please contact me. Again, thank you for the work that you do for the courts of Georgia.

Sincerely,



Matthew O. Simmons, Chief Judge
Superior Court of Clayton County

cc: Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears, Supreme Court of Georgia
The Honorable Deborah C. Benefield, Superior Court, Clayton Judicial Circuit
The Honorable Albert B. Collier, Superior Court, Clayton Judicial Circuit
The Honorable Geronda V. Carter, Superior Court, Clayton Judicial Circuit
Will Simmons, District Court Administrator, Sixth Judicial Administrative
District

CLAYTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

James J. Dalton, II, Esq., CFP, President
Post Office Box 125
Jonesboro, Georgia 30237-0125
Telephone 770-471-6100 | Facsimile 770-477-8402



July 9, 2008

Mr. David L. Ratley, Director
Judicial Council Of Georgia
Administrative Office of the Courts
244 Washington Street, S.W., Suite 300
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900

Dear Mr. Ratley:

Your correspondence of the 9th and 20th of June 2008 were somewhat delayed in getting to me because June of each year is our time for transition of the leadership of our Clayton County Bar Association.

As you well know the general population of Georgia continues and is projected to grow into the middle of this century. Clayton County is a strategically located Metropolitan Community, which by the year 2010 is expected and projected to have a population of 308,320 residence. This in turn would translate to a population of 77,080 residents per Superior Court Judge, if we remain at 4 Superior Court Judges. That 4th Judgeship was added back in 1985 [23 years ago] Clayton County has burgeoned since then.

Just between the years 2000 and 2005, Clayton County Superior Court had experienced an Eighteen (18%) percent increase in criminal and civil filings.

Last year alone Clayton County Superior Court had the highest per Judge ratio for domestic relations cases in the Metropolitan area [Atlanta 655; Gwinnett 560; Cobb 886; Stone Mountain-Dekalb 1006 and finally Clayton with 1124]. Domestic cases are both time consuming, expensive to troubled litigants and many times complicated by emotions and law.

**Mr. David L. Ratley, Director
Judicial Council Of Georgia
Administrative Office of the Courts
244 Washington Street, S.W., Suite 300
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900
July 9, 2008**

The Executive Committee of the Clayton County Bar Association [which is a voluntary bar most of whom practice in the Superior Courts of Clayton County] has urged and authorized me to support the addition of a 5th Superior Court Judge in the single Circuit which is Clayton County.

Our Bar Association appreciates the opportunity to have input to the future planning of the Judicial Council of Georgia and look forward to hearing the results of the serious deliberations which must be undertaken in these matters of planning for the future of all of our citizens.

Respectfully submitted:



**James J. Dalton, II, CFP
President, CCBAR
Attorney at Law
Lt. Col. USMC (ret)
7929 Jonesboro Road
Jonesboro, GA 30236-2470**

**Phone: 770-471-6100
Facsimile: 770-477-8402**

Western Judicial Circuit

Summary

Original Request and Comment Letters Western Judicial Circuit Request for the 4th Judgeship

<u>Date of Letter</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Content</u>
May 14, 2008	Chief Judge Lawton E. Stephens Western Judicial Circuit	Request study for 4 th judgeship
May 20, 2008	Representative Bob Smith District 108	Request study for 4 th judgeship



Superior Courts
Western Judicial Circuit
Athens-Clarke and Oconee Counties

Honorable Lawton E. Stephens
Chief Judge

P.O. Box 8064
Athens, GA. 30603
(706) 613-3175
(706) 613-3179 Fax

May 14, 2008

Mr. David L. Ratley
Director
Administrative Office of the Courts
Suite 300
244 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-5900

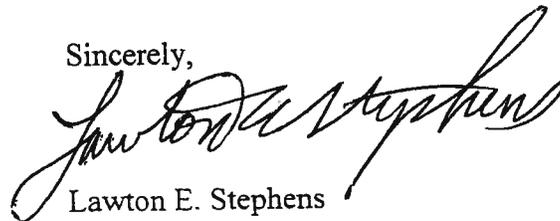


Dear David,

Please undertake a study to assess the need for an additional superior court judgeship for the Western Judicial Circuit.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Lawton E. Stephens

LES:ddr

cc: Honorable Leah Ward Sears
Chief Justice
Supreme Court of Georgia



STATE OF GEORGIA
ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICE OF THE CLERK

House of Representatives

BOB SMITH
REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 113
POST OFFICE BOX 108
WATKINSVILLE, GEORGIA 30677
(706) 769-8794 (O)
(706) 769-8795 (FAX)
E-MAIL: smith98@bellsouth.net

STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 245
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334
(404) 463-2247
(404) 463-2249 (FAX)

STANDING COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS-VICE CHAIR (HIGHER ED)
LEGISLATIVE & CONGRESSIONAL
REAPPORTIONMENT
PUBLIC UTILITIES & TELECOMMUNICATIONS
RULES

May 20, 2008

Mr. David L. Ratley, Director
Administrative Office of the Courts
244 Washington St., SW, Suite 300
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900

Dear David,

Please undertake a study to assess the need for an additional Superior Court judgeship for the Western Judicial Circuit.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Bob Smith

BS:bww

Cc: Honorable Leah Ward Sears,
Chief Justice Supreme Court of Georgia
Honorable Lawton E. Stephens,
Chief Judge Superior Courts Western Judicial Circuit

Douglas Judicial Circuit

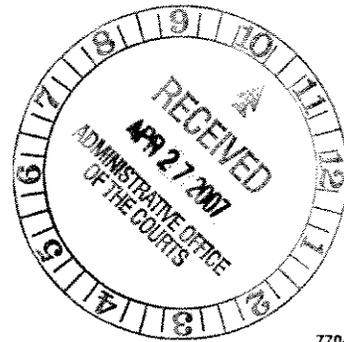
Summary

Original Request and Comment Letters Douglas Judicial Circuit Request for the 4th Judgeship

<u>Date of Letter</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Content</u>
April 25, 2007	Chief Judge Robert J. James Judge David T. Emerson Judge Donald B. Howe Douglas Judicial Circuit	Request study for 4 th judgeship
July 26, 2007	Mr. David McDade District Attorney Douglas Judicial Circuit	Letter of support for the 4 th judgeship cites population
August 22, 2007	Mr. J. Michael Money President, Douglas County Bar Association	Letter of support of the 4 th judgeship cites increase in caseload



SUPERIOR COURT
DOUGLAS JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
DOUGLASVILLE, GEORGIA 30134



770-920-7265
770-920-7227
770-920-7417

ROBERT J. JAMES, CHIEF JUDGE
DAVID T. EMERSON, JUDGE
DONALD B. HOWE, JR., JUDGE

April 25, 2007

The Honorable Leah Ward Sears
Chief Justice
Georgia Supreme Court
Suite 300
244 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900

Re: Judgeship request for the Douglas Judicial Circuit

Dear Justice Sears,

We request that the Administrative Office of the Court conduct a study of the Douglas Judicial Circuit to determine the need for a fourth judge.

Sincerely,

Robert J. James
Chief Judge

David Emerson
Judge

Donald B. Howe
Judge

cc: David L. Ratley, Director ✓

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Douglas Judicial Circuit
Douglas County Courthouse - 2nd Floor
8700 Hospital Drive
Douglasville, GA 30134
(770) 920-7292



David McDade
District Attorney

July 26, 2007

David L. Ratley
Administrative Office of the Courts
Suite 300, 244 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900

RE: Request for 4th Superior Court Judgeship for the Douglas Judicial Circuit

Mr. Ratley:

It is my heartfelt belief that the creation of a 4th superior court judgeship for the Douglas Judicial Circuit a.k.a. Douglas County, can't happen soon enough. I wholeheartedly support the request and encourage the Judicial Council to look favorably upon the request.

Douglas County is an incredibly dynamic county in terms of growth and the problems and issues that naturally accompany rapid development such as we are experiencing here. Where we were once considered a quiet, little sleepy bedroom community, we are now right in the middle of tremendous changes both in terms of commercial development as well as residential development.

I have served as a prosecutor in Douglas County since 1982 when I began my career as an assistant district attorney in a four person district attorney's office. I was fortunate to be elected as district attorney in 1990 and now due to growth and changes in our community I oversee a staff of almost thirty-five employees.

The additional personnel that would be available as a result of the creation of a new judgeship would be greatly appreciated and well needed.

Although our current judges do an excellent job of monitoring and managing case loads so that cases, both civil and criminal, move efficiently through the court system, the ever increasing demands on our system demand that we have sufficient resources although we are squeezing every ounce of efficiency possible out of our current resources, we must have help if we are going to have any chance of keeping up with the demands placed upon us.

In closing, simply put, I'm overwhelmingly supportive of the request for a 4th judgeship because we need it and need it now.

If I can be of further assistance please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. McDade', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David McDade
District Attorney
Douglas Judicial Circuit

DMD/dcr

cc: Robert J. James, Chief Superior Court Judge
David T. Emerson, Superior Court Judge
Donald B. Howe, Superior Court Judge

EDWARDS, MCLEOD & MONEY, P.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
8701 HOSPITAL DRIVE, SUITE B
DOUGLASVILLE, GA 30134

JENNIFER MCLEOD
J. MICHAEL MONEY

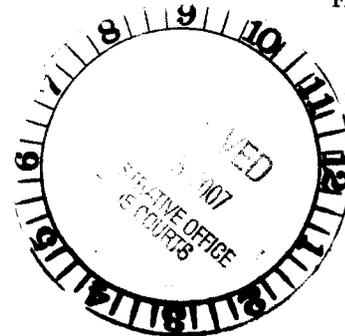
emandmpc@earthlink.net

August 22, 2007

ROBERT B. EDWARDS
OF COUNSEL

(770) 949-7300
FAX (770) 920-1602

David L. Ratley
Judicial Council of Georgia
Administrative Office of the Courts
244 Washington Street, S. W., Suite 300
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-5900



Dear Mr. Ratley:

Thank you for affording the Douglas County Bar Association the opportunity to provide comments regarding your study as to the need for a fourth Superior Court Judge in the Douglas Judicial Circuit. Please know that we are in dire need of a fourth Superior Court Judge in this county, as well as a second State Court Judge and a second Juvenile Court Judge.

I believe it was 1998 when the Honorable Donald B. Howe assumed our third Superior Court Judgeship. Since that time, Douglas County has both celebrated and suffered major growth. The development of Arbor Place Mall and six percent per year average growth over the last several years coupled with the rise in crime and the rise in the number of divorces and domestic disputes have caused shortfalls throughout our county government structure. The Judicial Branch of our county government is least fitted with tools necessary to appropriate funds to aid in addressing the shortfalls caused by our county growth.

To their credit, the Judges in all of our courts simply continue to attack their workload head-on and have developed processes and applied the latest technologies to streamline everything they can to operate as efficiently as possible. Unfortunately, oftentimes the citizens of Douglas County must wait long periods of time to appear on a calendar in a domestic non-jury calendar from the time of first making such a request. Once they appear, there are absolutely no reasonable expectations that they will be heard if it is the first time their case has appeared on the calendar - the volume of cases is oftentimes simply too great.

Waiting for court, not having their cases reached, and paying their attorneys to be present all day frustrates a multitude of citizens on a regular basis. This undermines the public's confidence in the court system, thus, influencing many frustrated parties to begin patterns of contemptible conduct that they consider to be "self-help."

David L. Ratley
August 22, 2007
Page 2

When parties do not trust the court system and begin engaging in self-help, the burdens on the courts increase; the cycle escalates. Generally, the feeling in Douglas County Bar is that litigants are much meaner than they used to be. Perhaps that meanness is simply a sign of where we are as a society; however, I can't help but think that the reason we call it "civil litigation" is because we should try to keep it civil. Keeping it civil, however, is a hard result for the most dedicated attorneys to effect when they cannot get our clients to court fast enough.

The advent of mediation does help; however, the new child support guidelines and the anticipated new changes in the domestic laws will magnify the frustrations that people are feeling across the county. The least we should be able to do as one of the three branches of government is to get people in front of a Judge so that they can be heard, so that they get their day in court, and avoid the types of "self-help" that cause them to harm one another and their children, thus, undermining the trust in our court system and passing that distrust along to future generations.

Thank you for your attention to these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Michael Money". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

J. Michael Money
President, Douglas County Bar Association

JMM/dl

Flint Judicial Circuit

Summary

Original Request and Comment Letters Flint Judicial Circuit Request for the 4th Judgeship

<u>Date of Letter</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Content</u>
May 23, 2007	Chief Judge Arch W. McGarity Flint Judicial Circuit	Request study for 4 th judgeship
July 25, 2007	Representative Steve Davis District 109	Letter of support for the 4 th judgeship cites delay and backlog
August 7, 2007	Chief Judge Arch W. McGarity Flint Judicial Circuit	Letter of support for 4 th judgeship cites population growth, increases in criminal activity, business growth, and above the state average civil filings
August 10, 2007	Mr. T. Kyle King President, Henry County Bar Association	Letter of support for 4 th judgeship cites population growth and increases in criminal activity and caseloads



THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF HENRY COUNTY

ARCH W. MCGARITY
CHIEF JUDGE
KELLY C. HAWKINS
SECRETARY

HENRY COUNTY COURTHOUSE
McDONOUGH, GEORGIA 30253
OFFICE: (770) 288-7907

May 23, 2007

Honorable Leah Ward Sears
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Georgia
State Judicial Building, Fifth Floor
40 Capitol Square, S. W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

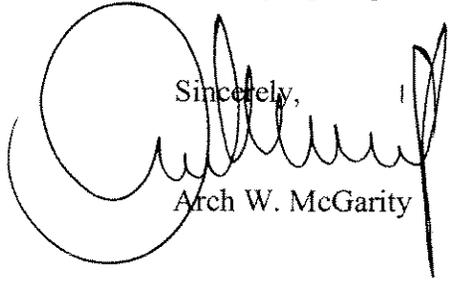


In Re: Commission of Study for Additional Judgeship

Dear Chief Justice Sears,

I have been advised by our District Court Administrator , Fred Roney, that his preliminary case count for Flint Circuit indicates that we would qualify for a fourth judge. Therefore, I am requesting that the Administrative Office of the Courts conduct a formal study to determine if an additional judgeship is warranted for the Flint Judicial Circuit.

Sincerely,


Arch W. McGarity

AWM/kh

cc: Mr. David L. Ratley



House of Representatives

STEVE DAVIS
REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 109
SERVICE TO:
CITY OF MCDONOUGH
CITY OF STOCKBRIDGE
HENRY COUNTY
E-MAIL: steve.davis@house.ga.gov

COVERDELL LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 601
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334
(404) 656-0254
(404) 651-8088 (FAX)

**STANDING
COMMITTEES:**
CHILDREN & YOUTH
INSURANCE
TRANSPORTATION
STATE INSTITUTIONS AND PROPERTY

July 25, 2007

David L. Ratley, Director
Administrative Office of the Courts
244 Washington Street, Suite 300
Atlanta, Georgia 30034

RE: Flint Judicial Circuit Request for a 4th Superior Court Judgeship

Dear Mr. Ratley,

I am writing in support of the recent letter sent to you from Chief Judge Arch W. McGarity concerning an additional, 4th Superior Court judgeship, in the Flint Judicial Circuit.

As Chief Judge McGarity indicated in his letter, our preliminary case count indicates that we should qualify for a fourth judge in our circuit. In addition, the population within our circuit has been growing steadily, placing a strain on our judicial services. It is imperative that the Flint Circuit be approved for a 4th Superior Court judgeship to enable the court to provide adequate services to the people of our circuit. I am concerned about my constituents and the availability of a court system that is not subject to delay and a backlog of cases.

I would greatly appreciate your kind consideration in this matter. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at your convenience. In addition it would be my honor to carry the legislation in the Georgia House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

Steve Davis
Representative, District 109

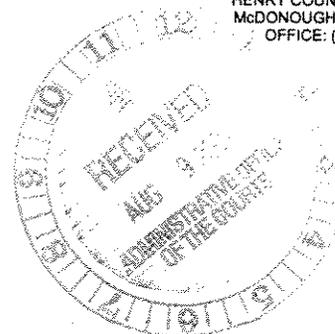


THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF HENRY COUNTY

ARCH W. MCGARITY
CHIEF JUDGE
KELLY C. HAWKINS
SECRETARY

HENRY COUNTY COURTHOUSE
McDONOUGH, GEORGIA 30253
OFFICE: (770) 288-7907

August 7, 2007



Mr. David L. Ratley, Director
Administrative Office of the Courts
244 Washington Street, Suite 300
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-5900

In Re: Creation of a Fourth Judgeship in Flint Judicial Circuit

Dear Mr. Ratley,

I am writing this letter in support of the Flint Judicial Circuit's request for the creation of a fourth judgeship. In addition to the case count, I offer the following information:

1. Henry County's population continues to grow at or above eight percent (8%) annually.
2. As our county becomes more urban, the criminal activity increases not only in volume but in the seriousness and complexity of crimes committed (ie. murder, armed robbery, and gang related crimes).
3. In the last year we have experience a forty percent (40%) increase in new business growth.
4. Population per judge is 61,500 and steadily increasing.
5. Our civil case filings are approximately 2000 per judge which is well above the State average of 1200 per judge.

I ask that you give due consideration to my request for the creation of a fourth judgeship in the Superior Court of Henry County, Flint Judicial Circuit

Sincerely,

Arch W. McGarity, Chief Judge
Flint Judicial Circuit

AWM/kh

**HODGES, MCEACHERN & KING
ATTORNEYS AT LAW**

177 North Main Street
Jonesboro, Georgia 30236
(770) 473-0072

CARL H. HODGES

Fax (770) 473-0075

MARION K. MCEACHERN

T. KYLE KING



August 10, 2007

Mr. David L. Ratley, Director
Administrative Office of the Courts
Judicial Council of Georgia
244 Washington Street Southwest, Suite 300
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-5900
VIA FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION TO (404) 651-6449

Re: 4th Superior Court judgeship
Flint Judicial Circuit

Dear Mr. Ratley:

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing in my capacity as president of the Henry County Bar Association regarding the Judicial Council's study to determine the need for a fourth Superior Court judgeship in the Flint Judicial Circuit. I hope the Council will determine that an additional judgeship is necessary and will recommend its establishment.

Although a third Superior Court judgeship was added only recently, the explosive growth of Henry County is ongoing and the burdens on our local judiciary continue to increase. Henry County is experiencing approximately an eight per cent growth in population and roughly a 40 per cent rate of new business growth. Accordingly, the Flint Circuit now has one Superior Court judge for roughly every 61,500 residents, as compared to the statewide average of around 50,000 persons per judge.

Naturally, a burgeoning populace carries with it an increased caseload for the courts. This year's civil caseload in the Superior Court for the Flint Circuit is up more than 10 per cent over 2006 and represents a 25 per cent increase over 2005. In Henry County, we are averaging approximately 2,000 civil filings per Superior Court judge, nearly double the statewide average of 1,200.

While the projected 2007 criminal caseload is expected to experience an increase of only about three per cent over last year, the criminal cases now being tried in Henry County deal with increasingly serious and complex offenses, such as armed robbery, murder, and gang-related offenses.

Moreover, as attested to by the steady growth in the active membership of

Mr. David L. Ratley, Director
Administrative Office of the Courts
Judicial Council of Georgia
August 10, 2007
Page Two

the Henry County Bar, the local legal community is expanding, both in numbers and in diversity, as the changing needs of a growing county require the services of attorneys in a wider variety of practice fields. These needs, of course, are reflected in the more extensive range of the kinds of cases our judges must confront, which consume greater amounts of court time as they distribute our scarce judicial resources across an even larger array of legal issues.

The Judicial Council has been responsive to the Flint Circuit's growing needs in the past, for which we are most appreciative. As Henry County continues to grow, both in its overall population and in the size and scope of its legal community, the burdens on our courts continue to increase. Part of the price of progress is the need for more jurists who are capable of confronting this changing landscape.

We in Henry County have been blessed with a distinguished bench and we in the local bar remain committed to maintaining our county as a fine place in which to live and work. Preserving the ability of the Henry County Bar to protect and vindicate the legal rights of every person and business in the Flint Circuit requires that both the quality *and quantity* of our judges be kept at the highest level.

For the foregoing reasons, I am, on behalf of the Henry County Bar Association, asking the Judicial Council to recommend an additional Superior Court judgeship for the Flint Circuit to the General Assembly and the Governor. I thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Kyle King', written over a horizontal line.

T. Kyle King
President
Henry County Bar Association

cc: Honorable Arch W. McGarity
Chief Judge, Superior Court
Flint Judicial Circuit

Mountain Judicial Circuit

Summary

Original Request and Comment Letters Mountain Judicial Circuit Request for the 3rd Judgeship

<u>Date of Letter</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Content</u>
April 23, 2007	Chief Judge Ernest H. Woods, III	Request study for 3 rd judgeship
July 31, 2007	Senator Nancy Schaefer District 50	Letter of support for the 3 rd judgeship cites growth and increases in dockets filed
August 6, 2007	President Nina M. Svoren Mountain Judicial Circuit Bar Association	Letter of support for the 3 rd judgeship cites delay in probation hearings and domestic temporary hearings
January 29, 2008	Chief Judge Ernest H. Woods, III	Request study for 3 rd judgeship



SUPERIOR COURTS
MOUNTAIN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF GEORGIA
ERNEST H. WOODS, III, Chief Judge

HABERSHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE
P.O. BOX 485
CLARKESVILLE, GEORGIA 30523

TELEPHONE 706-754-6274
FAX 706-754-4722

April 23, 2007

Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears
Chairperson of the Judicial Council
507 State Judicial Building
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

RE: Request for additional judgeship

Dear Madam Chief Justice:

Please accept this as the request for an additional superior court judgeship for the Mountain Judicial Circuit.

With warm regards, I remain,

Sincerely,

Ernest H. Woods, III
Chief Judge

cc: ✓ Mr. David L Ratley
Senator Nancy Schaefer
Representative Ben Bridges
Representative Jeannette Jamison
Representative Charles Jenkins



NANCY SCHAEFER
District 50
P.O. Box 294
Turnerville, Georgia 30580
Tel: (706) 754-1998
Fax: (706) 754-1803



COMMITTEES:
Secretary, Retirement
Banking and Financial Institutions
Economic Development
Ethics
Special Judiciary

323 - A Coverdell Legislative Office Building
18 Capitol Square, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
Tel: (404) 463-1367
Fax: (404) 463-1388

The State Senate
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

E-mail: senatormancyschaefer@alltel.net

July 31, 2007

Mr. David L. Ratley, Director
Administrative Office of the Courts
Suite 300
244 Washington Street SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

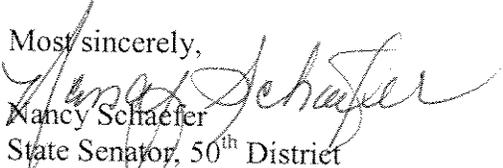
Dear Mr. Ratley,

Having grown up the daughter of Superior Court Judge, Lamar Smith of the Mountain Judicial Circuit, I am very much aware of heavy caseloads. Also, due to the fact that I live in the Mountain Judicial Circuit area, I am very much aware of the growth and the needs in the counties and the increased numbers of Dockets filed.

The leadership of the Mountain Judicial Circuit would agree, I am sure, as to the call for a 3rd Superior Court judge.

Therefore, I continue to support the certification for a 3rd Superior Court judgeship in the Mountain Judicial Circuit.

Most sincerely,


Nancy Schaefer
State Senator, 50th District



Mountain Judicial Circuit Bar Association
P.O. Box 1004
Toccoa, GA 30577
(706)886-0200



Nina M. Svoren, President
L. Allyn Stockton, Vice President
J. Bruce Harkness, Sr., Treasurer

August 6, 2007

Mr. David L. Ratley
Director
Judicial Council of Georgia
Administrative Office of the Courts
Suite 300
244 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Ga 30334-5900

Re: Third Superior Court Judgeship / Mountain Judicial Circuit

Dear Mr. Ratley:

As president of the Mountain Judicial Circuit Bar Association, and as a practicing attorney in this Circuit, I can assure you that many in our membership would welcome the addition of a third superior court judge. After learning that your office was seeking comments in this regard, the Public Defender called to advise me that they are having to wait four and one-half months for probation violation hearings and three months for bond hearings. Lawyers who practice in domestic relations law have been concerned for quite some time about two and one-half month or greater delays in holding temporary hearings. There is some concern that these delays encourage the overuse of ex parte relief in order to avoid conflicts over custody and visitation.

If you would like further information, please do not hesitate to call.

Cordially,

Nina M. Svoren
President,
Mountain Judicial Circuit Bar Association



SUPERIOR COURTS
MOUNTAIN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF GEORGIA
ERNEST H. WOODS, III, Chief Judge

HABERSHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE
P.O. BOX 485
CLARKESVILLE, GEORGIA 30523

TELEPHONE 706-754-6274
FAX 706-754-4722

January 29, 2008

Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears, Chair
Judicial Council of Georgia
Administrative Office of the Courts
244 Washington Street SW Suite 300
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900



RE: Additional Judgeship, Mountain Judicial Circuit

Dear Chief Justice Sears:

In response to your letter dated January 23, 2008, I respectfully request a study in the Mountain Judicial Circuit for an additional judgeship.

At the present time, there are two superior court judges in the Mountain Judicial Circuit. A study of the rapid population growth in this area of the State is reflected in the case load of each judge. The Mountain Judicial Circuit is comprised of Habersham, Rabun and Stephens counties. Habersham and Stephens counties have part-time state courts whose jurisdiction includes misdemeanor offenses, traffic, DUI, game and fish violations and some civil jurisdiction. Rabun County has no state court. Therefore, the superior court has jurisdiction over misdemeanor violations, game and fish violations and civil cases in Rabun County. Traffic cases including DUI's are filed in the probate court of Rabun County.

Please know that this office will be available to assist with information that might be needed in the study.

Sincerely,

Ernest H. Woods, III, Chief Judge
Superior Courts
Mountain Judicial Circuit

Northeastern Judicial Circuit

Summary

Original Request and Comment Letters Northeastern Judicial Circuit Request for the 5th Judgeship

<u>Date of Letter</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Content</u>
June 20, 2007	Chief Judge C. Andrew Fuller Northeastern Judicial Circuit	Request study for 5 th judgeship
August 7, 2007	Mr. Lee Darragh District Attorney	Letter of support for 5 th judgeship cites use of visiting judges and retired judges
August 16, 2007	Mr. Mike Berg Dawson County Board of Commissioners	Letter of support for 5 th judgeship cites population growth and increase in caseload
June 20, 2008	Mr. Lee Darragh District Attorney	Letter of support for 5 th judgeship cites use of visiting judges and retired judges



Superior Courts

OF THE

Northeastern Judicial Circuit

C. ANDREW FULLER, JUDGE
P.O. BOX 3362
GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA 30503
(770) 531-6861
FACSIMILE (770) 533-7678

DAWSON, HALL
COUNTIES



June 20, 2007

Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears
Chairman, Judicial Council of Georgia
Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts
Suite 550, 244 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-5900

**RE: REQUEST FOR STUDY TO DETERMINE THE NEED FOR
 ADDITIONAL JUDGESHIP**

Dear Chief Justice Sears:

On behalf of the Superior Court Judges of the Northeastern Judicial Circuit, it is hereby requested that the Judicial Council of Georgia approve a study by the Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts to determine the need for an additional judgeship.

Your consideration of this request for our case count is greatly appreciate, and if you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

C. Andrew Fuller

CA



**LEE DARRAGH
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
NORTHEASTERN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
HALL COUNTY / DAWSON COUNTY**

August 7, 2007

P.O. Box 1690
Gainesville, Georgia 30503
(770) 531-6965
Fax: (770) 531-6970
email: ldarragh@hallcounty.org

Mr. David Ratley
Administrative Office of the Courts
244 Washington Street, S.W., Suite 300
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-5900

Dear Mr. Ratley:

I write in response to your inquiry of July 16, 2007 concerning any comments I may have about a fifth superior court judgeship in the Northeastern Judicial Circuit.

A fifth judge is needed. Frequently, to appropriately handle the caseload, our judges have used visiting judges, and there is a retired judge in our circuit who is kept quite busy with overload. A fifth judge would also speed the disposition of criminal cases, always a desirable goal.

Thank you for your solicitation of and consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Lee Darragh
District Attorney

LE/er



**DAWSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

August 16, 2007

Mike Berg
Chairman

Gary Pichon
Commissioner
District One

Frank Craft
Commissioner
District Two

Mike Connor
Commissioner
District Three

Julie Hughes Nix
Commissioner
District Four

Mr. David L. Ratley, Director
Administrative Office of the Courts
Suite 300, 244 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-5900

Dear Mr. Ratley,

Please be advised that I am in receipt of your letter dated July 16, 2007, concerning the study being conducted regarding the need for a 5th Superior Court judgeship in the Northeastern Judicial Circuit. The Dawson County Commission supports this study being conducted and looks forward to the report that will contain caseload information and any recommendation concerning an additional judgeship.

Dawson County is actively preparing for growth within all areas of our county including, but not limited to, the Court system. Within six months Dawson County will have completed the construction of a new detention center, and Dawson County is currently working toward a new courthouse construction project which will be put before the voters in the near future.

Thus, Dawson County recognizes that the caseload of the Northeastern Judicial Circuit will likely qualify our circuit for an additional Superior Court Judge position based upon the weighted caseload formula utilized by the Judicial Council of Georgia. Although supported, Dawson County also recognizes the expense associated with the creation of a new Superior Court judgeship and our budget for the calendar year 2008 does not contain the necessary money related to that expense. However, this does not deter our support for the study being conducted as our Superior Court Judges have identified that the study is the first step in a lengthy process of obtaining a judgeship such that we will have adequate time to budget any money necessary to cover the expense of the creation of the new Superior Court judgeship.

Dawson County looks forward to any recommendation that might be forthcoming from the Judicial Council of Georgia, and if you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Mike Berg, Chairman
Dawson County Board of Commissioners

RECEIVED
10/17
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS



**LEE DARRAGH
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
NORTHEASTERN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
HALL COUNTY / DAWSON COUNTY**

June 20, 2008

P.O. Box 1690
Gainesville, Georgia 30503
(770) 531-6965
Fax: (770) 531-6970
email: ldarragh@hallcounty.org

Mr. David Ratley
Director, Administrative Office of the Courts
244 Washington Street, S.W., Suite 300
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-5900

Dear Mr. Ratley:

Thank you for your letter of June 9, 2008 soliciting comments about the need for a fifth Superior Court Judge for the Northeastern Judicial Circuit.

The need certainly is there. From the perspective of this office, criminal cases could move more rapidly through the system with a fifth judge. With the use of senior judges in our circuit, there has been some relief. However, the use of senior judges on an almost constant basis is not the most efficient use of tax payer funds. I support a fifth judge.

Respectfully,

Lee Darragh
District Attorney

LD/er



Piedmont Judicial Circuit

Summary

Original Request and Comment Letters Piedmont Judicial Circuit Request for the 4th Judgeship

<u>Date of Letter</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Content</u>
May 31, 2007	Chief Judge Robert W. Adamson Judge David Motes Judge Joseph H. Booth Piedmont Judicial Circuit	Request for 4 th judgeship cites population growth and building of new courthouses as firm commitment of community to investment to judicial needs
July 19, 2007	Senator Nancy Schaefer District 50	Letter of support for the 4 th judgeship
July 23, 2007	Representative Terry England District 108	Letter of support for the 4 th judgeship cites population growth and building of new courthouses
August 7, 2007	Chief Judge Robert W. Adamson Judge David Motes Judge Joseph H. Booth Piedmont Judicial Circuit	Supplemental material, 12 pages, to support request for a 4 th judgeship, consists of text, graphs, and blue prints
August 7, 2007	Ms. Gloria Wall Clerk of Superior Court Barrow County	Letter of support for the 4 th judgeship cites increase in filings
August 8, 2007	Representative Timothy A. Harper Clerk of Superior Court Banks County	Letter of support for the 4 th judgeship
August 9, 2007	Ms. Allison Mauldin Acting District Attorney	Letter of support for the 4 th judgeship cites growth in population and crime
August 10, 2007	Ms. Nancy Floyd President, Piedmont Bar Association	Letter of support for 4 th judgeship cites increase in caseload, judges being over extended, and county population growth
August 10, 2007	Representative Jeanette Jamieson District 28	Letter of support for 4 th judgeship cites increase in caseload
May 16, 2008	Chief Judge David Motes Judge Robert W. Adamson Judge Joseph H. Booth Piedmont Judicial Circuit	Request for study of 4 th judgeship

June 12, 2008

**Ms. Gloria Wall
Clerk of Superior Court
Barrow County**

**Letter of support for the 4th judgeship
cites increase in filings**

June 24, 2008

**Representative Terry England
District 108**

**Letter of support for the 4th
judgeship cites population growth
and building of new courthouses**



ROBERT W. ADAMSON, CHIEF JUDGE
SUPERIOR COURT, BARROW COUNTY
PIEDMONT JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

May 31, 2007

David Ratley, Director
Judicial Council of Georgia
Administrative Office of the Courts
Suite 300
244 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-5900



Dear Mr. Ratley:

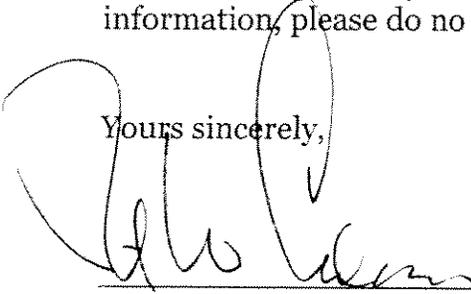
The Piedmont Judicial Circuit respectfully requests a study to determine the need for a fourth Superior Court Judge. We believe the tremendous growth in the population of both Barrow and Jackson counties coupled with the consequent increase in the number of Dockets filed in 2006 justifies this request. The year-over-year increase in Dockets filed from 2005 to 2006 exceeded 29%.

Further, the counties of Banks, Barrow and Jackson are committed to investing in their judicial system. They are committed to providing the Courtroom facilities, office space and support personnel to handle a four-judge judicial circuit. Jackson County has a state-of-the-art Courthouse, completed in 2004. Barrow County broke ground on May 23, 2007 for a new Courthouse which is expected to open in February, 2009. Similarly, Banks County has completed the planning process for renovation and expansion of the existing Courthouse which will be completed by January 1, 2009.

We are preparing a comprehensive study to include all the information normally required by the Administrative Office of the Courts. We will submit this after we reconcile our numbers with those of the AOC.

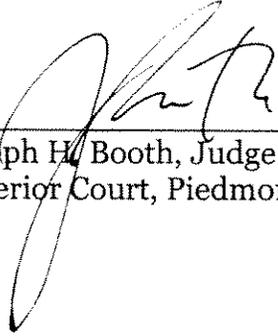
Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,


Robert W. Adamson, Chief Judge
Superior Court, Piedmont Judicial Circuit



David Motes, Judge
Superior Court, Piedmont Judicial Circuit



Joseph H. Booth, Judge
Superior Court, Piedmont Judicial Circuit

cc: Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears

NANCY SCHAEFER
District 50
P.O. Box 294
Turnerville, Georgia 30580
Tel: (706) 754-1998
Fax: (706) 754-1803



302 - B Coverdell Legislative Office Building
18 Capitol Square, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
Tel: (404) 463-1367
Fax: (404) 657-3217

The State Senate
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

COMMITTEES:
Retirement, Vice Chairman
Ethics, Secretary
Appropriations
Banking and Financial Institutions
Economic Development
Science and Technology, Ex Officio

July 19, 2007

David L. Ratley, Director
Administrative Office of the Courts
Suite 300
244 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

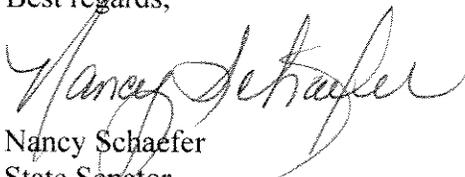
Dear Mr. Ratley:

As the daughter of a Superior Court Judge of the Mountain Judicial Circuit, I know what growth in an area plus increased numbers of Dockets filed can create. Therefore, I am writing in support of the certification for a 4th Superior Court judge in the Piedmont Judicial Circuit.

I am confident of the community's support of this request and urge your support and recommendation also.

Thank you for your understanding and assistance with this matter.

Best regards,


Nancy Schaefer
State Senator
District 50





House of Representatives

TERRY ENGLAND
REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 108
1060 OLD HOG MOUNTAIN ROAD
AUBURN, GEORGIA 30011
(770) 867-1601 (O)
(770) 867-8096 (H)
(770) 867-2160 (FAX)
E-MAIL: englandhomeport2@alltel.net

COVERDELL LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 501
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334
(404) 656-0177
(404) 463-2196 (FAX)

July 23, 2007

STANDING
COMMITTEES:

AGRICULTURE – VICE CHAIR
APPROPRIATIONS
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS - SECRETARY
INTRAGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATIONS

David L. Ratley, Director
Administrative Office of the Courts
Suite 300
244 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Re: Piedmont Judicial Circuit

Dear Mr. Ratley,

As you are aware, in 2006, Judge Robert W. Adamson requested your office to conduct a study of the need for an additional Superior Court Judge for the Piedmont Circuit. At that time I expressed to you the tremendous growth that our area has experienced over the last decade. Needless to say, this situation has not changed in the last twelve months.

Barrow County, which I represent, sits at the southern end of the Circuit and continues to be on of the fastest growing counties in Georgia coming in at number 5 in 2006 for the state and 23rd in the nation. I see no reason that this should change or slow in the foreseeable future, thus continuing to increase the burden placed on the three currently seated judges.

All three counties that make up the Circuit have either just finished, or are starting new or renovated court facilities in order to handle the increasing pressure from cases generated by the growing population of the area. I know that Barrow County is committed to providing the resources that would be required of the additional judgeship, as I am sure the other counties involved would.

I certainly appreciate you and your staff assisting us in this matter. If you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Terry England
Georgia House of Representatives
District 108

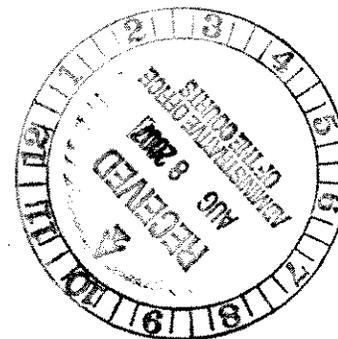
Cc: Judge Adamson



ROBERT W. ADAMSON, CHIEF JUDGE
SUPERIOR COURT, BARROW COUNTY
PIEDMONT JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

August 7, 2007

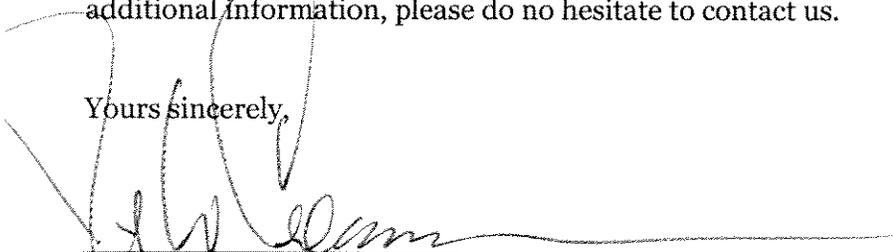
David L. Ratley, Director
Judicial Council of Georgia
Administrative Office of the Courts
244 Washington Street, S.W., Suite 300
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-5900



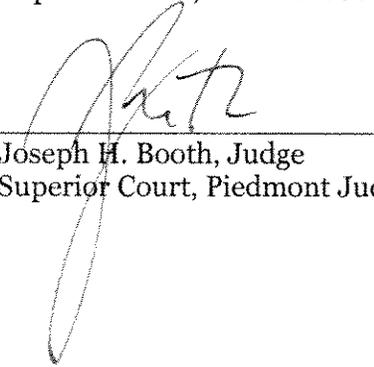
Dear Mr. Ratley:

We would like to supplement our request for a 4th superior court judgeship in the Piedmont Judicial Circuit with this information we have compiled. We appreciate your sharing it with the Judicial Council. Thank you for your assistance in this matter. If you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,


Robert W. Adamson, Chief Judge
Superior Court, Piedmont Judicial Circuit


David Motes, Judge
Superior Court, Piedmont Judicial Circuit


Joseph H. Booth, Judge
Superior Court, Piedmont Judicial Circuit

Piedmont Judicial Circuit

The Piedmont Judicial Circuit is continuing to grow faster than the Georgia average. The attached charts show that the Circuit as a whole is expected to grow at a rate of 3.14% for 2007, whereas Georgia is expected to have a growth rate of 1.54%. Although the growth rate is expected to slow over the next couple of years, the growth rate is still expected to be positive and the Piedmont Judicial Circuit is still expected to outpace Georgia. In 2010, the Piedmont Judicial Circuit is projected to grow at 2.88% in comparison with the state average of 1.41%. Coincident with this growth, the number of attorneys living in the Piedmont Judicial Circuit grew 29.4% from 2005 to 2006.

Based on this tremendous growth and wanting to serve the people of the Piedmont Judicial Circuit, all the governing bodies of the circuit are committed to supporting a 4th superior court judgeship. The three counties of Banks, Barrow and Jackson have all demonstrated their support through their investment in the court system. The County Commissioners have entered into an Inter-governmental Agreement that funds two Law Clerks in addition to the state-funded Law Clerk. The three counties are also considering a Court Administrator position to assist in organizational issues with the Courts and to serve Agencies associated with the Courts.

The Piedmont Judicial Circuit has also been very aggressive in pursuing Pre-Trial Diversion initiatives. In 2006, 301 defendants who were arrested on various charges went through the Pre-Trial Diversion Program and 305 more who wrote bad checks entered the Pre-Trial Diversion Program prior to being arrested. The program is for 90-days and is comprised of various components which may include drug counseling, community service and paying a fine.

Jackson County

Jackson County is the 32nd fastest growing county in America based on growth rate between January 2000 and July 2006 for all counties that began the period with more than ten thousand inhabitants, according to recent U.S. Census Bureau estimates. The outstanding growth of the last six years has made Jackson County the seventh fastest growing county in the State of Georgia and the 32nd fastest in the nation.

In August 2004 Jackson County completed a state of the art courthouse addressing all aspects of needs by State, Superior and Juvenile Courts. This facility incorporates all the latest security plans and accommodations. There is office space in the judge's suite to accommodate a 4th superior court judge and there are enough courtrooms to simultaneously conduct hearings.

Barrow County

Barrow County has experienced phenomenal growth over the past several years. According to CNNMoney.com, Barrow County was 23rd in the nation in job growth from 2000-2006 at 36.5%. It was noted that textiles once dominated the local economy, but no more as housing and retail have taken over amid the prolonged population boom. Two massive highway projects will help support further growth.

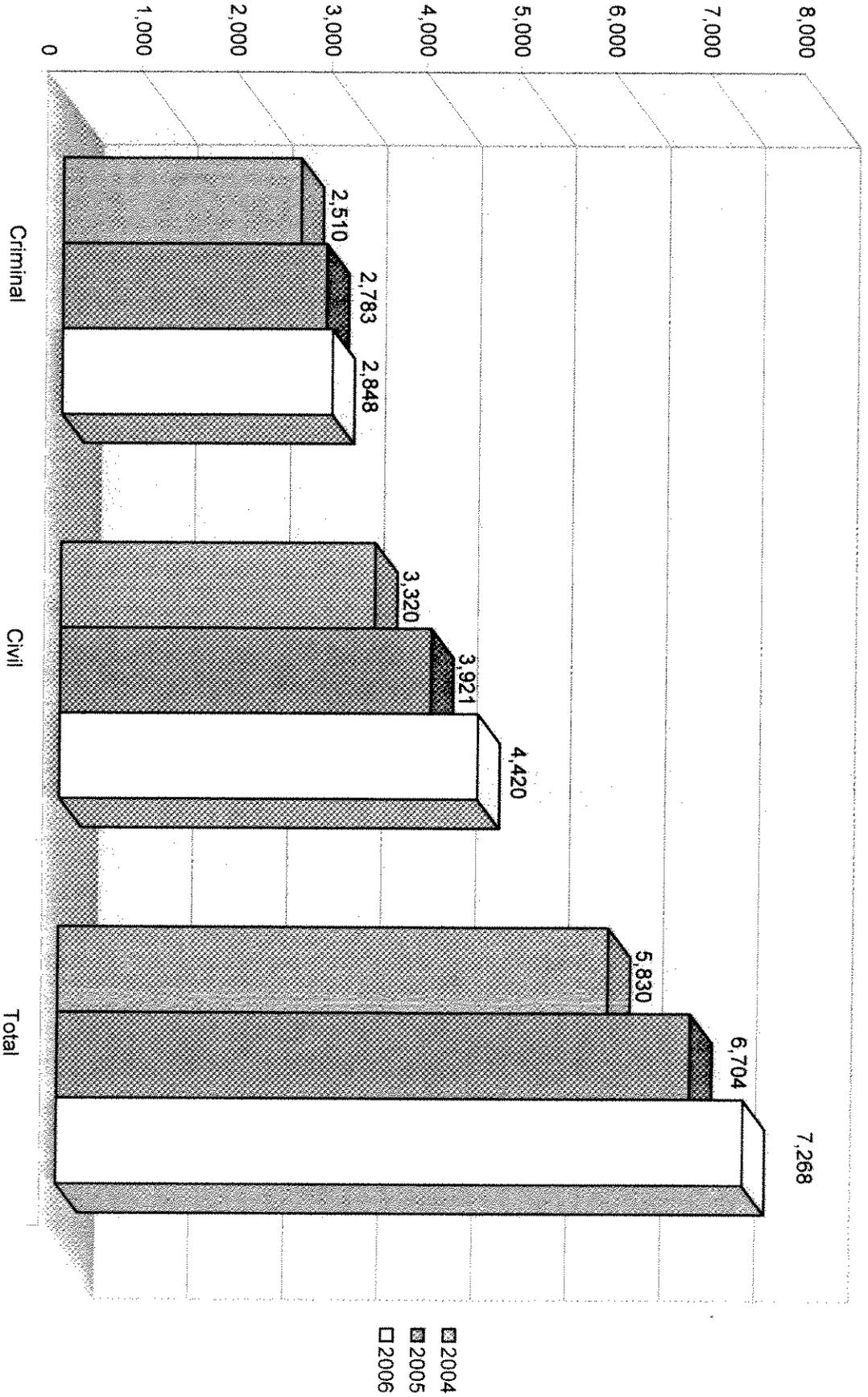
On May 30, 2007 Barrow County broke ground on its new Courthouse and Detention Center. This facility, as well, will allow the courts to address not only the current caseloads but those of an additional judge. The total budget for the facility is \$46,400,000, which has already been funded by the sale of bonds backed by SPLOST. The new jail will be 109,720 square feet, the new courthouse will encompass 100,236 square feet and the completed facility is scheduled to open in February of 2009.

Banks County

Banks County has completed the planning process for renovation of the courthouse to add additional courthouse space and provide expanded facilities for the Clerk of Court and other officers. The completion date on this renovation is expected to be on or before January 1, 2009.

The above referenced commitments to capital funding evidence these counties positive response to the rapidly expanding population and the increasing needs of the counties. With these facilities, there will be adequate office space, support personnel and courtroom facilities to handle a 4 judge judicial circuit. We believe that few, if any, counties within the state have moved so progressively to provide their investment into our judicial system. The three counties, additionally, have continued to provide extensive support to the DA's office, Juvenile Court, Public Defender's Office and all other court associated functions.

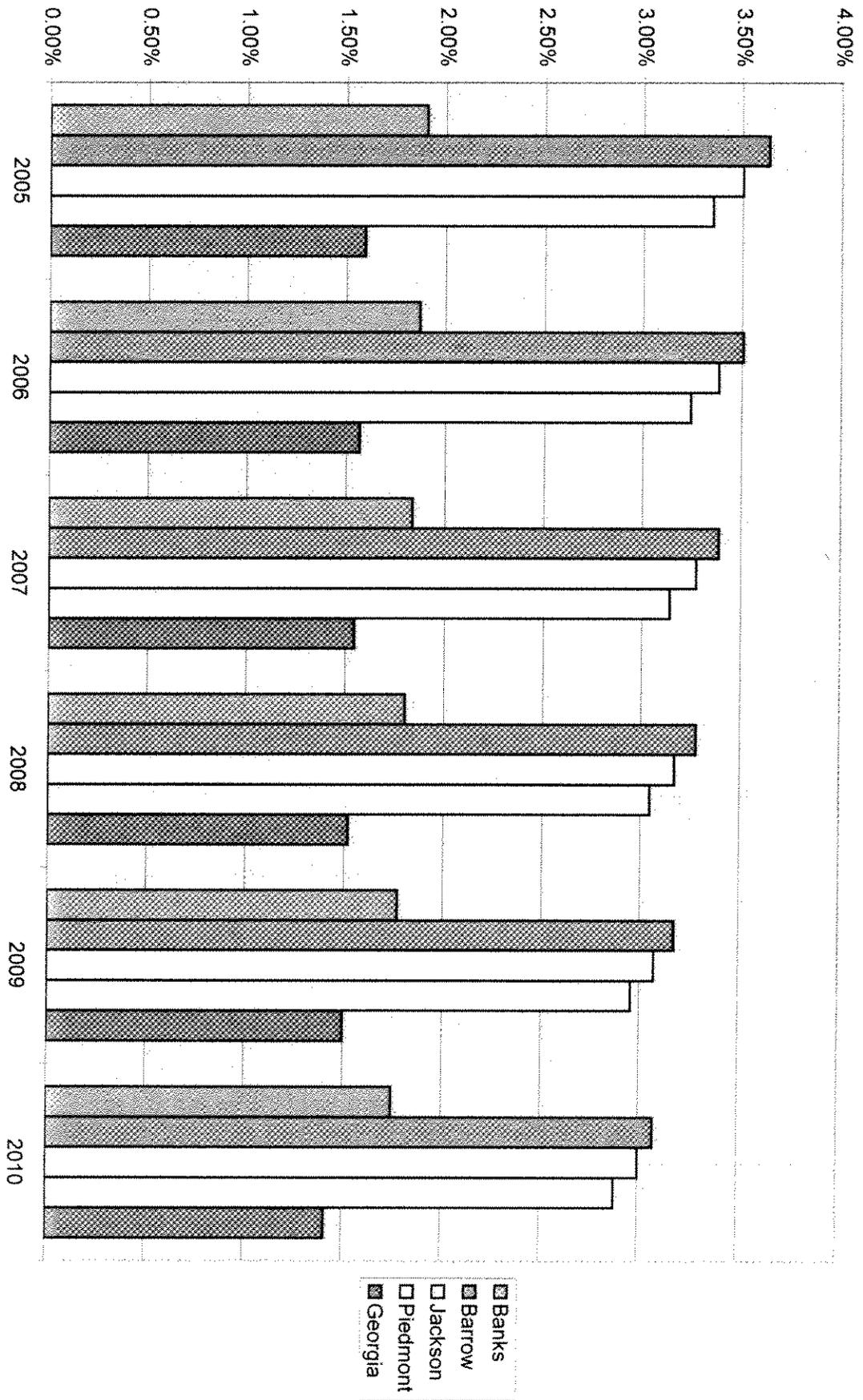
Piedmont Judicial Circuit Dockets



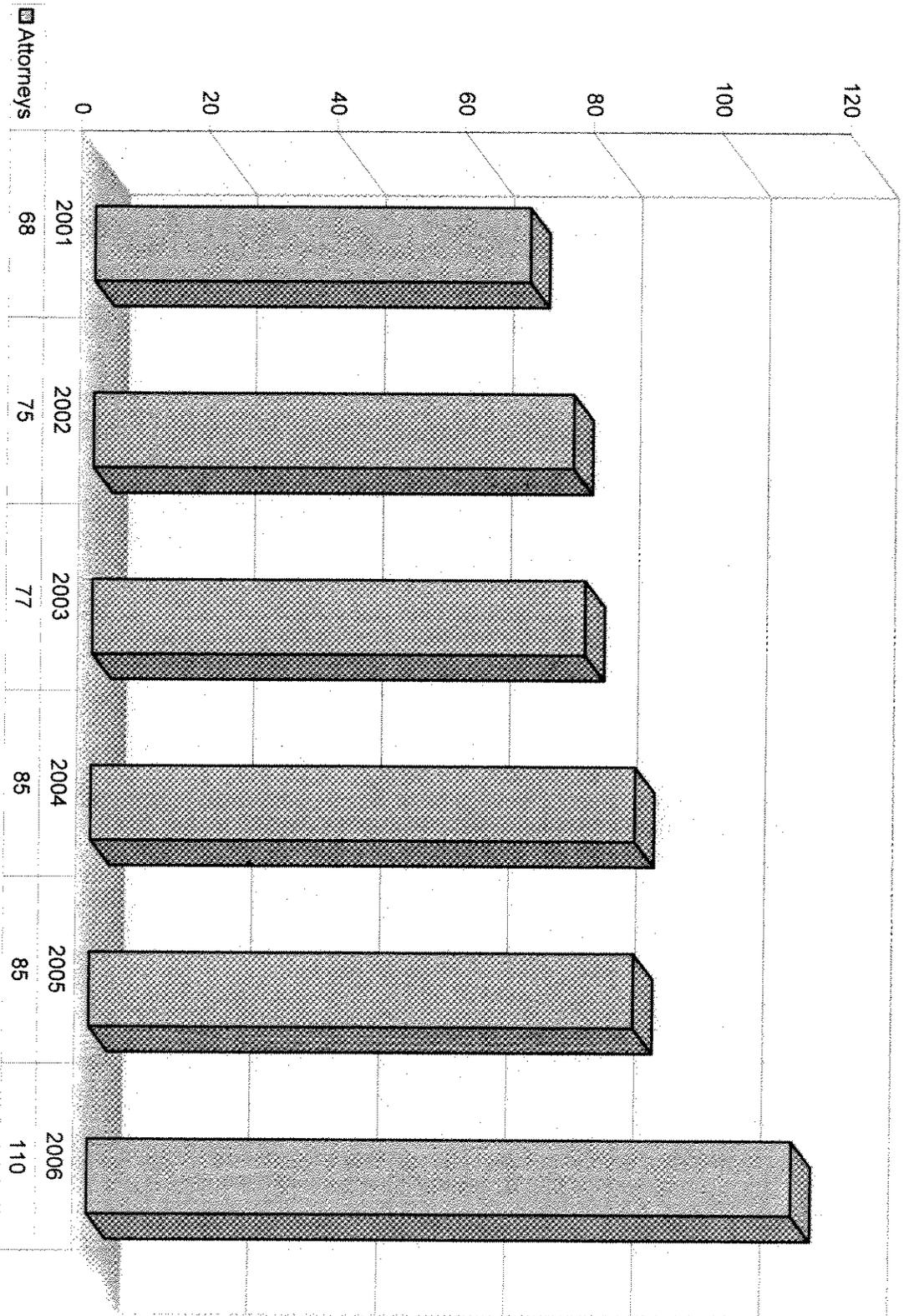
Population Growth Rates

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Banks	1.91%	1.87%	1.84%	1.80%	1.77%	1.75%
Barrow	3.63%	3.51%	3.39%	3.28%	3.17%	3.07%
Jackson	3.50%	3.38%	3.27%	3.17%	3.07%	3.00%
Piedmont	3.35%	3.24%	3.14%	3.04%	2.95%	2.88%
Georgia	1.59%	1.57%	1.54%	1.52%	1.50%	1.41%

Population Growth Rates



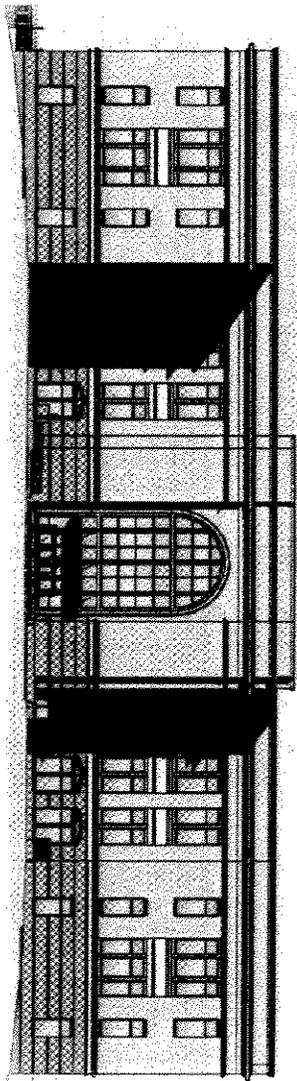
Attorneys Living in the Piedmont Judicial Circuit



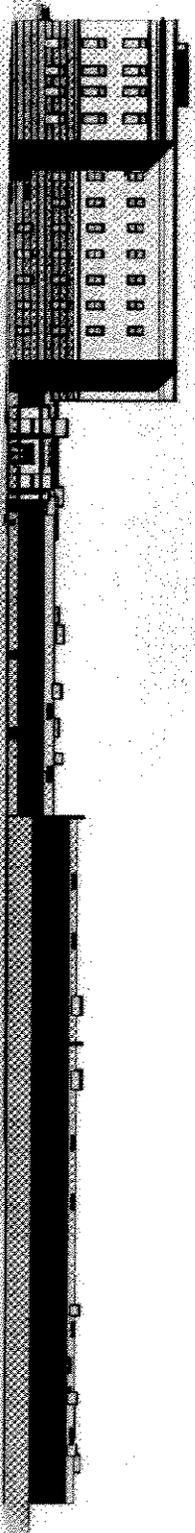
Attorneys



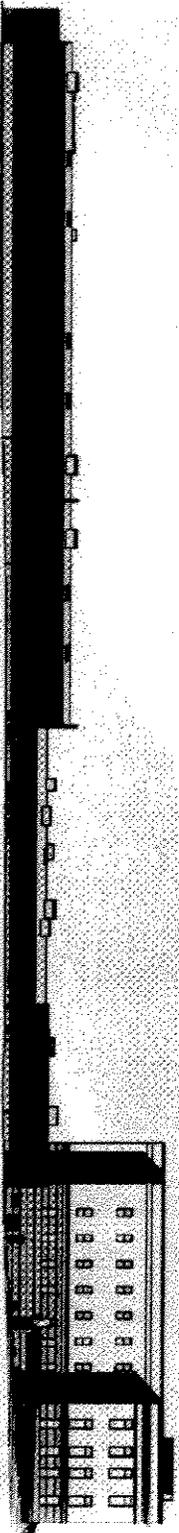
Barrow County Criminal Justice Facility



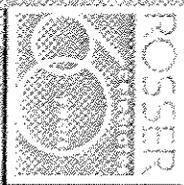
North Elevation



West Elevation



East Elevation



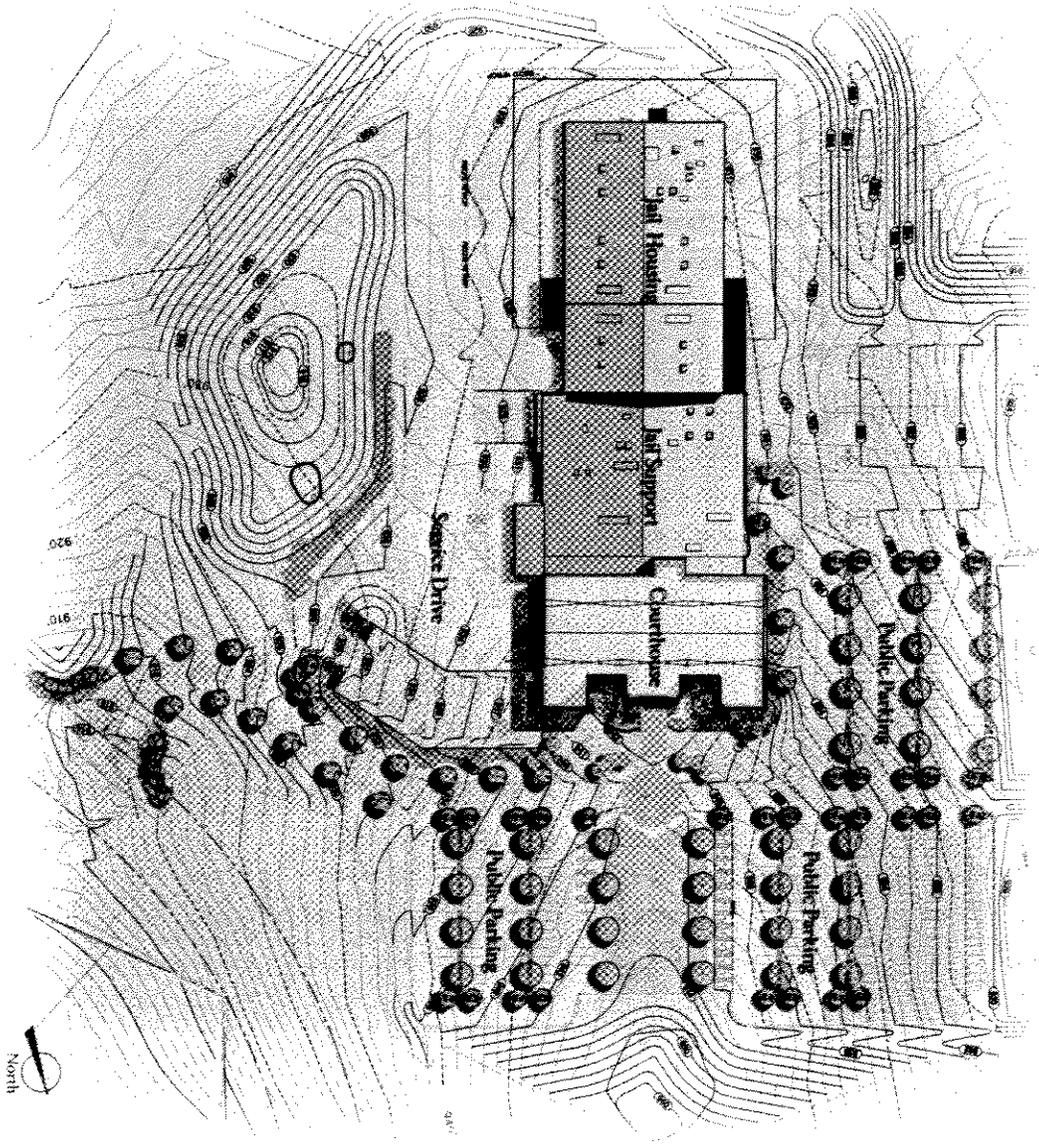
Architect



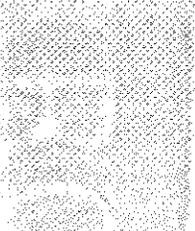
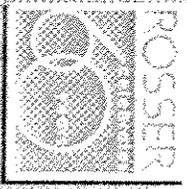
Construction Manager



Barron County Criminal Justice Facility

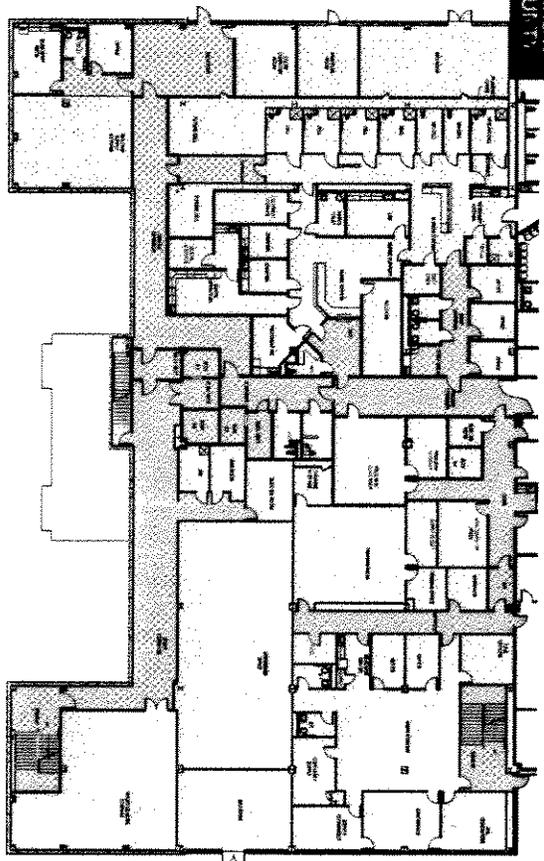


Site Plan

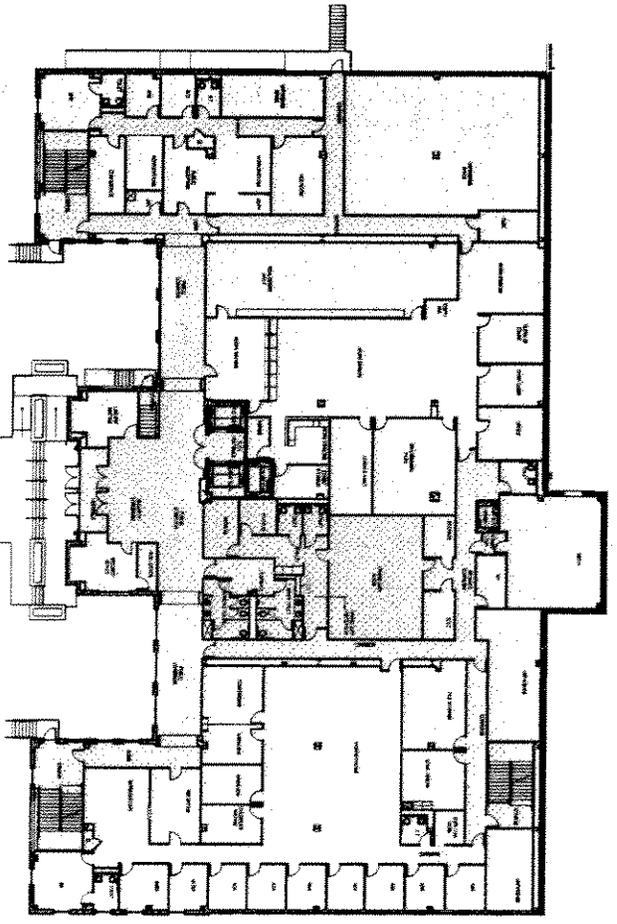




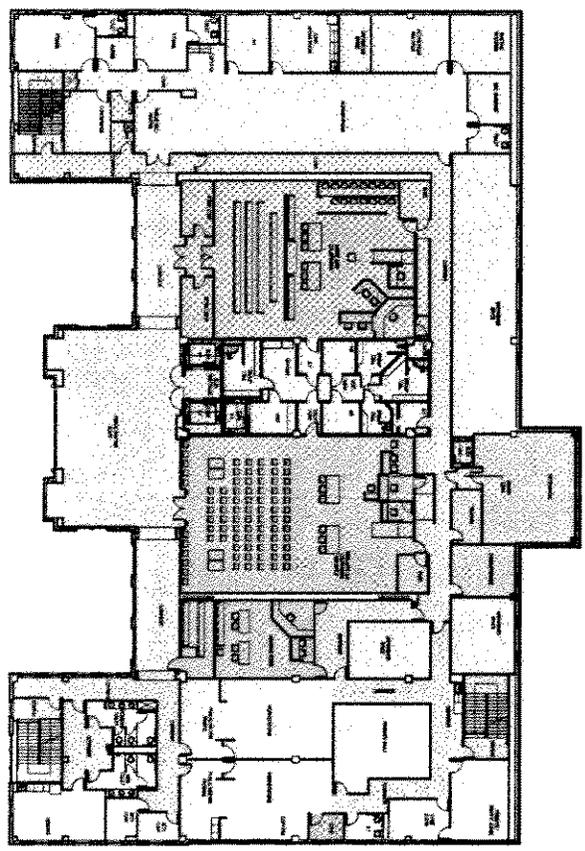
Barrow County Criminal Justice Facility



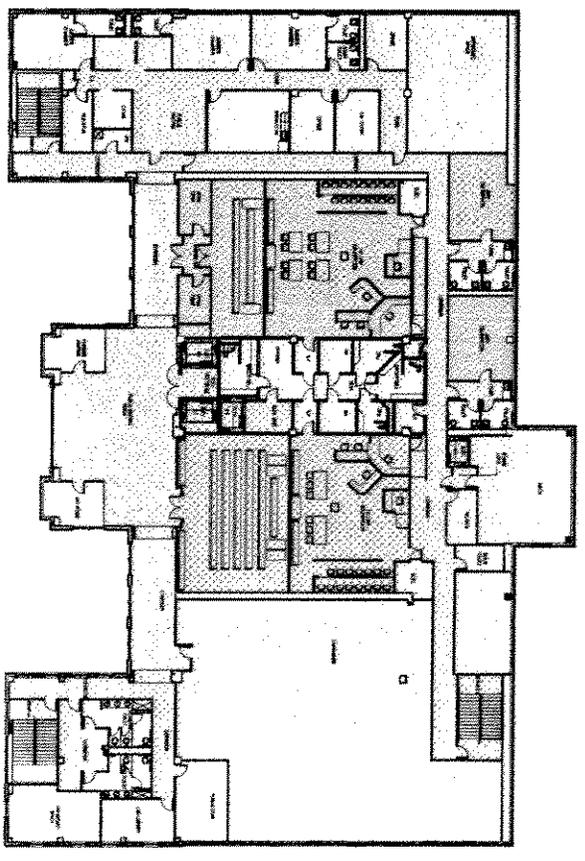
Courthouse Floor Plan - Level 0



Courthouse Floor Plan - Level 1



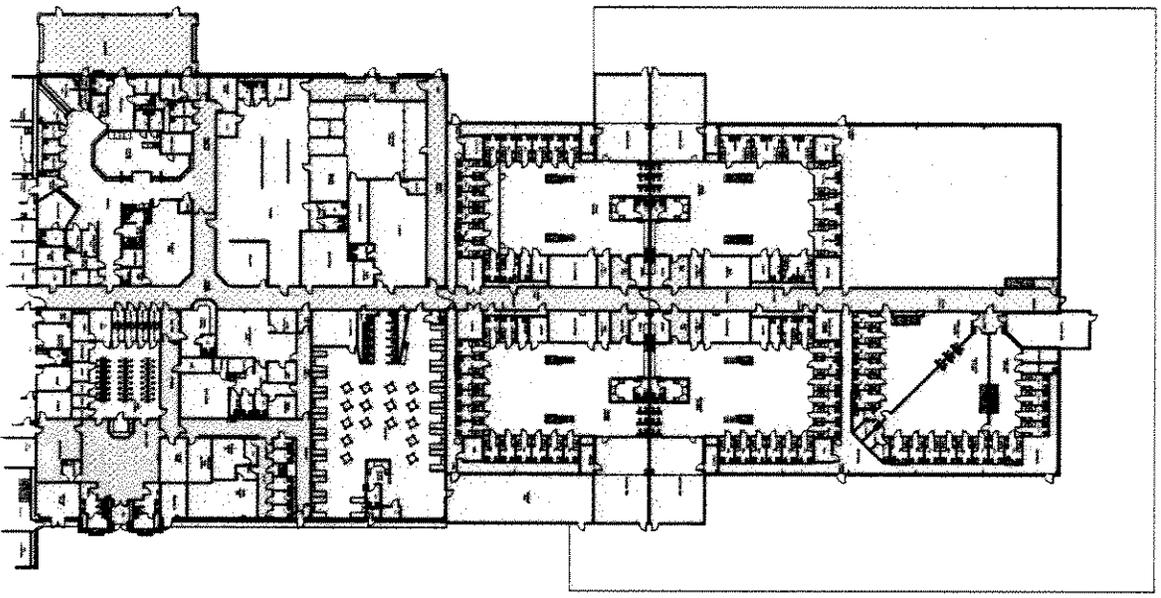
Courthouse Floor Plan - Level 2



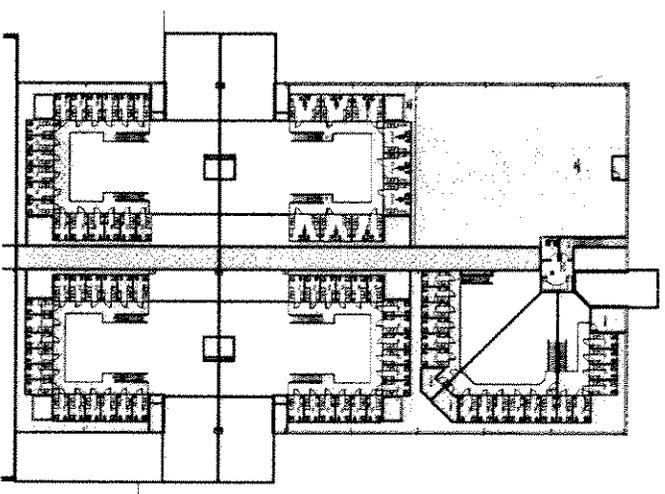
Courthouse Floor Plan - Level 3



Barrow County Criminal Justice Facility

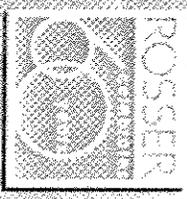


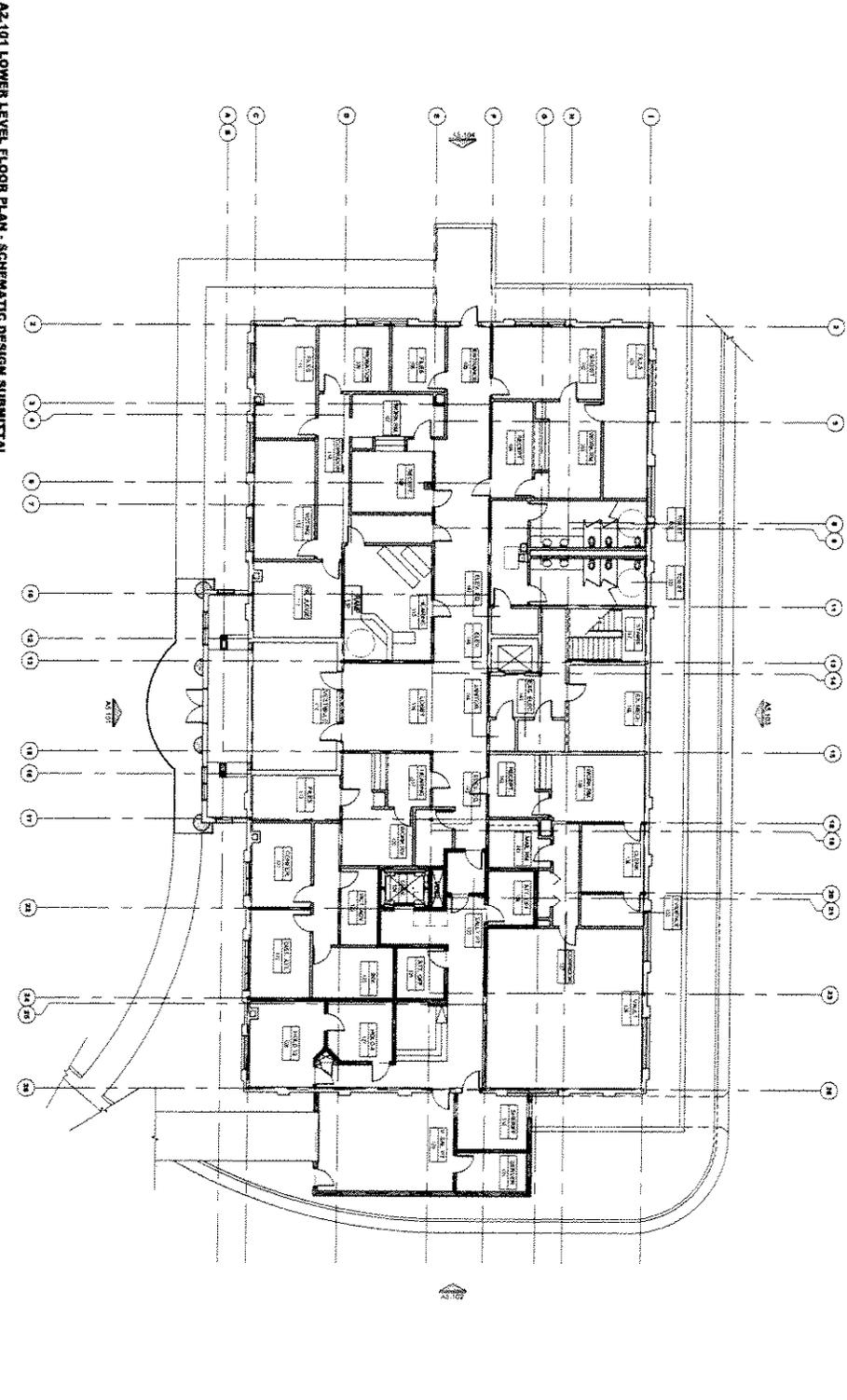
Jail Floor Plan - Level 0



Jail Floor Plan - Mezzanine

-  Public Circulation
-  Administration and General Operations
-  Mechanical and Storage
-  Secured Jail Area
-  Future Development Spaces
-  Courts





A2.101 LOWER LEVEL FLOOR PLAN - SCHEMATIC DESIGN SUBMITTAL
 DATE: 2/10/2010

APPROVAL
 DATE: _____
 NAME: _____
 TITLE: _____
 BANKS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



**PIEPER
 O'BRIEN
 HERRI**
 ARCHITECTS

3000 ROYAL BUCKLEBEND SUITE
 ALPHARETTA, GEORGIA 30201
 770.887.8400
 WWW.PIEPEROBRHENHERRI.COM

FOR RELEASE TO THE PUBLIC BY THE ARCHITECTS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE ARCHITECTS

NOT RELEASED FOR CONSTRUCTION

NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY
1	02/10/2010	SCHEMATIC DESIGN SUBMITTAL	...
2			
3			
4			
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BANKS COUNTY
 COURTHOUSE
 HOMER, GA
 100% SCHEMATIC DESIGN

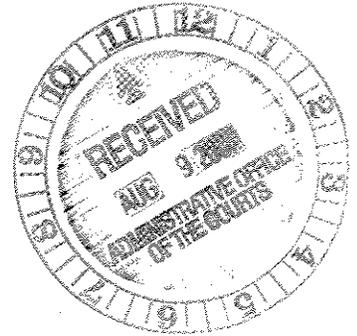
PROJECT NO: A2.1
 SHEET NO: A2.1
 DATE: 2/10/2010
 ARCHITECT: PIEPER O'BRIEN HERRI ARCHITECTS
 LOWER LEVEL FLOOR PLAN

**BARROW
COUNTY**
**CLERK OF
SUPERIOR COURT**

Gloria M. Wall
Clerk

August 7, 2007

David L. Ratley
Administrative Office of the Courts
Suite 300
244 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900



Dear Mr. Ratley:

This is in response to your letter dated July 16, 2007 regarding a fourth Superior Court judgeship in the Piedmont Judicial Circuit. A fourth judge in this circuit is very badly needed. The entire circuit, and especially Barrow County, is experiencing growth pains. In Barrow County we are currently building a new Criminal Justice Facility because our current facility is not adequate to meet the needs of this county.

I took office as Clerk of Superior Court in Barrow County in January, 1997. During that year we filed 1,532 Civil Cases and 851 Criminal Cases. In 2006, ten years later, this office filed 2,365 Civil Cases and 1,825 Criminal Cases. That is an increase of 1,807 cases in these two areas of Superior Court. This is just the increase in Barrow County, not circuit wide.

With the judges juggling courts in three counties, it is often hard to get cases on a calendar and therefore difficult to clear court calendars or take care of court matters in an expeditious and efficient manner.

I have seen quite an evolution in the manner in which both Civil and Criminal cases are being handled. The child support guidelines and TPO requirements are just two areas that have changed dramatically.

If I can be of further service or offer any additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gloria M. Wall".

Gloria M. Wall

TIMOTHY A HARPER
CLERK, SUPERIOR COURT, BANKS COUNTY
144 YONAH HOMER ROAD, SUITE 8
HOMER, GA 30547
(706) 677-6240 PHONE
(706) 677-6294 FAX

August 8, 2007

Judicial Council of Georgia
Attn: David Ratley
AOC
Suite 300, 244 Washington St, SW
Atlanta, GA 30334



Dear Council Members:

It has been my pleasure to serve the citizens of Banks County as Clerk of Superior Court for the past 14½ years. During my years as Clerk, the County has shown a tremendous amount of growth. In 1993, my office handled 342 Civil cases and 190 Criminal cases. In 2000, we handled 460 Civil cases and 221 Criminal cases. As of July, we have already filed 431 Civil cases and 155 Criminal cases. As you can see, the numbers are climbing higher, and this year appears to be a record breaker for the number of filings.

Banks County is the smallest county in the Piedmont Judicial Circuit, and the judges visit the county weekly for Plea days, Civil hearings, and court weeks. In years gone by, we had court two times a year in April & October. However, now it sometimes feels like we have court all of the time. Should the Piedmont Judicial Circuit get a 4th Judge, it would benefit Banks, Barrow and Jackson Counties tremendously. It would speed up the process of having cases heard, and keep the calendars up-to-date and as clear as possible. At the present time, there is no way that three judges can serve three counties with the volume of cases that Barrow and Jackson Counties presently have, and the increasing volume of cases in Banks County.

I would like to see a fourth Judge in the Piedmont Judicial Circuit and hope that you will approve the request.

Timothy A Harper
Clerk, Banks County Superior Court

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy A. Harper".



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
PIEDMONT JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

BANKS, BARROW AND JACKSON COUNTIES
P.O. BOX 1220
WINDER, GA 30680
TELEPHONE (770) 307-3040
FACSIMILE (770) 307-3046



August 9, 2007

Mr. David Ratley
Administrative Office of the Courts
Suite 300
244 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900

Re: Piedmont Judicial Circuit

Dear Mr. Ratley:

Thank you for the opportunity for me to express my support for a fourth Superior Court Judge for the Piedmont Judicial Circuit on behalf of the District Attorney's office. Over the years, the Piedmont Judicial Circuit has not only grown in population, but in crime as well. We have seen a swell of influx of people from the metro areas into our formerly rural circuit. With that, inevitably, comes the criminal element. We have seen a rise in the drug use and distribution, violent crimes and gang activity in all three counties.

The District Attorney's office has been fortunate to receive additional personnel from the counties to handle the increased case load. However, the number of Superior Court judges has remained the same. Without a fourth judge to handle the growing backlog, I fear the victims of crime will suffer and the ability to prosecute cases will be compromised.

If you need additional information, I will be happy to assist in any way I can.

Sincerely,

Allison T. Mauldin
Acting District Attorney

Georgia House of Representatives
JEANETTE JAMIESON
Representative

District 28
Post office box 852
Toccoa, Georgia 30577
Phone: (706)-886-6889

Legislative Office Building
Room 507
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
(404)-656-0202

August 10, 2007



David Ratley
Director
Adm. Office of Courts
Suite 300 – 244 Washington SL. SW
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear David,

Please consider this my letter of support for the 4th Judgeship in the Piedmont Circuit.

It has become increasingly clear that the caseload of the circuit justifies this position, and I believe the study will verify the need.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Jamieson

Nancy R. Floyd
Attorney at Law, LLC
P.O. Box 484
20 North Broad Street
Winder, Georgia 30680
Telephone: (770) 307-0439
Facsimile: (770) 867-9220



Nancy R. Floyd
Attorney at Law

Cynthia V. James
Attorney at Law

August 10, 2007

David L. Ratley, Director
Judicial Council of Georgia
Administrative Office of the Courts
Suite 300
244 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900

RE: Piedmont Judicial Circuit

Dear Mr. Ratley and Members of the Judicial Council:

I am currently serving as President of the Piedmont Bar Association. On behalf of the members of the Piedmont Bar, I strongly support Judge Adamson's request for a 4th superior court judgeship for the Piedmont Judicial Circuit.

I am quite sure that the members of the Judicial Council have all the data related to the number of cases filed in the Superior Courts of the Piedmont Circuit. According to the information I have, 6704 matters were docketed during the 2005 calendar year. Based upon the case numbers I have been assigned for the cases I have filed this year, the Piedmont Circuit will far exceed that number for 2007.

The increasing number of cases each year results in my clients, and the clients of my colleagues, having to wait longer and longer for resolutions to their problems. For some issues this may not make much difference. However, I practice family law. Delay in resolving issues of child custody, support and debt payments can add tremendously to the stress of my client's day to day existence. The calendars and dockets of the judges of the Piedmont Circuit are so crowded that the earliest a temporary hearing for a divorce or custody can be scheduled is two months after the case is filed.

In only a span of three years (2002-05), the number of cases overseen by the three judges has increased tremendously. Currently, each judge in the Piedmont Circuit is responsible for over 2300 cases docketed per year. The caseload of the Piedmont circuit compared with that of other Georgia Circuit courts staffed by three judges shows how the growth has affected the caseload. In 2002-03, the Piedmont circuit ranked last out of the nine

Circuits staffed by three judges. In 2004-05 however, the Piedmont circuit had jumped to third out of ten. Once again, this seems to be a trend which, according to census numbers, is not soon to reverse.

The population of Barrow, Banks and Jackson Counties is showing no sign of decreasing. According to U.S. Census records, the 2006 population of Barrow County was 63,702, a 38.1% growth rate since 2000. The Jackson County population for 2006 was 55,778. This was a 34.1% growth rate from the year 2000. Banks County had a population of 16,445 for 2006. Banks had a 14% growth rate. These numbers are not likely to slow.

The judges of the Piedmont Judicial Circuit do a fabulous job. Each judge is more than willing to work with the attorneys to try and expedite the handling of cases. This may mean staying late and starting early. They do everything they can to provide justice to the citizens of this circuit. However, they are only three people. Everyday they are asked to do more and more. An additional judge for this circuit is absolutely necessary. If there is anything more that the members of the Piedmont Bar Association can do to help achieve the fourth judgeship, please let me know and I will pass it along to the members.

Sincerely,


Nancy R. Floyd

Superior Courts

Chambers of David Motes, Chief Judge



Piedmont Judicial Circuit

Serving Banks, Barrow, and Jackson counties

May 16, 2008

David L. Ratley
Director, Administrative Office of the Courts
244 Washington Street, SW
Suite 300
Atlanta, GA 30334



re: Study to assess need for additional judgeship in the Piedmont Judicial Circuit

Dear Mr. Ratley,

Please consider this letter as the written request from the judges of the Piedmont Circuit that you study the need for an additional judgeship. As you know, the Piedmont Judicial Circuit was seventh on the list of needed judgeships last year. With the growth in population and caseloads that continue unabated in this circuit, it is our belief that the circuit should qualify for a fourth superior court judge.

In addition, the county governments are committed to investing in the growing needs of the judicial system. Jackson County completed a state-of-the-art courthouse in September, 2004. Construction of a new courthouse in Barrow County should be completed in early 2009. Banks County will begin renovating and expanding the existing courthouse facility later this year with an expected completion date in 2009.

Thank you for your consideration in this important matter. If you would like any additional information, please let any of us know.

Yours sincerely,

David Motes, Chief Judge Robert W. Adamson, Judge Joseph H. Booth, Judge

cc: The Honorable Leah Ward Sears, Chief Justice

June 12, 2008

David L. Ratley
Administrative Office of the Courts
Suite 300
244 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-5900

BARROW COUNTY

CLERK OF
SUPERIOR COURT

Gloria M. Wall
Clerk

Dear Mr. Ratley:

This is in response to your letter dated June 9, 2008 regarding a fourth Superior Court judgeship for the Piedmont Judicial Circuit. Due to the increase in the number of Civil and Criminal cases filed in Barrow County, I feel that a fourth judgeship is very much warranted. The entire Piedmont Judicial Circuit is experiencing a large amount of growth which in turn means a greater demand on our judicial system.

In 2007 the Barrow County Clerk of Superior Court filed 3,043 civil cases, and increase of 678 cases over 2006. As of today, June 12, 2008, just short of six months into 2008, we have filed 1,401 civil cases. In the criminal area we filed 2,158 cases in 2007, an increase of 333 over 2006. As of today, June 12, 2008, we have filed 1,162 criminal cases in 2008.

As you can see from the data above, there has been a large increase in the number of civil and criminal filings. This data is just for Barrow County, so when you add the numbers from Jackson and Banks counties, you will see that there has been quite an increase in cases filed circuit wide.

I have been Clerk of Superior Court since 1997 and in that year we filed 1,532 civil cases and 851 criminal cases with two judges handling that case load. You will note that our case load has more than doubled, but we have added only one additional judge.

I have seen quite a lot of changes in the court system since I first became employed in the Clerk of Superior Court office as a part-time employee in 1977.

If I can be of any further assistance to you in this matter, please let me know.

Sincerely,
Gloria M. Wall
Gloria M. Wall





House of Representatives

TERRY ENGLAND
REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 108
1060 OLD HOG MOUNTAIN ROAD
AUBURN, GEORGIA 30011
(770) 867-1601 (O)
(770) 867-8096 (H)
(770) 867-2160 (FAX)
E-MAIL: englandhomeport2@alltel.net

COVERDELL LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 501
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334
(404) 656-0177
(404) 463-2196 (FAX)

STANDING
COMMITTEES:

AGRICULTURE – VICE CHAIR
APPROPRIATIONS
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS - SECRETARY
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

June 24, 2008

Mr. David L. Ratley, Director
Administrative Office of the Courts
Suite 300
244 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900



Dear Mr. Ratley,

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on my thoughts about the need for a 4th superior court judgeship in the Piedmont Judicial Circuit.

As a lifelong resident of the Piedmont Judicial Circuit, Barrow County in particular, I have seen our population grow at an astronomical rate over the last 15 - 20 years. I have been a witness to the growth of neighboring Jackson County as well as seeing our District - mate Banks County growing at a similar rate.

I recently visited with Judge Adamson and he informed me that their current caseload is around 3031 (un-audited 2007-8) per judge and growing. Judge Adamson also noted they have been using our Senior Status Judge, T. Penn McWhorter, for about 45 days since last July 1, which is about three times what it used to be.

By July 2009, all three counties in the Piedmont Circuit will have completed either new or renovated court facilities in order to handle the increasing pressure from cases generated by the growing population of our area. I know that Barrow County is committed to providing the resources that would be required of the additional judgeship, as I am sure the other counties would.

I think the citizens of the Piedmont Circuit will be very well served by adding this additional judgeship.

Sincerely,

Terry England
Georgia House of Representatives
District 108

Cc: Judge Bob Adamson

Southern Judicial Circuit

Summary

Most Recent Request and Comment Letters Southern Judicial Circuit Request for the 6th Judgeship

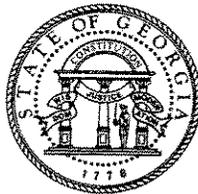
<u>Date of Letter</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Content</u>
July 30, 2007	Chief Judge H. Arthur McLane Southern Judicial Circuit	Request out of time study for the 6 th judgeship cites "...confusion as to the calculation of the carry over period."
June 25, 2008	Chief Judge H. Arthur McLane Southern Judicial Circuit	Letter of support cites the need for additional resources due to increase of cases on the docket

H. ARTHUR MCLANE
CHIEF JUDGE
POST OFFICE BOX 1349
VALDOSTA, GEORGIA 31603-1349
TELEPHONE: 229/333-5130
FACSIMILE: 229/245-5223

HARRY JAY ALTMAN, II
JUDGE
POST OFFICE BOX 1734
THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA 31799-1734
TELEPHONE: 229/228-6276
FACSIMILE: 229/225-4128

FRANK D. HORKAN
JUDGE
POST OFFICE BOX 2227
MOULTRIE, GEORGIA 31776-2227
TELEPHONE: 229/616-7445
FACSIMILE: 229/616-7447

RICHARD M. COWART
JUDGE
POST OFFICE BOX 806
VALDOSTA, GEORGIA 31603-0806
TELEPHONE: 229/333-7620
FACSIMILE: 229/245-5308



State of Georgia
Superior Courts
Southern Judicial Circuit

July 30, 2007

JAMES E. (JIM) HARDY
JUDGE
POST OFFICE BOX 2037
THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA 31799-2037
TELEPHONE: 229/228-6370
FACSIMILE: 229/228-6369

ROY M. LILLY
SENIOR JUDGE
POST OFFICE BOX 71
THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA 31799-0071
TELEPHONE: 229/226-8668
FACSIMILE: 229/226-0411

TIM C. HENDRICK
COURT ADMINISTRATOR
POST OFFICE BOX 2227
MOULTRIE, GEORGIA 31776-2227
TELEPHONE: 229/616-7474
FACSIMILE: 229/616-7447

**BROOKS, COLQUITT, ECHOLS,
LOWNDES & THOMAS COUNTIES**

Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears
Judicial Council of Georgia
Administrative Office of the Courts
244 Washington St., S.W., Suite 200
Atlanta, Ga 30334

Re: Sixth Judgeship
Southern Judicial Circuit

Dear Chief Justice Sears:

I am, by this letter, requesting an out of time study be granted to determine the need for an additional judgeship for the Southern Judicial Circuit.

As you know, in 2004, we requested a study by the Judicial Council to determine the need for a sixth judgeship. The study revealed that the circuit did qualify for the additional judgeship. However, the 2005 Legislature did not create the judgeship. We were advised that the request for the judgeship would carry-over for three years, through the 2008 Legislature.

It now appears there is confusion as to the calculation of the carry-over period. Therefore, as a matter of caution, I am submitting, by this letter, a request for a sixth judgeship. If, however, the three year carry-over period has not expired, please disregard this request, but consider the carry-over request.

We appreciate any consideration that may be given to us. If you need to speak with me, please advise and I will gladly make myself available.

Sincerely yours,

H. Arthur McLane

HAMc:bh
xc: Mr. David Ratley
Mr. John Cowart



H. ARTHUR McLANE
CHIEF JUDGE
POST OFFICE Box 1349
VALDOSTA, GEORGIA 31603-1349
TELEPHONE: 229/333-5130
FACSIMILE: 229/245-5223

HARRY JAY ALTMAN, II
JUDGE
POST OFFICE Box 1734
THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA 31799-1734
TELEPHONE: 229/228-6276
FACSIMILE: 229/225-4128

FRANK D. HORKAN
JUDGE
POST OFFICE Box 2227
MOULTRIE, GEORGIA 31776-2227
TELEPHONE: 229/616-7445
FACSIMILE: 229/616-7447

RICHARD M. COWART
JUDGE
POST OFFICE Box 806
VALDOSTA, GEORGIA 31603-0806
TELEPHONE: 229/333-7620
FACSIMILE: 229/245-5308



State of Georgia
Superior Courts
Southern Judicial Circuit

June 25, 2008

JAMES E. (Jim) HARDY
JUDGE
POST OFFICE Box 2037
THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA 31799-2037
TELEPHONE: 229/228-6370
FACSIMILE: 229/228-6369

ROY M. LILLY
SENIOR JUDGE
POST OFFICE Box 71
THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA 31799-0071
TELEPHONE: 229/226-8668
FACSIMILE: 229/226-0411

TIM C. HENDRICK
COURT ADMINISTRATOR
POST OFFICE Box 2227
MOULTRIE, GEORGIA 31776-2227
TELEPHONE: 229/616-7474
FACSIMILE: 229/616-7447

**BROOKS, COLQUITT, ECHOLS,
LOWNDES & THOMAS COUNTIES**

David Ratley, Director
Judicial Council of Georgia
Administrative Office of the Courts
244 Washington St., S.W., Suite 300
Atlanta, Ga 30334

Re: Sixth Judgeship
Southern Judicial Circuit

Dear David:

Thank you very much for your letter June 9, 2008.

I believe we have already furnished all relevant information considering our request. We do want to re-emphasize that we are utilizing all possible resources for handling caseloads. Each of the counties, with the exception of Echols County, have both a juvenile and a state court. The juvenile court judge who resides in Lowndes County, on a regular basis, handles the juvenile court docket in Echols County and when he is unavailable, one of the other juvenile court judges serves. In Echols County, the probate court handles traffic and other jurisdictionally appropriate cases.

I do understand that our request has already been approved by the Judicial Council and that our expiration year is 2010 so, unless you need anything further from us, I see no need to burden with you duplications of papers. However, should you see the need for anything additional, please let me know.

Thank you very much for your continued service to us.

Sincerely,

H. Arthur McLane

HAMc:bh
xc: Circuit Judges
John Cowart, DCA



Tifton Judicial Circuit

Summary

Original Request and Comment Letters Tifton Judicial Circuit Request for the 3rd Judgeship

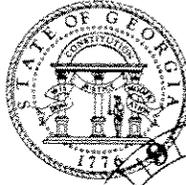
<u>Date of Letter</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Content</u>
April 23, 2007	Chief Judge Gary C. McCorvey Tifton Judicial Circuit	Request study for 3 rd judgeship or circuit split cites steady influx of population, pro se litigants, and agriculturally based lower income
May 10, 2007	Representative Austin Scott District 153	Letter of support cites expanding area, domestic cases, and pro se litigants
August 8, 2007	Mr. Bryce A. Johnson President, Tifton Bar Association	Letter of support cites efforts made to decrease increasing caseloads due to scheduling increasing pro se cases in family court, language barrier cases and county population
August 9, 2007	Mr. Bob Reinhardt Attorney	Letter of support for 3 rd judgeship
April 30, 2008	Chief Judge Gary C. McCorvey Tifton Judicial Circuit	Request for study to determine the need for a 3rd judgeship
June 24, 2008	Representative Austin Scott District 153	Letter of support cites expanding area, domestic cases, and pro se litigants

SUPERIOR COURTS

TIFTON JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
Irwin, Tift, Turner and Worth Counties

CHIEF JUDGE GARY C. MCCORVEY
POST OFFICE BOX 7090
TIFTON, GEORGIA 31793-7090

Phone: (229) 386-7904
Fax: (229) 386-7977



JUDGE BILL REINHARDT
POST OFFICE BOX 806
TIFTON, GEORGIA 31793-0806

Phone: (229) 386-7906
Fax: (229) 386-7927

April 23, 2007

Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears
Chairperson, Judicial Counsel
244 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-5900



RE: Request for comparative, objective study for the creation of an additional judgeship or change in circuit boundaries for the Tifton Judicial Circuit

Dear Chief Justice Sears:

Thank you for your letter dated April 20, 2007, informing me of the opportunity to seek an additional judgeship or change in circuit boundaries for the Tifton Judicial Circuit. Please consider this letter as the application of the Judges of the Superior Courts of our circuit for the study to be conducted here and for an appropriate remedy to be approved.

I am aware of the costs to the State of Georgia and to the four counties of our circuit in making such addition or changes, but I take this opportunity to point out that, neither historically nor frequently, has the Tifton Judicial Circuit run to the Council to seek assistance in this area. I do not recall requesting any change within the past six (6) years that I have been Chief Judge, nor do I recall former Chief Judge John D. Crosby conferring with me about requesting any such change during the four (4) years before that. The last time that the Tifton Judicial Circuit received an additional judgeship was in 1980 or 1981, at which time the current level of two (2) judges was achieved.

Operating with the same two (2) judgeships for a period of more than twenty-five years has not been without its challenges, particularly in the last ten (10) years. We have attempted to handle the increasing caseload difficulties locally, but the time has now come for the State to shoulder the responsibility of the Superior Courts here.

Since the devastation of the hurricanes in Florida and the Gulf Coast in general in the last two (2) years, our circuit has seen a steady influx of people who desire the climate of "Florida" but with the safety from the violent weather and lower cost of living here in south Georgia. More people mean more court activity.

May 1, 2007

Sears

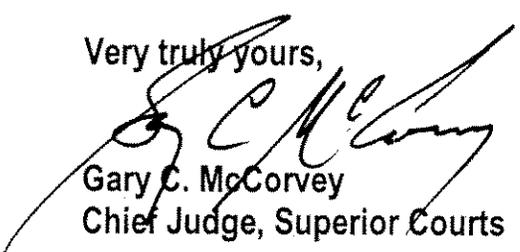
Page 2

Our circuit also has an increasing challenge with respect to *pro se* litigants, particularly in the area of domestic relations. This challenge is based in large part on the fact that three (3) of our four (4) counties are primarily agricultural; hence, a lower *pre capita* income is found there than in the more prosperous middle and northern Georgia circuits. Another judgeship here would foster better access to justice for our low income population since cases with *pro se* litigants obviously involve more "judge time" than similar cases with lawyers involved. Quite frankly, an additional judgeship would enable us to have a "domestic relations" specialist judge to better serve our citizens.

There are other reasons we desire an additional judgeship or circuit boundary change, and I am available at your convenience to further discuss these reasons.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



Gary C. McCorvey
Chief Judge, Superior Courts

cc Austin Scott
Jay Roberts
Ed Rynders
Joseph Carter



House of Representatives

AUSTIN SCOTT
REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 153
1610 JOHN ORR DR., BLDG F
P. O. BOX 988
TIFTON, GEORGIA 31793
(229) 386-5128 (O)
(229) 388-0896 (FAX)
E-MAIL: austin.scott@house.ga.gov

STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 218
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334
(404) 656-5132
(404) 656-6700 (FAX)

STANDING
COMMITTEES:

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS - CHAIRMAN
LEGISLATIVE & CONGRESSIONAL
REAPPORTIONMENT
RULES
WAYS & MEANS

May 10, 2007

Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears
Chairperson, Judicial Counsel
244 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30334



Dear Chief Justice Sears:

I am writing in support of the recent letter sent to you from Chief Judge Gary McCorvey concerning an additional judgeship for the Tifton Judicial Circuit.

As Chief Judge McCorvey stated in his letter, we have a growing number of cases in our judicial circuit. We are obviously in a rapidly expanding area which places our judicial services under a strain to keep up with the demand. The addition of another judgeship would greatly aid in relieving some of the pressure, specifically in the area of domestic and pro se cases. I am concerned about my constituents and the availability of a court system that is not subject to delay and a backlog of cases.

I would appreciate your kind consideration in this matter. Should you have any concerns you would like to discuss with me, I would be available to discuss them with you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Austin Scott

AS/pmn



**Office of the Solicitor General
Tift County State Court**



Jason K. Hoffman
Solicitor-General
229-388-9901

111 Library Lane
Tifton, Georgia 31794
Fax: 229-388-9901

Bryce A. Johnson
Asst. Solicitor- General
229-386-7885

August 8, 2007

David Ratley
Administrative Office of the Courts
Suite 300
244 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900

Dear Mr. Ratley,

Thank you for the opportunity to give the Judicial Council information on the needs of the Tifton Judicial Circuit as they relate to the possible addition of a third judge.

We in the Tifton area strive to be proactive, and this is reflected in the way local officials have endeavored to manage the load borne by superior court. Three counties have provided state courts in an effort to reduce the superior court caseload. Also, the Tift County state court judge sits in superior court for temporary protective orders. These efforts have helped stave off the overwhelming tide of cases in the past. The numbers are continuing to grow, however, and felony criminal cases and non-TPO civil matters are currently stretching our limits.

In the criminal realm, we have an unusually high number of homicides for a circuit of our size and rural nature, with five pending death penalty cases taking up much effort for our judges, prosecutors and defense bar. In order to aggressively combat the large number of cases with roots in drug and mental health issues, we have researched mental health and drug courts. However, with only two judges for a four county circuit, court time is very heavily scheduled as things are. With an additional judge, we would have time in the schedule to utilize such specialized court systems.

Family court is another problem area in which scheduling problems make it impossible to attack the number of cases. We have an ever growing number of temporary protective orders that take up a great deal of time, and in our three poorest counties, many of them are pro se cases. This high number of pro se cases is found in all areas of civil court, because so many of our citizens are not able to afford attorneys. Pro se defendants take more judicial time than cases which involve counsel.

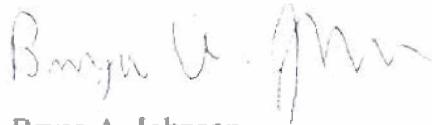
Another group of cases which demand a high percentage of court time are those that involve non-English speaking parties. In this primarily rural area, we have a large Hispanic population. Cases involving Spanish speaking parties take more actual court time, as interpreters require a slower courtroom pace. Such cases also take more time in dealing with cultural differences.

Even our population growth brings new challenges to our circuit. We are primarily rural, with Irwin, Turner and Worth counties characterized as agricultural areas with small county seats, tiny towns, and a few unincorporated communities. Not much growth occurs in these areas, but poverty brings about some number of criminal cases as well as many pro se parties. Tift County, however, continues to see rapid growth and an increasingly urban environment. Tift County's growth has had a large impact on crowding our civil and criminal dockets as well.

We in the Tifton circuit have done what we can to improve where we can, identify our problems and attack them aggressively. We have come to a point, however, at which two judges cannot do the work there is to do here. If we are granted a third judge, we will be able to do more to attack the specific problems we face while we offer more opportunities for justice to our citizens.

Again, thank you for your attention to our needs. If I may be of service to you in this or any matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Bryce A. Johnson
President, Tifton Bar Association

REINHARDT, WHITLEY, SUMMERLIN & PITTMAN, P.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

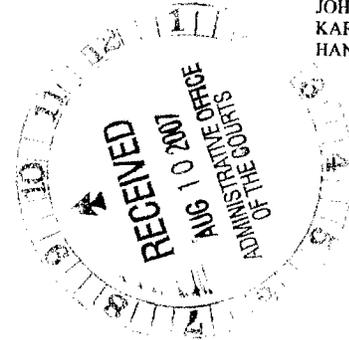
1001 NORTH CENTRAL AVENUE
P.O. DRAWER 1287
TIFTON, GEORGIA 31793-1287
TELEPHONE (229) 382-6135
FAX NO. (229) 386-5949

WRITER'S EXT. 12
EMAIL: rreinhardt@rwws.com

BOB REINHARDT
GLENN WHITLEY
ROB REINHARDT

JOHN REINHARDT
KAREN SUMMERLIN
HANK PITTMAN

August 9, 2007



David Ratley
Administrative Office of the Courts
Suite 300
244 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-5900

Re: Superior Courts – Tifton Circuit

Dear Mr. Ratley:

Having rotated out of many State Bar jobs, I regret that I have not had an opportunity to visit with you recently. I have always been impressed with the competence you bring to issues involving the operation of our trial courts; and for that reason I respectfully request your support of a proposal to add a third Superior Court judgeship in the Tifton Circuit.

As I spoke to civic and professional groups while serving as President of the State Bar of Georgia, I found that a consistent complaint was the time and expense required to resolve disputes through our judicial system. In addition, I became convinced that the changing complexion of our society requires innovative improvement to the administration of justice through our courts.

In attempting to understand the problems, I have reviewed the information concerning caseloads that your office assembles and which demonstrates the heavy workload our Superior Court faces in the criminal and domestic areas. My impression is that in the civil arena, sophisticated business clients have adopted alternate dispute resolution models in order to minimize the cost of resolving commercial disputes, both in time and money. This has resulted in a reduction in the number of civil cases tried; but with mixed results. Requests from our business community for an experienced and specialized "Business Court" have resulted in attempts to put one together in the metro area. And as I constantly remind my Atlanta friends, rural communities such as ours also have business disputes and would benefit from a business court. Of course, judicial resources must be shared with domestic disputes [which perhaps underutilize ADR] and criminal matters.

REINHARDT, WHITLEY, SUMMERLIN & PITTMAN, P.C.

David Ratley

Page 2 of 2

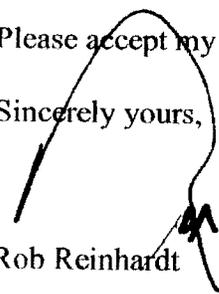
8/9/07

We currently have two Superior Court Judges. Both bring energy and talent to the bench. However, the volume of their criminal and domestic caseloads is such that their availability is limited and we have inadequate judicial resources to improve our system utilizing methods that are being piloted throughout the state. The Tifton circuit could provide better service to our citizens if we were able to coordinate a family court to take a holistic approach to domestic and family issues. Crafting these improved services is not possible with the current caseloads that must be coordinated and serviced by our sitting judges. Where judges have time to craft improved procedures, more efficient and effective methods of approaching drug cases and criminal cases presenting mental health issues are being developed. We receive constant information from our District Attorney's office that its caseloads continue to increase, reflecting the need for more judicial time.

We are mindful of the formidable job of allocating resources throughout the state to our court system. However, we in good faith state our need and urge your consideration of and support for a third superior court judgeship for the Tifton Circuit.

Please accept my best personal regards and thanks for your attention to this letter.

Sincerely yours,



Rob Reinhardt

jb

cc: Honorable Gary McCorvey, Chief Judge/Tifton Circuit
Honorable Bill Reinhardt, Judge/Tifton Circuit
Paul Bowden, District Attorney
John Mobley, Public Defender
Bryce Johnson, President/Tifton Bar Association

SUPERIOR COURTS

TIFTON JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
Irwin, Tift, Turner and Worth Counties

CHIEF JUDGE GARY C. MCCORVEY
POST OFFICE BOX 7090
TIFTON, GEORGIA 31793-7090

Phone: (229) 386-7904
Fax: (229) 386-7977



JUDGE BILL REINHARDT
POST OFFICE BOX 806
TIFTON, GEORGIA 31793-0806

Phone: (229) 386-7906
Fax: (229) 386-7927

April 30, 2008

Mr. David Ratley
Director, AOC
Suite 300
244 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-5900

RE: Third Superior Court Judgeship__Tifton Judicial Circuit

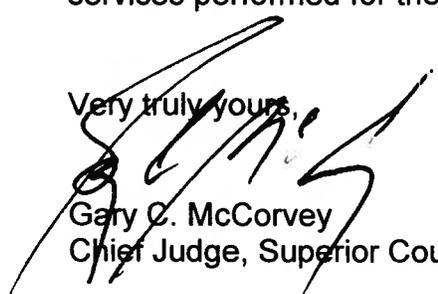
Dear Mr. Ratley:

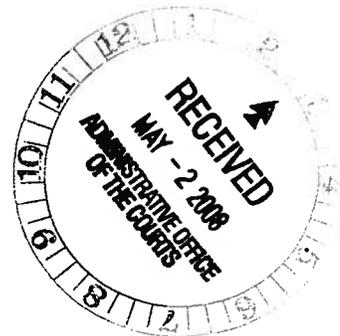
Pursuant to the notice from Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears and the Judicial Council, I am writing to request a study to assess the need for an additional Superior Court judgeship here in the Tifton Judicial Circuit.

As you know, we ranked ninth after the 2007 study and believe we should be significantly higher after this year's analysis. Please contact this office if you desire any further information or for any assistance in this matter.

Thank you for your efforts with regard to this study and with regard to other services performed for the benefit of the Superior Courts.

Very truly yours,


Gary C. McCorvey
Chief Judge, Superior Courts





House of Representatives

AUSTIN SCOTT
REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 153
1610 JOHN ORR DR., BLDG F
P. O. BOX 988
TIFTON, GEORGIA 31793
(229) 386-5128 (O)
(229) 388-0896 (FAX)
E-MAIL: austin.scott@house.ga.gov

STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 218
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334
(404) 656-5132
(404) 656-6700 (FAX)

STANDING
COMMITTEES:
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS - CHAIRMAN
LEGISLATIVE & CONGRESSIONAL
REAPPORTIONMENT
RULES
WAYS & MEANS

June 24, 2008

David L. Ratley
Director
Administrative Office of the Courts
Suite 300
244 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30334



Dear Mr. Ratley:

I am writing to confirm my continuing support of an additional judgeship for the Tifton Judicial Circuit.

As I stated in my support letter to Chief Justice Sears last year, we have a growing number of cases in our judicial circuit. We are obviously in a rapidly expanding area which places our judicial services under a strain to keep up with the demand. The addition of another judgeship would greatly aid in relieving some of the pressure, specifically in the area of domestic and pro se cases. I am concerned about my constituents and the availability of a court system that is not subject to delay and a backlog of cases.

Should you have any concerns you would like to discuss with me, I would be available to discuss them with you at your convenience.

Sincerely,


Austin Scott

AS/pmn

Cc: Chief Justice Leah Sears



The General Assembly

Atlanta, Georgia 30334

August 15, 2008

Dear Judicial Branch:

Like many other states in the country, Georgia is experiencing an unsettled period with respect to state revenue collections. Georgia ended Fiscal Year 2008 with an approximate budget shortfall of \$710 million. Some estimates suggest the Fiscal Year 2009 shortfall may be in excess of \$1.6 billion. While the state still has over \$900 million in the revenue shortfall reserve, the reserves alone cannot get us through this downturn. The state must be proactive in reducing expenditures.

As a precaution against further revenue declines, Governor Perdue has drafted revised budget instructions requiring each Executive Branch department, agency or authority to submit reduction plans of 6%, 8% and 10% for both the Amended FY 2009 and FY 2010 budget. Furthermore, 6% of state agencies' allotments will be held beginning with the next allotment. In addition to these instructions, the Governor has ordered state employee pay raises to be deferred until further notice.

We are writing to reflect the intention of the Legislative Branch – and request the assistance of the Judicial Branch – in addressing our economic situation. While O.C.G.A. 45-12-78 of the Budget Act exempts the Judicial Branch budget from review and control by the Executive Branch, the Legislative Branch is committed to ensuring all agencies participate in managing the state budget. Fairness dictates all of state government must share in the fiscal responsibility of managing and balancing the state budget. Executive Branch agencies should not be the lone participant in maintaining a balanced budget.

We ask that you review your budget and identify any expenditure that can be deferred or eliminated. Further, we request you follow the same instructions issued by the Governor for Executive Branch agencies to include a 6%, 8% and 10% reduction plan in your budget submissions and withhold 6% of your expenditures. Like other state agencies, pay raises are deferred until further notice.

We appreciate your cooperation and efforts in managing these reductions in a manner that least impacts Georgia's citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Harbin".

Ben Harbin
House Appropriations Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Hill".

Jack Hill
Senate Appropriations Chairman



OFFICE OF PLANNING AND BUDGET

Sonny Perdue
Governor

Trey Childress
Director

August 7, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Agency Heads

FROM: Trey Childress *TC*

RE: Instructions for Selected Fiscal Year 2009 Expenditures

As previously communicated by memorandum on August 1, 2008, Governor Perdue has instructed agencies to implement expenditure control measures in order to meet our revised budget projections. Specific instructions regarding expenditure controls are included in this memorandum. These expenditure controls are effective immediately and will be effective until further notice.

State Employee Hiring Suspension

- Suspend all hiring for new and replacement positions that are funded in total or in part with State funds. Special exceptions for extenuating circumstances will be considered on a case-by case basis. Both the State Personnel Administration (SPA) and the Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) will be required to approve all hiring exceptions. Agencies will need to submit exception requests, using the critical hire exception form, to SPA and OPB for review. OPB, in consultation with SPA, will be responsible for the approval of exceptions to this hiring suspension.

Travel Moratorium

- Curtail all out-of-state and in-state non-essential travel for state business, including conference attendance.
- Any travel for conferences and/or overnight stays and any travel requiring personal mileage reimbursement or rental car expenses must be approved in advance prior to incurring the expense. Agencies should develop an internal approval process and maintain documentation regarding any decisions related to these areas and make them available to OPB as necessary.

- Employees whose jobs require travel as part of their essential work activity are exempted from this provision. However, action should be taken to minimize and streamline these activities as much as possible.
- This provision is applicable to all state departments, institutions, boards, bureaus, agencies, authorities, colleges and universities.

Vehicle Purchase Moratorium

- Discontinue the purchase of motor vehicles until further notice, regardless of fund source. This includes all passenger carrying vehicles, law enforcement vehicles, large pick-up trucks and cargo vans with special equipment.
- Any exception requests to this moratorium will require the review and approval by the Department of Administrative Services' Fleet Management Office (DOAS) and the Office of Planning and Budget. Agencies will need to submit requests through the regular fleet management process. OPB, in consultation with DOAS, will be responsible for the approval of exceptions to this purchase moratorium.
- This provision is applicable to all state departments, institutions, boards, bureaus, agencies, authorities, colleges and universities.

Equipment and Discretionary Purchase Moratorium

- Curtail the purchase of, or contracting for, supplies, materials, equipment, printing or other products financed in total or in part with state funds. Exceptions to this moratorium may be considered under the following circumstances:
 - a. The purchase or contract is necessary to protect the health or safety of Georgia residents, visitors or state employees.
 - b. The purchase or contract is necessary to provide for the basic requirements of residents of state institutions or facilities, including but not limited to food, clothing and prescription drugs.
 - c. The purchase or contract will produce budgetary savings, increase state revenues or prevent the loss of federal funds.
- Agencies should develop an approval process and maintain documentation regarding any decisions related to these areas and make them available to OPB as necessary.

- This provision is applicable to all state departments, institutions, boards, bureaus, agencies, authorities, colleges and universities.

These measures are effective immediately. Please ensure that they are communicated to staff throughout your agency.

TC/bpg

c: Tommy Hills, Chief Financial Officer, Governor's Office
Jim Lientz, Chief Operating Officer, Governor's Office
Steve Stevenson, Commissioner, State Personnel Administration
Brad Douglas, Commissioner, Department of Administrative Services
Fiscal Officers
Fleet Coordinators
Human Resources Officers
Procurement Officers

**TOTAL JUDICIAL COUNCIL SECTION
FY 2009 AMENDED BUDGET REQUEST**

PROGRAM	FY 2009 BUDGET	STATEWIDE REDUCTIONS*	FY 2009 ADJUSTED BASE	6% REDUCTION	FY2009 AMENDED REQUEST
Office of Dispute Resolution	\$ 196,638	\$ 15,011	\$ 181,627	\$ 10,898	\$ 170,729
Institute for Continuing Judicial Education	\$ 1,298,000	\$ 6,105	\$ 1,291,895	\$ 77,514	\$ 1,214,381
Judicial Qualifications Commission	\$ 299,040	\$ 9,921	\$ 289,119	\$ 17,347	\$ 271,772
Appellate Resource Center	\$ 580,000	\$ -	\$ 580,000	\$ 34,800	\$ 545,200
Judicial Council	\$ 13,971,643	\$ 344,705	\$ 13,626,938	\$ 817,616	\$ 12,809,322
Total	\$ 16,345,321	\$ 375,742	\$ 15,969,579	\$ 958,175	\$ 15,011,404

* FY 09 Statewide Reductions includes removal of pay raise and health benefit reduction

Overall Percentage Decrease over FY 2009 - 8.16%

**TOTAL JUDICIAL COUNCIL SECTION
FY 2009 AMENDED BUDGET REQUEST**

PROGRAM	FY 2009 BUDGET	STATEWIDE REDUCTIONS*	FY 2009 ADJUSTED BASE	8% REDUCTION	FY2009 AMENDED REQUEST
Office of Dispute Resolution	\$ 196,638	\$ 15,011	\$ 181,627	\$ 14,530	\$ 167,097
Institute for Continuing Judicial Education	\$ 1,298,000	\$ 6,105	\$ 1,291,895	\$ 103,352	\$ 1,188,543
Judicial Qualifications Commission	\$ 299,040	\$ 9,921	\$ 289,119	\$ 23,130	\$ 265,989
Appellate Resource Center	\$ 580,000	\$ -	\$ 580,000	\$ 46,400	\$ 533,600
Judicial Council	\$ 13,971,643	\$ 344,705	\$ 13,626,938	\$ 1,090,154	\$ 12,536,784
Total	\$ 16,345,321	\$ 375,742	\$ 15,969,579	\$ 1,277,566	\$ 14,692,013

* FY 09 Statewide Reductions includes removal of pay raise and health benefit reduction

Overall Percentage Decrease over FY 2009 - 10.11%

**TOTAL JUDICIAL COUNCIL SECTION
FY2009 AMENDED BUDGET REQUEST**

PROGRAM	FY 2009 BUDGET	STATEWIDE REDUCTIONS*	FY 2009 ADJUSTED BASE	10% REDUCTION	FY2009 AMENDED REQUEST
Office of Dispute Resolution	\$ 196,638	\$ 15,011	\$ 181,627	\$ 18,163	\$ 163,464
Institute for Continuing Judicial Education	\$ 1,298,000	\$ 6,105	\$ 1,291,895	\$ 129,190	\$ 1,162,705
Judicial Qualifications Commission	\$ 299,040	\$ 9,921	\$ 289,119	\$ 28,912	\$ 260,207
Appellate Resource Center	\$ 580,000	\$ -	\$ 580,000	\$ 58,000	\$ 522,000
Judicial Council	\$ 13,971,643	\$ 344,705	\$ 13,626,938	\$ 1,362,693	\$ 12,264,245
Total	\$ 16,345,321	\$ 375,742	\$ 15,969,579	\$ 1,596,958	\$ 14,372,621

* FY 09 Statewide Reductions includes removal of pay raise and health benefit reduction

Overall Decrease over FY 2009 - 12.06%

Program	State Funds Requested	Details of Request	Budget Committee Recommendation	Notes
AOC - Pay Plan	\$65,032	Implementation of a formalized salary scale and plan	\$15,032	Fund AA's and support staff - voluntarily withdrawn
AOC - Case Management Specialist	\$180,650	Full-time case management specialist and three interns for six months	\$0	No funding recommendation for FY 2010
Electronic Filing for Trial Courts	\$272,438	The expansion of services and related activities of the Electronic Filing for Trial Courts Program. The purpose of the program is to automate the current manual workflow process of civil and criminal proceedings.	\$0	No funding recommendation for FY 2010
Judicial Data Center Relocation	\$100,202	Relocation of all server equipment in use at the Judicial Data Center to be moved to a corporate managed data center located in midtown Atlanta	\$100,202	Funding recommended as requested - Voluntarily Withdrawn
Judicial Council Standing Committee on Drug Courts	\$392,679	Implementation for three (3) new drug courts and a statewide evaluation for adult felony drug courts	\$392,679	Funding recommended as requested - Voluntarily Withdrawn
Judicial Council Standing Committee on Drug Courts - DUI Courts	\$204,980	Allows for implementation grants to be awarded to two new counties through a competitive grant process	\$204,980	Funding recommended as requested - Voluntarily Withdrawn
Judicial Council Standing Committee on Drug Courts - Mental Health Courts	\$211,786	Implementation for two (2) new mental health courts.	\$211,786	Funding recommended as requested - Voluntarily Withdrawn
Supreme Court Commission on Children, Marriage and Family Law	\$92,500	Two day summit and continuing legal education event on the importance of rearing children in a two-parent, married household; and to publish educational materials developed by the Commission for distribution among Georgia's judiciary and judicial stakeholders.	\$92,500	Funding recommended as requested - Voluntarily Withdrawn
Council of State Court Judges	\$106,617	State Court Judges Impaired Driver Awareness Campaign	\$46,617	Position not approved - Voluntarily Withdrawn
Council of Probate Court Judges	\$9,758	Update of the Probate Court Judges Benchbook and Handbook to reflect legislative changes made during the 2007 and 2008 legislative sessions	\$9,758	Funding recommended as requested - Voluntarily Withdrawn
Technology and Operations Division - Council of Municipal Court Judges Municipal Court Data warehouse	\$119,936	The development and maintenance of a data warehouse of municipal court information	\$89,936	Position salary decreased - Voluntarily Withdrawn
General Counsel/Regulatory Matters Legal Services to Victims of Domestic Violence	\$565,374	Offer assistance to victims who need legal representation to protect them and their children from violence and to achieve self-sufficiency.	\$213,462	10% increase recommended - Voluntarily Withdrawn
ICJE	\$10,000	Funding for CJE to cover the future creation of new judgeships	\$10,000	Funding recommended as requested
Georgia Appellate Practice and Educational Resource Center, Inc.	\$200,000	Two Senior Staff Attorneys and one Investigator	\$200,000	Funding recommended as requested- Withdrawn
	\$2,531,952		\$1,586,952	Withdrawn Amount - \$1,576,952

**TOTAL JUDICIAL COUNCIL SECTION
FY 2010 BUDGET REQUEST**

PROGRAM	FY 2009 BUDGET	STATEWIDE REDUCTIONS*	FY 2010 ADJUSTED BASE	6% REDUCTION	ENHANCEMENT REQUESTS	FY2010 REQUEST
Office of Dispute Resolution	\$ 196,638	\$ 15,011	\$ 181,627	\$ 10,898	\$ -	\$ 170,729
Institute for Continuing Judicial Education	\$ 1,298,000	\$ 6,105	\$ 1,291,895	\$ 77,514	\$ 10,000	\$ 1,224,381
Judicial Qualifications Commission	\$ 299,040	\$ 9,921	\$ 289,119	\$ 17,347	\$ -	\$ 271,772
Appellate Resource Center	\$ 580,000	\$ -	\$ 580,000	\$ 34,800	\$ -	\$ 545,200
Judicial Council	\$ 13,971,643	\$ 344,705	\$ 13,626,938	\$ 817,616	\$ -	\$ 12,809,322
Total	\$ 16,345,321	\$ 375,742	\$ 15,969,579	\$ 958,175	\$ 10,000	\$ 15,021,404

* FY 09 Statewide Reductions includes removal of pay raise and health benefit reduction

Enhancement percentage increase over FY 2009 = 0.06%

**TOTAL JUDICIAL COUNCIL SECTION
FY 2010 BUDGET REQUEST**

PROGRAM	FY 2009 BUDGET	STATEWIDE REDUCTIONS*	FY 2010 ADJUSTED BASE	8% REDUCTION	ENHANCEMENT REQUESTS	FY2010 REQUEST
Office of Dispute Resolution	\$ 196,638	\$ 15,011	\$ 181,627	\$ 14,530	\$ -	\$ 167,097
Institute for Continuing Judicial Education	\$ 1,298,000	\$ 6,105	\$ 1,291,895	\$ 103,352	\$ 10,000	\$ 1,198,543
Judicial Qualifications Commission	\$ 299,040	\$ 9,921	\$ 289,119	\$ 23,130	\$ -	\$ 265,989
Appellate Resource Center	\$ 580,000	\$ -	\$ 580,000	\$ 46,400	\$ -	\$ 533,600
Judicial Council	\$ 13,971,643	\$ 344,705	\$ 13,626,938	\$ 1,090,154	\$ -	\$ 12,536,784
Total	\$ 16,345,321	\$ 375,742	\$ 15,969,579	\$ 1,277,566	\$ 10,000	\$ 14,702,013

* FY 09 Statewide Reductions includes removal of pay raise and health benefit reduction

Enhancement percentage increase over FY 2009 - 0.06%

**TOTAL JUDICIAL COUNCIL SECTION
FY 2010 BUDGET REQUEST**

PROGRAM	FY 2009 BUDGET	STATEWIDE REDUCTIONS*	FY 2010 ADJUSTED BASE	10% REDUCTION	ENHANCEMENT REQUESTS	FY2010 REQUEST
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Institute for Continuing Judicial Education	\$ 1,298,000	\$ 6,105	\$ 1,291,895	\$ 129,190	\$ 10,000	\$ 1,172,705
Judicial Qualifications Commission	\$ 299,040	\$ 9,921	\$ 289,119	\$ 28,912	\$ -	\$ 260,207
Appellate Resource Center	\$ 580,000	\$ -	\$ 580,000	\$ 58,000	\$ -	\$ 522,000
Judicial Council	\$ 13,971,643	\$ 344,705	\$ 13,626,938	\$ 1,362,693	\$ -	\$ 12,264,245
Total	\$ 16,345,321	\$ 375,742	\$ 15,969,579	\$ 1,596,958	\$ 10,000	\$ 14,382,621

* FY 09 Statewide Reductions includes removal of pay raise and health benefit reduction

Enhancement percentage increase over FY 2009 - 0.06%

Judicial Council of Georgia

Administrative Office of the Courts

David L. Ratley
Director

Supreme Court of Georgia's Commission on Children, Marriage and Family Law Committee on Justice for Children Judicial Council Report, August 2008

On October 4, 2006, The Supreme Court of Georgia renamed the Child Placement Project the Committee on Justice for Children. This name works in conjunction with the new Supreme Court Commission on Children, Marriage and Family Law which includes the Committee on Justice for Children (J4C). The Committee on J4C was refunded to continue its work by Congress for an additional five years beginning in October 2006. For the last 12 years, the mission of this work has remained constant which is to improve the court process in child deprivation cases.

Justice P. Harris Hines serves as the current chair of the Committee on J4C. Committee members representing the judiciary, the state bar; the Department of Family and Children Services as well as the community include: Ms. Isabel Blanco, Deputy Director of the Division of Family and Children Services; Mr. Duaine Hathaway, Executive Director of Georgia CASA; Judge Michael Key, Troup County Juvenile Court; Dr. Normer Adams, Executive Director of the Georgia Association of Homes and Services for Children; Attorney Kathleen Dumitrescu, Atlanta Volunteer Lawyer Foundation; Judge Peggy Walker, Douglas County Juvenile Court; Judge Jackson Harris, Superior Court Judge, Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit; Senior Juvenile Court Judge James Morris; Judge Desiree Peagler, DeKalb County Juvenile Court; Attorney Robert Grayson, Cobb County, Special Assistant Attorney General; Judge Lawton Stephens, Western Judicial Circuit; W. Terrence Walsh, Alston & Bird, Chair of the State Bar Committee on Children and the Courts; Ms. Lisa Lariscy, DFCS Regional Director; Judge Kevin Guidry, Juvenile Court of the Piedmont Circuit, and former Juvenile Court Judge Tom Rawlings, now Director of the Office of the Child Advocate. An extensive list of Committee advisors has also been formed and is listed on the website below.

Georgia has over 12,000 children in state custody due to child abuse or neglect. Priority goals for 2008 include: improving the process of appealing termination of parental rights cases, improving the quality of representation of children, parents and the agency, defining and implementing a set of child outcome measures for courts in deprivation cases, hosting summits to reach over 12 judicial circuits, and exploring the judiciary's role in family preservation.

Improvement goals for the past nine years have included: automation of deprivation case records, cross-training and setting standards of practice for all participants in juvenile court, increasing the representation of parents and children in juvenile court, and obtaining state funding for juvenile court judges. Benchmarks for some of these goals have been reached and while others have needed refinement.

For 2008, J4C is focused on quality assurance for continuous improvement which is done by reviewing children's case files and observing court hearings. These reviews will focus on timeliness of hearings, due process measures and quality of representation. The J4C has a web site hosted by the AOC with regular progress reports and publications as well as a list serve open to all interested. See: www.gajusticeforchildren.org

SUPREME COURT EQUAL JUSTICE COMMISSION COMMITTEE ON CIVIL JUSTICE

244 Washington Street, SW
Suite 300
Atlanta, Georgia 30334



Phone: (404) 463-1849
Fax: (404) 651-6449
E-mail: radwinj@gaaoc.us

The Honorable Leah Ward Sears
Supreme Court of Georgia

Anne W. Lewis (Co-Chair)
Strickland Brockington Lewis LLP

Teri McClure (Co-Chair)
United Parcel Service Inc.

Jill O. Radwin
Executive Director

During mid-2008, the Committee on Civil Justice continued fulfilling its mission of “envisioning Georgia as a state in which: everyone is informed about and has meaningful access to a civil justice system that provides due process of law. “ To this end, the Committee envisions that “there [will be] a statewide, broad-based, publicly known and supported, coordinated system for the delivery of civil legal assistance that: empowers people of low income; provides education, information, advice, tools, and quality legal representation; and efficiently and effectively addresses legal needs and resolves or prevents legal problems.”

In late Fall 2007, the A.L. Burruss Institute of Public Service and Research at Kennesaw State University began conducting a comprehensive assessment which included telephone surveys of low and middle income Georgians, as well as state attorneys as to the extent each provides pro bono representation. Personal interviews were conducted for the hard to reach population and those with special needs. Further, focus groups were conducted of legal services providers and court personnel. A preliminary report was presented jointly by representatives from the Burruss Institute and members of the Committee on Civil Justice in Amelia Island at the State Bar Annual Meeting on June 5, 2008. Following the presentation of the preliminary findings, a ‘brainstorming’ session was held in which judges, and representatives from the State Bar and Atlanta Legal Aid, spoke about how to promote low and moderate income litigants’ access to Georgia’s civil legal delivery system.

This assessment has been completed, and a final report documenting the data collected is in the editing process now. A release date is expected for late August or early September. Following the release of the data, the Committee intends to have a five year strategic plan drafted examining the data and making recommendations to the state’s leaders, policy makers, legislators and others on how to better serve, promote access to, and more efficiently provide civil legal assistance to the low and moderate income litigants. Charles Lester chairs the Delivery Coordination and Needs Assessment Subcommittee, Committee on Civil Justice, which has overseen the Legal Needs Assessment.

One such anticipated recommendation is a call for more self-help centers in rural areas of the State. A pilot project in the Appalachian Judicial Circuit initiated on July 1, 2008 will aid in demonstrating the need and utility of a self-help center in a largely rural three-county area in which some of the assistance will be provided by remote access. Currently, most of the

services to pro se litigants or potential litigants seeking information are only found in the larger urban areas of Georgia. To determine the effectiveness of this Center and the ability to replicate throughout other parts of the State, an evaluation will be conducted simultaneously during the first year of the Appalachian Circuit's Family Law Information Center. This Family Law Information Center was funded by the Legislature from a Judicial Council request. The Appalachian Circuit project is being overseen by the Pro Se Subcommittee of the Committee on Civil Justice. State Court Judge Wayne Purdom chairs this subcommittee. The other Subcommittees and Chairs are: Terry Walsh, Pro Bono Subcommittee; Timothy Floyd, Public Education Subcommittee; and, Rita Sheffey, Public Education Subcommittee. The full Committee on Civil Justice is co-chaired by Anne W. Lewis and Teri P. McClure. Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears serves as the ex officio for this Committee.

Jill Radwin serves as the Executive Director of the Committee on Civil Justice, and Tracy Powell serves as the Project Coordinator. The administration of the Committee is housed at the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Judicial Council of Georgia
Administrative Office of the Courts

David L. Ratley
Director

Reply to:
Board of Court Reporting

To: Members of the Judicial Council of Georgia

From: Cynthia Clanton, General Counsel and Associate Director for Regulatory
Aquaria R. Smith, Program Manager for BCR 

Re: Board of Court Reporting Officer Appointments

Date: July 15, 2008

Cc: Judge Linda S. Cowen, Chair of BCR
David L. Ratley, AOC
Stephanie C. Hines, AOC

On July 10, 2008, the Judicial Council Board of Court Reporting held its third quarterly meeting at Clayton County Courthouse. One of the items on the agenda was the election of officers.

The following is a list of officers elected to the Board of Court Reporting for the term effective July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

Officers

Judge Linda S. Cowen, Chair
State Court of Clayton County

G. William Abel, Vice-Chair
Official Certified Court Reporter

David L. Ratley, Secretary, Director
Administrative Office of the Courts

The current members of the Board are as follows:

Judge Harry J. Altman II
John Larkins, Jr., Esq.
Kerry McFadden

Vickey E. Riggins
Marilyn Roe
Vickie Wiechec

Derek J. White, Esq.

Thank you.

Judicial Council of Georgia
Administrative Office of the Courts

David L. Ratley
Director

Reply to:
Cynthia H. Clanton, General Counsel

Memorandum

To: Judicial Council of Georgia Members

From: Cynthia H. Clanton *CHC*
General Counsel and Associate Director for Regulatory

Date: July 21, 2008

Re: Judicial Council Domestic Violence Committee Report (FY 2009)

CC: Judge William T. Boyett, Chair, Judicial Council DV Committee

On June 13, 2008 the Judicial Council Domestic Violence Committee met to discuss fifteen grant applications for funds to provide legal services to victims of family violence. Awards were made to nine agencies.

Attached for your information is the annual report from the Committee. I am available to answer any questions you may have during the Judicial Council meeting.

Attachment

Judicial Council Committee on Domestic Violence
Report to the Judicial Council of Georgia
July 22, 2008

This year the General Assembly appropriated to the Judicial Council of Georgia \$2,134,626 in state funds to provide victims of domestic violence with civil legal services. These funds provide legal assistance to over 4,000 victims from all over the state. Furthermore, the grant funds pay for the provision of domestic violence training programs for judges, lawyers, law enforcement and advocates. Grant funds are awarded after a competitive grant process to nonprofit agencies that have a history of providing legal services to local victims. These FY 2009 funds were reduced by the Legislature 2.5% from the previous amount of \$2,189,360.

The Judicial Council Domestic Violence Committee met on June 13, 2008 and reviewed 15 grant applications for funds from agencies throughout Georgia. The total amount requested from these agencies was \$2,642,069.46. After much deliberation, grant awards were made to the following nine agencies:

FY 2009 Grant Recipients

Amity House	\$ 7,500
Atlanta Legal Aid, Inc.	\$ 502,262
Cherokee Family Violence Center	\$ 10,000
Gateway House, Inc.	\$ 21,000
Georgia Law Center for the Homeless	\$ 35,000
Georgia Legal Services	\$1,461,654
Harmony House	\$ 8,000
The Refuge	\$ 5,423
Support in Abusive Family Emergencies, Inc.	\$ 40,000

The Judicial Council Domestic Violence Committee members are proud that the Judicial Branch can take such a positive role in helping domestic violence victims. The 2008 Committee members were:

Judge William T. Boyett, Chair	Judge Anne E. Barnes
Judge William P. Bartles	Judge Thomas Bobbitt
Judge Melodie Clayton	Judge Divida Gude
Judge Horace Johnson	Judge Tripp Self
Judge J. Carlisle Overstreet	Allegra Lawrence-Hardy
Linda A. Klein	Jody Overcash, advisor
	Kirsten Rambo, advisor

At its meeting this year the Committee voted to request an increase in grant funds for FY 2010. The amount of the requested increase (\$565,374) was considered by the Judicial Council Budget Committee; they recommended instead a 10% increase in the grant funds or \$213,462.60. This increase, if approved by the Judicial Council, will make it possible for us to better meet our program goals of providing effective legal representation to low income victims of family violence. Additional funds will

Judicial Council Committee on Domestic Violence
Report to the Judicial Council of Georgia
July 22, 2008

provide assistance to approximately 436 victims a year. This request for an increase is supported by the State Bar of Georgia's Women and Minority Section, the Georgia Commission on Family Violence, and the Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence (which has a membership of 46 DHR certified shelters in Georgia).

Furthermore, funding for legal services for victims of domestic violence has widespread support among the citizens of Georgia. In 1997 a poll of Georgians was commissioned that asked the following question:

“Currently the state will provide an attorney for a low-income person accused of domestic violence, but this service is not available to victims of domestic violence. Would you support or oppose state funding for low-income victims of domestic violence, so they can obtain necessary legal assistance on matters related to restraining orders, housing, child custody, and child support?”

The results of the poll showed that Georgians overwhelmingly supported such funding (79% in support to 17% opposed). Overwhelming support was shown in all demographics: regional, urban/suburban/rural, political party, race, age, and gender. The State Bar of Georgia has recently commissioned a new poll that will include this question as well as others. There is no reason to expect that the poll numbers will change.

Respectfully submitted,

The Honorable William T. Boyett
Chair, Judicial Council Committee on Domestic Violence



Judicial Council of Georgia

Standing Committee on Drug Courts

Judge George H. Kreeger
Chair

Reply to:
Tonya L. Griesbach
Governmental Affairs

Memorandum

TO: Judicial Council Members

FROM: Judge George Kreeger

RE: Drug Court Committee Report

DATE: July 9, 2008

2008 Drug, DUI and Mental Health Court Conference

Over 500 people, and nearly every Accountability Court team in Georgia, attended the 2008 Drug, DUI and Mental Health Court Conference at the Peachtree City Wyndham Hotel and Conference Center from June 17 – 19. The theme for the 2008 conference was "Foundations for the Future." The foundations for Accountability Courts are research and evidence-based treatment practices. Three national keynote speakers addressed the attendees in plenary sessions:

- *Criminal Thinking*, Dr. Stanton Samenow, author of the best-seller *Inside the Criminal Mind*
- *Federal Partnerships for Effective Drug Court Treatment*, Dr. Westley Clark, Director, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, SAMHSA, US Department of Health and Human Services
- *Targeting Drug Offenders by Risk and Needs into Appropriate Programs and Services Using Drug Court Research Findings*
Dr. Doug Marlowe, Chief, Science, Policy & Law
National Association of Drug Court Professionals

With such great success and growing numbers attending the conference, we have officially outgrown the Peachtree City Wyndham Hotel and Conference Center. The 2009 conference will be held at the Westin Buckhead in Atlanta, Georgia from May 27 – 29, 2009.

Funding Subcommittee

The Funding Standards Subcommittee of the Judicial Council of Georgia Standing Committee on Accountability Courts met on Monday, October 29, 2007 at the Athens – Clarke County Courthouse.

The following members were in attendance: Judge Jason Deal, Judge John Girardeau, Judge Kent Lawrence, Judge Jack Partain, Judge Juanita Steadman, Ms. Jody Overcash and Mr. Steve Ferrell. Ms. Jane Martin and Ms. Eden Freeman were in attendance as Committee Staff.

At that meeting, the Committee decided to continue using a formula based approach for the distribution of available funds. However, the formula will be modified for Fiscal Year 2009 to the following:

- Is the court receiving the best value for the money? (50%)
[This measure is based strictly on the number of participants in the court as of January 1, 2008.]
- Is the court using all available resources? (10%)
- Is the court providing quality treatment and other basic services? (25%)
- Are there any viable additional needs or extenuating circumstances? (5%)
- What is the economic ranking of the service area? (10%)

The Committee also agreed to use the recommendations of the Treatment Standards Subcommittee as the basis for determining “quality treatment.”

The Funding Committee met on Wednesday, June 4, 2008 to discuss applications for FY2009 funding. The Committee recommended funding for 57 drug court programs across the state. Funding recommendations for the FY2009 grant cycle were presented to the Standing Committee on Drug Courts on June 16, 2008. Grant award documents were mailed out to the Drug Court Judges, Coordinators and District Court Administrators in early July.

By-Laws

The Standing Committee on Drug Courts presents the attached By-Laws to the Judicial Council for ratification.

On June 16, 2008, the Standing Committee on Drug Courts adopted By-Laws for the Committee. The drug court field and the duties of the Committee have grown since its inception. With increased duties and responsibilities, the Committee voted to adopt by-laws to formalize the Committee.

Judicial Council of Georgia Standing Committee on Drug Courts

By-Laws

2008

ARTICLE I TITLE

This Committee shall be known as the Judicial Council of Georgia Standing Committee on Drug Courts ("Standing Committee on Drug Courts").

ARTICLE II PURPOSE AND MISSION

Section 1. In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 15-1-15, the Judicial Council of Georgia shall adopt standards each drug court shall adopt into their policies and procedures.

Section 2. The Standing Committee on Drug Courts was established to encourage, promote, and strengthen new and existing accountability courts through mentoring, training, technical assistance, and developing statewide standards.

Section 3. The mission of the Standing Committee on Drug Courts is to establish accountability courts in each of the 49 judicial circuits, expand capacity of accountability courts and provide training to all levels of courts.

ARTICLE III COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership

a. The Standing Committee on Drug Courts shall consist of eighteen voting members, and at least seventeen non-voting members:

1. Voting Members:

- i. 10 adult/felony drug court judges
- ii. 4 DUI court judges (State Court)
- iii. 2 juvenile drug court judges
- iv. 2 family dependency drug treatment court judges

2. Non-voting Members:

- i. Representative of Department of Human Resources
- ii. Representative of the Department of Corrections
- iii. Representative of the Sheriffs Association
- iv. Representative of the Chiefs of Police
- v. Representative of the Public Defenders Standards Council
- vi. Representative of the Prosecuting Attorneys Association
- vii. District Court Administrator from each district
- viii. Representative from the Drug Court Coordinators Group

b. Alternates or designees are not permitted for voting members

- c. Non-voting members may have an alternate or designee once approved by the Chair of the Standing Committee on Drug Courts
- d. The composition of the Standing Committee on Drug Courts may be changed at any time by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

Section 2. Appointment of Members and Alternates

- a. Voting Members will be appointed by the Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court on staggered four-year terms
- b. Non-voting Members will be appointed by the Chair of the Standing Committee on Drug Courts, and serve at the pleasure of the Chair.

ARTICLE IV MEETINGS, CONDUCT OF MEETINGS AND QUORUM

- a. A quarterly meeting date, time and place of the Standing Committee on Drug Courts shall be established by the Chair.
- b. Eight members shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business. The act of a majority of those voting members present at meetings at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Standing Committee on Drug Courts.
- c. Standards for accountability courts approved by the Standing Committee on Drug Courts shall be ratified by the Judicial Council of Georgia.
- d. Subcommittees may be appointed by the Chair of the Standing Committee on Drug Courts.
- e. There shall be at least two Standing Subcommittees consisting of a Funding Subcommittee and a Conference & Training Subcommittee. The Chair of the Standing Committee on Drug Courts may appoint any subcommittee to be a Standing Subcommittee.

ARTICLE V OFFICERS AND DUTIES

- a. A Chair and Vice-Chair shall be appointed by the Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court for a two-year term ending in June of each even year.
- b. The Chair shall set the agenda of and preside at all meetings, and shall be responsible for the expeditious conduct of business.
- c. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall assume the duties of the Chair.

ARTICLE VI AMENDMENTS

- a. These by-laws may be amended by a majority vote of the Standing Committee on Drug Courts and ratified by the Judicial Council of Georgia.
- b. A written notice must be sent to all members at least 30 days prior to any proposed action to amend the by-laws.

TAB 20

REPORTS ON GEORGIA COURTS AUTOMATION COMMISSION

MATERIALS WILL BE PRESENTED AS A HANDOUT AT THE MEETING



Judicial Council of Georgia

Administrative Office of the Courts

David L. Ratley
Director

Child Support Commission

Late in 2007, the Governor reappointed or appointed new Commission Members to the Child Support Commission, as the term of eleven of the fifteen Commission Members had expired. The current Child Support Commission members are: Senator Seth Harp (serving as Chair); Senator Joe Carter; Representative Earl Ehrhart; Representative Ed Lindsey; Court of Appeals Judge Debra Bernes; Superior Court Judge A. Quillian Baldwin; Superior Court Judge Tom Campbell; Superior Court Judge Louisa Abbot; Dr. Roger Tutterow; Joy Hawkins; Charles "Chuck" Clay; Juvenile Court Judge Michael Key; Juvenile Court Judge Lisa Jones; Michael Martin and Rick Smith. The three Superior Court Judges' terms have officially expired but will continue to serve until such time as the Governor reappoints them or appoints replacements.

The newly appointed Commission met several times in late 2007 and early 2008 to recommend to the Georgia Legislature several statutory revisions, that were primarily "clean up" or provide clarification to the current Child Support Guidelines. A bill containing these recommendations was introduced in the Senate. The General Assembly passed the bill, and the Governor signed it in early May. The revised provisions went into effect on July 1, 2008. Since that date, the Child Support Commission Staff developed a PowerPoint presentation and made several presentations educating attorneys and mediators on those revisions. Also during this same period of time, the Child Support Commission tasked a study committee to review whether the current low income deviation found in the Child Support Guidelines should be revised. The Study Committee, chaired by Court of Appeals Judge Debra Bernes, consists of five Superior Court Judges, representatives from the Georgia Legal Services, Atlanta Legal Aid, Commission on Family Violence and the Office of Child Support Services. The Study Committee is recommending a revision and will present it to the Statute Review Subcommittee of the Child Support Commission in late August. The Statute Review Subcommittee will determine if the recommendation has merit and whether to recommend it to the full Child Support Commission.

The Child Support Commission is staffed by Jill Radwin, Staff Attorney to the Commission; Elaine Johnson, Child Support Guidelines Coordinator; and Debra Oliver, Administrative Assistant to the Child Support Commission.