

## **Executive Committee**

Judge Jason J. Deal, Chair  
Judge Stephen Goss, Vice Chair  
Chief Judge Jeffrey S. Bagley, Secretary  
Judge D. Scott Smith  
Chief Judge Joe C. Bishop  
Judge Doris L. Downs  
Judge Kathlene F. Gosselin  
Chief Judge Brenda S. Weaver  
Judge T. Russell McClelland, III

## **Standards and Certification Committee**

Chief Judge Jeffrey S. Bagley, Chair

## **Funding Committee**

Judge Kathlene F. Gosselin, Chair

## **Training Committee**

Judge Stephen S. Goss, Chair

## **Nominations Committee**

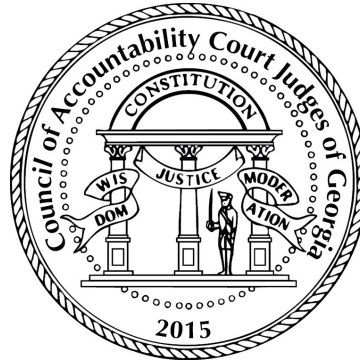
Judge D. Scott Smith, Chair

## **Legislation Committee**

Judge Stephen Kelley, Chair

## **Objectives**

- Take Georgia's Accountability Courts to scale;
- Reduce incarceration rates;
- Determine Accountability Court funding priorities;
- Encourage adherence to standards; and
- Save lives and restore families.



## **Contact Us:**

### **Council of Accountability Court Judges**

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Visit our website at  
[www.gaaccountabilitycourts.org](http://www.gaaccountabilitycourts.org)

Call Us: (404) 656-2613

## **CACJ Staff**

**Ms. Taylor Jones**  
Executive Director

**Mr. Josh Becker**  
Chief Certification Officer

**Ms. Sacha Greene**  
Certification Officer

**Ms. Lasheika Kassa**  
Certification Officer

**Ms. Erica Cawood**  
Operations Coordinator

# **Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia**



**CACJ**

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

# Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia

## Legislation Creation of CACJ



House Bill 328 - section 5 was established, FY2015, by the Legislature to create a Council of Accountability Court Judges (CACJ). The purpose and focus of which is to establish standards and practices for all accountability court divisions based on the National Drug Court Institute (NDCI), and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) with a state goal of reducing recidivism of offenders who abuse substances and/or have mental health diagnosis.

## Mission

The mission of the Council is assist the courts to effectively carry forth the constitutional by-laws and legislative responsibility (HB328) to improve accountability courts and their quality through the expertise of Judges.

## Committees

Under the guidance of the Executive Committee there are five Standing Committees: Funding, Training, Legislation, Nominations, and Standards & Certification. Primary Objectives of the committee are as follows:

*Standards and Certification Committee:* Develop standards and best practices, as well as the

accountability court eligibility for state funding.

*Funding Committee:* Oversee the accountability court appropriation provided and grant awards provided by the State.

*Training Committee:* Develop courses and programs for the continuing education of the Accountability Court team members throughout the State

*Nominations Committee:* Assist the Council to sustain its elected leadership.

*Legislation Committee:* Monitor all legislation affecting the accountability courts of Georgia.

## CACJ Staff

The Council of Accountability Court of Judges staff will establish and maintain partnerships with court officials, program personnel, stakeholders, and external state and federal agencies to enhance the administration and operation of accountability courts. Staff is also responsible for the planning and implementation of Council priorities and objectives.

Staff helps to:

- Develop, implement and monitor the Certification process;
- Manage the Peer Review process and reports;
- Provide technical and administrative assistance to local programs, new and existing;
- Provide administrative support to the Council and its committees;
- Plan State Training Conference and state continuing education trainings;
- Conducts Research and Data Analysis;
- Interact with stakeholders and national experts;

- Provide assistance to the courts and Council on grant opportunities.

## Our Courts

As of July 2016 in the state of Georgia we have 57 Felony Drug, 35 Mental Health, 20 Veterans, 25 DUI/Drug, 11 Family Dependency Treatment, and 10 Juvenile Drug and 3 Juvenile Mental Health Courts.

While the courts differ in the populations they serve (i.e. Mental Health , Family , Felony Drug, Veterans, etc.), the goal of the Accountability Courts system of Georgia is the same: to reduce crime and incarceration rates in the State of Georgia by implementing a common-sense approach to improving the justice system by using a combination of judicial monitoring and effective treatment to compel offenders to change their lives.

This system of Courts, also known as "problem solving courts", work to identify and recruit those in our legal system early in an effort to drive down the tax payer costs of incarceration. These courts offer programs to help with: treatment, job training, education, medical stabilization, family reunification, job placement, parenting and anger management. All as a cost saving alternative to incarceration. As a whole, the problem solving courts work to improve the quality of life for our participants and to build healthier, happier and safer communities.