



COUNCIL OF ACCOUNTABILITY COURT JUDGES OF GEORGIA

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HONORABLE JUDGE N. KENT LAWRENCE PORTRAIT UNVEILING

On Friday, November 17, 2017, a portrait unveiling was hosted at the Athens-Clarke County Courthouse for the Honorable N. Kent Lawrence. Judge Lawrence presided over the first DUI Court in Georgia and taught the DUI Court model to other DUI Court programs around the state and country. The Athens-Clarke County DUI Court, one of the first in the country, has been nationally recognized as an Academy Court (2011, 2014, and 2017) and used as a training site for those interested in starting a DUI Court program. An Academy Court is a model treatment court program and teaches other courts how a DUI Court should operate. Since 2008, over 60 teams have visited the Athens-Clarke County DUI Court. To date, the Athens-Clarke County DUI Court has had 470 participants graduate from its program.



The portrait was commissioned by the Western Judicial Circuit Bar Association and painted by Suzanne Royal. It will hang in the State Court Courtroom in the Athens-Clarke County Courthouse. A reception was held prior to the unveiling in the Courthouse Atrium where Judge Lawrence and his family were photographed with the portrait (photo credit: Ashley Stollar).

COOL FACTS ABOUT JUDGE LAWRENCE – THE “FATHER OF DUI COURTS” IN GA:

1974 - SERVED AS THE FIRST ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY POLICE CHIEF

1985 - APPOINTED BY GOVERNOR JOE FRANK HARRIS AS STATE COURT JUDGE OF CLARKE COUNTY WHERE HE SERVED FOR 26 YEARS

2003 - INDUCTED INTO THE COTTON BOWL HALL OF FAME FOR HIS PERFORMANCE AGAINST SOUTHERN METHODIST IN 1966

2006 - DEVELOPED THE FIRST IN-HOUSE ACCOUNTABILITY COURT DRUG TESTING LAB IN GA

2012 – RECEIVED THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR DWI COURTS LEADERSHIP AWARD



NAMI TRAINING

NAMI and the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) sponsored a 16-hour course in Peachtree City, GA on November 14-15, 2017. Attendees included coordinators, law enforcement officers, probation officers, and treatment providers. The training was titled First Responder Introduction to Behavioral Health Disorders and Addictive Diseases. It focused on community resources available for clients with mental health illnesses, mental health law, suicide, assisting veterans in crisis, first responder self-care, de-escalation principles, and an introduction to Crisis Intervention Training (CIT). Presenters included representatives from DBHDD and NAMI, a member of NAMI who suffers from a mental health illness, two attorneys from the Fulton County Accountability Courts, a veteran who promotes suicide prevention, and a mother who gave her perspective of mental health illness from a family member's point of view. Over the two day period, each perspective was informative, educational, and interactive. All that attended took something away from it. Thank you to all who attended!



Family Dependency Treatment Court Implementation Training

The number of family dependency treatment courts in Georgia has grown to 18 over the past few years. Five of the eighteen courts attended rigorous four day implementation training, November 13-16, hosted by the National Drug Court Institute. The training consisted of plenary sessions and jurisdictional breakouts that focused on a wide range of topics that included working effectively as a team, ethics and confidentiality, substance use disorder treatment for families in the child welfare system, and phases, benchmarks, and milestones for successful recovery and reunification. Teams that were in attendance included Bartow County Family Treatment Court, Troup County Family Dependency Treatment Court, Muscogee County Family Drug Court, Carroll County Family Treatment Court, and Newton County Juvenile Family Treatment Court. Each team was eager to learn ways to help sustain their program and provide the best possible outcomes for each family that participates in their program.



JUDGE FRANK JORDAN IS RETIRING

Submitted by Dayna Solomon

The Honorable Judge Frank J. Jordan Jr. is a Superior Court judge in the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit of Columbus, Georgia. He graduated Valedictorian of his Talbot County High School class, obtained his undergraduate degree from Mercer University with honors, graduated with honors from Walter F. Georgia School of Law at Mercer University, and was admitted to the Georgia Bar in 1972. Judge Jordan served in the army and was honorably discharged as a captain. Prior to joining the court, he worked in private practice for over 28 years. Judge Jordan was appointed to the bench in 2000 and elected to his first full term in 2002.

He began the Adult Drug Court in Muscogee County in October of 2007 and has presided over it without ceasing. Judge Jordan has also dedicated himself to the spread and success of accountability courts across the state of Georgia.

Since the founding in October 2007, our court has served over 270 participants, graduated over 150 participants, and have had 10 babies born drug free to participants. We operate our own drug testing lab, have a team of four surveillance officers, emphasize training for all team members, and have an intern program for graduate level counseling and social work students through Troy State University and USC. We have a professional clinical evaluator who conducts clinical evaluations on each participant referred to the program and can say all decisions made about the treatment of the participants is based in solid clinical advice from licensed clinicians. I am proud of the program we are running here. Ten years running and we are still constantly evolving to meet the needs of those who need our help.

Every graduation, when participants give their testimony, there is a feeling of hope and of gratitude. Watching new mothers hold drug free babies and hearing tales of struggle and hopelessness turn to future plans and education are the moments to hold on to. In those moments we know we may not be able to help them all, but we are doing something right to help those we can. We are making a difference; we are an instrument of change.

A reception to celebrate the career of the Honorable Judge Frank Jordan Jr. will be held on December 13th at 10:30 am in conjunction with the December graduation of the Muscogee County Adult Drug Court. His official retirement date is December 31, 2017.

MRT Training in Macon, GA

On November 6-9, the CACJ staff hosted a training opportunity for treatment providers to learn to facilitate Moral Reconciliation Therapy to participants across the state. Moral Reconciliation Therapy, or MRT, is an evidence based treatment curriculum that seeks to decrease recidivism among both juvenile and adult criminal offenders by increasing moral reasoning. It is used in 49 states and in seven countries and workbooks are also available in a Spanish version (provided by the CACJ staff). Yvonne Saunders Brown, from Correctional Counseling Incorporated, trained and certified all who were in attendance on how to utilize the MRT curriculum with their participants. All evaluations provided positive feedback and future trainings will be held at the Macon Marriott City Center. To order MRT workbooks, please follow the link: www.gaaccountabilitycourts.org/mrt-order-form.

Congratulations to Participants of all the November Graduations!

Appalachian Judicial Circuit Accountability Court

Athens-Clarke County Family Treatment Court

Columbus Mental Health and Veterans Court

Forsyth County DUI Court

Rockdale County Adult Drug Court

South Enotah Felony Drug Court

Season's Greetings, Dude!



The CACJ staff took a little time away from their busy schedules to share with everyone what they are most thankful for this holiday season:

-  "I'm thankful for good health, a great family, dependable friends, and a job I enjoy. I should also mention cake. I'm thankful for cake." ~Josh Becker~
-  "I am thankful to serve in the capacity of a Certification Officer for the Council. I am thankful for criminal and juvenile justice reform, as it is both an honor and a privilege to work collaboratively with teams across Georgia to ensure we see the best possible outcomes for our participants and communities. Personally, I am thankful for good food, the great outdoors, supportive friends and family, and of course my fur baby, Annie Oakley." ~Rachel Gage~
-  "I'm thankful for my son TJ, my family, and awesome friends. I'm also thankful for the great relationships that have been created through working for CACJ and all that I've learned over the past year and a half." ~Sacha Greene~
-  "I'm thankful for my wonderful parents." ~Kimberly Howard~
-  "I am thankful for my family, friends, and wonderful colleagues within the CACJ staff as well as from across the state!" ~Taylor Jones~
-  "I am most thankful for my family because they are elements of love, encouragement, inspiration, positivity, and motivation. My family has shaped me to be the person I am today and they help me strive to be better in all things." ~Lasheika Kassa~

