



# COUNCIL OF ACCOUNTABILITY COURT JUDGES OF GEORGIA

AUGUST 2017

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## COUNCIL OF ACCOUNTABILITY COURT JUDGES 2017 ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE: SEPTEMBER 17-19, 2017

In case you haven't heard, registration for the 2017 Annual Training Conference opened on July 5<sup>th</sup>. This year's conference will be held at the Classic Center in Athens, GA. Coordinators will be contacted via email to register team members. In addition to registration opening, nominations for STAR awards are now being accepted. Don't keep quiet about the wonderful work your team members provide to make your programs successful. Please submit nominations online at <http://www.gaaccountabilitycourts.org/star-awards>. There will also be an opportunity to showcase the talents of your participants. An art exhibit will be hosted at this year's conference, so please request artwork from your participants. All artwork will need to be submitted by 5:00 PM on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> to the Grand Hall #1. For more information, please visit <http://www.gaaccountabilitycourts.org/participant-art-exhibit>.

The CACJ staff is also working on obtaining pre-approval for Continuing Education Units (CEUs) that will include POST, GACA, CLE, NASW, ADACBGA, and CJE. Once specific hours are obtained, they will be released on the CACJ website at <http://www.gaaccountabilitycourts.org/continuing-education>.

## CACJ ANNUAL MEETING

The Council of Accountability Court Judges hosted its annual meeting on June 28, 2017 at the State Bar. During the meeting, Judge Stephen Goss was voted in as the new chair of the Executive Committee, and the former chair, Judge Jason Deal, will now serve as an advisory member. Judge Goss has presided over the Dougherty County Superior Court Mental Health/Substance Abuse Treatment Program since its inception in 2002. He previously served as chair of the CACJ Training Committee and Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee.

Judge Jason Deal was honored and pictured below with Judge Stephen Goss and Ms. Taylor Jones, Executive Director of the Council of Accountability Court Judges. Also pictured below is Judge Doris Downs, alongside Judge Stephen Goss, who dedicated two years of service to the Executive Committee and was presented with a certificate.



*"Judge Deal has moved us from a thought to an entire organization," stated Judge Stephen S. Goss*

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE JULY GRADUATIONS!** Baldwin County Family Treatment Court, Cherokee County DUI/Drug Court, Clayton County DUI/Drug Court, Forsyth County DUI Court, Hall County DUI Court, Hall County Drug Court, Hall County H.E.L.P. Program, Henry County Adult Felony Drug Court, Muscogee County Adult Drug Court

## **TROUP COUNTY DUI/DRUG COURT**

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Judge Jeannette Little, presiding judge of the Troup County DUI/Drug Court, had the opportunity to perform the wedding ceremony for Brian and his fiancé Lonna. Brian is a participant in the DUI/Drug Court and has a new found hope in his future and chose to share his new life with the love of his life. He is also approaching graduation and the Troup County DUI/Drug Court team wish him the best! Congrats Brian!



## **MUSCOGEE COUNTY: BUILDING PRODUCTIVE LIVES**

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Muscogee County has been successful with implementing and running four accountability courts which include an Adult Felony Drug Court, Juvenile Drug Court, Adult Mental Health Court, and Veterans Court. Accountability Court programs have worked so well in their community that they have made plans to add a Family Treatment Court and a Parental Accountability Court. In an interview with Georgia Trend, Judge Frank Jordan stated, “when participants come to us, about 70 percent are not employed, but upon graduation, 70 percent are gainfully employed. They’ve changed their lifestyle and become working, tax-paying citizens of the community.” Congratulations to Muscogee County Accountability Courts for helping bring GA Accountability Courts to scale! To view the full article, visit <http://www.georgiatrend.com/June-2017/Lasting-Impact/>.

## **BULLOCH COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH COURT**

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The Bulloch County Mental Health Court has been in existence since October 2013 seeking to help citizens that qualify for their program with a mental health diagnosis and want to make a difference in their lives. Currently, the mental health court is the only accountability court in the Ogeechee Circuit since Judge John R. “Robbie” Turner retired in December 2016. The program held its first public fundraiser, a silent auction, Tuesday, July 11, 2017 in the Luetta Moore Building in Statesboro. They were recognized in the July issue of the Statesboro Herald for holding participants accountable and being a ‘lifesaver.’ A few participants were interviewed by Al Hackle and thanked the program for saving their lives. One Veteran graduate stated, “Everybody cared. Everybody wanted me to get better. It just seemed like it wasn’t just them (the professionals) caring and helping me, the participants in the program cared. It was a new family.” To view the full article, visit <http://www.statesboroherald.com/section/1/article/80689/>.