



COUNCIL OF ACCOUNTABILITY COURT JUDGES OF GEORGIA

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WWW.GAACCOUNTABILITYCOURTS.ORG

NAMIWALKS

By Lasheika Kassa

On October 7, 2017 the Council of Accountability Court Judges staff had the opportunity to volunteer for the National Alliance on Mental Illness Annual 5k Walk. The event was held at Grant Park in Atlanta, GA. Hundreds of individuals, organizations, and families showed up to take part in this event. The rain did not deter anyone and everyone's energy was so uplifting and positive. The event had live music, entertainment, dancing, and even food trucks on location. NAMIWalks brings together people of all ages and fitness levels to combat stigma, raise funds and promote awareness of mental illness. NAMI's goal was to raise \$175,000 for this event, however they surpassed their goal and raised \$200,992. Congratulations on your accomplishment! NAMI is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. For more information on the National Alliance on Mental Illness, please visit their website at www.nami.org.

Congratulations on the October Graduations!

Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit
Cherokee County DUI/Drug Court
Clayton County DUI/Drug Court
Forsyth County DUI Court
Fulton County Accountability Court

Fulton County DUI Court
Hall County H.E.L.P. & Veterans Court
Hall County Family Treatment Court
Lowndes County Accountability Court
Muscogee Co. Adult Drug Court

CLAYTON COUNTY DUI/DRUG COURT GRADUATION

On October 5, 2017, the Clayton County DUI/Drug Court hosted its thirty-eighth graduation at the Harold R. Banke Justice Center in Jonesboro. This graduation served as the last that Chief Judge Linda S. Cowen would preside over. She has presided over the program since its inception in 2007 and helped many participants in many ways throughout the years. Judge Katie Powers and Judge Margaret Spencer will both assist with keeping the program going. Chief Judge Linda S. Cowen was also presented a plaque by her team for her dedication and service to the program.



BROKEN

The whispers begin to fade out the light

I think I may I think I might

just have one drink tonight

123 a 6 pack in

sit back and let the chaos begin

Unbound whirlwind of a night.

No memories of what is wrong and
what is right

Oh man what did I do

a little hair of the dog can get me
through

I am so tired of living like this

I feel like my life is a cataclysmic miss

Crash to my knees and asked for help

be done with this life and no memory of
how it felt

I need the memories though so I'll never
go back

I need to remember the pain so I can
stay on track

A tiny voice answered back to me my
dear boy do you think you have
become the man you were supposed to
be

I'm just lost and don't know.

Tell me God? How far can my rabbit
hole go?

My dear boy it'll go as far as you want
it to

Let's get started on making you brand-
new

I looked up with a heavy heart
into the sky

But God what if I fall.....but my
dear boy I ask you what if you
fly

~Troup Co. DUI Court
participant~

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!!

Please join the Council of Accountability Court Judges staff in welcoming our newest team member, Rachel Gage. She will serve as the primary staff resource and contact for Drug Court and Family Treatment Court certification and peer review and is assigned to the CACJ Standards and Certification Committee. Rachel Gage has both research and applied experience in the areas of criminal and juvenile justice reform. Most recently, Rachel served as the Model Fidelity Coordinator at the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council where she evaluated grantees' adherence to evidence-based programs and provided training and technical assistance to improve community-based alternatives for moderate- to high-risk youth at risk of commitment. Rachel has local- and state-level experience in accountability courts, as she previously managed special projects in the Office of Accountability Courts at the Judicial Council of Georgia/Administrative Office of the Courts and completed a graduate-level internship at a local county adult felony drug court. Rachel is a trainer in the Principles of Effective Intervention, and advocates for the use of evidence-based practices and research-driven policy for juveniles and adults involved in the justice system.

Rachel holds a Master of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University. As a graduate research assistant, Rachel researched alternatives to incarceration and the nexus between drug abuse and criminality. Rachel received her Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Degree from Kennesaw State University.

Welcome Rachel!

UPDATES/REMINDERS/FYI

- Fidelity to Treatment in Your Courts (coming soon)
- 11/6-11/9: MRT training in Macon
- 11/13-11/16: FTC Implementation Training in Peachtree City
- 11/14-11/15: NAMI training in Peachtree City
- 12/1: Notice of Intent to Apply for FY19 Funding
- 12/1-12/15: CACJ Data Repository Push
- 12/8: DUI Court Tune Up in Athens
- 12/11: LSI-R training in Gainesville
- Drug Testing Instruments (coming soon to the CACJ website!)
- Reentry Partnership Housing (RPH) Program info can be found on the CACJ website
- DUI Court & Family Treatment Court Peer Reviews (coming soon!)