



COUNCIL OF ACCOUNTABILITY COURT JUDGES OF GEORGIA

OCTOBER 2016

WWW.GAACOUNTABILITYCOURTS.ORG

CACJ 2016 TRAINING CONFERENCE

Thank You!

The Council of Accountability Court Judges staff would like to express our immense appreciation to everyone who was able to attend our Conference this past month. Your enthusiasm, participation, and unbelievably kind words have meant SO much to us!! Our conference was a success and would not have been without each of you!! **THANK YOU!**

Thank you to our **Executive Committee and Standing Committee** members for their extraordinary support and help! Special thanks to **Judges Deal, Goss, and Smith** for being phenomenal at leading our conference.



Thank you to our **Presenters!!** The valuable knowledge that everyone brought with them to share with our courts was huge!! We have had so much feedback on the greatness of the sessions and how courts are planning to implement the new information.

Thank you to our **Volunteers** - District Court Administrators, Court Administrators, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, Administrative Office of the Courts, and Coordinators! You all **ROCKED!!!** Thank you for contributing and taking the initiative when needed!

Thank you to **Athens-Clarke County Probation Services** for providing volunteer security at the conference.



Thank you so much **Athens-Clarke County Honor Guard and Commander Joe Geiger!** What an incredibly amazing kick off to our lunch presentation and speeches.



Thank you to **Ashley Stollar** with the Administrative Office of the Courts for capturing all of our candid and learning moments for us!

Thank you to **Jim Black** and student assistants with **Grady Productions** for being our videographers – we will be able to offer our plenary sessions online for everyone to view and share.

To our **Participant Speakers** – you all were moving and a great kick off to each day to remind us all why we work so hard to do what we do! Thank you Gwinnett, Hall, Athens - Clarke County for contributing your graduates for this ceremony.

Thank you to our **Exhibitors!** Your enthusiasm at our conference was remarkable!



Thank you to **Governor Deal and the First Lady!** We are truly honored and humbled at your attendance and your unbelievable support to Georgia's Accountability Courts!





Thank you to our **Special Guests** we all are very grateful for the dedicated support and appreciate you taking the time from your busy schedules to join us at the Classic City.

STAR Award Recipients, thank you for allowing us the privilege to recognize your amazing service and dedication to accountability courts.

National Drug Court Institute (NDCI) and Institute of Continuing Judicial Education (ICJE), special thanks to you for being such an integral part in



of what we do and why we do it! You both were an unbelievably huge help and your efforts were very appreciated.

I AM TRULY AMAZED AT THE CONFERENCE TURNOUT AND ENTHUSIASM OF ALL INVOLVED. I FEEL VERY HONORED TO BE A PART OF SUCH A GREAT GROUP OF PROFESSIONALS

Taylor Jones, Executive Director

If you would like to view all the pictures taken at the conference please visit the CACJ website: www.gaaccountabilitycourts.org/2016-training-conference

Also to be published soon through the CACJ website will be videos of the participant speeches, plenaries and the lunch presentation.



JUDGES CORNER: JUDGE MENG H. LIM

MY INITIAL INTEREST IN ACCOUNTABILTY COURT: Criminal law is generally more retributive than rehabilitation. I believe that there will always be a segment of our society (no matter where it is in the world or when it is in human history) who need a little bit of help from us all, especially from the leaders of our Community and our judicial system. Actually most of us, no matter who we are, need a little bit of help at some point in our lives.

Retribution is not the answer for some people and does not help them nor us. How we treat them says a lot about our community and ourselves. Research has shown us that retribution is not working in Georgia and throughout our country; the history of the status quo confirms that we need to focus more on rehabilitation, especially when dealing with drug offenses.

That is the reason I am interested in drug court. By providing a little bit of help, understanding, and guidance to our fellow citizens we will make our community better and safer to us all.

THE MOMENT I KNEW WE DID THE RIGHT THING: Drug Court is a hands-on endeavor. It requires more effort and time from a judge and his team than the traditional role of the Court. Yet, when compared to the litany of demands we place on each participant, my efforts cannot be compared with the sacrifices of my drug court participants. When they diligently and continually work hard on the program, and I see the physical changes in their appearances from addicts to healthy young men and women; the confidence in the way they walk and talk, and the fact that they hold regular jobs and have stable residences, I know everyone's efforts paid off and we are doing the right thing.

MY BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENT: I consider my biggest accomplishment is to see the Drug Court Participants graduate.

Judge Lim presides over the Tallapoosa Accountability Court.

Program Begin: February 2004

Judge Begin Presiding over Court: July 2015

Current Participants: 31

How many participants have graduated? 81

