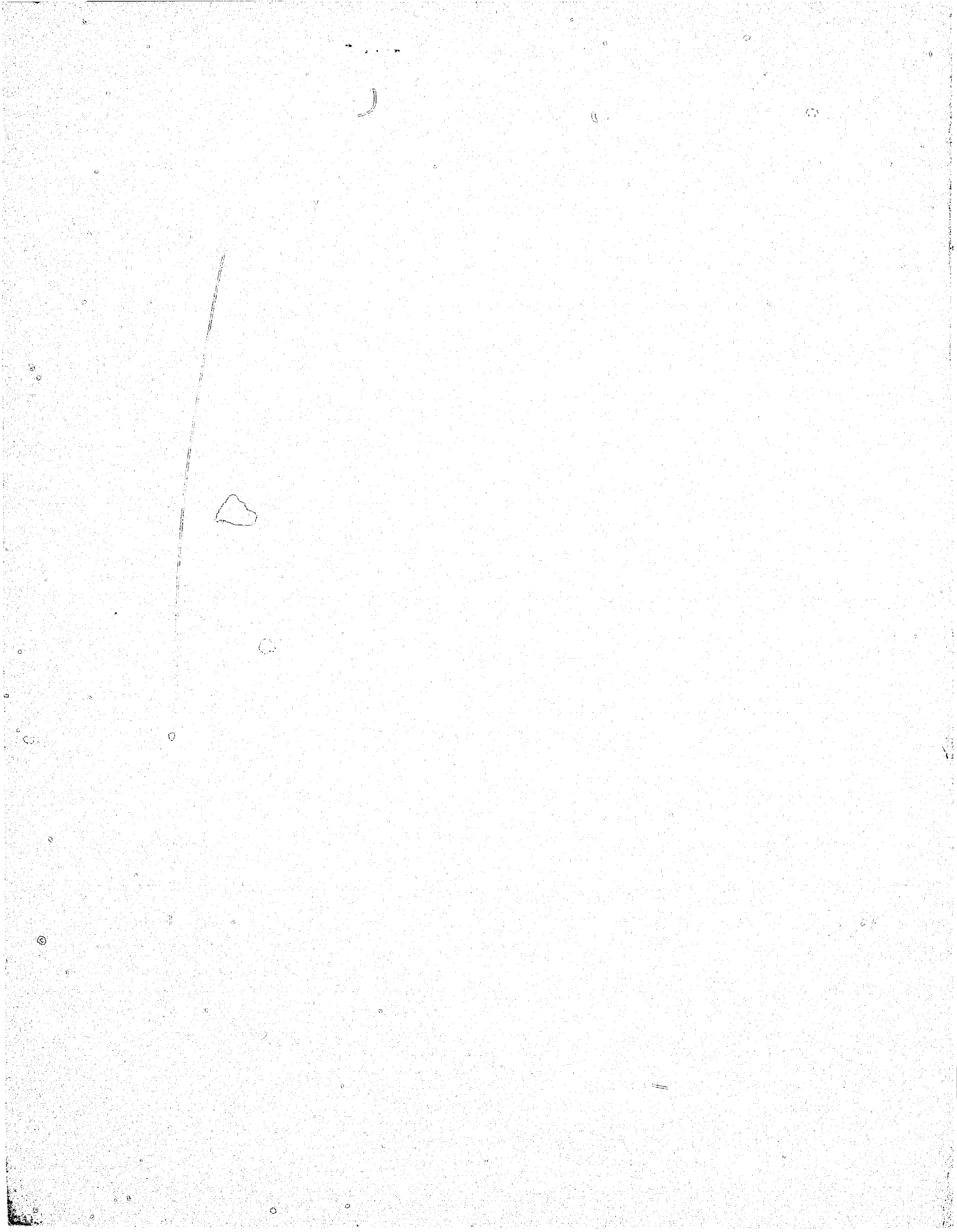


Fourth Annual Report

Administrative Office of the

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Fourth Annual Report

Administrative Office of the Courts

(July 1, 1976 to June 30, 1977)

Published pursuant
to Georgia Laws 1973, p. 288
for
The Judicial Council of Georgia
by
The Administrative Office of the Courts

February 1978

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ACQUISITIONS

**The Judicial Council of Georgia
Administrative Office of the Courts**

Georgia Justice Center
Suite 500
84 Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

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J-0278-A-02

COUNCIL

Judge Marion T. Pope, Jr., *Chairman*
Judge Julian Webb, *Vice Chairman*
Judge James B. O'Connor, *Sec./Treasurer*
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JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA

Administrative Office of the Courts

GEORGIA JUSTICE CENTER
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84 PEACHTREE STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303
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Robert L. Doss, Jr.

Foreword

The fourth year of existence of the Judicial Council of Georgia/Administrative Office of the Courts was one of change and maturity. In 1973 the General Assembly created the agency and assigned to it the responsibility of studying the courts, making recommendations for their improvement and assisting local judicial personnel with problems affecting court operation. The Administrative Office of the Courts has, during fiscal year 1977, continued to discharge its statutory responsibility as it completed several major studies and initiated programs to improve the operations of the courts and the administration of justice in this State.

System-wide projects and studies completed by the Administrative Office of the Courts provide primary and comprehensive data on the workloads and operations of the courts of this State. The studies form a firm factual foundation for evaluating the needs and resources of the judicial system. A statewide study of courthouse facilities was completed, a masterplan for the juvenile justice system was published, long-range goals for the judiciary were being developed and accurate caseload data was collected for the four principal courts of record.

Development of a comprehensive program of continuing education for the judiciary was planned with the creation of the Judicial College of Georgia. Plans and programs for using available federal funds for improvements to the State's courts are being developed and coordinated by the newly appointed Judicial Planning Committee. The implementation of the Judicial Administration Act of 1976 established ten administrative districts and brought a greater degree of uniformity to the courts system in the State. Additional judicial manpower was provided for eight circuits having critically high workloads by the creation of new superior court judgeships by the General Assembly upon recommendation of the Judicial Council.

This *Annual Report* presents a review of how the Administrative Office of the Courts has discharged its statutory responsibility by aiding local courts, conducting studies, making recommendations for changes and other activities. Summaries of the judicial work of the principal courts of record and a review of the projects and programs coordinated by the court administrators for the judicial administrative districts are also presented.

The Administrative Office of the Courts welcomes questions and comments on its activities and accomplishments as it continues to discharge its responsibility by developing programs and projects that address the needs of the courts of Georgia.

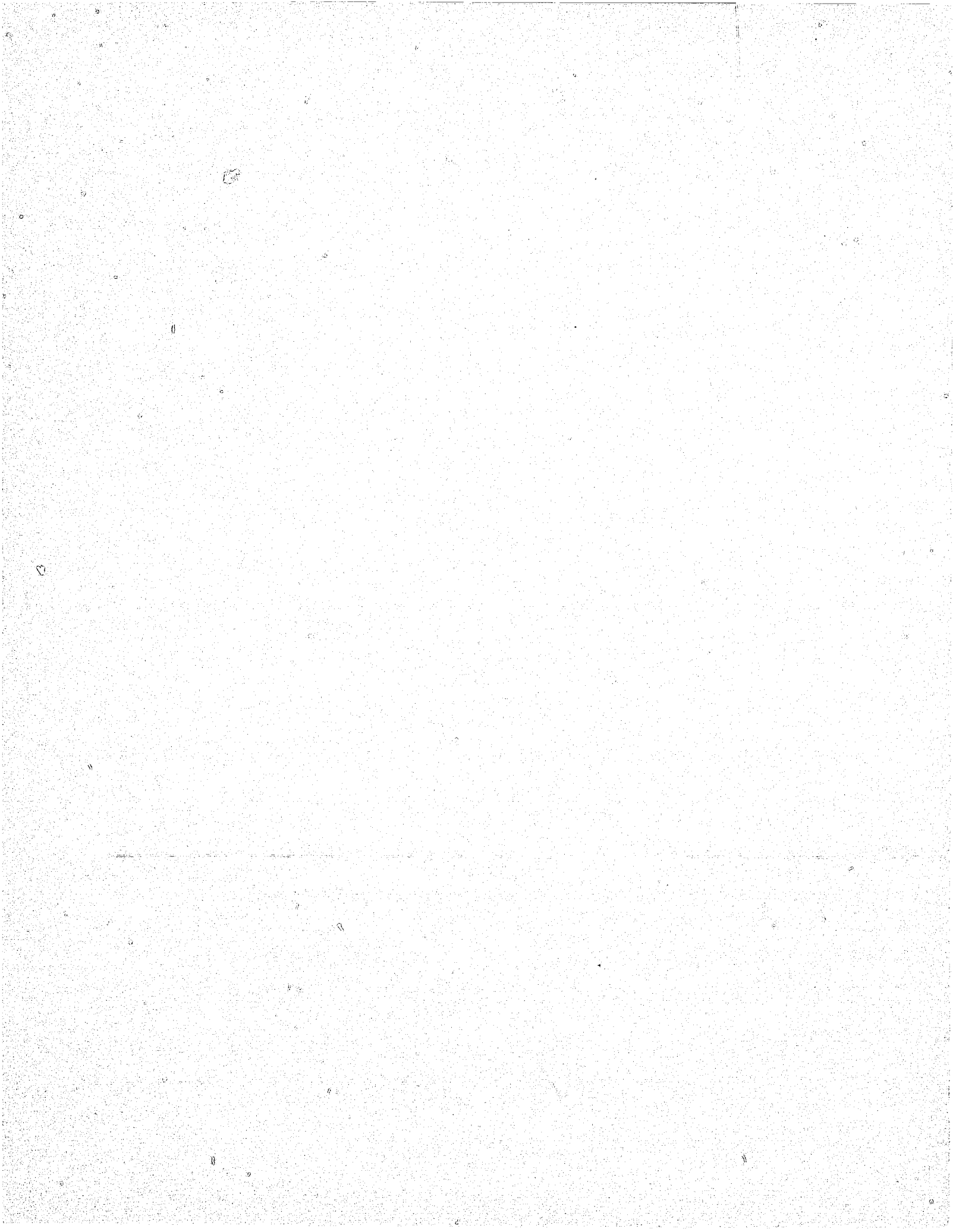
Sincerely,

Robert L. Doss, Jr.
Director
Administrative Office of the Courts



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Judicial Council of Georgia

Increasing maturity marked the fourth year of existence of the Judicial Council of Georgia and its service arm, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). During the past fiscal year the Council was involved in several important changes which are expected to improve the administration of justice and the operations of the courts of Georgia.

Charged by law with studying the work of the courts, assisting judges and other judicial personnel and making recommendations for improvements in the courts (*Ga. Laws 1973*, p. 288), the Council placed special emphasis on several areas during fiscal year 1977.

The Council assisted in the implementation of the Judicial Administrative Act of 1976 (see Appendix Four). The act established ten judicial administrative districts in the state and a framework for identifying the needs of courts within each district and coordinating programs and resources to meet these needs.

The Judicial Council's concern for increasing the opportunities for continuing education for the judiciary was shown by its establishment of the Judicial College of Georgia. The college will tackle the task of developing a comprehensive program from the existing patchwork of educational opportunities—seminars, workshops and other training sessions.

Planning for the use of federal funds available for courts programs and improvements was ensured by the formation of the Judicial Planning Committee. The committee will coordinate and organize planning efforts and assist local courts in preparing applications for federal grants.

An analysis of annual caseload statistics collected on the major courts of record in the state provides

the Council with a sound basis for evaluating the need for additional judicial manpower. Eight new superior court judgeships were created by the 1977 General Assembly upon Council recommendations which cited the particularly heavy workloads in these circuits.

Nine judges of courts of record and two members of the State Bar of Georgia comprise the Judicial Council. Created in 1973 by an act of the General Assembly, the Council has used its first years to build a foundation of previously uncollected facts and figures on the courts of the state. During fiscal year 1977 several major studies were completed which examined the state of Georgia's courthouses, surveyed records-keeping practices and procedures in the courts and produced a masterplan for improving the juvenile justice system. Funded for the most part by one-time grants of federal money, primarily from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA), these and other studies of the state's courts have provided the primary information necessary for the Council to analyze and evaluate the needs of the courts, recommend improvements and plan for future programs and projects to address both existing and projected needs.

Through its programs and practices the Judicial Council of Georgia is building a more efficient and effective judicial branch of government. The development of plans for the future of the courts—through the formulation of long-range goals for the courts system, recommendations for the revision of the Judicial Article of the State Constitution and other efforts—will help the courts keep pace with the growing demands on the judicial system in Georgia.

MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA

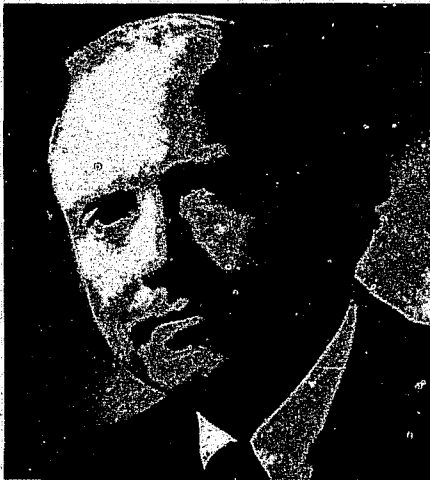
(July 1, 1976 - June 30, 1977)



Judge G. Ernest Tidwell, *Chairman*
Superior Court
Atlanta Judicial Circuit
Atlanta



Judge Irwin W. Stolz, Jr.
*Vice Chairman, 7/1/76-3/1-77**
Georgia Court of Appeals
Atlanta



Judge Marion T. Pope, Jr.
Secretary-Treasurer, 7/1/76-3/1/77
Vice Chairman, 3/1/77-6/30/77
Superior Court
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit
Canton



Judge Julian Webb
Secretary-Treasurer, 3/1/77-6/30/77
Georgia Court of Appeals
Atlanta

See Appendix Three for members of the Judicial Council since its creation in 1973.

*Judge Stolz resigned from the Court of Appeals effective March 1, 1977.



Judge Francis W. Allen
State Court of Bulloch County
Statesboro



Judge Frank S. Cheatham, Jr.
Superior Court
Eastern Judicial Circuit
Savannah



Harold G. Clarke
President
State Bar of Georgia
Forsyth



Justice Robert H. Hall
Supreme Court of Georgia
Atlanta



W. Stell Huie
Immediate Past President
State Bar of Georgia
Atlanta



Judge James B. O'Connor
Superior Court
Oconee Judicial Circuit
Eastman



Judge Paul W. Painter
Superior Court
Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit
Rossville



Judge William K. Stanley
Probate Court of Bibb County
Macon



The legislative, judicial, and executive powers shall forever remain separate and distinct, and no person discharging the duties of one, shall, at the same time, exercise the functions of either of the others, except as herein provided.

Constitution
State of Georgia



Administrative Office of the Courts

The responsibility of the Administrative Office of the Courts to study and assist the courts and make recommendations for their improvement is spelled out as eight primary duties in the 1973 act which created the Judicial Council/AOC.

Consulting with and assisting judges and other court personnel in matters of court administration is a broadly defined duty which has permitted the development of the AOC along functional lines necessary to address the needs of the courts.

Technical assistance to courts was provided by the AOC in such areas as facilities, records management, jury management and information systems. Benchbooks and manuals and special short-term projects answered other court needs.

A closely related duty requires the AOC to examine the administrative and business methods and systems used in the judicial system and make recommendations for their improvement. The AOC was involved last year in helping courts improve jury management procedures and practices, developing model court rules and developing models for testing computer-based information systems for courts. A *Survey of Records Keeping in Georgia Courts* completed last fiscal year views records management practices and procedures in courts throughout the state. The compilation of this information was an important first step in permitting the AOC to carry out its duty to examine the state of courts' dockets. Besides providing technical assistance in records management, the Administrative Office of the Courts worked with individual courts to introduce and install model docket books.

The AOC's annual collection of data on the case-loads of the major courts of record is in keeping with its duty to compile statistical and financial data and other information on the judicial work of the courts. More detailed and more accurate statistics were collected and analyzed last year. Other limited studies completed last year include one on the office of justice of the peace and a five-year analysis of caseload data which shows the courts keeping pace with dramatic increases in the number of cases filed.

The AOC is also required to act as fiscal and budget officer for the judicial system and to prepare budget estimates of state appropriations necessary for the maintenance and operation of the judicial system. Besides fulfilling this function for several judicial agencies, the AOC administers federal funds in the form of grants from LEAA and the Office of Highway Safety and assists courts on the local and district levels in preparing individual grant applications.

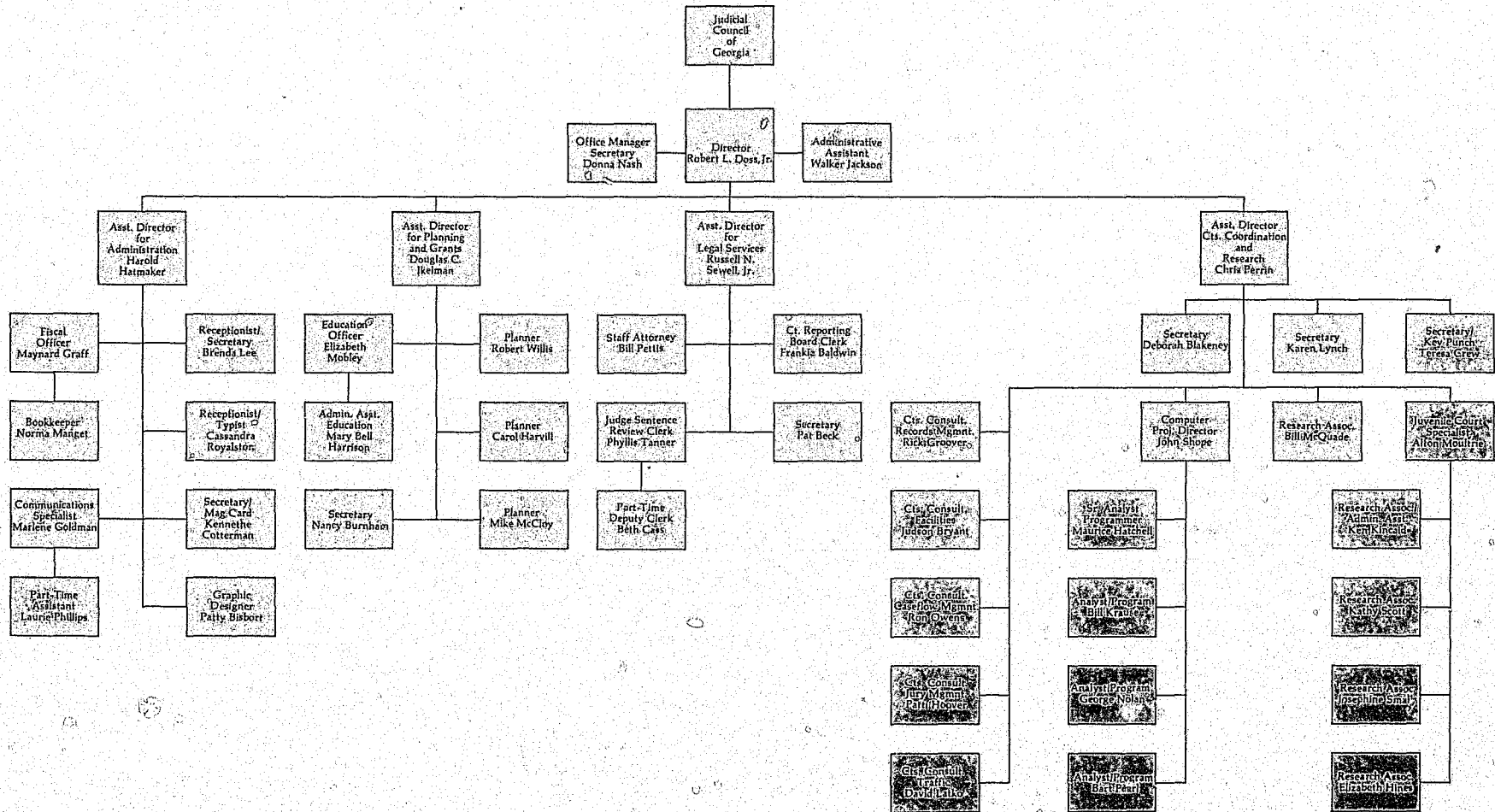
Another major duty defined by law is the formulation and submission of recommendations for the improvement of the judicial system. The development of long-range goals for the courts and a masterplan for the juvenile justice system, the work of the newly formed Judicial Planning Committee and the recommendations for revision of the Judicial Article of the State Constitution spell out specific system-wide recommendations for improving the administration of justice in Georgia. The need for physical improvements to courthouses and courtrooms was pointed out in a four-volume study of courthouse facilities completed last year.

Additional duties assigned to the AOC by the Judicial Council during fiscal year 1977 were primarily in the areas of education and communications. A specific duty to produce an annual report on the work of the courts and on the activities of the AOC was one of many efforts to disseminate information to judicial personnel and to the public. While the birth of the Judicial College was the most visible event in the area of education, the Administrative Office of the Courts continued its involvement in seminars, workshops and other training opportunities for judicial system personnel.

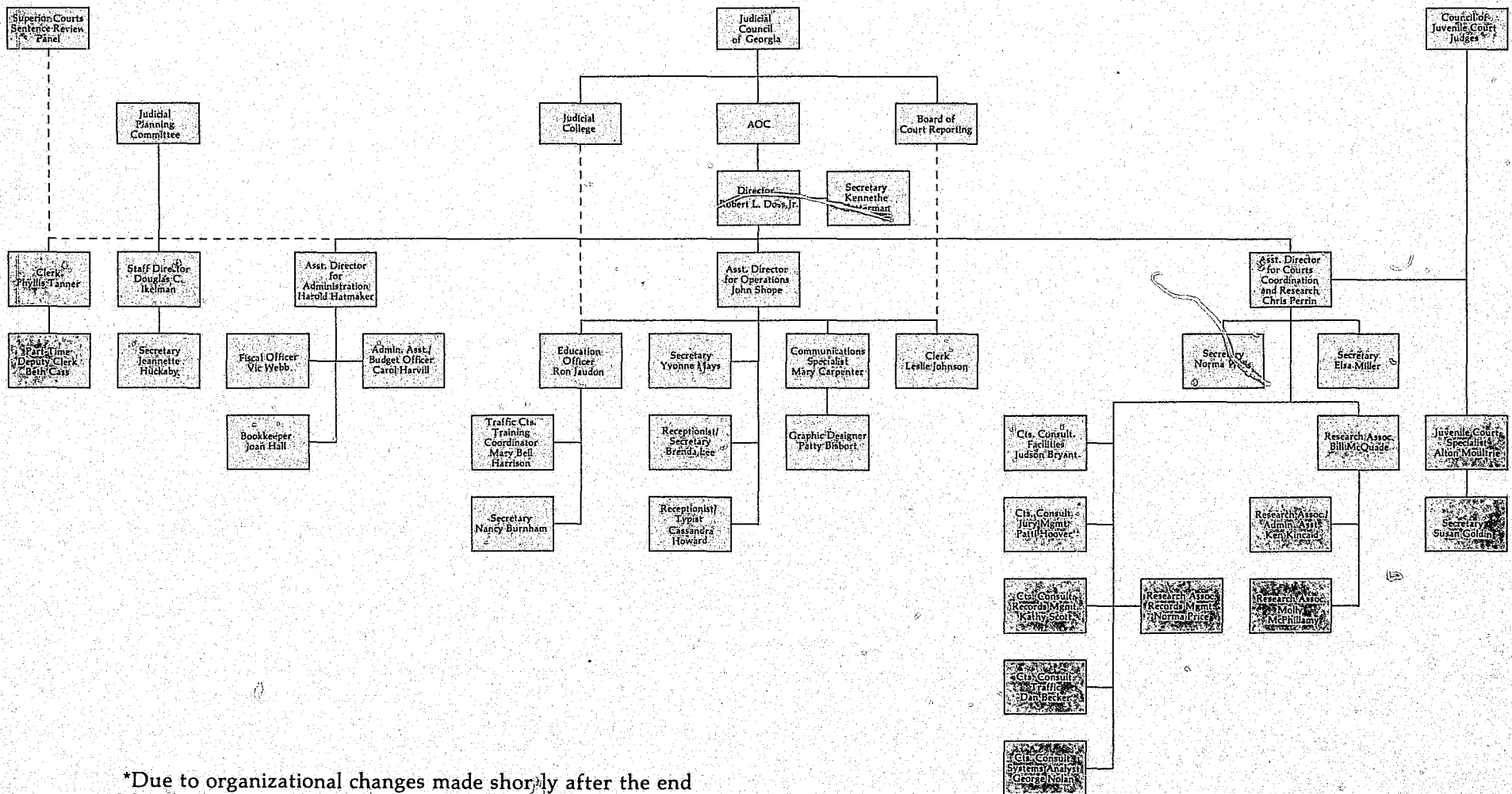
The specific duties of the Administrative Office of the Courts are closely related to each other. The AOC coordinates its activities along functional lines which group similar services and avoid duplication of efforts. A review of the activities of the Administrative Office of the Courts during fiscal year 1977 follows.



AOC Organization in Fiscal Year 1977



AOC Organization in Fiscal Year 1978*



*Due to organizational changes made shortly after the end of fiscal year 1977, this chart is included in this report to present a current picture of AOC organization.



Administration

Grant administration, budget preparation, legislative updates and other services were ways the Administrative Office of the Courts fulfilled its responsibilities to assist and provide requested services to judges and other court personnel and to act as fiscal officer for the judicial system.

During fiscal year 1977 the AOC administered seven federal grants. These funds, awarded through the State Crime Commission, were grants from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration and the Office of Highway Safety of the U.S. Department of Transportation. One-time, system-wide studies—of facilities and records-keeping practices—and projects—developing long-range goals for courts and a masterplan for the juvenile justice system—which were funded by these grants could not have been completed without federal assistance. Courts on the local, county and district levels were assisted by the AOC in preparing grant applications for individual projects. Information was collected by the AOC for the application for the grant to fund the Judicial Planning Committee, a group responsible for coordinating planning for the use of available federal funds for courts projects and improvements on a yearly basis.

The AOC prepared budget estimates and served as fiscal officer for the Superior Courts Sentence Review Panel, the Judicial Qualifications Commission, the Council of Juvenile Court Judges and the Board of Court Reporting. The AOC also prepared budget estimates for the superior courts.

Under the supervision and direction of the Judicial Council, the Administrative Office of the Courts shall perform the following duties:

Consult with and assist judges, administrators, clerks of court and other officers and employees of the court pertaining to matters relating to court administration and provide such services as requested.

A weekly report on legislation was distributed to judges, legislators and other judicial personnel by the AOC while the General Assembly was in session. The *Judicial Legislative Log* listed new legislation and the status of

previously introduced bills. The progress of Judicial Council-endorsed legislation was tracked in this publication, a joint effort of the legal services and communications sections.

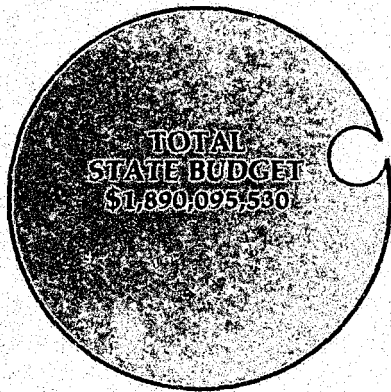
A judicial-legislative conference at Callaway Gardens was sponsored by the Judicial Council to provide a forum for communication between the judicial and legislative branches of government prior to the convening of the legislature. After the General Assembly adjourned, the AOC presented reviews of legislation passed during the 1977 session at seminars for state and probate court judges and superior court clerks.

Other non-technical assistance to courts was provided by the AOC in several areas. A list was maintained of superior court judges and senior judges available to sit in another circuit when a judge became ill or disqualified. During fiscal year 1977, senior judges provided additional judicial manpower by working a total of 1,173 days.

Opinions of the attorney general on court-related issues were mailed to superior court judges. Inquiries about the duties and fees of court reporters were answered, and several legal opinions were issued by the legal services section in response to specific requests.

State Appropriations for the Judiciary

(Fiscal Year 1977: July 1, 1976—June 30, 1977)



Judicial Budget
\$10,098,391

.52 per cent
½ of 1%

... under the supervision and direction of the Judicial Council, the Administrative Office of the Courts shall perform the following duties ...

Act as fiscal officer and prepare and submit budget estimates of state appropriations necessary for the maintenance and operation of the judicial system.

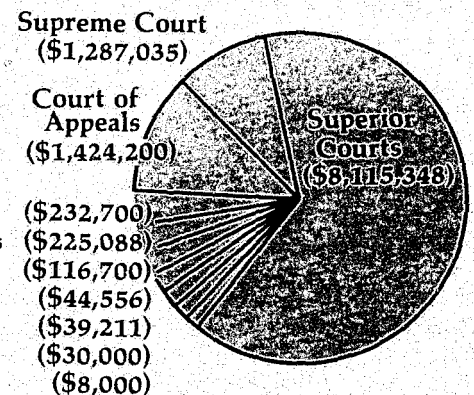
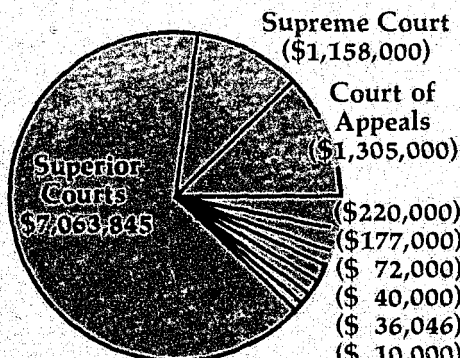
Five-Year Comparison for Judicial Budget

(1974-1978)

Fiscal Year	Total State Appropriation	Amt. Increase	Judicial	Increase	Percent of State Budget
1974	\$1,675,135,460	\$316,406,086	\$7,954,483	\$1,343,170	.0047
1975	1,702,971,922	27,836,462	9,022,277	1,067,794	.0053
1976	1,841,125,219	138,153,297	9,828,414	806,137	.0053
1977	1,890,095,530	48,970,311	10,098,391	269,977	.0053
1978	2,143,976,000	253,880,470	11,250,927	1,152,536	.0052

FISCAL YEAR 1977
JUDICIAL APPROPRIATION
(\$10,098,391)

FISCAL YEAR 1978
JUDICIAL APPROPRIATION
(\$11,250,927)



Communications

Through the regular communications efforts of the Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts, the public learns of innovations and improvements in the courts system and judicial personnel are made aware of resources, programs and projects which might be adaptable to the needs of local courts.

Informing judicial system personnel and the public about court-related news and the activities of the Council/AOC last year took the form of publications and press releases as well as responses to individual requests for information about the courts and their operations.

More than seventy news releases were issued during fiscal year 1977. These were designed to inform the media and the public of new developments in

... under the supervision and direction of the Judicial Council, the Administrative Office of the Courts shall perform the following duties...

Prepare and publish an annual report on the work of the courts and on the activities of the Administrative Office of the Courts.

the courts system, results of studies and surveys conducted by the AOC and other news. An informational brochure describing the Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts and its activities was also produced.

Five issues of the *Georgia Courts Journal* were distributed to courts system personnel. The *Journal* reports on the activities of the Council/AOC and features articles on how courts are solving problems in areas such as facili-

ties, records and jury management and presents information on current programs and practices of court administration. Included this year were reports on the activities of the newly formed judicial administrative districts.

For a second year, the AOC published a *Georgia Courts Directory*, providing in a single publication names, addresses and telephone numbers of court personnel in Georgia.

AOC Publications—Fiscal Year 1977

Third Annual Report of the Administrative Office of the Courts
 Clerk's Handbook
 Executive Summary—Statistical Caseload Statistics
 Georgia Courts Directory
 Georgia Courts Journal (five issues)
 Georgia Statewide Facilities Study (four volumes)
 Fourth Annual Report Regarding the Need for Additional Superior Court Judgeships in Georgia
 Judicial Legislative Log (nine issues)
 Justice of the Peace Study
 Juvenile Court Docket Book and Instruction Manual
 Juvenile Justice Masterplan (four volumes)
 Probate Court Misdemeanor Docket Book and Instruction Manual
 Survey of Records Keeping in Georgia Courts
 State Court Civil Docket Book and Instruction Manual
 State Court Misdemeanor Docket Book and Instruction Manual

Superior Court Civil Docket Book and Instruction Manual
 Superior Court Criminal Docket Book and Instruction Manual
 Traffic Court Manual

Previous publications still available:

Civil Pattern Jury Instructions
 Comparative Analysis of Georgia Law and Procedures and ABA Standards and Goals
 Criminal Pattern Jury Instructions
 First Annual Report of the Administrative Office of the Courts
 Second Annual Report of the Administrative Office of the Courts
 Georgia Courts Journal (issues from October 1973)
 Judicial Legislative Log (volumes one and two)
 Juvenile Court Manual
 Report of Governor's Commission on Judicial Processes
 Report of Governor's Commission on Court Organization and Structure

Communications Committee

Judge William K. Stanley
 Chairman
 Probate Court of Bibb County
 Macon
 Judge Paul W. Painter
 Superior Court
 Lookout Mountain Circuit
 Rossville
 Judge Marlon T. Pope, Jr.
 Superior Court
 Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit
 Canton

A Public Relations Digest, a compendium of news articles and editorials relating to the courts clipped from newspapers in the state, was prepared monthly. Intended originally for Judicial Council members, the Digest is now distributed to more than fifty others, including some members of the General Assembly, district administrative

judges and district court administrators.

A duty specifically assigned by law to the AOC is the production of an annual report on the work of the courts and the activities of the Administrative

Office of the Courts. The *Third Annual Report of the Administrative Office of the Courts* provided a review of these activities during fiscal year 1976 and presented statistical information on the judicial workload for the state's

principal courts of record during this period.

Published studies, manuals and handbooks are discussed elsewhere in this report.

Education

The creation of a judicial college to provide the structure for a more comprehensive program of educational opportunities for Georgia's judicial personnel was the major activity of the Judicial Council in the area of education during last fiscal year.

Although training sessions and workshops for the judiciary have been held for a number of years, these have not been developed into a structured program of continuing judicial education.

... under the supervision and direction of the Judicial Council, the Administrative Office of the Courts shall perform the following duties...

Perform such additional duties as may be assigned by the Judicial Circuit.

To develop such a program to answer the needs of judicial system personnel is the task of the newly named Board of Trustees of the Judicial College of Georgia. They are planning the development of a program for continuing judicial education and have made arrangements with the University of Georgia for the college to be located in Athens.

Implementation of this educational program is still in the future, however, and the Admin-

istrative Office of the Courts has continued to coordinate many of the existing training sessions and seminars. During fiscal year 1977 the AOC was involved in fourteen educational programs: two superior court judges' seminars, a bench and bar conference, one seminar each for juvenile court and probate court judges, four

traffic judges' seminars, a seminar for superior court clerks, one state trial judges and solicitors' seminar, a justice of the peace seminar, an orientation session for new state court and superior court judges and a seminar for probation officers in independent probation systems.

Education Committee

Judge Marcus B. Calhoun

Chairman
Superior Court
Southern Judicial Circuit
Thomasville

T. W. Black

Director of Court Services
Cobb County Juvenile Court
Marietta

Judge Kenneth B. Followill

State Court of Muscogee County
Columbus

Adam H. Greene

Clerk of the Superior Court
Bibb County
Macon

Judge Marion Guess, Jr.

Probate Court of DeKalb County
Decatur

Judge Jack Gunter

Superior Court
Mountain Judicial Circuit
Clarksville

Judge James W. Head

State Court of Chatham County
Savannah

Associate Justice Harold N. Hill, Jr.

Supreme Court of Georgia
Atlanta

Judge Elmo Holt

Superior Court
Atlanta Judicial Court
Atlanta

Judge Willis B. Hunt, Jr.

Superior Court
Houston Judicial Circuit
Perry

Judge Dennis Jones

Juvenile Court of DeKalb County
Decatur

Judge Harbin M. King

Probate Court of Gordon County
Calhoun

Judge John S. Langford, Jr.

Superior Court
Atlanta Judicial Circuit
Atlanta

Judge Othniel W. McGehee

Juvenile Court of Bibb County
Macon

Judge Rex R. Ruff

Juvenile Court of Cobb County
Marietta

Judge G. Ernest Tidwell

Superior Court
Atlanta Judicial Circuit
Atlanta

Judge Julian Webb

Georgia Court of Appeals
Atlanta

Board of Trustees, Judicial College of Georgia

Judge G. Ernest Tidwell, chairman
Superior Court
Atlanta Judicial Circuit
Atlanta

Dean J. Ralph Beard
University of Georgia Law School
Athens

A. G. Cleveland, Jr.
Atlanta Attorney

Jim Curtis
Institute of Continuing Legal
Education
University of Georgia Law School
Athens

Robert L. Doss, Jr.
Director
Administrative Office of the
Courts

W. Stell Huie
Atlanta Attorney

Judge Willis B. Hunt, Jr.
Superior Court
Houston Judicial Circuit
Perry

Judge John S. Langford, Jr.
Superior Court
Atlanta Judicial Circuit
Atlanta

Justice Thomas O. Marshall
Supreme Court of Georgia
Atlanta

Chief Justice H. E. Nichols
Supreme Court of Georgia
Athens

Dean L. Ray Patterson
Emory University School of Law
Atlanta

Judge Marion T. Pope, Jr.
Superior Court
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit
Canton

Judge Floyd E. Propst
Probate Court of Fulton County
Atlanta

Dr. James Rehberg
Dean, Mercer University School of
Law
Macon

Judge Rex R. Ruff
Cobb County Juvenile Court
Marietta

Judge Jack Short
State Court of Colquitt County
Moultrie

Juvenile Justice

Developing plans and programs for improving the state's system of juvenile justice was the primary focus of the AOC's activities in this area during fiscal year 1977.

The four-volume *Juvenile Justice Masterplan* which presents the results of a two-year effort was completed. The *Masterplan* examines the current complex system of courts and services—state, local and private—that form Georgia's juvenile justice system and charts improvements to that system through reorganization.

Involved in the development of this *Masterplan* were the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Council of Juvenile Court Judges and a special Juvenile Justice Masterplan Steering Committee. (See page 68 for the Annual Report of the Council of Juvenile Court Judges.) The *Masterplan's*

... under the supervision and direction of the Judicial Council, the Administrative Office of the Courts shall perform the following duties...

Examine the administrative and business methods and systems employed in the offices related to and serving the courts and make recommendations for necessary improvement.

recommendations call for a coordinated, more effective juvenile justice system which would incorporate and coordinate the various agencies and services that comprise the current system. These recommendations were presented at a conference to approximately two hundred persons involved in the juvenile justice system.

The Administrative Office of the Courts worked with juvenile court judges and the Juvenile Courts Statewide Judicial Data Systems Steering Committee to

begin developing an information system for reporting data on the activities of the juvenile courts.

A consideration in the development of this system is the possibility of incorporating the juvenile court model docket books into an automated system in the future. During fiscal year 1977, fifty-nine of these model docket books—preprinted dockets of a standard size and format—were ordered for the state's juvenile courts. (See page 26 for further information on model dockets.)

Juvenile Justice Masterplan Steering Committee

Judge Walter C. McMillan, Jr.

Chairman

Superior Court
Middle Judicial Circuit
Sandersville

Judge Tom Dillon, *vice chairman*
Juvenile Court of Fulton County
Atlanta

Reverend Oscar Bell
Public Relations Director
St. Simons Island

Sen. Paul Brown
46th District
Athens

James Burton
Director, Youth Services Program
Department of Human Resources
Atlanta

Robert J. Castellani
Atlanta Attorney

Dr. James B. Craig
Superintendent, Georgia Regional
Hospital
Savannah

Nancy Green
Treasurer
Junior League of Atlanta
Atlanta

Julie G. Haralson
Editor and Publisher
The Springfield Herald
Springfield

Tony H. Hight
Executive Director
Prosecuting Attorneys' Council
Atlanta

Louise Hornsby
Assistant Public Defender
Fulton County
Atlanta

Charles Hosch
High School Student
Gainesville

Robert A. Kettel
Chief Probation Officer
Juvenile Court of DeKalb County
Decatur

Edward Lee
Urban Program Executive, YMCA
Atlanta

Lorenzo Manns
Court Administrator
Juvenile Court of Muscogee
County
Columbus

John Mills
Superintendent of Schools
Sylvania

Deborah Pelligrino
Program Director
Mid-town Branch, YMCA
Atlanta

Capt. W. R. Raines
Peace Officers Association of
Georgia
Marietta

Daniel Starnes
Regional Director
National Council on Crime and
Delinquency
Atlanta

Planning

Improvements to the courts system are most effective when they proceed in a planned, orderly fashion. Recommendations for such improvements take into consideration the relative importance of the various needs of the courts and are based on a thorough evaluation of current resources and practices.

During fiscal year 1977 several major steps were taken to ensure that planning for court improvements and programs would be handled on an orderly basis within a framework of priorities. The creation of the Judicial Planning Committee (JPC) by the Judicial Council, the development of long-range goals for the judi-

... under the supervision and direction of the Judicial Council, the Administrative Office of the Courts shall perform the following duties...

Formulate and submit recommendations for the improvement of the judicial system.

cial system and the preparation of recommendations for revision of the Judicial Article of the State Constitution were primary planning activities.

Represented on the Judicial Planning Committee are the various agencies involved with the courts. The JPC will serve as a mechanism for planning for the use of available federal funds to improve the courts. Funded by

an LEAA grant awarded through the State Crime Commission, the Judicial Planning Committee is responsible for developing yearly plans for using these funds.

The role of the JPC is to define, develop and coordinate programs which will be administered on the local and district levels. Plans for the entire judicial system including defense and prosecution

programs are coordinated by the JPC. The committee also reviews applications for grants for funding court programs. The Judicial Planning Committee works closely with local and district judicial system personnel to identify problem areas and plan programs appropriate to these needs.

The development of long-range goals for the state's courts was assigned to a fourteen-person committee. The AOC assisted this Long Range Planning Committee in examining previously compiled planning documents. From an evaluation of these documents and their own observations of the courts system, the committee began to develop long-range goals to serve as guidelines in making improvements to the judicial system. This planning effort also was funded by an LEAA grant.

Approaching the matter of courts improvements from a constitutional viewpoint was a twenty-three-member committee. This group, assisted by the Administrative Office of the Courts, studied the existing Judicial Article of the State Constitution to propose revisions which would improve the judicial system and the administration of justice in the state.

Developing model rules of court was assigned to another committee. This nine-member committee began preparing a standard set of rules of court which can be adopted by individual courts. Adoption of written rules of court will improve court administration and encourage more uniform practices.

Implementation of the recommendations and plans for courts improvements made by these groups is coordinated by the Administrative Office of the Courts and by the judicial administrative judges and their court administrators.

Judicial Planning Committee

Judge Marion T. Pope, Jr., chairman
Superior Court
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit
Canton

Judge Billy Shaw Abney
Juvenile Court of Walker County
Lafayette

Judge Francis W. Allen
State Court of Bulloch County
Statesboro

Judge Frank S. Cheatham, Jr.
Superior Court
Eastern Judicial Circuit
Savannah

Harold G. Clarke
President
State Bar of Georgia
Forsyth

Justice Robert H. Hall
Supreme Court of Georgia
Atlanta

Judge P. Harris Hines
State Court of Cobb County
Marietta

W. Stell Huie
Immediate Past President
State Bar of Georgia
Atlanta

William R. Ide, III
Public Defender
Atlanta

Judge Harry Johnson, Jr.
Probate Court of Floyd County
Rome

Judge Asa D. Kelley, Jr.
Superior Court
Dougherty Judicial Circuit
Albany

Judge C. Cloud Morgan
Superior Court
Macon Judicial Circuit
Macon

Judge Harold L. Murphy
Superior Court
Tallapoosa Judicial Circuit
Buchanan

Chief Justice H. E. Nichols
Supreme Court of Georgia
Atlanta

Judge James B. O'Connor
Superior Court
Oconee Judicial Circuit
Eastman

Judge Paul W. Painter
Superior Court
Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit
Rossville

Judge Romae J. Powell
Juvenile Court of Fulton County
Atlanta

Judge William K. Stanley, Jr.
Probate Court of Bibb County
Macon

Larry Salmon
District Attorney
Rome Judicial Circuit
Rome

Judge Irwin W. Stolz, Jr.
Georgia Court of Appeals
Atlanta

Jack Thompson
Superior Court Administrator
Atlanta Judicial Circuit
Atlanta

Judge G. Ernest Tidwell
Superior Court
Atlanta Judicial Circuit
Atlanta

Judge Robert Vining, Jr.
Superior Court
Conasauga Judicial Circuit
Dalton

Judge Julian Webb
Georgia Court of Appeals
Atlanta

¹Upon Judge Stolz's resignation, effective 9/1/77, he was replaced by Judge Webb.

Judicial Article Revision Committee

Sidney O. Smith, chairman
Atlanta Attorney

Judge James Barrow
Superior Court
Western Judicial Circuit
Athens

Judge Marcus B. Calhoun
Superior Court
Southern Judicial Circuit
Thomasville

Judge Aaron Cohn
Juvenile Court of Muscogee
County
Columbus

Judge Robert E. L. Culpepper, Jr.
Superior Court
South Georgia Judicial Circuit
Camilla

Judge Kenneth B. Followill
State Court of Muscogee County
Columbus

W. F. Grant
Solicitor
State Court of Elbert County
Elberton

Judge Marion Guess, Jr.
Probate Court of DeKalb County
Decatur

Justice William B. Gunter
Supreme Court of Georgia
Atlanta

Justice Robert H. Hall
Supreme Court of Georgia
Atlanta

Dewey Hayes
District Attorney
Waycross Judicial Circuit
Douglas

Sen. Pierre Howard, Jr.
42nd District
Decatur

Frank C. Jones
Macon Attorney

Betty H. Kehrer
Director
Georgia Criminal Justice Council
Atlanta

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Superior Court
Dougherty Judicial Circuit
Albany

E. Freeman Leverett
Elberton Attorney

Sen. Howard T. Overby
49th District
Gainesville

Judge Dorothy A. Robinson
State Court of Cobb County
Marietta

Rep. Wayne Snow, Jr.
1st District, Post 1
Rossville

Judge William K. Stanley, Jr.
Probate Court of Bibb County
Macon

Judge Irwin W. Stolz, Jr.
Georgia Court of Appeals
Atlanta

Robert S. Stubbs, II
Deputy Attorney General
Atlanta

Rep. Albert W. Thompson
93rd District
Columbus

Charles Tidwell
Chief Deputy, Legislative Counsel
Atlanta

Felker W. Ward
Atlanta Attorney

Judge Julian Webb
Georgia Court of Appeals
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Judge Osgood O. Williams
Superior Court
Atlanta Judicial Circuit
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Probate Court of Baldwin County
Milledgeville

Judge Robert F. Abercrombie
Probate Court of Douglas County
Douglasville

Judge Robert Cook
Probate Court of Chatham County
Savannah

Judge Vernon W. Duncan
Probate Court of Cobb County
Marietta

Judge Virgil L. Hamby
Probate Court of Upson County
Thomaston

Judge Margaret P. Hartman
Probate Court of Clarke County
Athens

Judge Harry Johnson, Jr.
Probate Court of Floyd County
Rome

Judge Harbin M. King
Probate Court of Gordon County
Calhoun

Judge Carl McKoy
Probate Court of Coweta County
Newnan

Judge Floyd Propst
Probate Court of Fulton County
Atlanta

Judge Helen G. Rohrs
Probate Court of Dougherty
County
Albany

Judge William K. Stanley, Jr.
Probate Court of Bibb County
Macon

Judge Alton W. Tucker
Probate Court of Gwinnett
County
Lawrenceville

Judge Clinton K. Watson, Jr.
Probate Court of Houston County
Perry

Model Local Court Rules Committee

Judge Osgood O. Williams

Chairman
Superior Court
Atlanta Judicial Circuit
Atlanta

Jerry B. Blackstock
Atlanta Attorney

Judge William F. Blanks
Superior Court
Southwestern Judicial Circuit
Americus

Ronald Barfield
Thomaston Attorney

Judge W. G. Elliott
Superior Court
Southern Judicial Circuit
Valdosta

George C. Grant
Macon Attorney

Judge John F. Hardin
Superior Court
Augusta Judicial Circuit
Augusta

Judge Asa D. Kelley, Jr.
Superior Court
Dougherty Judicial Circuit
Albany

Judge Walter C. McMillan, Jr.
Superior Court
Middle Judicial Circuit
Sandersville

Long Range Planning Committee

Judge Kenneth B. Followill

Chairman
State Court of Muscogee County
Columbus

Judge Hal Bell
Superior Court
Macon Judicial Circuit
Macon

Judge Marcus B. Calhoun
Superior Court
Southern Judicial Circuit
Thomasville

Robert L. Doss, Jr.
Director
Administrative Office of the
Courts

Judge Joel J. Fryer
Superior Court
Atlanta Judicial Circuit
Atlanta

Judge Marion Guess, Jr.
Probate Court of DeKalb County
Decatur

Justice Robert H. Hall
Supreme Court of Georgia
Atlanta

W. Stell Huie
Immediate Past President
State Bar of Georgia
Atlanta

Judge Dennis Jones
Juvenile Court of DeKalb County
Decatur

Judge Harold L. Murphy
Superior Court
Tallapoosa Judicial Circuit
Buchanan

Judge James B. O'Connor
Superior Court
Oconee Judicial Circuit
Eastman

Judge Rex R. Ruff
Juvenile Court of Cobb County
Marietta

Cubbedge Snow, Jr.
Macon Attorney

Judge William K. Stanley, Jr.
Probate Court of Bibb County
Macon

Judge Irwin W. Stolz, Jr.
Georgia Court of Appeals
Atlanta

Judge G. Ernest Tidwell
Superior Court
Atlanta Judicial Circuit
Atlanta

Research and Published Studies

The Administrative Office of the Courts is charged by law with compiling statistical and financial data and other information on the judicial work of the courts and their related offices. This compilation of basic data on the courts' work forms a vital link in the process of identifying

the needs of the courts and is the foundation for recommendations for improvements in the judicial system.

Making the results of these studies of the courts available is integral to the compilation process so that information on the work of the courts can be

used not only by the Judicial Council/AOC and the courts themselves to determine current and projected needs, but also by various planning and legislative groups for incorporating the developing needs of the judicial system into the overall government structure.

Since the creation of the Judicial Council/AOC in 1973, the primary research effort has been the collection of caseload data on the major courts of record in the state for the annual judgeship study. The Judicial Council evaluates the data presented in the judgeship study and considers other factors before making recommendations to the General Assembly for the creation of additional superior court judgeships in circuits demonstrating such a need.

The annual judgeship study includes statistics on court workloads for each circuit and presents the support provided to the superior courts by state, probate and juvenile courts.

Data on the judicial workloads in the state were collected by AOC personnel through statistics for fiscal year 1976. However, with the implementation of the Judicial Administration Act of 1976 (see page 40 and Appendix Four), plans were made for the district court administrators to count cases and conduct interviews with court personnel in their districts about whether a need exists for additional judicial manpower. A seminar on the case counting procedures for the district administrators was conducted by the AOC, and an instruction manual was also prepared.

Revisions were made in the definitions of terminology used in counting caseloads for fiscal year 1977 to improve the accuracy of the statistics. Standard

... under the supervision and direction of the Judicial Council, the Administrative Office of the Courts shall perform the following duties...

Compile statistical and financial data and other information on the judicial work of the courts and on the work of other offices related to and serving the courts, which shall be provided by the courts.

definitions were developed and approved by a committee chaired by Superior Court Judge James B. O'Connor of the Oconee Judicial Circuit. Also serving on this committee were Judge Walter C. McMillan, Jr., Superior Court, Middle Judicial Circuit, Sandersville, who is the administrative judge for the eighth judicial district, and Judge Asa D. Kelley, Jr., Superior Court, Dougherty Judicial Circuit.

The committee also instructed the AOC to collect for the first time data on the number and age of cases awaiting trial and open cases. This data will be presented in a separate published study.

In addition to the *Fourth Annual Report Regarding the Need for Additional Superior Court Judgeships in Georgia*, the Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts published three other studies and revised or developed several manuals and handbooks. A study in preparation at the end of fiscal year 1977 presents a summary of caseload statistics for the five-year period from 1971 to 1976.

The final volume of the *Georgia Statewide Facilities Study* and a manual developed from this study, *Facility Standard and Design Guidelines*, were published. This four-volume study of courthouse facilities inventories the physical conditions of every courthouse in the state and makes recommendations for their improvement. The first part of this study, released in 1975, pointed out functional inadequacies in all but twenty-four of the state's 159 courthouses.

The *Survey of Records Keeping in Georgia Courts*, the result of a two-year effort, examines the status of records management in court-related offices. The AOC was assisted by judges and personnel of clerks' offices and probate court offices as well as by a records management steering committee in producing this survey. The AOC and law students collected and analyzed the data on the records-keeping procedures and practices of the primary courts of record in the state.

The *Survey* cites requirements for retaining certain records and makes recommendations for reducing or eliminating problems of record keeping. The *Survey* not only presents the current state of records keeping in Georgia courts, but also makes specific recommendations for improvements in docket design, recording methods and filing systems (see page 26).

The *Survey of Records Keeping* identified problems in the

Facilities Study Steering Committee

Judge Marton T. Pope, *Chairman*
Superior Court
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit
Canton

Judge Francis W. Allen
State Court of Bulloch County
Statesboro

Judge Frank S. Cheatham, Jr.
Superior Court
Eastern Judicial Circuit
Savannah

J. C. Griswell
Clayton County Commissioner
Forest Park

records area. The Records Committee, in reviewing these findings, developed the following goals: to make records keeping more efficient by eliminating unnecessary records and reducing paper flow; to reduce or eliminate record storage problems; to determine equipment needed for record keeping; to evaluate the usefulness of record keeping to courts, attorneys, litigants and the public; and to design records that would coordinate with other records of the criminal justice system.

A Short Descriptive Study of the Office of the Justice of the Peace in Georgia presents information on the historical development of this office, the legal structure and the duties and responsibilities. Also included is information on the

justices of the peace themselves—age, gender, occupation and method of selection. Other information on the site of the courts, fees collected, availability of the *Georgia Code* and caseload by type is included.

A manual for traffic court judges was completed and published by the AOC, and development was begun on the *Clerks' Handbook*. A section on jury management was completed, and development was begun on sections on records management and procedures for applying for review of sentences. Revision of the *Probate Court Judges Handbook* was also begun. The AOC continued to provide new judges with civil and criminal pattern jury instructions.

... under the supervision and direction of the Judicial Council, the Administrative Office of the Courts shall perform the following duties...

Examine the state of the dockets and practices and procedures of the courts and make recommendations for the expedition of litigation.

Technical Assistance

By necessity some of the Judicial Council's recommendations for improvements to the courts system and the administration of justice involve changes that may take years to realize. However, many current and pressing needs of the courts are met through

technical assistance provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts on the local and district levels.

This technical assistance makes available to the judicial system services which would not be feasible for local courts to main-

tain. The courts, through the AOC, share the expertise of specialists in records management, facilities, jury management, information systems and other areas, without the expense to each court of funding a full-time position for services that

Court Information Systems Advisory Committee

Judge Reid Merritt, *chairman*
Superior Court
Gwinnett Judicial Circuit
Lawrenceville

Judge Kenneth B. Followill
State Court of Muscogee County
Columbus

Judge Asa D. Kelley, Jr.
Superior Court
Dougherty Judicial Circuit
Albany

Judge John S. Langford, Jr.
Superior Court
Atlanta Judicial Circuit
Atlanta

Judge Walter C. McMillan, Jr.
Superior Court
Middle Judicial Circuit
Sandersville

Joe B. Mundy
Clerk of the Superior Court
Clayton County
Jonesboro

Dave Ridgeway
Clerk of the Superior Court
Butts County
Jackson

Cubbedge Snow, Jr.
Macon Attorney

Jack E. Thompson
Court Administrator
Atlanta Judicial Circuit
Atlanta

Judge Curtis V. Tillman
Superior Court
Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit
Decatur

are needed infrequently by an individual court.

By providing technical assistance and other support to courts, the Administrative Office of the Courts fulfills its statutory responsibility to consult with, assist and provide requested services to judges and other court personnel and to study and recommend improvements in the administrative and business methods and systems of court-related offices.

The AOC's most far-reaching activity in the area of records management during fiscal year 1977 was the development and implementation of model docket books for the superior, state, probate and juvenile courts. Charged by law with the responsibility of examining the dockets, the AOC contacted courts in 101 counties to introduce the model docket books with orders resulting for 226 model docket books, at least one in eighty-seven counties (see map, page 30).

These model docket books were developed by a committee of judges and clerks of the superior, state, probate and juvenile courts; records management specialists; a court administrator; and a statistics specialist. The dockets are designed to reduce common records-keeping problems and introduce a degree of uniformity to the records and records-keeping procedures in Georgia courts.

The design of the preprinted dockets helps ensure rapid, legible entries of essential case information. The standard size, format and information categories of the model dockets simplifies their use by the public and attorneys as well as by court personnel.

The model dockets program addressed the lack of uniformity of court records and records-keeping practices as pointed out in the *Survey of Records Keeping in Georgia Courts*. Funded by an

Records Management Steering Committee

A. K. Johnson, <i>chairman</i> Executive Director Georgia Commission for the National Bicentennial Celebration Atlanta	Judge Asa D. Kelley, Jr. Superior Court Dougherty Judicial Circuit Albany
Sara Ellis Taylor, <i>vice chairman</i> Clerk of the Superior Court Henry County McDonough	Edgar W. Manseau Deputy Director of Operations Georgia Crime Information Center Atlanta
W. A. "Short" Cole Clerk of the Superior Court Cherokee County Canton	Judge Dorothy A. Robinson State Court of Cobb County Marietta
Col. John Dunn Records Management Division Georgia Department of Archives and History Atlanta	Judge Rex R. Ruff Juvenile Court of Cobb County Marietta
Judge Marion Guss, Jr. Probate Court of DeKalb County Decatur	Francis Tallefer National Center for State Courts Southeastern Regional Office Atlanta
Chris Herndon Director Crime Statistics Data Center Atlanta	Jack E. Thompson Court Administrator Atlanta Judicial Circuit Atlanta
	Martha Ann Watson Clerk of the Probate Court Cobb County Marietta

LEAA grant, the program provided the first docket book and instruction manual on its use at no cost to the court. Additional volumes cost about \$70, a savings of more than half of the cost of the bound docket books presently in use in many counties. These bound dockets usually cost from \$150 to \$300. For each court implementing the model dockets, the AOC prepared a report outlining that court's records-keeping procedures and recommending improvements.

Other activities in this area included the development of a section on records management for the *Clerk's Handbook*. Addressing the needs of specific courts, other assistance was provided in consolidating records, reorganizing space, developing local

records retention and destruction schedules and using microfilm for court records.

Assistance in the area of facilities improvements was expanded during fiscal year 1977. Just before the start of the fiscal year, the AOC employed an architect to serve as facilities consultant to the courts.

The impetus for expanded services in facilities improvement came from the findings of the *Georgia Statewide Facilities Study*, the final volume of which was published in fiscal year 1977. This study foreshadowed the many requests for assistance in this area.

Thirty-five counties received AOC assistance in facilities improvements (see map, page 29). This technical assistance varied from the preparation of

comprehensive studies of particular courthouses to the development of programs for construction to technical advice to architects and counties on construction. In several cases, this technical assistance meant that counties met technical requirements for receiving federal funds under the Economic Development Act (EDA) which financed the improvements to the courthouse facilities at no cost to the state or county. The AOC provided technical assistance to courthouse improvement projects which represent construction costs of almost \$19 million in local, state and federal (EDA) funds.

Where possible, plans for improving and modernizing the physical facilities were coordinated with the space needs for records keeping and jury management.

The AOC also provided assistance to courts in the area of automated information systems. During the past year the AOC, with LEAA funding, developed a model for a Statewide Judicial Information System (SJIS) and provided technical assistance to several counties considering adoption of this system as well as to counties developing their own automated information systems (see map, page 31).

Information on the feasibility of implementing an automated data system for the courts of the state was provided through the SJIS project. The goal of the project, in operation during the past two years, was to develop models from which predictions relating to statewide application could be made.

An automated system in the single-county Dougherty Judicial Circuit and a manual system in the five-county Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit were testing sites of computer-based applications for the courts system.

The automated system involved retention of all superior

court criminal case data through the use of a computer terminal in the record room in the clerk's office. The manual system involved the collection of case data at key points in the case process through the use of comprehensive case forms.

At the completion of this project, the AOC will have valuable information on the feasibility of applying computer technology and data systems to the courts.

Advice on automated juror systems was a part of the assistance provided by the AOC in the area of jury management. Other technical assistance was provided to increase the efficient use of jurors and to decrease the overall cost to the counties of jury trials (see map, page 31).

The procedures, practices and problems of jury management are addressed in a section prepared for the *Clerks' Handbook*. This section examines the area of jury management in general and reviews the legal framework, cites current problems in the system and presents general rules of good juror usage. The objective of this section is to improve the current system by

assisting local counties in reducing the number of jurors and juror hours, the amount of time and money spent operating the system and the amount of time judges and jurors spend waiting for trials to start.

Specific assistance in improving one county's jury management system was provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts to the Muscogee County courts. At the request of local judges and court personnel, the AOC made a three-month study of the Muscogee jury system and made recommendations for reducing the number of jurors and the amount of idle juror time and thereby producing a savings for the county.

The jury pooling system designed for the multi-judge, multi-court system—the county has three trial courts, a state court and a municipal court and enough courtrooms for five simultaneous trials—was implemented by the court system with a projected savings of some \$75,000 annually after the first year of operation.

The AOC also served in an advisory capacity in the development of a film on the grand jury

Records Retention and Destruction Schedule Committee

Judge Marvin A. Miller, *chairman*
Superior Court
Clayton Judicial Circuit
Jonesboro

Thomas S. Bachelor
Clerk of the Superior Court
Walton County
Monroe

Judge H. M. Crane, Jr.
Juvenile Court of Bartow County
Cartersville

Wanda T. Craven
Clerk of the Juvenile Court
Cobb County
Marietta

Judge P. Harris Hines
State Court of Cobb County
Marietta

Joe B. Mundy
Clerk of the Superior Court
Clayton County
Jonesboro

Martha Ann Watson
Clerk of the State Court
Cobb County
Marietta

Judge James E. White
Probate Court of Fayette County
Fayetteville

process in Georgia. The film, *Grand Jury: Conscience of the Community*, was produced by the Institute of Community and Area Development of the University of Georgia and is intended as an orientation tool for newly selected grand jurors who have never before served in that capacity.

Questionnaires to survey jury management practices throughout the state were developed. Superior court clerks will be asked to provide information on drawing and summoning jurors, juror orientation and compensation and other related matters. Judges will be asked for suggestions for improvements in

Jury Management Committee

Judge Kenneth B. Followill
State Court of Muscogee County
Columbus

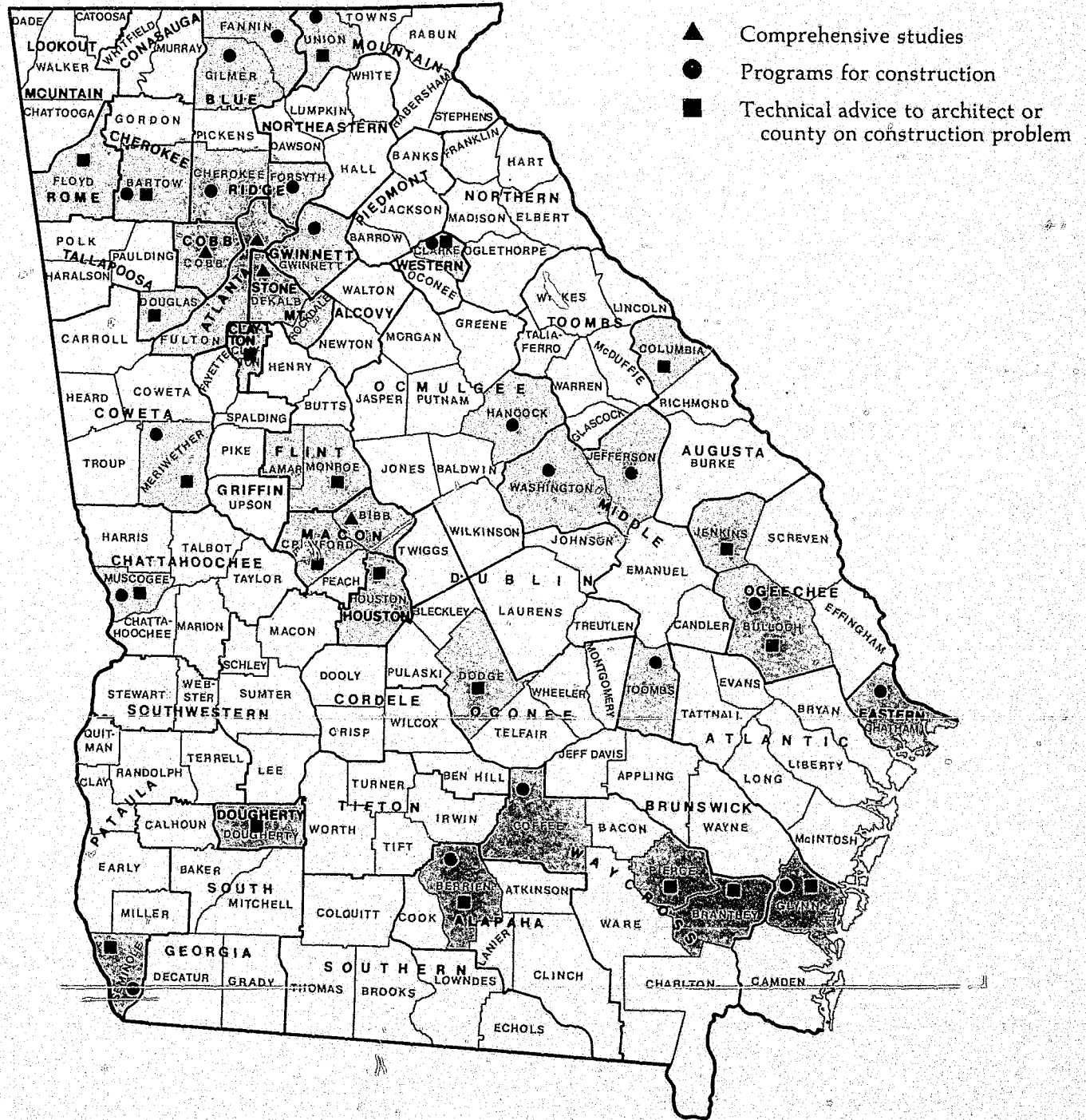
Judge James B. O'Connor
Superior Court
Oconee Judicial Circuit
Eastman

current procedures.

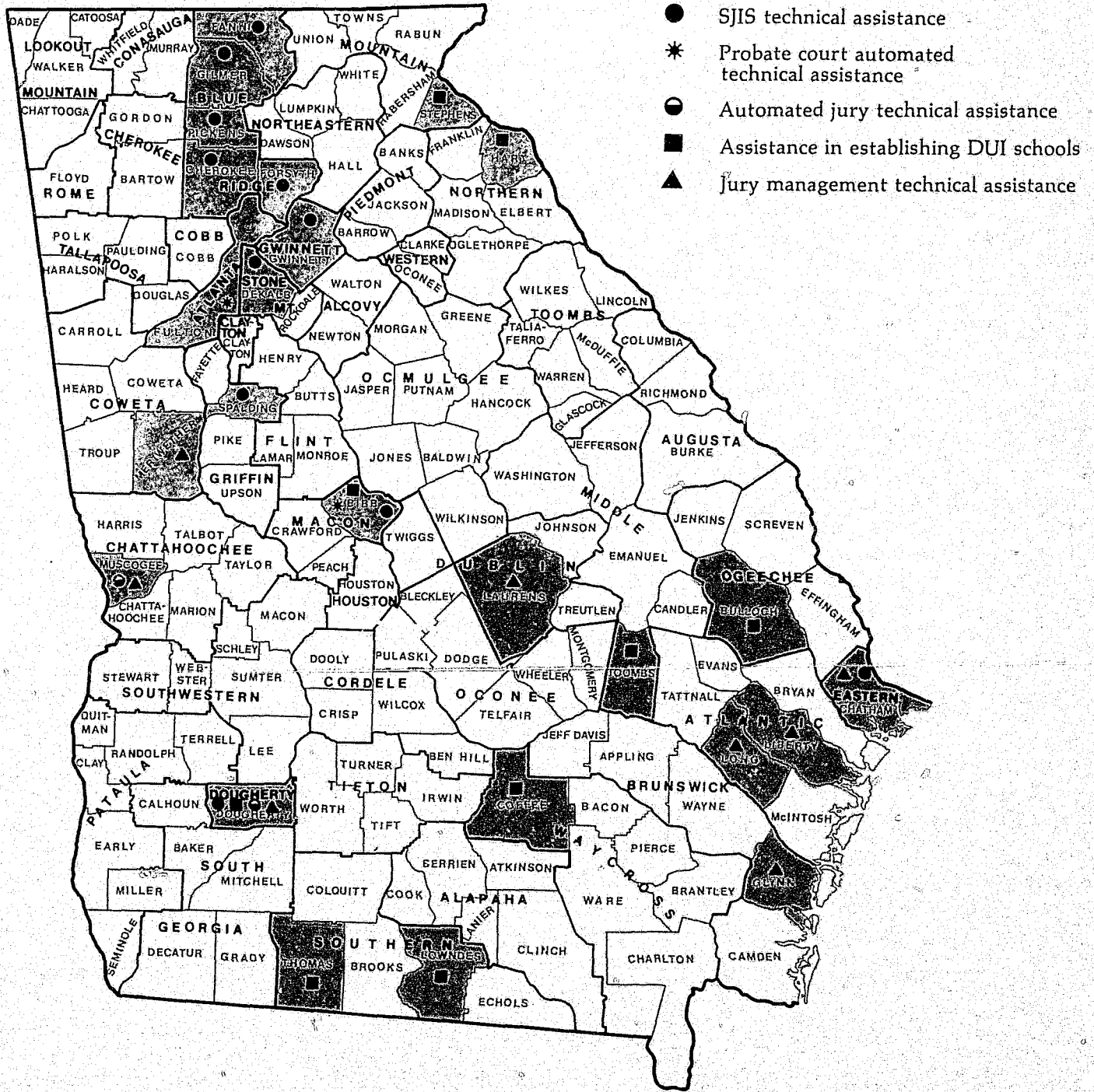
Other assistance in improving the systems of the courts included the development of a warrant tracking system in Coffee County. The AOC estab-

lished a traffic court lending library and worked with traffic court judges in improving the reporting of traffic violations to the Department of Public Safety on the Uniform Traffic Citation Form. The AOC also assisted traffic courts in the establishment of schools for persons convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol (DUI schools—see map, page 31). Small claims court judges were assisted by the AOC in establishing an association, and technical assistance in short-range projects was provided by the AOC at the request of local courts.

Technical Assistance—Facilities Improvements



Other Technical Assistance



The AOC at a Glance

Administrative Districts

Accomplished to Date:

- Assisted the judges in implementation of the Judicial Administration Act of 1976.
- Assisted in the hiring of district court administrators in the administrative districts (processed more than 750 applications for these positions).
- Hired a district court administrators coordinator.
- Obtained and administered a grant funding the district system.
- Provided an orientation session for the district administrators.
- Provided a comprehensive, week-long training session via the Institute for Court Management.
- Continued to work with the administrative judges who have not yet hired court administrators.
- Assisted administrators in determining and conducting projects.
- Coordinated several administrative district meetings and activities.
- Provided two-day training session for case counting.

In Progress:

- Provide support to Administrative Districts.
- Coordinate efforts in collecting and compiling caseload data.
- Monthly meetings with district court administrators at AOC.
- Work with district court administrators to improve county law libraries.
- Work with district court administrators in caseload management and case counting.
- Evaluate effectiveness of district court administration project.

To Be Accomplished:

- Continue to provide support to districts.
- Continue monthly meetings.
- Encourage hiring of district court administrator in Fourth Judicial District.

Communications

Accomplished to Date:

- Issued five *Georgia Courts Journals*.
- Issued one *Annual Report*.
- Issued seventy news releases.
- Assisted in preparation of five speeches.
- Issued *Georgia Courts Directory*.
- Developed public information booth on Judicial Council/AOC.
- Published information brochure about the Judicial Council/AOC.
- Coordinated 115 printing projects for AOC.
- Helped coordinate Law Day activities in the state.

In Progress:

- Publication of *Georgia Courts Journal*.
- Issuance of press releases on activities of Judicial Council/AOC.
- Provide information about Judicial Council/AOC.

To Be Accomplished:

- *Georgia Courts Directory* for 1978.
- Continue publication of *Georgia Courts Journal*.
- Continue public dissemination of judicial information through press releases.

Court Reporting

Accomplished to Date:

- Administered two certification tests for court reporters.
- Distributed copies of the Fee Schedule for Court Reporters to judicial personnel.
- Revoked twenty-nine permits for failure to renew.
- Placed a forty-five day deadline on returning applications for certification after receiving notification of passing test.
- Issued two formal opinions on court reporting rules and regulations.
- Put into effect the \$15 charge on each issue of temporary certification permit, effective February 1, 1977.
- Certified a total of 348 court reporters.

- Established the Georgia Certified Court Reporters Association.
- Issued certificates to court reporters passing September 1977 test.

In Progress:

- Review and improve certification test itself.
- Maintain referral service for certified court reporters.

To Be Accomplished:

- Revision and publication of rules and formal opinions of Board of Court Reporting.
- Continue testing and certification of court reporters.

Education

Accomplished to Date:

- Planned and implemented fourteen educational seminars:
 - Two superior court judges seminars;
 - One bench and bar conference;
 - One juvenile court judges seminar;
 - Four traffic court judges seminars;
 - One superior court clerks seminar;
 - One state trial court judges and solicitors seminar;
 - One judges of the probate court seminar;
 - One justice of the peace seminar (provided funds for publications only);
 - One new superior and state court judges orientation;
 - One probation officers of independent probation systems seminar.
- Established the Judicial College of Georgia and named a board of trustees.
- Conducted a detailed analysis on the cost of educational seminars in the last year and the cost of out-of-state training.

In Progress:

- Planning, scheduling educational seminars for calendar year 1978.
- Work with Judicial College in developing comprehensive training program.

To Be Accomplished:

- Develop comprehensive training program with Judicial College.

Facilities

- Technical assistance to thirty-five counties which involved renovations and construction totaling \$18.975 million and categorized as follows:

Three major planning studies;
Nine EDA financial planning efforts;

Twenty-three architectural assistance projects.

- Responded to more than two hundred requests for copies of the State Facilities Study.
- Published a public relations pamphlet on the Statewide Facilities Study.
- Assisted in ICLE-sponsored national effort for statewide accreditation of all courthouses.
- Planned for an allocation program with EDA monies specifically for courthouses.
- Developed inter-agency staff review process with state Historic Preservation Department.
- Initiated development of a regionalization feasibility study.

In Progress:

- Continued technical assistance to local courts.
- Update inventory.
- Implement masterplan.

To Be Accomplished:

- Technical assistance.
- Update inventory.
- Implement masterplan.

Grants

Accomplished to Date:

- Administered thirteen block and discretionary grants from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration.
- Administered two grants from the Office of Highway Safety.
- Applied for five new grants for fiscal year 1978 (four were approved for funding).

In Progress:

- Assist local courts in grant application and administration.
- Administer LEAA grants for district court administrators.
- Continue as fiscal officer for Judicial Qualifications Commission, Council of Juvenile Court Judges and Sentence Review Panel.
- Work with Judicial Planning Committee in developing funding sources.

To Be Accomplished:

- Further grant administration.
- Continued assistance to local courts in grant applications.

Information Systems

Accomplished to Date:

- Operated criminal sub-system pilot program in Dougherty County and manual version in the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit (this involved tracking 913 cases and 3,416 people including witnesses, plaintiffs, attorneys, defendants, judges, and other persons involved).
- Completed criminal sub-system development model for the state.
- Completed state-level implementation plan which projected the cost to operate the SJIS system statewide.
- Completed statewide operations requirement analysis for each agency to implement the criminal sub-system.
- Designed files for storage for all caseload data dating back to 1973 for the major courts of record and produced 404-page caseload master file printout.
- Maintained names and addresses of almost 3,000 persons and generated some 60,000 address labels for mailing.
- Assisted in the printing of the *Georgia Courts Directory*.
- Provided two case disposition reports to the Georgia Crime Information Center (included 512 defender units).
- Produced the first summary reports for the Dougherty Test Project (this includes filings and the number of counts by offense types, comparisons of ages of defendants).

- Conducted on-site assessments of nine counties developing their own information systems.
- Provided technical assistance to seven counties which are developing some kind of automation within their courts (jury systems, probate judges, arrests, booking, etc.).
- Coordinated the model records project with future automation needs.
- Worked with the juvenile courts on development of a juvenile justice information system.

In Progress:

- Change from in-house computer to leased time arrangement.
- Provide assistance to local courts in development of computer applications.

To Be Accomplished:

- Continue technical assistance.

Juries

Accomplished To Date:

- Completed the Jury Management Manual of the *Clerks' Handbook*.
- Devised a jury-pooling system for Muscogee County; they have conducted studies regarding establishment of computerized jury selection system in Albany.
- Conducted short-range studies in jury management for DeKalb, Chatham, Fulton, Long, Tattnall and Dougherty counties.

In Progress:

- Implement Albany jury management project.
- Short-range jury management projects.
- Plan for recommending legislation in jury management area.
- Administer jury questionnaires through district court administrators for statewide information on policies, procedures and mechanics of jury management.

To Be Accomplished:

- Continue technical assistance.
- Recommend legislation in jury management area.

Juvenile Justice

Accomplished to Date:

- Assisted in implementation of fifty-nine juvenile court docketing systems.
- Completed the four volumes of *Juvenile Justice Masterplan* and held a conference regarding that masterplan.
- Assisted the Judicial Liaison Committee.
- Began development of a profile and qualifications survey of juvenile court judges.
- Endorsed six legislative measures (one passed); recommended against passage of one piece of legislation.
- Developed model for juvenile justice information system.
- Provided technical assistance to the Muscogee County Juvenile Court in the caseload area.

In Progress:

- Implement Masterplan.
- Implement model docket system.

To Be Accomplished:

- Continue to implement Masterplan.
- Continue to implement model docket system.

Legal Services

Accomplished to Date:

- Continued operation and coordination of the Superior Court Judges' Pool.
- Issued several legal opinions regarding such issues as habeas corpus and use of senior judges for research projects.
- Supervising revision of the *Probate Judges Handbook*.
- Checked legal sufficiency of the *Jury Management Manual*.
- Issued an opinion on techniques of voir dire.
- Assisted Judicial Article Committee on revision.

While many of the projects of the AOC are by their nature in the legal services area, the AOC is now receiving primary legal advice and guidance from the Attorney General's Office.

Legislation

Accomplished to Date:

- Held Judicial Legislative Conference at Callaway Gardens.
- Tracked legislation during 1977 Session of the General Assembly.
- Produced weekly issues of the *Legislative Log* during the 1977 General Assembly session.
- Assisted the judges in drafting bills for introduction during 1977 session.
- Recommended the addition of ten new superior court judgeships, eight of which were created.
- Began compiling a budget for some of the courts in the state.
- Passage of a salary bill providing for increases for secretaries to superior court judges and district attorneys.

In Progress:

- Drafting of legislation in these areas:
 - To provide additional compensation for judges.
 - To provide for one law clerk for each superior court judge.
 - To create the Judicial College of Georgia.
 - To clarify training reimbursement for judges.
 - To provide for secretarial support for active senior judges.
 - To provide for court reporters at state expense for active senior judges.
 - To provide for inclusion of superior court judges in GIST system at state expense.

To Be Accomplished:

- Continue legislative tracking.
- Recommendations for changes in legislation.
- Continue production of weekly *Legislative Log* during legislative sessions.

Planning

Accomplished to Date:

- Screened all major reports issued in recent years and compiled their major recommendations regarding court systems.

- Worked with the Long-Range Planning Committee in devising a summary of the twelve major planning goals to be accomplished in the future in Georgia's judicial system.
- Spent last summer and fall following legislation regarding the creation of the Judicial Planning Committee (JPC)
- Followed passage of the JPC legislation included in the LEAA authorization, attended Kansas City meeting for explanation of the act.
- Requested an opinion from LEAA regarding who is authorized to name the JPC.
- JPC met twice in the springtime.
- Reviewed the 1978 plan and applications for funds on the 1977 plan.
- Increased judicial representation on the State Crime Commission to 20 percent.

In Progress:

- Work with JPC.
- Publication and distribution of goals developed by Long-Range Planning Committee.
- Develop roles of various planning agencies.

To Be Accomplished:

- Continue work with JPC.

Records

Accomplished to Date:

- Since the beginning of the model dockets project, a total of 230 courts in 105 counties have been contacted and 222 docket books have been ordered or implemented.
- In each court in which model dockets were introduced, performed major management survey of clerks' operation and delivered written report to each clerk on suggested improvements.
- Technical assistance in such areas as microfilming, filing and numbering systems, records storage, and other areas was given to four localities (Albany, DeKalb County, McIntosh County and Fulton County).
- Development begun on the records section for the *Clerks' Handbook*.
- Work was initiated on records retention and destruction schedules.

In Progress:

- Draft legislation establishing committee of members of judiciary to review retention and destruction schedules for court records.
- Implement model dockets system.

To Be Accomplished:

- Continue implementing model dockets system.
- Legislation for judicial committee to review records retention schedules.

Research

Accomplished to Date:

- Conducted first *statewide* study regarding the need for additional Superior Court manpower.
- Completely revised case counting methodology for 1978 caseload judgeship study.
- Answered over one hundred technical assistance requests for caseload and salary data, budget information and other information currently on file in the Administrative Office.
- Completed the *Caseload Executive Summary* which compares three years of caseload and other information on Georgia major courts of record.
- Entered the caseload master file on the computer so that printouts on caseload by county or court can be sent out on request.
- Assisted small claims court judges in establishing association.

In Progress:

- Study showing ages of cases awaiting trial.
- Annual Judgeship Study.
- Salary survey of superior, state and probate judges and clerks of court.

To Be Accomplished:

- Coordinate caseload counting with the district court administrators.
- Personnel study of court system.

Traffic

Accomplished to Date:

- Completed and distributed the *Traffic Court Judges' Manual* to more than five hundred traffic court judges.

- Held four traffic court seminars with a total of 122 judges attending.
- Endorsed the Uniform Traffic Court Procedures Bill, labeled House Bill 188, which was on the General Calendar of the House at the close of the 1977 General Assembly.
- Assisted nine counties and one judicial circuit in the establishment of DUI programs.
- Worked on improving reporting of traffic convictions on the Uniform Traffic Citation Form.

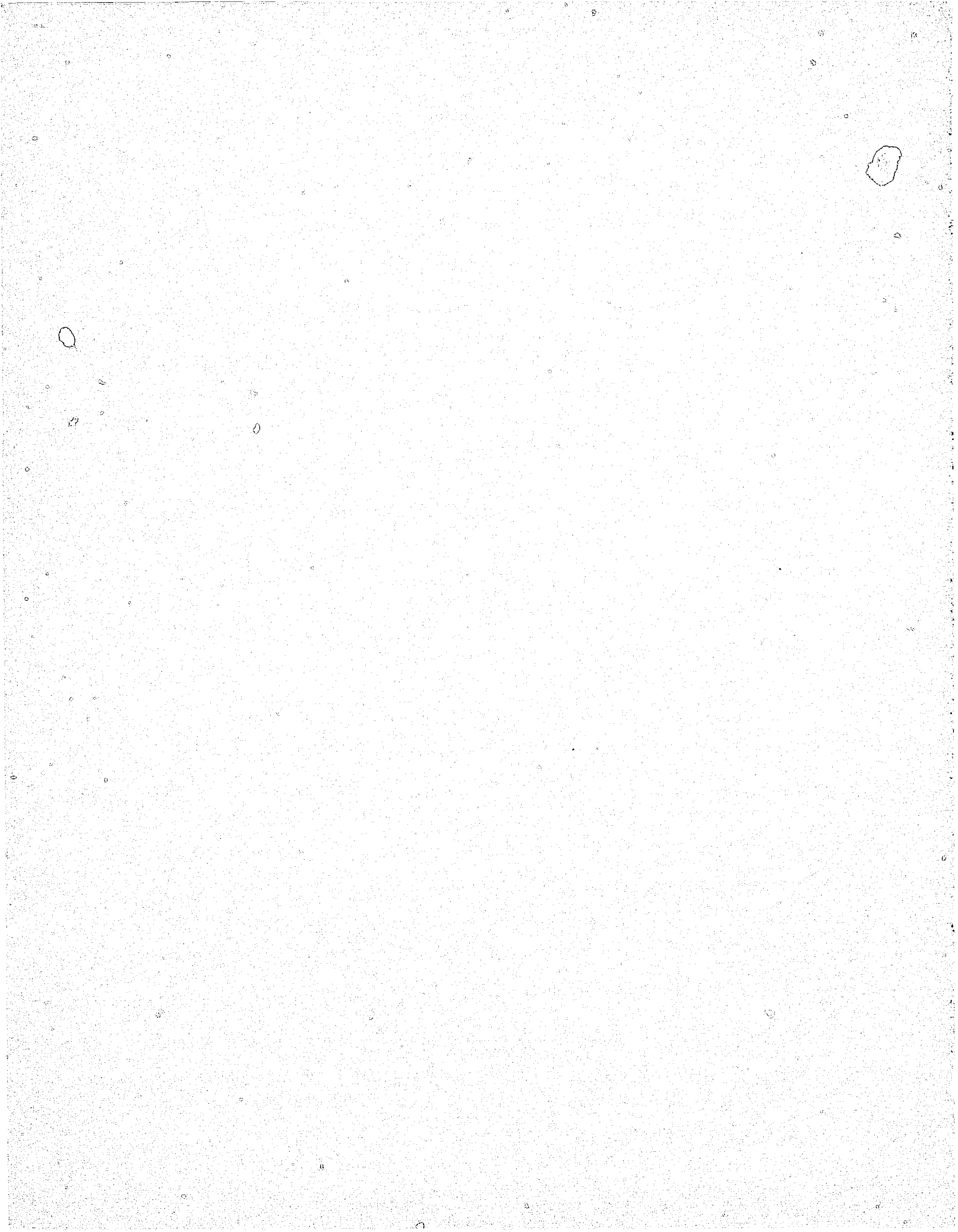
- Worked with the Office of Highway Safety regarding the possibility of expanding AOC's traffic division in order to provide technical assistance to traffic courts all over the state.

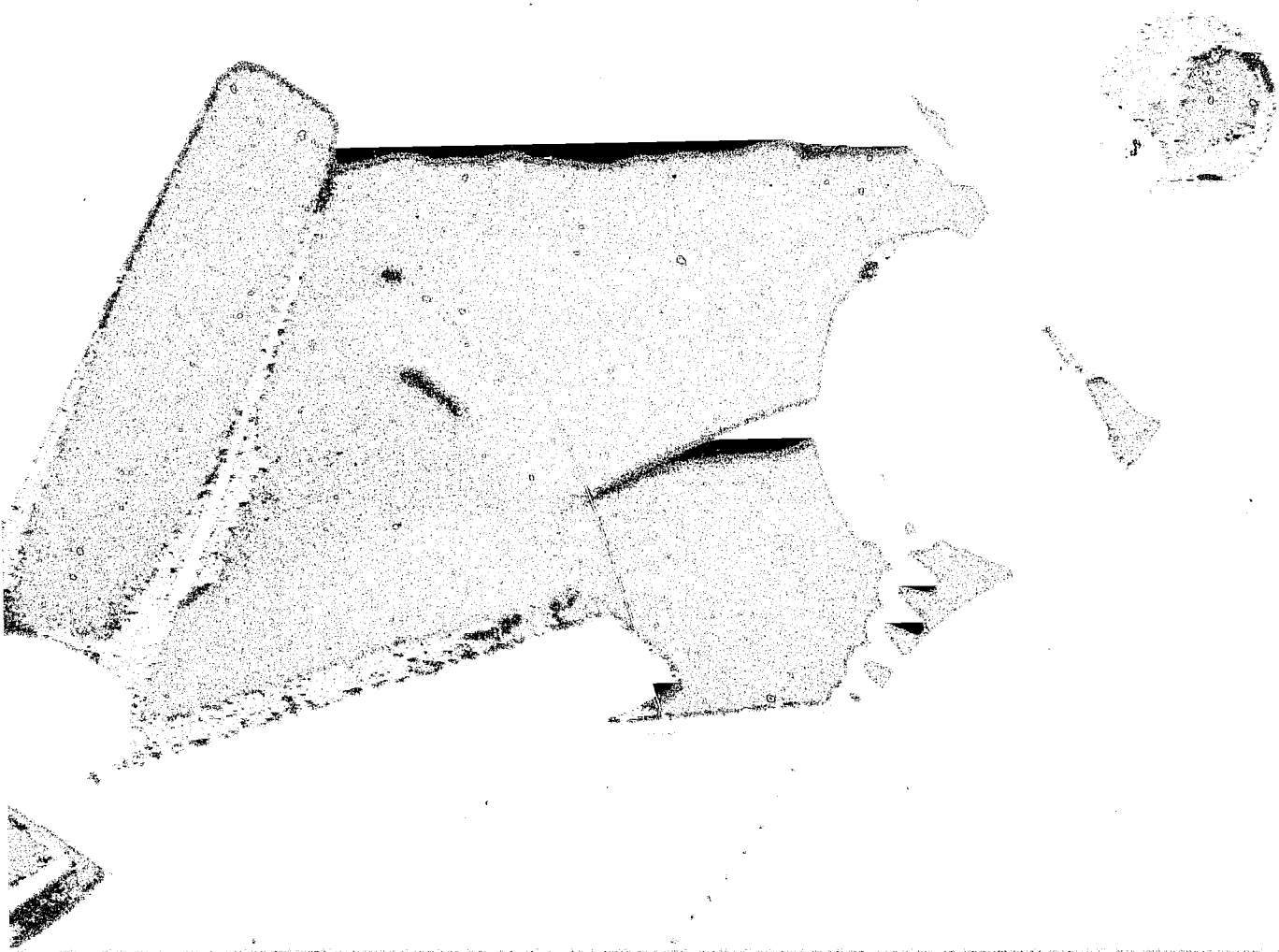
In Progress:

- Grant for traffic court program outlined.
- Recruiting new traffic court specialist.
- Develop traffic court training program.

To Be Accomplished:

- Continue development and implementation of traffic court training program.





The implementation of the Judicial Administration Act of 1976 during the past year brought a new structure to the courts system of Georgia. District court administrators keep tabs on the current and developing needs of the courts within their districts and provide liaison to resources and services to meet these needs.

The Districts

The implementation of the Judicial Administration Act of 1976 during the last fiscal year provided a framework for increased responsiveness to the administrative needs of local courts. (See Appendix Four for Act.)

The system of district councils, administrative judges and court administrators forms a structure for coordinating the current and emerging needs of the courts with the resources and services available within the district, through the Administrative Office of the Courts and from other sources, such as funding from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration or the Economic Development Administration.

The district system, in effect, links the individual courts with the services and resources available on the state level. While the district council, the administrative judge and the court administrator identify and seek solutions to problems of the courts in each district, the Administrative Office of the Courts makes available technical assistance, conducts system-wide studies and otherwise focuses its activities primarily on the needs of the entire judicial system, with specific aid provided to local courts on request.

The district system was designed to help speed up the work of the courts, equalize workloads from circuit to circuit and bring more uniformity to the court system.

The Judicial Administration Act, part of the Governor's legislative package for 1976, was recommended to him by the Commission on Court Organization and Structure. Although the Act was passed that year by the General Assembly, no funds were appropriated for financing the system.

At the request of the Governor, the Judicial Council/AOC applied for and received a grant from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, awarded through the State Crime Commission, to finance the newly created judicial administrative system for the first two years.

The act created ten judicial administrative districts, which are roughly equivalent to the state's congressional districts; however, judicial circuit boundaries were kept intact. The act provides for district councils composed of all superior court judges in the district. Each council elects an administrative judge to serve for a two-year term. The act provides for a full-time assistant to the administrative judge, to serve as court administrator for the district.

The AOC assisted the administrative judges in employing the district court administrators and coordinated two orientation sessions, one

conducted by the Institute for Court Management, for these new court personnel. The Administrative Office of the Courts, through its staff coordinator for district court administrators and by monthly meetings with these court administrators, provided assistance in establishing this program on a firm foundation.

The district court administrators act on the direction of the administrative judges and concentrate on particular problems identified by the district councils, the administrative judges, the Judicial Council and the AOC. During their first year, the court administrators were involved in a wide range of activities—from budgeting for courts to planning for renovation of courthouse facilities—as the conditions in their districts dictated.

The district system provides important liaison between the Judicial Council/AOC and the local systems. District court administrators have assisted the AOC by gathering caseload statistics, keeping the inventory of courthouse facilities up to date and assisting with the introduction and implementation of model docket books.

Judge Hal Bell, Macon superior court judge and administrative judge for the third judicial administrative district, served as chairman of the council of the ten administrative judges. A former chairman of the Judicial Council, Judge Bell led the council in determining the initial direction for the system.

The ten districts range in size from one to twenty-seven counties, and their individual needs are reflected in the diverse activities of the court administrators during fiscal year 1977. Although the district court administrators have responsibilities in common, certain functions are emphasized in response to local conditions.

Following is a summary of the major activities of the district court administrators in each district from the time the program became fully operational until the end of fiscal year 1977. Setting up their offices and making initial contacts with court personnel in their districts were the first tasks of the court administrators.

Note: the following summaries of the activities of the district court administrators actually represent a period of about six months, as the court administrators were not employed until about halfway into the fiscal year.

District One: Atlantic, Brunswick, Eastern, Ogeechee and Waycross judicial circuits (twenty-two counties)

Headquarters: Savannah

Administrative Judge: Judge Dunbar Harrison

District Court Administrator: Michael S. deVegter

Budgets and funding for courts programs were areas of emphasis in district one. The court administrator collected personnel and financial data from each county as a preliminary step in providing budgeting assistance. A budget for the superior court and district attorney's office for the Atlantic Judicial Circuit was completed. He also prepared a separate budget for the Liberty County Superior Court clerk. The court administrator began seeking LEAA funding for a law clerk position in that circuit and assisted in obtaining funding for the public defender program in the Atlantic circuit.

The court administrator assisted the AOC in implementing model dockets in Liberty, Long and McIntosh counties.

Assistance in the revision of jury selection procedures in Long County was provided by the court administrator. Population statistics to be used in jury box revision were distributed to all the counties in the district.

The court administrator drafted and distributed by-laws for the Liberty County Law Library trustees. He provided research assistance to the Atlantic Judicial Circuit in revising the court rules and preparing them for distribution to members of the bar and court personnel.

The court administrator worked with the new superior court judge in the Atlantic circuit in preparing trial calendars for his initial terms of court. He also assisted the AOC on courthouse renovation projects within his district.

He assisted in notifying the judges of the first district of new services available from the new HEW-funded forensic services program which offers on-site psychiatric examinations, at no charge to the counties, to those criminal defendants referred to the program by the courts.

District Two: Alapaha, Dougherty, Pataula, South Georgia, Southern and Tifton judicial circuits (twenty-seven counties)

Headquarters: Valdosta

Administrative Judge: Judge Marcus B. Calhoun

District Court Administrator: Roger E. Douglas

The court administrator in district two worked with the AOC in introducing and installing model docket books in several counties during the last

fiscal year. A program to expedite and aid indigent cases in Lowndes County—which carries three-fourths of the criminal caseload in the Southern Judicial Circuit—was coordinated by the court administrator.

Other administrative assistance provided by the court administrator during this first year of operation of the judicial administrative district system included aid in the revision of the jury list in Thomas and Lowndes counties.

The court administrator also filed an application for a public defender in the Alapaha Judicial Circuit. He obtained a law clerk to work in the Southern Judicial Circuit.

District Three: Chattahoochee, Houston, Macon and Southwestern judicial circuits (sixteen counties)

Headquarters: Macon

Administrative Judge: Judge Hal Bell

District Court Administrator: David L. Ratley

An exhaustive court facilities study in Bibb County was a major activity of the district court administrator in district three during fiscal year 1977. The project included liaison with the local government, long-range space planning for current facilities, on-going renovation of an existing structure and planning for a new courthouse annex and expanded judicial facilities to be financed by federal funds. The court administrator also worked with the AOC and coordinated AOC technical assistance in the facilities area with judicial personnel in his district.

Mechanization of the jury selection process in the district was another activity of the court administrator. Development was begun on circuit-wide budgets, and a budget for the Bibb Superior Court was completed. A new security system was also developed for the Bibb court.

Other activities included law library management and planning for local information systems and pre-indictment release programs. Grants were secured for improvements for the indigent defense programs in the Macon and Southwestern judicial circuits.

The court administrator prepared a *Personnel Policy and Procedure Manual* for the Macon Judicial Circuit. He appeared before several grand juries to discuss matters of local interest in the area of judicial administration. He also served on a technical assistance team for the National District Attorneys' Association on a project in Bibb County. A feasibility study regarding the establishment of a state court for Peach County was conducted by the district court administrator.

District Four: Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit (two counties)

Headquarters: Decatur

Administrative Judge: Judge Clarence L. Peeler, Jr.

District Court Administrator: (position vacant)

District Five: Atlanta Judicial Circuit (one county)

Headquarters: Atlanta

Administrative Judge: Judge Sam P. McKenzie

District Court Administrator: Ronald Owens*

Improvements in jury management practices and procedures were coordinated by the district court administrator in district five. An instruction manual for an automated jury selection and summons system was prepared for the jury clerk's office. Collection of several types of juror-usage statistics was begun. Following a feasibility study, plans were developed for implementation of a juror code-a-phone system, designed to balance the number of jurors serving each day with the actual needs of the court. Also in this area, the court administrator began a feasibility study of a jury orientation film. The fifth district was the first in the state to automatically choose and summon jurors by computer.

The court administrator also worked with the pretrial release program to tighten security by improving the paperflow procedures and contents.

District Six: Clayton, Coweta, Flint and Griffin judicial circuits (fourteen counties)

Headquarters: Griffin

Administrative Judge: Judge Andrew J. Whalen, Jr.

District Court Administrator: Fred A. Roney**

District Seven: Cherokee, Cobb, Lookout Mountain, Rome and Tallapoosa judicial circuits (twelve counties)

Headquarters: Cartersville

Administrative Judge: Judge Jefferson L. Davis

District Court Administrator: Gerard P. Verzaal

Budgets for courts, surveys of jury management practices and improvements to court facilities were areas of activity for the district court administrator in district seven during fiscal year 1977.

The court administrator worked closely with the Coosa Valley Criminal Justice Planner and the Atlanta Region Planner to secure federal funding for the courts and court-related programs. He represented the courts in planning for the allocation of local federal funding in the future. Applications for federal funds were submitted by the court administrator to finance necessary support services for senior judges who were holding court in the district.

Data for a study of the budgets for courts was collected by the court administrator, and a survey was made of juror usage and jury management procedures in the Rome Judicial Circuit.

In the facilities area, the court administrator served as liaison between the AOC's facilities consultant and court and county personnel in Floyd County. The AOC provided technical assistance to the county in planning for the renovation of the old post office in Rome which the county had acquired. Latest concepts in jury usage, safety of court officers and the public and security of litigants were incorporated into the renovation plans. The renovation, which will provide for the county an efficient and suitable courthouse at minimal cost, is expected to be completed this spring.

The court administrator assisted in the temporary reassignments of judicial manpower to handle the cases of judges who became ill or were disqualified. He worked with clerks who frequently reported problems of critically short space for records storage.

In the area of education, the court administrator made application for a superior court judge to attend the National College of the State Judiciary and secured funding to offset the cost of tuition, travel and lodging for the month-long training.

The district council—the superior court judges of the district—voted to include as members of the district council the senior judges and appellate court judges.

District Eight: Cordele, Dublin, Middle, Ocmulgee and Oconee judicial circuits (twenty-seven counties)

Headquarters: Dublin

Administrative Judge: Judge Walter C. McMillan, Jr.

District Court Administrator: Jack L. Bean

Court budgets received emphasis in district eight with the court administrator completing court budgets for four of the district's five circuits. The

*Owens is an assistant to Jack Thompson, court administrator of Fulton County Superior Court, whose position existed prior to the Judicial Administration Act.

**Roney was employed after the end of fiscal year 1977.

budget for the fifth circuit was pending approval at the end of the fiscal year. These budgets represent the first budgets prepared for the superior courts on a circuit-wide basis.

Other budgetary matters included the preparation of applications for federal grants to provide for law clerks. The court administrator also surveyed the counties in the district to determine which had applied for funds for judicial facility renovation or construction in 1976 under the local public works project of the Economic Development Act.

The court administrator studied the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit to determine whether some terms of court could be deleted in some counties and added in others. Pooling of judicial manpower in the eighth district enabled the administrative judge to assign judges to circuits where they were most needed.

The court administrator also set up two law libraries in the Cordele Judicial Circuit. He researched and helped implement a juvenile court system in Crisp County.

District Nine: Blue Ridge, Conasauga, Gwinnett, Mountain and Northeastern judicial circuits (seventeen counties)

Headquarters: Dalton

Administrative Judge: Judge Robert Vining, Jr.

District Court Administrator: Burton W. Butler

Summarizing and disseminating information on legislation for the judges and court clerks in district nine was one of the first tasks of the court administrator there.

He assisted in preparing grants for additional court personnel (law clerks and/or assistant court reporters) in four of the five circuits in his district. A working paper was drafted by the court administrator for an indigent defense system and forwarded to the Judicial Planning Committee.

The court administrator also designed several forms for the pretrial release and diversion staff in the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit—a jail sheet, monthly report form and a tracking card.

Assistance in the area of juvenile justice included determining what resources were available for providing 24-hour on-call intake officers and the adequacy of facilities for status offenders.

District Ten: Alcovy, Augusta, Northern, Piedmont, Toombs and Western judicial circuits (twenty-one counties)

Headquarters: Augusta

Administrative Judge: Judge John F. Hardin

District Court Administrator: Thomas L. Hodges, III*

The activities of the court administrator in district ten reached into several areas—budgeting, indigent defense programs, jury management and others.

The court administrator assisted the administrative judge with preparation of a budget for the Child Support Recovery Unit. Information on appointments of counsel for indigent defendants and constitutional array of juries was also collected.

A survey of grant applications for public works funds facilities improvements was conducted. The development of a law library was another area of activity for the court administrator.

Assistance was provided for a seminar for traffic court judges sponsored by the AOC. The court administrator attempted to identify all judges in the district who hear traffic cases and to locate a site for the seminar.

The court administrator worked with superior court clerks to provide information to them on pending legislation during the session of the General Assembly and to assist the clerks with preparation of monthly caseload reporting forms.

*Leon Barfield currently serves as court administrator in this district.

Increasing workloads of the courts are initially met by improvements to court operations and administration; excessively heavy caseloads may indicate the need for additional judicial manpower. During fiscal year 1977, eight additional superior court judgeships were created by the General Assembly, upon the recommendation of the Judicial Council.

The Courts

Important developments in the judiciary during the past year include an historic break with a long-standing tradition and a commitment to a program promising greater unity for the courts. Plans were made to permit photography and broadcasting of judicial procedures and the Judicial Administration Act of 1976 (see pages 40 through 44) was implemented.

The addition of judicial manpower to counter increasing workloads of the courts in eight circuits was provided by the creation of new superior court judgeships by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Judicial Council. Six of these did not become effective until after the close of fiscal year 1977. The general election in November 1976 brought to the bench for their first term six superior court judges, seven state court judges and thirty-two probate court judges. Other personnel changes are presented in Appendix Seven.

The announcement of plans to permit broadcasting and photography of judicial procedures was made by the Supreme Court's Chief Justice H. E. Nichols, in an unprecedented "State of the Judiciary" address to a joint session of the General Assembly last February. Traditionally, only reporters and sketch artists have been allowed in Georgia courtrooms. But by a Supreme Court order of May 1977, the high court authorized "the broadcasting, televising, recording, filming, and taking of photographs, in its courtroom or the courtroom of any other Georgia court during any judicial hearing."

The court order, setting certain limits on broadcasting and photography so that the dignity of the proceedings is not disturbed, requires that the Supreme Court approve these broadcasts, photographs or recordings in advance and that the presiding judges and parties involved at the hearing must also consent to such coverage. The Chief Justice explained in his first address to the legislature that the plan for permitting broadcasting and photography of court proceedings would allow the public to develop a better understanding of the judicial process through observation of the workings of the court.

Some improvements to the judicial system can be brought about through changes in methods and procedures, renovation of existing facilities, addition of staff or increases in funding. However, some necessary improvements for the court system as a whole require the strength of statute.

The Judicial Council, in fulfilling its responsibility to assist and study the courts, becomes aware of problem areas within the system and is able to identify particular legislative measures which would help bring about needed improvements in the judiciary.

The Judicial Council has, in the past, sponsored annual judicial-legislative conferences at Callaway Gardens prior to the convening of the General Assembly. The conference provides a forum for communications between the two branches of government, an opportunity for discussion of specific problem areas in the state's judicial system as well as ideas for future court-related legislation. The last of these conferences to be held at Callaway Gardens was in December 1976. However, the Council has decided to replace the conference format with meetings with the legislature's judiciary committees at the State Capitol.

Many of the court-related bills passed by the 1977 General Assembly were primarily local in nature. However, there were some measures which affect the entire judicial system. (See Appendix Eight for review of individual measures.)

Among the bills enacted was one which increased the salaries of secretaries to superior court judges and to district attorneys. Another bill changed the minimum age for grand jurors from twenty-one to eighteen years. A fee schedule of applications for arrest and search warrants issued by justices of the peace was provided for in another measure.

Provision was made in another act that the responsibility for providing security and paying the cost of transferring prisoners subpoenaed as witnesses by a court in another state belongs to the requesting state. Another act provides that a law enforcement officer who takes custody of a person arrested by a private citizen cannot be held liable for false arrest or false imprisonment.

Several measures affecting the juvenile justice system were enacted, the most far-reaching of which was the Status Offender Act which regulates the detention of children who commit unruly acts or other offenses which would not be unlawful if they were adults.

The statistics on the judicial workload of the state's principal courts of record presented in the following sections cover the period from July 1, 1976 through June 30, 1977. These statistics, collected solely by the AOC in past years, were gathered for fiscal year 1977 primarily by district and trial court administrators, with forms, methodology and assistance provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Improvements in the methodology used for this year's case counting and analyzation efforts mean that for the first time, the number of criminal charges against a defendant were counted and that a category was added to show the number of independent post-judgment motions. Statistics for the probate courts include only a small portion of their total workload. Only traffic caseloads were counted in these courts.

Appellate Courts

The appellate court system of Georgia is composed primarily of the Supreme Court—the state's highest appellate court—and the Court of Appeals.

Seven justices serve on the Supreme Court of Georgia, and, during the three terms of court each year, they hear cases on appeal from the superior courts, the state courts, the city courts of Atlanta and Savannah and other similar courts and the juvenile courts. Cases may be brought from the Court of Appeals by certiorari for consideration by the Supreme Court. Those questions upon which the Court of Appeals is equally divided may also be considered by the Supreme Court.

The Court of Appeals has nine judges. A chief judge elected by the other judges of the court presides over the first of the three divisions of the court; the presiding judges for the other two divisions are designated by the chief judge.

The Court of Appeals has jurisdiction to correct the errors on appeal from the same lower

courts from which appeals lie to the Supreme Court, but only in those cases wherein jurisdiction is not conferred on the Supreme Court.

A change in the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals was effected by court rule after legislation which provided for comparable changes in jurisdiction was voided as unconstitutional by the state's high court. This in essence provided that appeals in cases of rape, armed robbery and kidnapping would be to the Court of Appeals, instead of to the Supreme Court, which formerly exercised jurisdiction in these matters. The court order also provides that all appeals involving the revenues of the state, election contests and cases in which the constitutionality of any municipal or county ordinance or other legislative enactment is in question be transferred to the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. These changes became effective August 1, 1977.

Physical changes were made to accommodate plans for permit-

ting broadcasting and photography in the Supreme Court. A long-needed permanent public address system was installed. Other changes included installation of outlets for use by television and radio personnel, drapery behind the bench and additional lighting. The Chief Justice employed an administrative aide who also serves as liaison attorney to the media.

In the Supreme Court, during fiscal year 1977, 1,499 cases were docketed; this figure includes applications for certiorari, interlocutory appeals and applications for certificate of probable cause to appeal denial of the writ of habeas corpus. There were, during this period, 739 opinions written by justices.

During fiscal year 1977, 1,751 cases—158 more than in the preceding year—were docketed in the Court of Appeals. Of these, 205 cases were withdrawn or transferred to the Supreme Court. Decisions were made in 1,546 cases, with 43 cases remaining open at the end of the fiscal year. Opinions were written for 1,503 cases.

Superior Courts

Georgia's general jurisdiction court is the superior court which operates out of each county in the state in judicial circuits of various sizes and populations. As of June 30, 1977, there were ninety superior court judges in forty-two judicial circuits in Georgia.

The number of superior court judges per circuit vary from one judge in thirteen judicial circuits to eleven in the most populous circuit (Atlanta). Circuit size also greatly varies from one county as in the case of the Atlanta Circuit (Fulton County) to eight counties in the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit. Georgia law requires court to be held in each county

in the state at least twice a year. Superior court judges are elected for four-year terms, and any vacancy occasioned by death or resignation is filled by gubernatorial appointment.

The superior court exercises exclusive constitutional jurisdiction in cases of divorce, criminal cases in which the sentence may be death or imprisonment in the penitentiary and in cases concerning title to land and equity.

The superior court is also empowered to correct errors of inferior judicatories by writ of certiorari. It also holds exclusive statutory jurisdiction in such matters as declaratory judgments, habeas corpus,

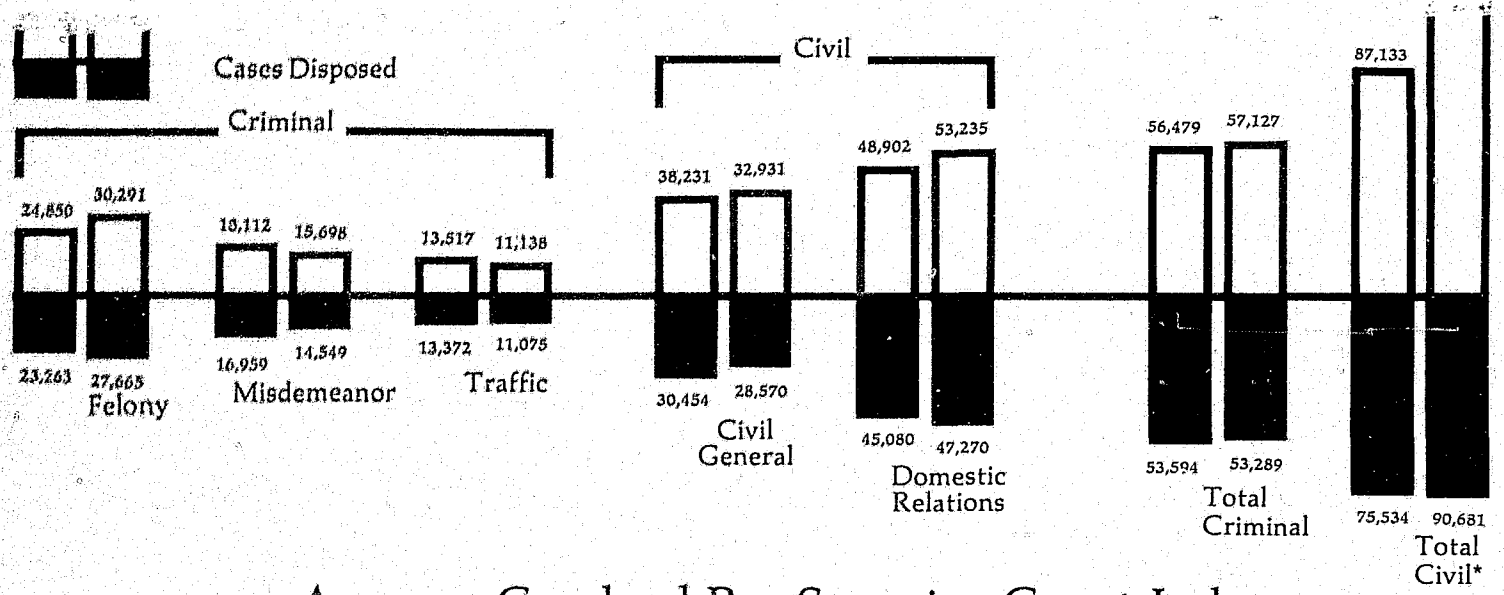
mandamus, quo warranto and prohibition, and any other jurisdiction authorized by statute.

Of the eight new judgeships created by the General Assembly last year upon the recommendation of the Judicial Council, two—in the Alapaha and Middle judicial circuits—were effective immediately, and so are included in the numerical total of judges for last year. Other new judgeships, effective after the end of fiscal year 1977 (on July 1, 1977), were in Clayton, Griffin, Gwinnett, Northern and Tallapoosa circuits; and the new judgeship for the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit became effective January 1, 1978.

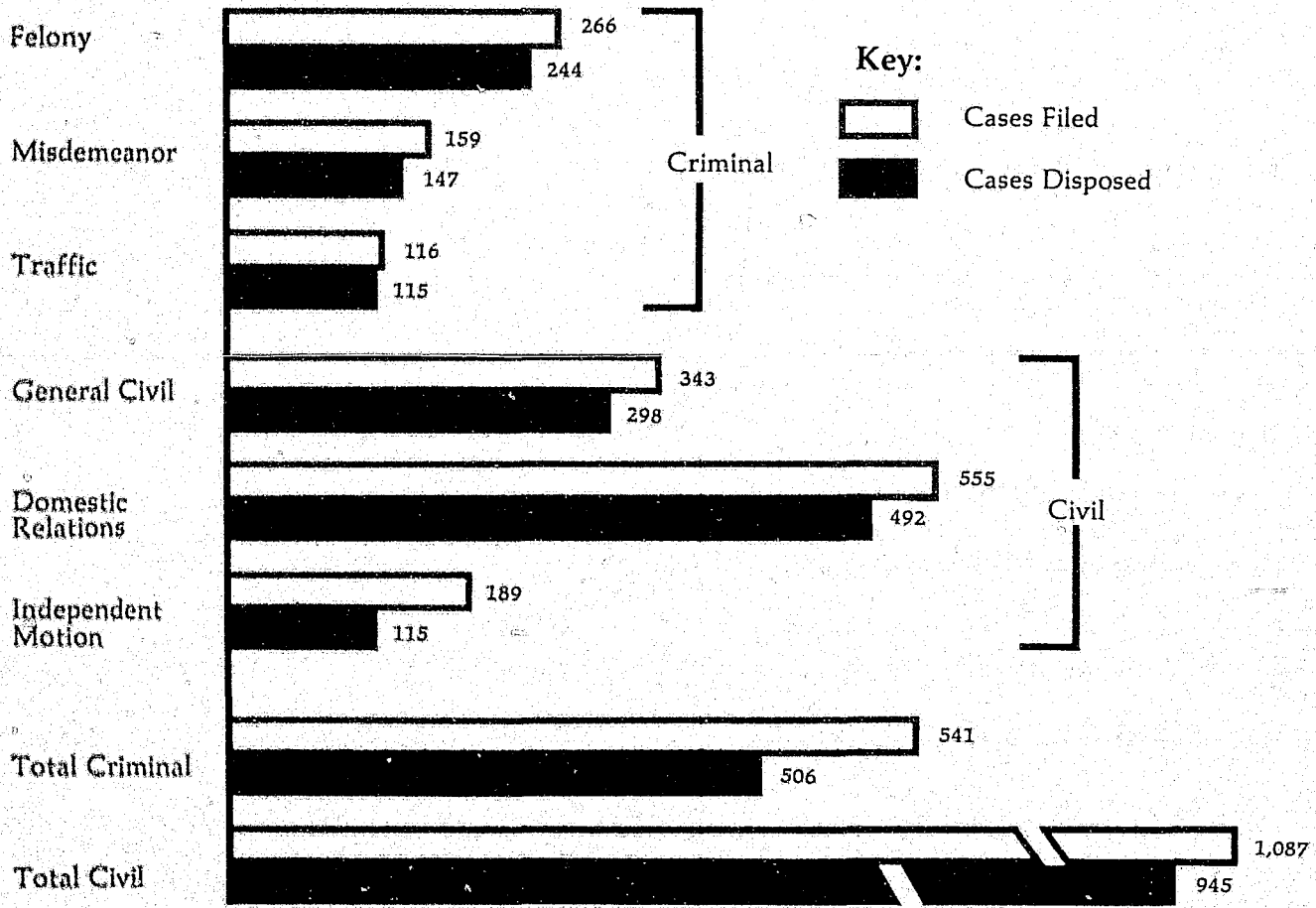
Total Superior Court Caseload by Filing Type: 1977

Circuit	Felonies		Misdemeanors		Traffic		Total Criminal	
	Filings	Dispositions	Filings	Dispositions	Filings	Dispositions	Filings	Dispositions
Alapaha	394	333	1,321	1,211	973	987	2,688	2,531
Alcovy	459	403	581	575	123	118	1,163	1,096
Atlanta	4,390	5,335	68	53	0	0	4,458	5,388
Atlantic	481	455	132	144	13	36	626	635
Augusta	679	937	388	355	8	8	1,075	1,300
Blue Ridge	397	427	539	562	1,431	1,449	2,367	2,438
Brunswick	527	482	214	256	2,295	2,250	3,036	2,988
Chattahoochee	938	1,099	600	504	149	140	1,687	1,743
Cherokee	588	530	896	784	1,806	1,783	3,290	3,097
Clayton	675	925	79	117	3	1	757	1,043
Cobb	1,256	1,324	0	10	0	0	1,256	1,334
Conasauga	216	273	566	590	235	275	1,017	1,138
Cordele	331	343	448	390	16	15	795	748
Coweta	469	611	339	209	156	155	964	975
Dougherty	573	544	0	14	0	0	573	558
Dublin	167	216	7	8	0	0	174	224
Eastern	1,499	1,589	503	328	0	0	2,002	1,917
Flint	198	197	223	240	30	42	451	479
Griffin	265	314	306	358	286	310	857	982
Gwinnett	366	325	16	18	2	4	384	347
Houston	310	286	0	0	0	0	310	286
Lookout Mt.	501	505	1,186	886	171	116	1,858	1,507
Macon	1,255	1,059	223	225	20	20	1,498	1,304
Middle	305	377	18	15	0	0	323	392
Mountain	114	124	186	177	109	107	409	408
Northeastern	432	642	306	404	407	517	1,145	1,563
Northern	227	222	244	234	115	98	586	554
Ocmulgee	698	781	623	733	224	230	1,545	1,744
Oconee	324	466	497	531	329	316	1,150	1,313
Ogeechee	294	403	63	92	4	15	361	510
Pataula	376	360	334	84	465	465	1,175	1,109
Piedmont	171	202	194	217	244	267	609	686
Rome	230	193	1,576	1,622	146	136	1,952	1,951
South Georgia	553	531	203	175	127	116	883	822
Southern	1,011	1,039	164	187	3	2	1,178	1,228
Southeastern	189	215	49	64	1	1	239	280
Stone Mt.	1,885	1,719	98	78	6	9	1,989	1,806
Tallapoosa	501	547	841	755	458	381	1,800	1,683
Tifton	407	258	182	134	19	12	608	404
Toombs	186	219	696	651	422	359	1,304	1,229
Waycross	360	490	319	320	328	330	1,007	1,140
Western	325	365	25	39	3	5	353	409

Civil General		Domestic Relations		Independent Motions		Total Civil		Total Caseload	
Filings	Dispositions	Filings	Dispositions	Filings	Dispositions	Filings	Dispositions	Filings	Dispositions
356	319	404	390	199	136	959	845	364	3,376
492	494	560	500	358	315	1,410	1,309	2,573	2,405
3,350	3,806	5,599	5,205	649	1,301	9,598	10,312	14,056	15,700
907	842	811	746	336	252	2,054	1,840	2,680	2,475
1,039	741	2,603	2,128	342	332	3,984	3,201	5,059	4,501
444	475	768	709	219	188	1,431	1,372	3,798	3,810
641	538	1,431	1,168	471	410	2,543	2,116	5,579	5,104
989	833	2,613	1,664	528	372	4,130	2,869	5,817	4,612
969	660	739	559	486	303	2,194	1,522	5,484	4,619
659	532	2,093	1,854	784	611	3,536	2,997	4,293	4,040
1,052	820	3,701	4,041	893	860	5,646	5,721	6,902	7,055
819	872	959	986	657	588	2,435	2,446	3,452	3,584
381	341	389	368	178	120	948	829	1,743	1,577
897	681	1,409	1,173	570	446	2,876	2,300	3,840	3,275
524	383	1,204	1,156	368	228	2,096	1,767	2,669	2,325
409	296	468	400	271	136	1,148	832	1,322	1,056
908	450	2,971	2,474	561	469	4,440	3,393	6,442	5,310
784	716	501	452	306	249	1,591	1,417	2,042	1,896
577	431	901	872	364	228	1,842	1,531	2,699	2,513
478	389	1,371	1,311	576	571	2,425	2,271	2,809	2,618
409	450	659	658	158	169	1,226	1,277	1,536	1,563
894	854	1,447	1,174	539	412	2,880	2,440	4,739	3,947
740	583	1,701	1,404	1,322	570	3,763	2,557	5,261	3,861
460	411	475	407	193	107	1,128	925	1,451	1,317
494	571	592	684	261	285	1,347	1,540	1,756	1,948
715	754	902	858	384	405	2,001	2,017	3,146	3,580
762	618	602	507	263	185	1,627	1,310	2,213	1,864
781	720	727	634	462	317	1,970	1,671	3,515	3,415
585	569	423	429	252	169	1,260	1,166	2,410	2,479
586	410	646	534	236	190	1,468	1,134	1,879	1,644
409	385	242	234	233	157	884	776	2,059	1,885
491	347	486	364	219	147	1,196	858	1,805	1,544
939	747	879	680	765	550	2,583	1,977	4,535	3,928
557	492	551	529	190	141	1,298	1,162	2,181	1,984
957	815	2,136	2,005	513	319	3,606	3,139	4,784	4,367
501	425	488	418	271	250	1,260	1,093	1,499	1,373
2,313	1,547	5,031	4,358	1,037	875	8,381	6,780	10,370	8,586
1,743	1,423	1,089	875	691	538	3,523	2,836	5,323	4,519
463	408	532	551	222	131	1,217	1,090	1,825	1,494
310	322	571	433	160	123	1,041	878	2,345	2,107
607	559	1,015	885	350	334	1,972	1,178	2,979	2,918
540	542	546	493	341	352	1,427	1,387	1,780	1,796



Average Caseload Per Superior Court Judge Fiscal Year 1977**



*For purposes of comparison, this does not include the category, "Independent Motion," as data on this type of case was first collected for FY 1977 caseloads.

**Does not include juvenile cases. Based on 96 superior court judges.

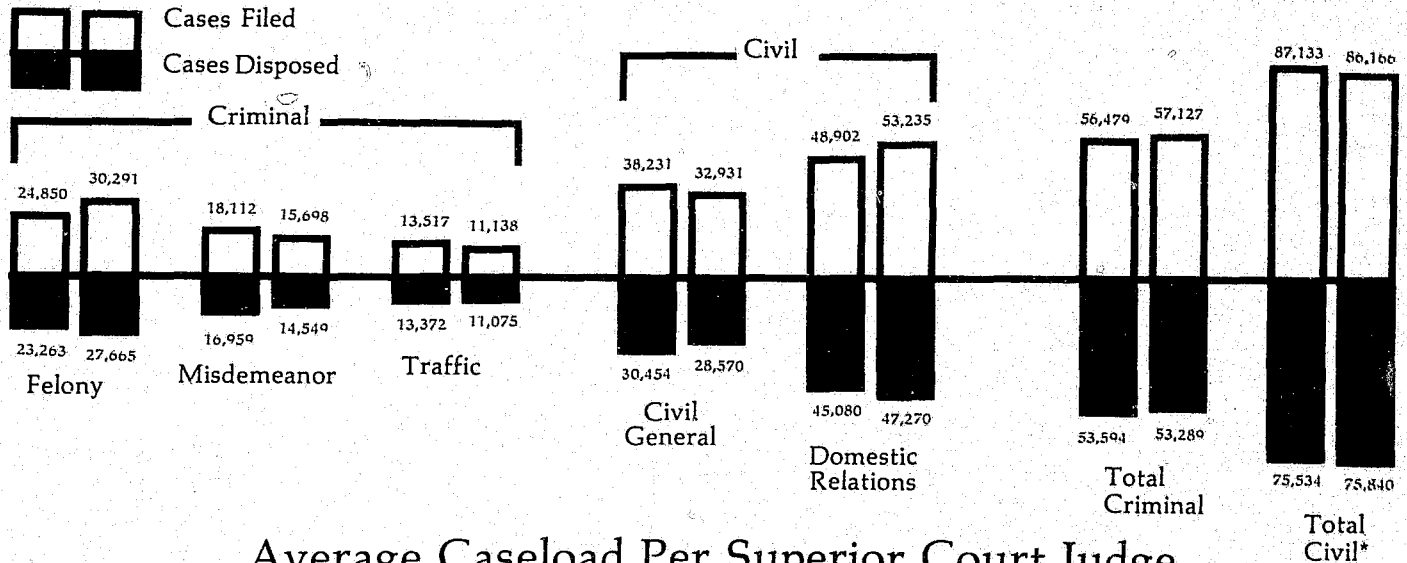
Key:

FY 1976 FY 1977



Superior Court Caseload—Statewide Totals

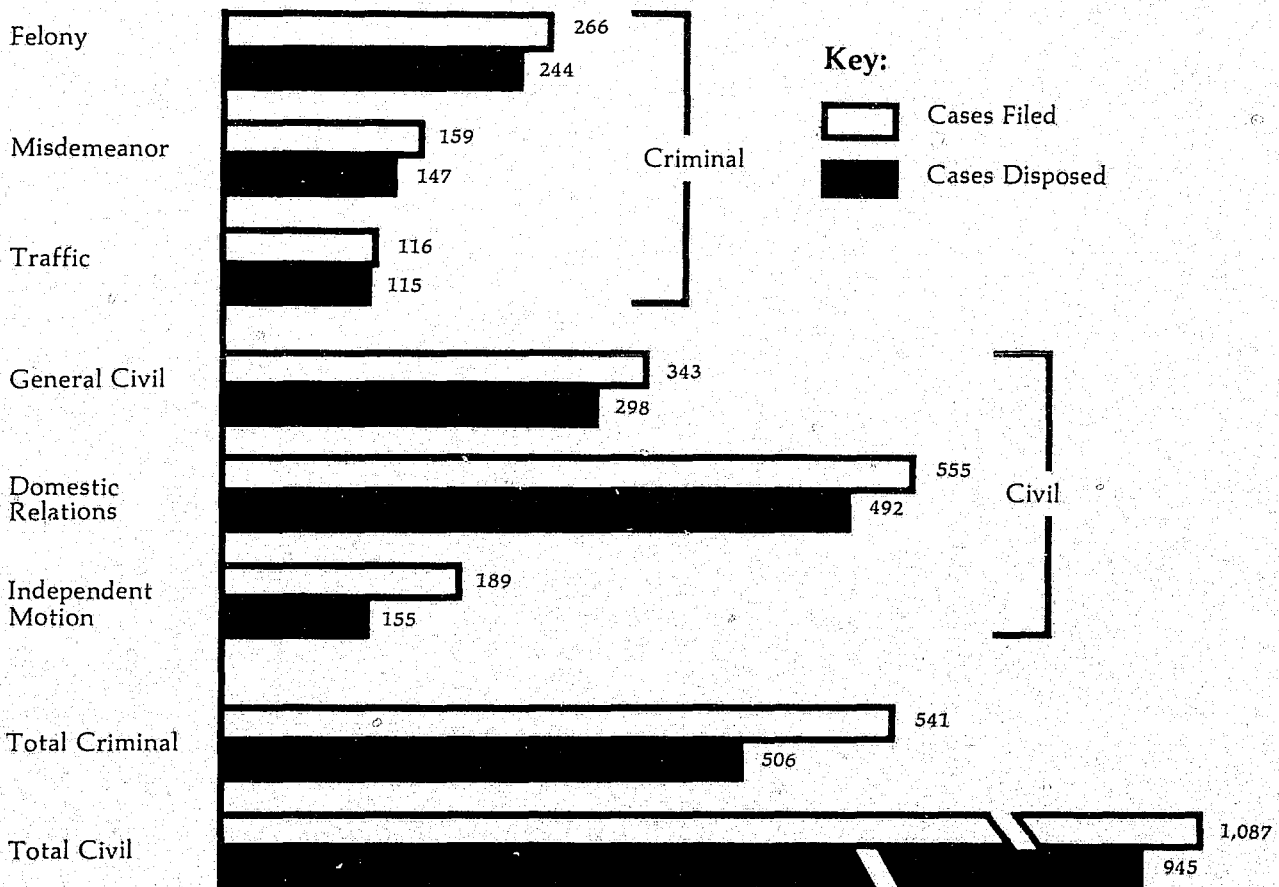
(Criminal cases based on number of defendants)



Average Caseload Per Superior Court Judge

(Criminal cases based on number of docket entries)

Fiscal Year 1977**



*For purposes of comparison, this does not include the category, "Independent Motion," as data on this type of case was first collected for FY 1977 caseloads.

**Does not include juvenile cases. Based on 96 superior court judges.

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State Courts

The state court system was created in 1970, combining the city, county, civil and criminal courts that had been operating in the state in previous years (*Ga. Laws 1970*, p. 679). The purpose of this merger was to unify and standardize these courts and to relieve the ever-mounting workload of this state's superior courts.

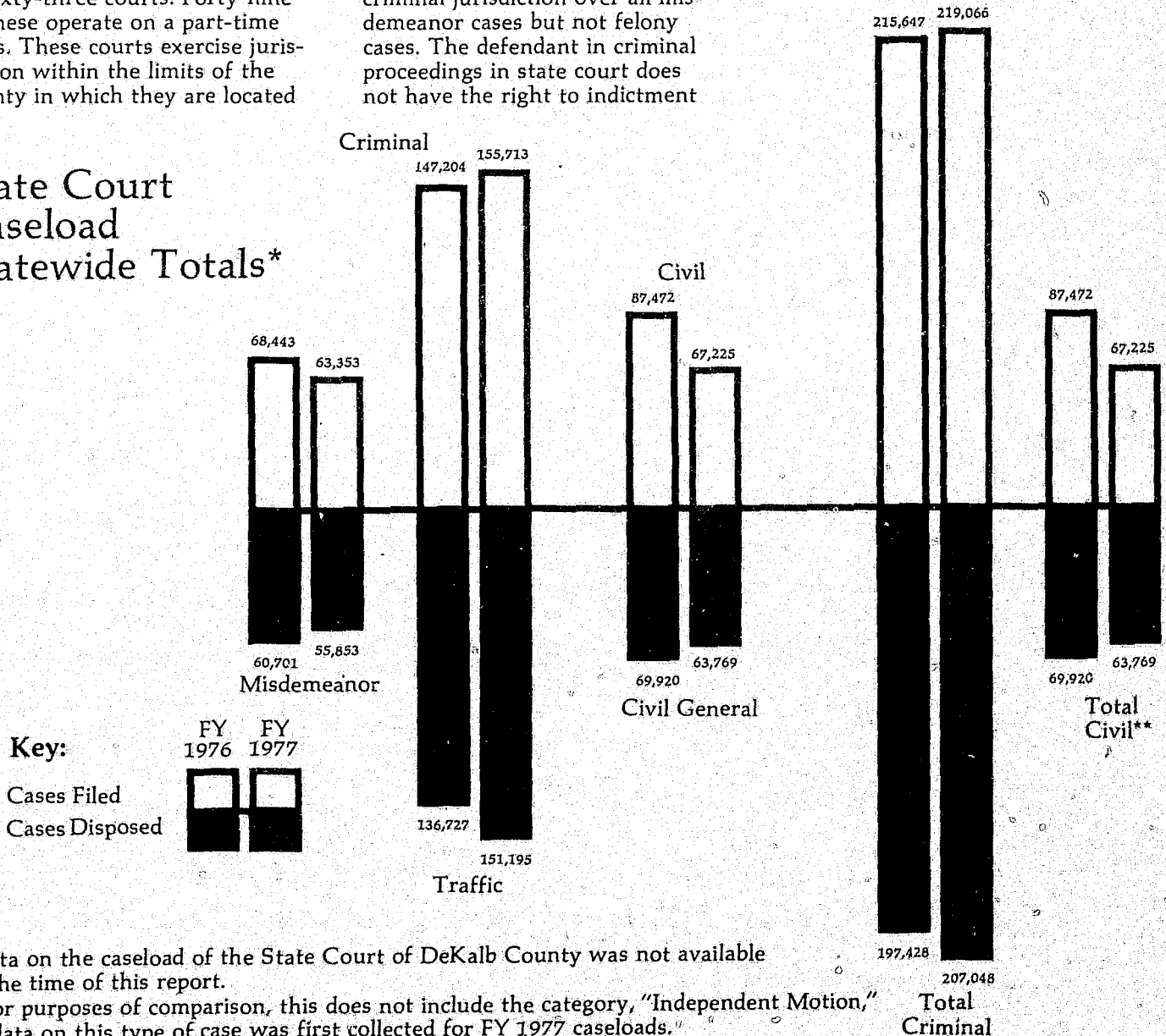
As of the end of fiscal year 1977, there were seventy-five state court judges operating out of sixty-three courts. Forty-nine of these operate on a part-time basis. These courts exercise jurisdiction within the limits of the county in which they are located

concurrent with the superior courts of such counties and are empowered to hear and dispose of all civil cases or proceedings of whatever nature, whether arising *ex contractu* or *ex delicto* except in *ex delicto* action where the original act creating the court or any amendment limited or excluded certain jurisdiction under the common law or by statute and except those matters vested exclusively in the superior courts. The state courts have criminal jurisdiction over all misdemeanor cases but not felony cases. The defendant in criminal proceedings in state court does not have the right to indictment

by the grand jury of the county. State court judges in Appling, Carroll, Coweta, Houston, Polk and Wayne counties also exercise juvenile court jurisdiction.

The consolidation of the Fulton County Civil and Criminal Courts into a single state court, in January 1977, was authorized by the General Assembly during its 1976 session. The move has provided more flexibility in the trials of civil and criminal cases.

State Court Caseload Statewide Totals*



*Data on the caseload of the State Court of DeKalb County was not available at the time of this report.

**For purposes of comparison, this does not include the category, "Independent Motion," as data on this type of case was first collected for FY 1977 caseloads.

State Court Caseload by Filing Type: FY 1977

County	Misdemeanor		Traffic		Civil General		Independent Motion		Total Caseload	
	Filings	Disposed	Filings	Disposed	Filings	Disposed	Filings	Disposed	Filings	Disposed
Appling	280	235	1,064	837	19	12	4	3	1,367	1,087
Baldwin	858	868	1,443	1,446	0	0	0	0	2,301	2,314
Bibb	2,770	2,653	2,260	2,174	415	359	57	34	5,502	5,220
Bryan	131	131	3,082	3,082	72	38	14	7	3,299	3,258
Bulloch	1,050	1,089	3,442	3,359	71	61	32	14	4,595	4,523
Burke	224	221	2,371	2,366	34	16	39	14	2,668	2,617
Candler	25	30	1,127	963	13	9	3	4	1,168	1,006
Carroll	696	685	2,239	2,265	564	431	298	88	3,797	3,469
Chatham	3,335	3,032	3,068	3,091	1,551	1,312	1,597	791	9,551	8,226
Cherokee	1,069	1,067	2,274	2,237	354	354	37	34	3,734	3,692
Clarke	627	387	161	125	191	199	53	70	1,032	781
Clayton	3,040	2,752	9,230	9,523	2,772	2,504	1,078	892	16,120	15,671
Clinch	380	377	457	457	25	15	0	0	862	849
Cobb	4,604	4,484	14,418	14,643	6,528	4,294	4,258	3,558	29,808	26,979
Coffee	496	283	1,848	1,665	39	57	23	15	2,406	2,020
Colquitt	722	769	1,594	1,758	63	54	21	8	2,400	2,589
Coweta	1,081	1,090	3,283	2,911	360	291	131	106	4,855	4,398
Decatur	719	709	1,334	1,289	15	8	15	7	2,083	2,013
DeKalb*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dougherty	3,321	3,300	3,668	3,657	3,160	2,831	1,340	441	11,489	10,229
Early	239	234	355	354	26	28	10	9	630	626
Echols	18	18	190	190	0	0	0	0	208	208
Effingham	122	116	2,245	2,107	60	62	16	17	2,443	2,302
Elbert	250	226	1,422	1,198	20	12	1	1	1,693	1,437
Emanuel	634	429	1,898	1,695	6	2	0	0	2,538	2,126
Evans	17	48	785	1,017	27	24	7	5	836	1,094
Forsyth	584	556	1,140	1,172	263	227	31	18	2,018	1,973
Fulton	10,809	7,368	11,137	10,245	44,158	45,012	35,751	35,201	101,555	97,826
Glynn	2,088	1,051	3,870	2,764	984	714	1,202	973	8,144	5,502
Grady	240	219	1,062	1,034	20	14	1	0	1,323	1,267
Gwinnett	1,966	1,732	566	375	2,178	1,961	655	554	5,365	4,622
Habersham	553	526	1,074	966	64	58	34	23	1,725	1,573
Hall	1,709	1,781	5,322	5,400	436	458	115	118	7,582	7,757
Houston	1,368	1,115	5,154	4,923	524	426	287	237	7,533	6,701
Jackson	247	244	2,810	2,764	116	96	67	25	3,240	3,129
Jefferson	408	410	1,556	1,558	21	25	7	6	1,992	1,999
Jenkins	79	88	604	611	12	7	1	0	696	706
Johnson	27	15	304	300	16	10	10	4	357	329
Laurens	575	465	4,307	4,169	242	225	63	32	5,187	4,891
Liberty	515	513	3,665	3,687	45	25	10	0	4,235	4,225
Long	96	84	786	757	10	7	0	1	892	849
Lowndes	2,009	2,164	6,385	6,481	174	127	28	16	8,596	8,788
Macon	192	229	658	815	58	71	22	17	930	1,132

*Data on the caseload of the State Court of DeKalb County was not available at the time of this report.

County	Misdemeanor		Traffic		Civil General		Independent Motion		Total Caseload	
	Filings	Disposed	Filings	Disposed	Filings	Disposed	Filings	Disposed	Filings	Disposed
Miller	56	77	474	490	8	5	0	0	538	572
Mitchell	419	427	1,014	1,049	6	7	1	0	1,440	1,483
Muscogee	1,728	1,189	1,730	1,232	251	213	8	5	3,717	2,639
Pierce	370	361	728	709	25	17	3	1	1,126	1,088
Polk	275	268	571	550	167	161	41	51	1,054	1,030
Putnam	158	158	611	611	0	0	0	0	769	769
Richmond	2,630	2,630	6,213	6,213	123	87	2	5	8,968	8,935
Screven	204	168	2,436	2,449	18	14	1	2	2,659	2,633
Spalding	1,138	1,008	3,591	3,375	19	19	26	20	4,774	4,422
Stephens	313	189	1,039	629	90	73	31	19	1,473	910
Sumter	621	459	1,293	1,281	129	114	95	57	2,138	1,911
Tattall	184	209	1,647	1,663	24	48	0	1	1,855	1,921
Thomas	433	433	2,718	2,718	35	24	5	5	3,191	3,180
Tift	1,247	1,207	5,304	5,275	204	155	0	0	6,755	6,637
Toombs	304	235	1,253	1,121	20	17	11	11	1,588	1,384
Treutlen	142	107	1,004	876	8	3	3	1	1,157	1,087
Troup	807	709	1,387	1,128	84	74	64	32	2,342	1,943
Walker	510	702	2,172	2,357	53	59	19	8	2,754	3,126
Ware	503	488	1,667	1,676	163	169	15	30	2,348	2,363
Washington	465	438	421	418	11	6	4	1	901	863
Wayne	189	157	839	920	45	35	4	5	1,077	1,117
Worth	469	441	1,782	1,765	36	33	63	12	2,350	2,251

Juvenile Courts

Juvenile matters in Georgia during fiscal year 1977 were handled by seven full-time juvenile court judges, twenty-nine part-time juvenile court judges and six state court judges and thirty-seven superior court judges who also serve as juvenile court judges and nineteen appointed referees.

In counties with 50,000 or more population, separate juvenile courts may be created and hear all juvenile matters. In counties with less than 50,000, superior court judges have jurisdiction over juvenile matters unless two successive grand

juries recommend that a juvenile court be established. Juvenile court judges are appointed for six-year terms by the superior court judges in their respective circuits.

The juvenile court exercises exclusive original jurisdiction over juvenile matters, according to Georgia law. The court may initiate proceedings concerning any child alleged to be delinquent, deprived, mentally ill or retarded. The court also has jurisdiction in custody cases and to appoint guardians. In the case of a criminal offense committed by a child under the age of 17,

the juvenile court has concurrent jurisdiction with the superior court. Appeals in all cases of final judgment are to the Court of Appeals or Supreme Court.

For the first time, the Council of Juvenile Court Judges was allotted an operating budget by the Georgia General Assembly. The appropriation for fiscal year 1977 provided for an executive director, a juvenile court specialist and a secretary for the Council.

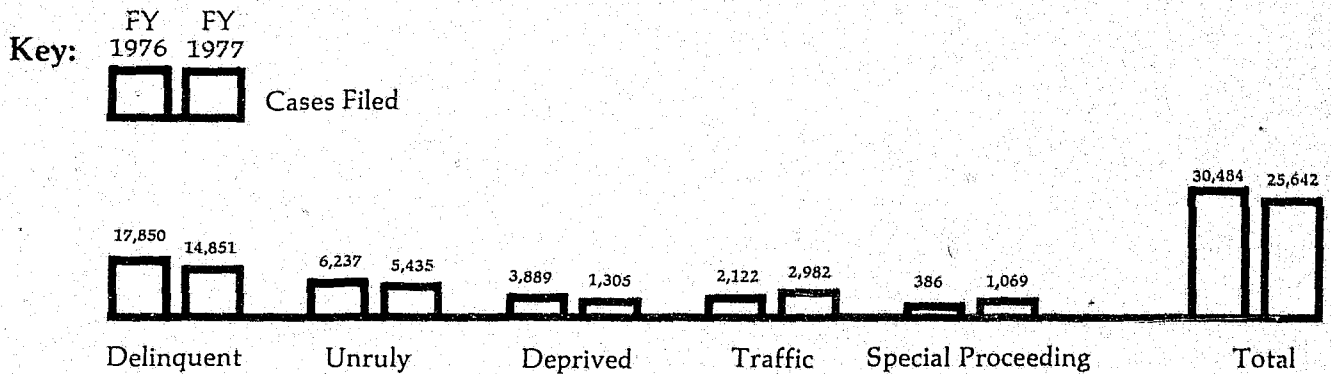
(See page 68 for the Annual Report of the Council of Juvenile Court Judges.)

Juvenile Court Caseload by Filing Type: FY 1977

Circuit	Delinquent		Unruly		Deprived		Traffic		Special Proceeding		Total	
	Number Children	Counts Disposed	Number Children	Counts Disposed	Number Children	Counts Disposed	Number Children	Counts Disposed	Number Children	Counts Disposed	Number Children	Counts Disposed
Alapaha	4	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	4
Alcoy	233	230	177	181	35	55	53	47	65	66	563	579
Atlanta	2,921	2,685	939	885	145	141	301	244	89	91	4,395	4,046
Atlantic	147	159	27	26	0	1	19	19	5	3	198	208
Augusta	439	430	222	233	1	1	1	1	176	194	839	859
Blue Ridge	217	224	138	142	32	52	147	146	0	0	534	564
Brunswick	609	611	430	442	145	156	101	93	18	16	1,303	1,318
Chattahoochee	1,109	1,459	325	415	134	215	233	252	15	19	1,816	2,360
Cherokee	399	449	269	302	36	70	57	50	70	51	831	922
Clayton	502	743	104	145	98	226	36	44	52	62	792	1,220
Cobb	1,210	1,516	582	614	170	503	133	123	80	68	2,175	2,824
Conasauga	237	299	182	201	0	1	117	121	2	2	538	624
Cordele	80	78	35	32	2	0	19	25	0	0	136	135
Coweta	483	607	162	192	21	45	220	198	12	11	898	1,053
Dougherty	666	692	242	253	3	13	127	129	0	0	1,038	1,087
Dublin	22	14	3	12	0	0	28	19	0	0	53	45
Eastern	1,142	1,292	215	227	138	292	274	289	62	59	1,831	2,159
Flint	129	138	31	38	2	8	41	34	6	4	209	222
Griffin	188	199	77	95	9	16	84	80	11	11	339	401
Gwinnett	260	247	172	137	44	127	45	46	0	0	521	557
Houston	145	317	11	25	0	0	20	26	2	2	178	370
Lookout Mtn.	240	240	80	97	31	30	36	22	12	10	399	399
Macon	476	619	188	207	8	17	146	119	89	52	907	1,014
Middle	267	314	34	39	0	3	79	63	3	0	383	419
Mountain	48	34	24	18	8	13	23	29	0	0	103	94
Northeastern	170	191	53	66	7	26	42	43	0	0	272	326
Northern	93	127	14	12	8	11	5	6	12	12	132	168
Ocmulgee	125	104	10	8	0	0	64	58	0	0	200	170
Oconee	106	118	25	29	0	0	53	53	6	6	190	206
Ogeechee	153	164	30	29	5	9	32	27	9	7	229	236
Pataula	98	87	2	3	0	0	8	9	1	1	109	100
Piedmont	98	111	39	21	2	2	28	21	16	10	183	165
Rome	403	446	219	231	49	64	92	88	74	72	837	901
South Georgia	183	122	10	10	0	0	24	24	0	0	187	156
Southern	284	412	49	54	12	13	121	121	1	1	467	601
Southwestern	63	98	34	38	0	0	49	57	1	0	147	193
Stone Mountain*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tallapoosa	148	159	69	66	4	13	16	27	14	14	251	279
Tifton	145	130	41	30	0	0	14	9	1	1	201	170
Toombs	56	61	17	21	0	0	16	16	0	0	89	98
Waycross*	334	N/A	122	N/A	13	N/A	67	N/A	132	N/A	668	N/A
Western	278	278	32	32	143	143	11	11	33	33	497	497

*Some circuit totals not available

Juvenile Court Caseload—Statewide Totals

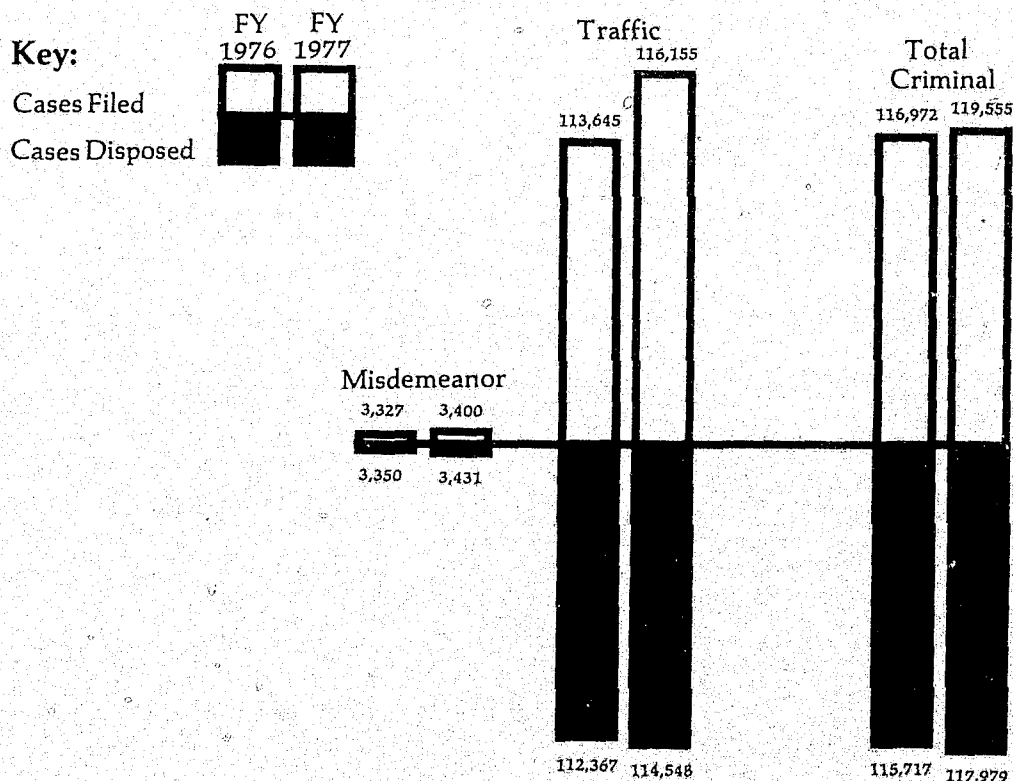


Probate Courts

One of the oldest courts in Georgia, the probate court was known as the court of ordinary until 1974. There is one probate court for each county in Georgia. The State Constitution specifical-

ly gives jurisdiction to the probate judge to try some traffic cases and game and fish violations; probate wills; grant letters of administration in intestate estates; supervise administrators

and executors; grant letters of guardianship relating to insane persons and lunacy proceedings, and hear habeas corpus cases except capital felonies when the prisoner is being held for extradition.



*This data on traffic and misdemeanor cases represents the criminal caseload of the probate courts, which is only a small portion of the total judicial workload of the probate courts.

Probate Court Criminal Caseload by Filing Type: FY 1977

County	Misdemeanor		Traffic		Total Cases	
	Filings	Disposed	Filings	Disposed	Filings	Disposed
Atkinson	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bacon	2	2	342	332	344	334
Baker	0	0	193	199	193	199
Banks	19	19	821	821	840	840
Barrow	0	0	683	683	683	683
Bartow	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ben Hill	23	23	563	562	586	585
Berrien	0	0	711	717	711	717
Bleckley	0	0	1,310	1,310	1,310	1,310
Brantley	3	5	257	315	260	320
Brooks	28	28	1,047	1,047	1,075	1,075
Butts	76	76	1,906	1,896	1,982	1,972
Calhoun	21	22	508	525	529	547
Camden	8	7	1,175	1,070	1,183	1,077
Catoosa	5	5	2,658	2,658	2,663	2,663
Charlton	1	1	686	679	687	680
Chattahoochee	24	24	513	513	537	537
Chattooga	28	22	2,477	2,409	2,505	2,432
Clay	82	82	365	351	447	433
Columbia	0	0	2,493	2,493	2,493	2,493
Cook	0	0	1,300	1,379	1,300	1,379
Crawford	35	35	1,068	960	1,103	995
Crisp	51	54	2,635	2,433	2,686	2,487
Dade	44	53	1,205	1,345	1,249	1,398
Dawson	28	28	306	290	334	318
Dodge	146	146	551	547	697	693
Dooly	41	41	2,226	2,215	2,267	2,256
Douglas	1	0	2,984	2,696	2,985	2,696
Fannin	26	26	164	164	190	190
Fayette	12	12	1,393	1,380	1,405	1,392
Floyd	50	43	4,448	4,386	4,498	4,429
Franklin	77	77	3,839	3,839	3,916	3,916
Gilmer	16	16	225	225	241	241
Glascock	9	9	31	34	40	43
Gordon	77	79	4,101	4,099	4,178	4,178
Green	45	45	1,472	1,427	1,517	1,472
Hancock	19	19	75	75	94	94
Haralson	43	59	1,088	1,130	1,131	1,189
Harris	12	12	1,325	1,325	1,337	1,337
Hart	135	144	1,262	1,368	1,397	1,512
Henry	24	23	573	549	597	572
Heard	24	24	5,826	5,780	5,850	5,804
Irwin	21	21	708	731	729	752
Jasper	54	54	759	759	813	813
Jeff Davis	116	97	501	468	617	565
Jones	7	7	1,514	1,514	1,521	1,521
Lamar	0	0	1,070	985	1,070	985

County	Misdemeanor		Traffic		Total Cases	
	Filings	Disposed	Filings	Disposed	Filings	Disposed
Lanier	0	0	387	387	387	387
Lee	49	49	1,421	1,421	1,470	1,470
Lincoln	102	102	479	479	581	581
Lumpkin	42	45	254	266	296	311
Madison	68	68	936	936	1,004	1,004
Marion	10	10	615	615	625	625
McDuffie	68	72	1,853	1,863	1,921	1,935
McIntosh	0	0	1,819	1,927	1,819	1,927
Meriwether	29	29	2,393	2,393	2,422	2,422
Monroe	79	74	2,970	2,903	3,049	2,977
Montgomery	22	22	370	369	392	391
Morgan	70	70	2,578	2,541	2,648	2,611
Murray	87	85	1,213	1,237	1,300	1,322
Newton	85	84	2,371	2,371	2,456	2,455
Oconee	0	0	640	583	640	583
Oglethorpe	26	26	599	599	625	625
Paulding	7	6	1,675	1,660	1,682	1,666
Peach	29	29	1,535	1,535	1,564	1,564
Pickens	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pike	0	0	1,015	1,010	1,015	1,010
Pulaski	0	0	666	666	666	666
Quitman	19	19	357	356	376	375
Rabun	73	68	586	448	659	516
Randolph	37	37	1,058	1,058	1,095	1,095
Rockdale	141	141	3,300	3,290	3,441	3,431
Schley	2	2	118	118	120	120
Seminole	0	0	448	448	448	448
Stewart	49	43	653	596	702	639
Talbot	62	60	1,508	1,433	1,570	1,493
Taliaferro	38	96	1,217	1,217	1,255	1,313
Taylor	13	13	1,331	1,183	1,344	1,196
Telfair	42	42	931	931	973	973
Terrell	100	99	509	502	609	601
Towns	8	8	228	212	236	220
Turner	148	152	1,898	1,989	2,046	2,141
Twiggs	84	84	1,518	1,498	1,602	1,582
Union	33	33	392	392	425	425
Upson	20	20	2,607	2,614	2,627	2,634
Walton	46	46	1,447	1,447	1,493	1,493
Warren	0	0	1,293	1,293	1,293	1,293
Webster	5	5	188	188	193	193
Wheeler	16	16	642	626	658	642
White	1	1	460	460	461	461
Whitfield	176	157	4,078	3,706	4,254	3,863
Wilcox	10	7	800	659	810	666
Wilkes	39	39	1,151	1,151	1,190	1,190
Wilkinson	26	26	288	287	314	313

Other Courts

Although this *Annual Report* covers primarily the principal courts of record of Georgia, there are more than two thousand courts operating in the state. These include special civil and criminal courts which have partial state court jurisdiction but are in localities in which the business of a city court has grown to the extent that the court has been converted to a civil or criminal court or divided into each. Courts with partial state court jurisdiction include the Civil Court of Richmond

County, the Civil Court of Bibb County and the Baldwin, Echols and Putnam County Courts.

Many other courts throughout the state serve special needs. More than 1,500 justice of the peace courts account for the majority of these other courts. There are also approximately 450 police, mayors, municipal, criminal and city council courts, four magistrate courts and more than fifty small claims courts in Georgia.

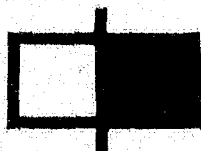
During the year, the judges, clerks and bailiffs of the state's

small claims courts officially formed a statewide organization—the Georgia Small Claims Courts Association. A constitution was adopted and officers were elected. Judge C. L. Gunby of Baldwin County is president of the new organization. Other officers are Judge Ellen Hobby of Troup County, first vice president; Judge John O. Clements of Spalding County, second vice president; Judge George W. Eisel, III, of Hancock County, secretary-treasurer; and Judge John E. Bond of Henry County, chaplain.

Statewide Caseload Comparisons*

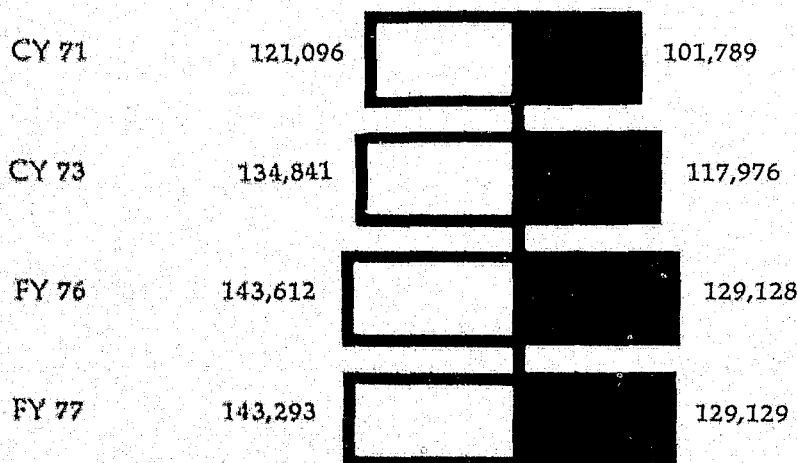
Key:

Total Cases Filed



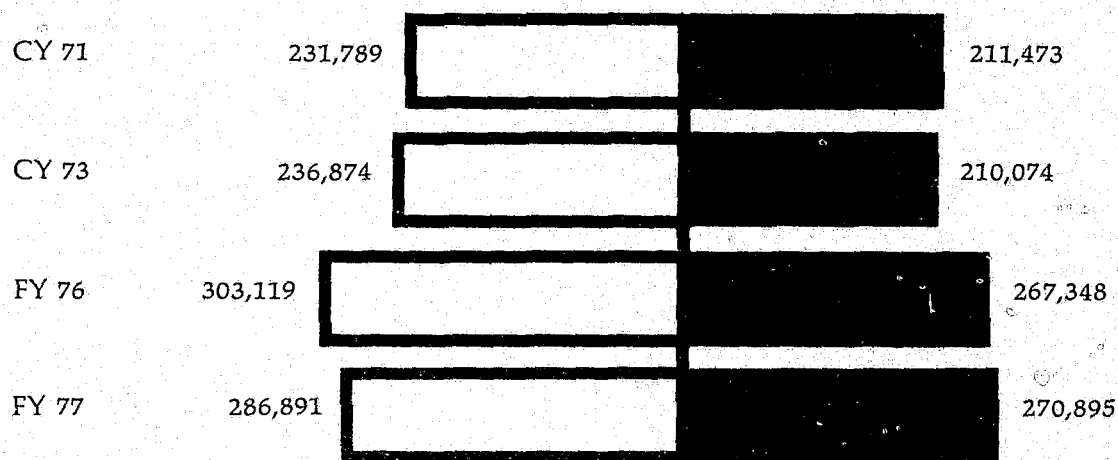
Total Cases Disposed

Superior Court Caseload

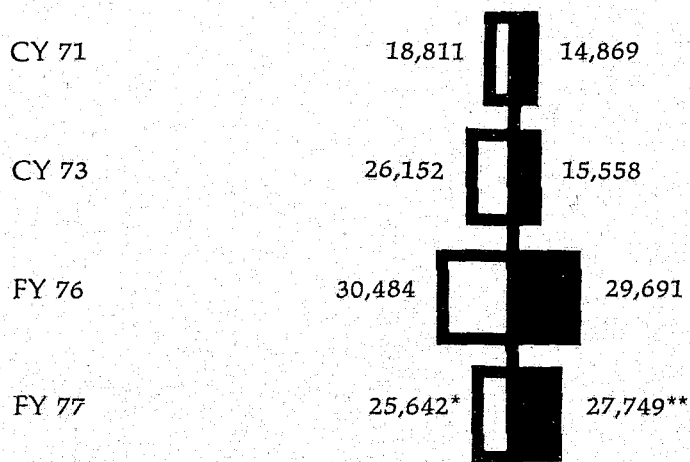


*These years were selected for comparison because these are the only years for which the AOC has complete statewide caseload data.

State Court Caseload



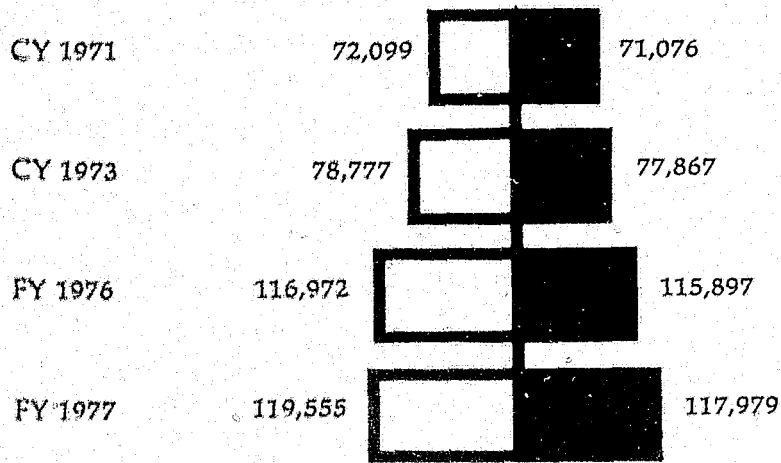
Juvenile Court Caseload

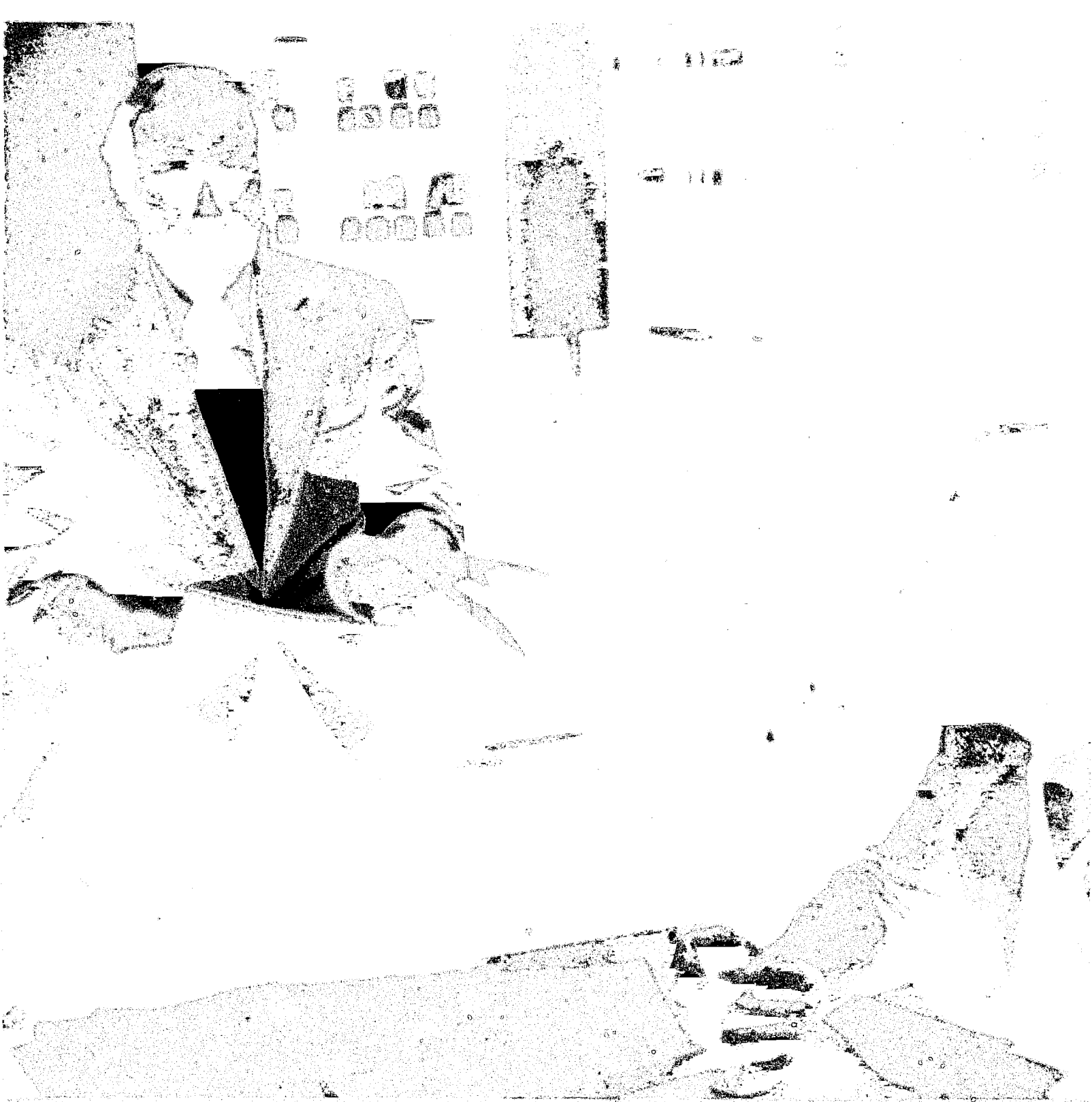


*Data from Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit was not available.

**Data from Stone Mountain and Waycross Judicial Circuits was not available.

Probate Court Caseload





Planning for the future of the courts and for the allocation of federal funds for court improvements and projects is the primary responsibility of the newly created Judicial Planning Committee. The Committee develops a yearly plan which is administered on the local and district level.

Other Judicial Agencies

The Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts has broadly defined responsibilities to assist judicial personnel and to study the operations of the courts system and make recommendations for improvements. There are several other judicial agencies of the State which are charged with very specific and more limited responsibilities. The Judicial Council/AOC functions as fiscal and budget officer for several of these agencies.

The Board of Court Reporting, under the Judicial Council, has responsibility for regulating the practice of court reporting and related duties.

The Judicial Nominating Commission, as its name indicates, is responsible for evaluating nominees for vacancies on the appellate, superior and state courts.

The Judicial Qualifications Commission is empowered to investigate complaints about judges' conduct and can make recommendations to the Supreme Court for disciplinary action. This commission also issues opinions, upon request, about the propriety of particular actions or situations.

The Sentence Review Panel of the Superior Courts is empowered to reduce or affirm sentences totaling five years or more which have been imposed by superior court judges.

Following are reviews of the activities of these judicial agencies during fiscal year 1977. The annual report of the fiscal year 1977 activities of the Council of Juvenile Court Judges, another judicial agency, begins on page 68.

Board of Court Reporting

In fiscal year 1977, the Board of Court Reporting continued its work of certifying court reporters and standardizing procedures. Two certification tests were conducted, with fifty-two court reporters receiving certification, bringing the total number of certified court reporters to 348. The number of official court reporters, or those assigned to a specific court, reached 130. For the first time since the creation of the Board, twenty-nine court reporters had their permits revoked for failure to renew them.

The Board of Court Reporting, created in 1974 under the Judicial Council by the Georgia Court Reporting Act (see Appendix Five), has a number of functions, all subject to review by the Judicial Council. These functions include regulating the practice of court reporting, certifying court reporters by special examination, setting license fees and making general rules and regulations.

The Board was also vested with the power, by an amendment to the act creating the Judicial Council, of establishing fees and setting guidelines for transcripts (see Appendix Six).

Among the Board's 1977 activities was the formation of the Georgia Certified Court Reporters Association to promote higher standards for the

profession of court reporting. Most of the association's work last year revolved around revising reporting tests and the procedures for administering them.

In its rule-making capacity, the Board placed a forty-five-day deadline on returning applications for certification and placed a \$15 charge on each issue of a certification permit.

Board of Court Reporting

William DeLoach, chairman
Savannah Court Reporter

Frank W. Seiler, vice chairman
Savannah Attorney

Judge Hal Bell
Superior Court
Macon Judicial Circuit
Macon

Paul C. Blanchard
Augusta Court Reporter

Harry Dicus
Columbus Attorney

Stuart Huseby
Atlanta Court Reporter

Joe D. Randles
Rossville Court Reporter

Robert L. Doss, Jr., secretary
Director
Administrative Office of the
Courts

Leslie Johnson, clerk
Atlanta

Georgia Certified Court Reporters Association

Stuart Huseby, *chairman*
Atlanta

J. Dan Black, *treasurer*
Decatur

James R. White, *member-at-large*
Atlanta

Paul C. Blanchard, *vice chairman*
Augusta

Thomas E. Darity, *member-at-large*
Perry

Jackie Stevens, *secretary*
Decatur

Carl O. Schanzleh, *member-at-large*
Atlanta

Judicial Nominating Commission

During fiscal year 1977 the Judicial Nominating Commission evaluated nominees for seventeen judicial offices. The Commission, which was created in 1975 to assist the Governor in appointing qualified persons to judicial offices, forwarded to the Governor its evaluation of nominees for two vacancies each on the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals and for twelve vacancies in the superior courts and one in the state courts.

The Commission, which consists of five gubernatorial appointees and five members of the Younger Lawyers Section of the State Bar, assists the Governor by soliciting nominations for vacancies in the courts and then evaluating these nominees.

As part of this process of evaluation, the prospective judge completes a questionnaire relating to his qualifications and furnishes the Commission with a legal article or brief which he authored. The Commission subsequently conducts its own investigation of each nominee, aided by information from

lawyers who are familiar with the nominee or relevant information from members of the bar in the jurisdiction where the vacancy exists. Finally, the Commission considers all the pertinent information and submits a list of not more than five names

for each vacancy to the Governor.

Since its creation the Commission has acted on two Supreme Court and three Court of Appeals vacancies and vacancies in nineteen superior courts and four state courts.

Judicial Nominating Commission

H. H. Perry, Jr., *chairman*
Albany Attorney

Wilton D. Harrington
President-elect
State Bar of Georgia
Eastman

A. G. Cleveland, Jr., *secretary*
Atlanta Attorney

W. Stell Hite
Atlanta Attorney

Harold G. Clarke
President
State Bar of Georgia
Forsyth

O. T. Ivey
Augusta Attorney

Alton Draughon
Pinhurst Attorney

Cubbage Snow, Jr.
Macon Attorney

A. James Elliott
Atlanta Attorney

Felker W. Ward, Jr.
Atlanta Attorney

Judicial Qualifications Commission

During fiscal year 1977, the Judicial Qualifications Commission considered seventy-six matters concerned with complaints against judges and disposed of seventy. Upon the Commission's recommendation, one judge agreed to retire, and nine files were closed by calling to the attention of the judge involved the particular canons of the Code of Judicial Conduct. One formal hearing was held, but a decision had not been reached by the Supreme Court on this matter at the end of the fiscal year. As of June 30, 1977, two formal hearings had been scheduled and thirty-four matters were pending.

The Judicial Qualifications Commission was organized in 1973 for the purpose of conducting investigations and hearings concerning the removal or retirement of judges of any court in

the state. Upon receiving a complaint, the Commission notifies the judge as to the nature of the complaint, and, based on the judge's response, the Commission decides whether to close the file or conduct an independent investigation. Following such an investigation, the Commission has the power to make recommendations to the

Supreme Court for disciplinary action.

Aside from its investigations, the Commission rendered eight formal opinions during 1977. These deal with such matters as campaign contributions, acceptance of personal gifts and appropriate extra-judicial activities, such as serving as a guardian for an elderly family member.

Judicial Qualifications Commission

H. H. Perry, Jr., *chairman*
Albany Attorney

Howard Ector, *vice chairman*
Trust Company Bank
Atlanta

Amilee Graves
The Tri-County Advertiser
Clarksville

Frank C. Jones
Macon Attorney

Judge A. Richard Kenyon
Superior Court
Northeastern Judicial Circuit
Gainesville

Judge Byron H. Mathews
State Court of Coweta County
Newnan

Superior Courts Sentence Review Panel

During the past fiscal year, the four quarterly panels of the Superior Courts Sentence Review Panel reviewed a total of 1,035 cases, approximately one-third more than were reviewed during the previous year. The sentences that are subject to review by the panel are those totaling five years or more which have been fixed and imposed by a judge, except in death penalty cases, as provided by the Judge

Sentencing Act (*Ga. Laws 1974, p. 352*). The panel is composed of three superior court judges plus one supernumerary member, appointed by the president of the Council of Superior Court Judges to serve for three-month terms.

Review of sentence is not automatic and an application for review must be filed with the clerk of the sentencing superior court within thirty days of the date the sentence is imposed or

within thirty days of the date the remittur from the appellate court is made on the judgment of the sentencing court, whichever occurs last. The panel must consider all available information on each case referred to it to determine if the imposed sentence is excessively harsh, and, if a majority agree that it is too harsh, the Sentence Review Panel will reduce the length of the sentence; the panel cannot increase any sentence.

Of the 1,035 cases reviewed by the panel last year, eighty sentences were reduced for a cumulative reduction rate of 7.73 percent for 1977. Since its inception, the panel has reviewed a total of 1,952 sentences, affirmed 1,817 and reduced 135 for an overall cumulative reduction rate of 6.92 percent from July 1, 1974, through June 30, 1977.

Administrative Board

Judge Luther Alverson, *Chairman*
Atlanta Judicial Circuit
Atlanta

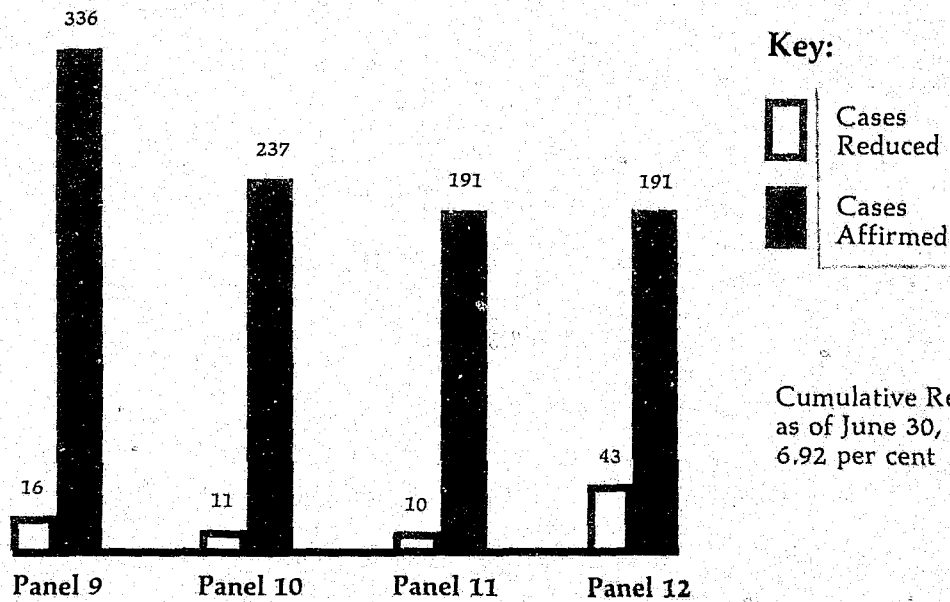
Judge Frank S. Chatham, Jr.
Eastern Judicial Circuit
Savannah

Judge James B. O'Connor
Coastal Judicial Circuit
Eastman

Superior Courts Sentence Review Panel

Fiscal Year 1977

Caseload Summary



Three-Year Comparison of Caseload of Sentence Review Panel



Superior Courts Sentence Review Panel of Georgia
Fiscal Year 1977

Panel IX
(July 1 through
September 30, 1976)

Judge Walter C. McMillan, Jr.
Chairman
Middle Judicial Circuit
Sandersville

Judge Oscar D. Smith, Jr.
Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit
Columbus

Judge Sam L. Whitmire
Flint Judicial Circuit
Barnesville

Judge James L. Bullard
Supernumerary
Cobb Judicial Circuit
Marietta

Panel X
(October 1 through
December 31, 1976)

Judge George A. Horkan, Jr.
Chairman
Southern Judicial Circuit
Moultrie

Judge Thomas W. Ridgway
Alcovy Judicial Circuit
Monroe

Judge Hugh D. Sosebee
Flint Judicial Circuit
Forsyth

Judge George L. Jackson
Supernumerary
Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit
Gray

Panel XI
(January 1 through
March 31, 1977)

Judge Harold R. Banke, *chairman*
Clayton Judicial Circuit
Milledgeville

Judge Joseph B. Duke
Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit
Milledgeville

Judge John R. Harvey
Atlantic Judicial Circuit
Pembroke

Judge Joseph C. Jackson
Supernumerary
Coweta Judicial Circuit
LaGrange

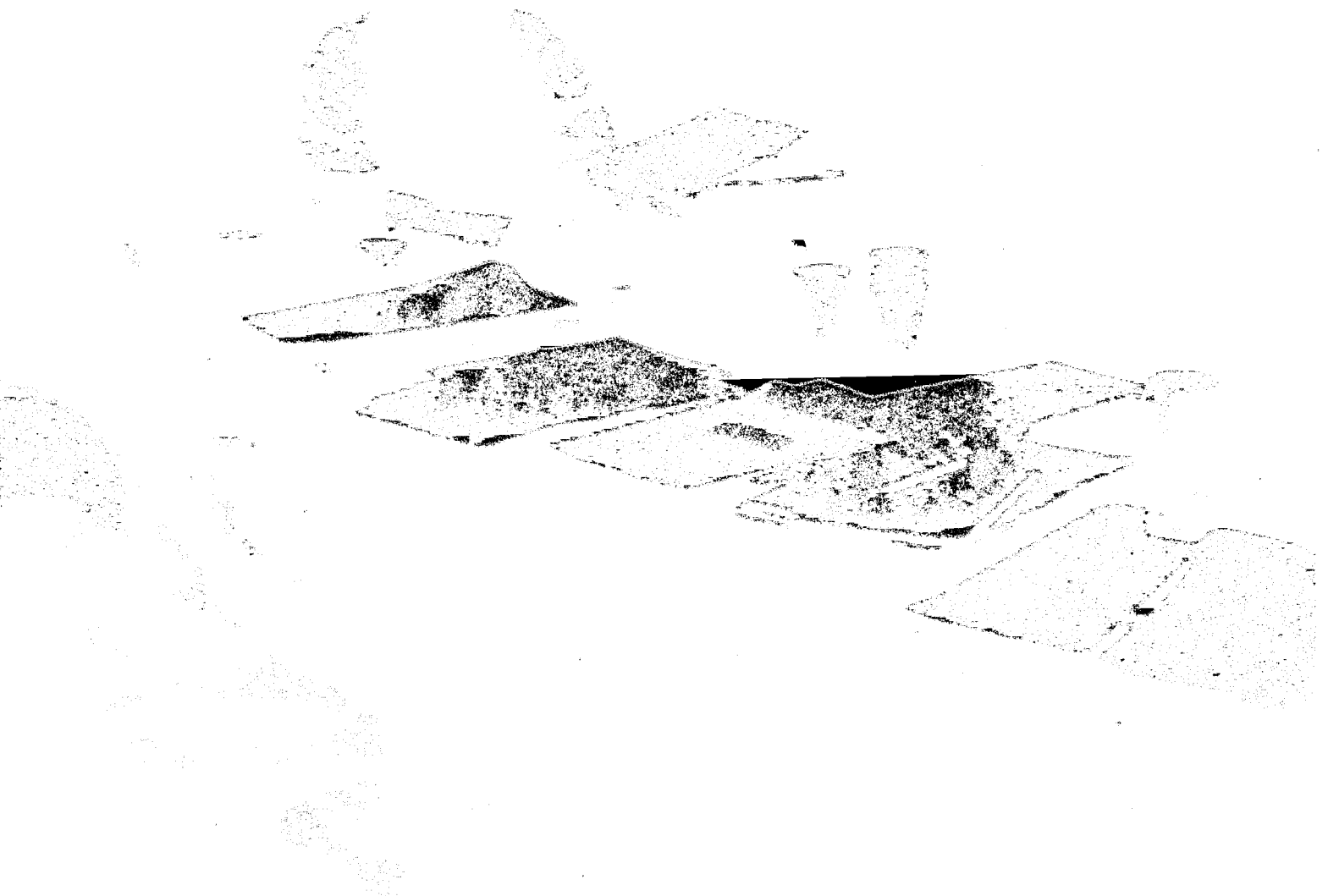
Panel XII
(April 1 through
June 30, 1977)

Judge Howell Cobb Ravan
Chairman
Cobb Judicial Circuit
Marietta

Judge W. G. Elliott
Southern Judicial Circuit
Valdosta

Judge Willis B. Hunt, Jr.
Houston Judicial Circuit
Perry

Judge William F. Blanks
Supernumerary
Southwestern Judicial Circuit
Americus



Developing a comprehensive program of continuing educational opportunities for the state's judicial personnel is the first order of business for the Board of Trustees named for the Judicial College of Georgia.

Annual Report

Council of Juvenile Court Judges

Executive Committee, 1977

- Judge Rex R. Ruff, Juvenile Court of Cobb County,
President
- Judge Romae T. Powell, Juvenile Court of Fulton
County, *President-elect*
- Judge H. M. Crane, Jr., Juvenile Court of Bartow
County, *Vice President*
- Judge Grady Dickey, Juvenile Court of Chatham
County, *Treasurer*
- Judge George W. Brown, Jr., Juvenile Court of Hall
County, *Secretary*
- Judge Dennis Jones, Juvenile Court of DeKalb
County, *Immediate Past President*



Judge Rex R. Ruff

The State's juvenile justice system is made up of many components. The courts which exercise jurisdiction in juvenile matters have a special responsibility for effectively using the other resources and services of the juvenile justice system.

In an effort to improve the administration of justice in the juvenile courts, the Council of Juvenile Court Judges, which is composed of judges exercising jurisdiction in juvenile matters in Georgia, placed particular emphasis on education, records keeping and caseload reporting systems during fiscal year 1977.

The Council also developed a benchbook and revised its *Manual for Juvenile Court Judges*. Information on the resources and operations of the juvenile courts was collected for later publication.

The Council of Juvenile Court Judges continued to serve in various advisory capacities on juvenile justice matters and worked closely with the Judicial Council/AOC, the Division of Youth Services of the Department of Human Resources (DHR), the Judicial Planning Committee and the Judicial College of Georgia.

The Council, created in 1971 by the General Assembly (Ga. Code Ann. 24A-501 (a) (b)), is empowered with authority to establish general policies for the conduct of courts exercising jurisdiction over juveniles and may promulgate uniform rules and forms governing procedures and practices of the courts.

Education

In the area of education, the Council and its staff were directly involved in developing and conducting training workshops. A seminar for juvenile court probation officers of the independent systems was presented. This seminar, the second of its type, served thirty-two persons, both line staff and supervisors. A workshop for juvenile court judges was held and another one was developed during fiscal year 1977.

The Council is represented by its president on the Board of Trustees of the newly created Judicial College of Georgia. The college will be responsible for developing a comprehensive program of continuing judicial education.

Also, the Council made application jointly with the Division of Youth Services for federal funds for a workshop for direct service personnel. The grant will provide for training of almost four hundred persons.

Publications

The Council's *Manual for Juvenile Court Judges* went into its second printing during the year. Revisions were sent to judges who had received the earlier edition, for insertion in the loose-leaf *Manual*. The *Manual* contains model legal forms and addresses almost all aspects of juvenile court procedures.

Development of a *Benchbook for Juvenile Court Judges* was well under way during the last fiscal year, with printing scheduled for early fall. The benchbook, modeled on local benchbooks prepared for the juvenile courts of Fulton and Cobb counties, is designed as a resource book for juvenile court judges and referees on the bench. The benchbook contains an indexed compilation of statutes and case law and permits reference to these as the need arises during hearings.

Records, Caseload Reporting

The activities of the Council of Juvenile Court Judges in the areas of records keeping and caseload reporting were coordinated whenever possible. The Council's juvenile courts consultant worked with the AOC's records management consultant on the model dockets project. Model dockets were ordered by juvenile courts of fifty-nine counties.

County	Caseload
Chatham	22
Clayton	34
Cobb	50
DeKalb	55-60
Dougherty	57
Floyd	56
Fulton	24
Glynn	60
Hall	55
Muscogee	38.9
Richmond	150
Spalding	17
Troup	75
Upson	176 (one officer)
Whitefield	60-70
Not Available: Bibb, Clarke	

Development was begun on a system for juvenile court caseload reporting which would employ a tear-out second sheet in the juvenile court docket book. This would allow computer analysis of case information. Progress on the system, one of two for gathering data on the work of the juvenile courts, was temporarily halted during the year because the appropriations for the year fell short

of expectations and the funds necessary for its completion were not received.

Data on the juvenile courts' caseloads for fiscal year 1977 was collected by the AOC and by district court administrators who used original papers and dockets in each juvenile court in the state and employed standard definitions of terminology from county to county. Previous reporting methods on the work of the juvenile courts—annual reports of individual courts and a batch reporting system used by the Division of Youth Services—did not provide adequate information for comparing workloads, forecasting needs and analyzing the effectiveness of new programs.

New Statutes

Several measures passed by the 1977 General Assembly brought changes in the area of juvenile justice (see Appendix Eight for review of legislation). The most far-reaching changes were provided in the "Status Offender Act" which provides for a comprehensive revision to the Juvenile Court Code. Other measures provided for a revision of the adoption laws, redefined "child" as it relates to deprived children, provided for revision of the juvenile court code relating to hospitalization for mentally ill and mentally retarded children and other changes.

Efforts to collect information about the juvenile courts and the juvenile court judges themselves were begun by the Council of Juvenile Court Judges during the last fiscal year. Two studies developed during the year collected information on the resources and operations of the juvenile courts and on the qualifications of the judges who serve them.

Judicial Personnel

During the past fiscal year, there were seven full-time and thirty-one part-time juvenile court judges; six state court judges and thirty-eight superior court judges also heard juvenile cases.

Results of the study of the qualifications of juvenile court judges reveal a favorable comparison with the results of a national survey of juvenile court judges made in 1973. From the study a composite can be drawn: the Georgia juvenile court judge is a male law school graduate, over fifty years of age, with a substantial legal background.

The other study of the juvenile courts reveals wide differences in resources of the juvenile courts throughout the state. The annual salary reported by full-time juvenile court judges ranges from \$16,500 to \$36,200, for an average of \$29,515.

Part-time juvenile court judges reported a salary range from \$1,200 to \$21,000, an average of \$8,188.

Reported annual operating expenditures and the number of support personnel also vary widely. Seven courts reported no support personnel, while the two juvenile courts (in the metro Atlanta area) have more than one hundred support personnel provided by the county. The average number of court support personnel for counties with full-time juvenile court judges is seventy-five. The average number of support personnel for part-time juvenile court judges is three.

Annual budgets for juvenile courts with part-time judges range from zero to \$252,000. The

juvenile courts with full-time judges have a range of yearly expenditures from \$62,560 to more than \$2 million in two courts in the heavily populated Atlanta area.

Full-time judges, according to the study, spend from fourteen to forty hours on the bench each week. These judges spend an average of another twenty-one hours each week on administrative matters. Part-time juvenile court judges average about seven hours hearing cases and about another seven hours on administrative matters each week.

These studies represent first-time compilations of this information. This data is expected to aid in planning for improvements in the juvenile justice system.

Juvenile Courts

County	Date Established	County	Date Established	County	Date Established
Chatham	1915	Clarke	1953	Butts	1974
Fulton	1915	Camden	1953	Catoosa	1974
Muscogee	1916	Clayton	1955	Lamar	1974
Bibb	1917	Lowndes	1955	Fayette	1976
Floyd	1917	Gordon	1955	Pike	1976
Richmond	1917	Sumter	1957	Spalding	1976
Troup	1919	Carroll	1960	Upson	1976
Glynn	1923	Ware	1960	Meriwether	1976
Dougherty	1925	Appling	1963	Terrell	1976
DeKalb	1927	Wayne	1964	Banks	1977
Colquitt	1937	Newton	1967	Barrow	1977
Hall	1938	Houston	1968	Crisp	1977
Gwinnett	1939	Walker	1971	Jackson	1977
Whitfield	1940	Bartow	1971	Coweta	Unknown
Thomas	1947	*Henry	1971	Polk	Unknown
Laurens	1951	Walton	1973		
Cobb	1951	Dade	1974		

*Not certain

"Only by the adoption of sound administrative practices will the courts be able to meet the increased and increasing burdens placed on them. The time has passed when the court system will carry its load 'if each judge does his job.' There must also be organization and system so as to leave the judge to his job of judging."

*Chief Justice Warren E. Burger
United States Supreme Court*

Appendix One

Judicial Council of Georgia Created

Act No. 178 Ga. Laws 1973, p. 288

An Act to create a Judicial Council of the State of Georgia; to provide for the membership of the council, their qualifications, appointment, election, compensation, expenses, terms of office, succession, duties, powers, authority and responsibilities; to provide for a method of filling vacancies; to provide for meetings of the council; to provide for officers of the council and their terms; to provide for rules for the transaction of business; to create the Administrative Office of the Courts; to provide that such office shall serve as the staff for the Judicial Council; to provide for the appointment of a Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts and his compensation, duties, powers, authority and term of office; to provide for assistants, clerical and secretarial employees and their duties and compensation; to provide for the duties and authority of the Administrative Office of the Courts; to provide for annual reports; to provide that the provisions of this Act shall not be construed as limiting or affecting the authority of any court to appoint administrative or clerical personnel; to provide for other matters relative to the foregoing; to provide an effective date; to repeal an Act creating a Judicial Council of the State of Georgia, approved February 28, 1945 (Ga. L. 1945, p. 155); to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Georgia:

Section 1. (a) There is hereby created the Judicial Council of the State of Georgia. The council shall be composed of eleven members, nine of whom shall be judges of courts of record of the State. The two remaining members shall be the president of the State Bar of Georgia and the immediate past president of the State Bar of Georgia. The initial nine judicial members of the council shall be appointed by the Governor, with three such initial members being appointed for a term of four years, three such initial members being appointed for a term of three years, and three such initial members being appointed for a term of two years. Immediately prior to the expiration of a member's term of office as a member, the council shall elect a new member to succeed the member whose term is expiring. Following the terms of the initial members appointed by the Governor, the term of office of each judicial member of the council shall be for a period of four years. The initial members of the council shall take office on May 1, 1973, and succeeding members of the council shall take office on the first day of May

following their election by the council. No judicial member of the council shall be eligible to succeed himself for a consecutive term as a member. The president and immediate past president of the State Bar of Georgia shall serve as members of the council only during their tenure as president or immediate past president of the State Bar of Georgia.

(b) In the event a vacancy occurs in the judicial membership of the council as a result of the death, resignation, retirement, removal or failure of re-election as a judge of a court of record, the remaining members of the council shall elect a qualified person to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term of the member whose seat is vacant. The person elected to fill such vacancy shall take office immediately upon his election.

Section 2. The council shall meet at such times and places as it shall determine necessary or convenient to perform its duties. The council shall annually elect a chairman and such other officers as it shall deem necessary and shall adopt such rules for the transaction of its business as it shall desire. The members of the council shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be reimbursed for their actual expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as members of the council.

Section 3. There is hereby created the Administrative Office of the Courts, which shall serve as the staff for the Judicial Council.

Section 4. The Judicial Council shall appoint a Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, who shall serve at the pleasure of the Judicial Council. The director shall be the executive head of the Administrative Office of the Courts and shall perform such duties as provided in this Act or as may be delegated to him by the Judicial Council. The director shall devote his full time to his official duties. The director shall receive such compensation and expenses as may be authorized by the Judicial Council. With the approval of the Judicial Council, the director shall appoint such assistants, clerical and secretarial employees as are necessary to enable him to perform his duties and fix their compensation.

Section 5. Under the supervision and direction of the Judicial Council, the Administrative Office of the Courts shall perform the following duties:

(a) Consult with and assist judges, administrators, clerks of court and other officers and employees of the court pertaining

to matters relating to court administration and provide such services as are requested.

(b) Examine the administrative and business methods and systems employed in the offices related to and serving the courts and make recommendations for necessary improvement.

(c) Compile statistical and financial data and other information on the judicial work of the courts and on the work of other offices related to and serving the courts, which shall be provided by the courts.

(d) Examine the state of the dockets and practices and procedures of the courts and make recommendations for the expedition of litigation.

(e) Act as fiscal officer and prepare and submit budget estimates of State appropriations necessary for the maintenance and operation of the judicial system.

(f) Formulate and submit recommendations for the improvement of the judicial system.

(g) Perform such additional duties as may be assigned by the Judicial Council.

(h) Prepare and publish an annual report on the work of the courts and on the activities of the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Section 6. The provisions of this Act shall not be construed as limiting or affecting the authority of any court.

Section 7. This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without his approval.

Section 8. An Act creating a Judicial Council for the State of Georgia, approved February 28, 1945 (Ga. L. 1945, p. 155), is hereby repealed in its entirety.

Section 9. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

Approved April 3, 1973.

Appendix Two

Funding Summary for Judicial Council of Georgia/Administrative Office of the Courts

Fiscal Year 1977

Project	Source	Total
General	State Funds	\$178,668
Board of Court Reporting	State Funds	7,500
Sentence Review Panel	State Funds	36,046
Judicial Qualifications Commission	State Funds	10,000
Court Administration	LEAA Grant 76A-08-001	235,000
District Court Administration	LEAA Grant 76A-08-002	201,772
Education	LEAA Grant 76A-20-012	56,900
Information System	LEAA Grant 76-DF-04-0041	200,000
Planning	LEAA Grant 76-DF-04-0024	64,059
Records	LEAA Grant 76A-18-007	56,900
Traffic	Office of Highway Safety Grant 307-77-001-001	66,000

Appendix Three

Members of the Judicial Council of Georgia May 1, 1973 to June 30, 1977

Name	Term	Office Held
Judge F. Jack Adams President State Bar of Georgia (6/8/73 to 6/7/74)	6/8/73 to 6/7/75	
Judge Francis W. Allen State Court of Bulloch County	7/1/76 to 6/30/80	
Judge Hal Bell Superior Court Macon Judicial Circuit	5/1/73 to 6/30/76	Chairman 7/1/74 to 6/30/75
Judge Marcus B. Calhoun Superior Court Southern Judicial Circuit	6/7/73 to 6/30/75	
Judge Frank S. Cheatham, Jr. Superior Court Eastern Judicial Circuit	7/1/75 to 6/30/79	
Judge H. Sol Clark Georgia Court of Appeals	7/26/74 to 6/30/75	
Harold G. Clarke President State Bar of Georgia (6/4/76 to 6/3/77)	7/1/76 to 6/30/78	
A. G. Cleveland, Jr. President State Bar of Georgia (6/4/71 to 6/2/72)	5/1/73 to 6/8/73	
Judge Kenneth B. Followill State Court of Muscogee County	5/1/73 to 6/30/76	Secretary-Treasurer 7/1/73 to 6/30/74 Vice Chairman 7/1/74 to 6/30/75 Chairman 7/1/75 to 6/30/76
Judge J. Bowle Gray Superior Court Tifton Judicial Circuit	5/1/73 to 6/3/75	Vice Chairman 7/1/73 to 6/30/74
Justice William B. Gunter Supreme Court of Georgia	5/1/73 to 7/26/74	
Justice Robert H. Hall Supreme Court of Georgia	5/1/73 to 6/30/77	Chairman 6/7/73 to 6/30/74

Name	Term	Office Held
W. Stell Huie President State Bar of Georgia (6/6/75 to 6/4/76)	7/1/75 to 6/30/77	
Judge Walter C. McMillan, Jr. Superior Court Middle Judicial Circuit	5/1/73 to 6/30/76	Temporary Secretary 5/4/73 to 6/7/73
Judge James B. O'Connor Superior Court Oconee Judicial Circuit	5/1/73 to 6/1/73 7/1/76 to 6/30/80	
Judge Paul W. Painter Superior Court Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit	7/1/76 to 6/30/80	
Judge Marion T. Pope, Jr. Superior Court Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit	7/1/75 to 6/30/79	Secretary-Treasurer 7/1/76 to 3/1/77 Vice Chairman 3/1/77 to 6/30/77
Frank W. Seiler President State Bar of Georgia (6/2/72 to 6/8/73)	5/1/73 to 6/30/74	Temporary Chairman 5/4/73 to 6/7/73
Cubbedge Snow, Jr. President State Bar of Georgia (6/7/74 to 6/6/75)	7/1/74 to 6/30/76	
Judge William K. Stanley, Jr. Probate Court of Bibb County	5/1/73 to 6/30/77	
Judge Irwin W. Stolz, Jr. Georgia Court of Appeals	7/1/75 to 3/1/77	Secretary-Treasurer 7/1/75 to 6/30/76 Vice Chairman 7/1/76 to 3/1/77
Judge G. Ernest Tidwell Superior Court Atlanta Judicial Circuit	5/1/73 to 6/30/77	Secretary-Treasurer 7/1/74 to 6/30/75 Vice Chairman 7/1/75 to 6/30/76 Chairman 7/1/76 to 6/30/77
Judge Julian Webb Georgia Court of Appeals	3/1/77 to 6/30/79	Secretary-Treasurer 3/1/77 to 6/30/77

Appendix Four

Judicial Administration Act of 1976

Act No. 1130 Ga. Laws 1976, p. 762

An Act to create Judicial Administration Districts and the boundaries thereof; to provide for a short title; to provide for Judicial Administration District Councils, their composition, presiding officers, meetings and establishing of rules; to provide for the election of Administrative Judges, their term, removal, duties, authority, and compensation; to provide for Administrative Assistants, their qualifications, duties, compensation, and classification; to provide for severability; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Georgia:

Section 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known and may be cited as "The Judicial Administration Act of 1976."

Section 2. Judicial Administration Districts; Creation. Ten (10) Judicial Administration Districts of more or less equal population in each District are hereby created within the State. The boundaries of the ten Judicial Administration Districts, to the extent possible, shall follow the present boundaries of the ten (10) U.S. Congressional Districts, except that each existing judicial circuit shall remain intact and shall not be placed in more than one Judicial Administration District. The Governor, after conferring with the Superior Court Judges, shall establish by July 1, 1976, the original boundaries of each Judicial Administration District pursuant to the provisions of this section. The ten (10) Administrative Judges provided for in this Act may provide for any necessary changes in the boundaries in such Districts not inconsistent with the provisions of this Section.

Section 3. Judicial Administration District Councils. A District Council for each Judicial Administration District is hereby created, composed of all judges of the superior courts within the District. The superior court judge in each District having seniority in number of years as a superior court judge shall serve as presiding officer of the District Council. Each District Council shall meet at least once a year and as often as required to discuss administrative problems peculiar to the District and otherwise to perform its duties. Each District Council shall establish rules, by majority vote, which shall cover the right to call additional meetings and procedures for handling the administrative work of the Council.

Section 4. District Administrative Judge. The judges of each District Council shall elect a superior court judge or a judge emeritus of the superior court to serve for a two-year term as an "Administrative Judge" within the district. The District Administrative Judge shall serve until his successor is elected and qualified, provided, however, that the District Administrative Judge may be removed at any time by a two-thirds vote of all judges comprising the District Council. The duties of Administrative Judge shall be additional duties which shall not be construed to diminish his other responsibilities.

Section 5. Administrative Assistant. Each District Administrative Judge is hereby authorized to hire a full-time assistant adequately trained in the duties of court administration. The assistant shall assist in the duties of the District Administrative Judge, provide general court administrative services to the District Council, and otherwise perform such duties as may be assigned to him by the District Administrative Judge. Each assistant shall be an employee of the Judicial Branch of State Government and shall be in the unclassified service of the State Merit System of Personnel Administration. The assistant shall be compensated in an amount and manner to be determined by uniform rules adopted by the ten (10) Administrative Judges. Each assistant shall be compensated out of funds made available for such purposes within the Judicial Branch of Government.

Additional funds shall be made available for needed clerical and other office operating costs of the assistant.

Section 6. Duties and Authority of District Administrative Judge. The duties and authority of each District Administrative Judge shall be as follows:

(a) To request, collect and receive information from the courts of record within his District pursuant to uniform rules promulgated by the ten (10) Administrative Judges;

(b) To authorize and assign any superior court judge within the District to sit on any type of case or handle other administrative or judicial matters within the District, provided, however, that the assignment shall be made with the consent of the assigned judge and with the consent of the majority of the judges of the circuit to which the assignment is made; that the assignment shall be made subject to rules promulgated by the District Council by a majority vote of the superior court judges within the District.

Section 7. Severability. In the event any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Act shall be declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall in no manner affect the other sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, or phrases of this Act, which shall remain of full force and effect, as if the section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase so declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional were not originally a part hereof. The General Assembly hereby declares that it would have passed the remaining parts of this Act if it had known that such part or parts hereof would be declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional.

Section 8. Effective Date. This Act shall become effective July 1, 1976.

Section 9. Repealer. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

Approved March 25, 1976.

Appendix Five

The Georgia Court Reporting Act

Act No. 851 Ga. Laws 1974, p. 345

An Act to be known as "The Georgia Court Reporting Act" to provide a short title; to provide for a declaration of purpose; to provide that the Judicial Council of Georgia is an agency of the judicial branch of State government for certain purposes; to provide for authority, powers and duties of the Judicial Council and of the Board of Court Reporting of the Judicial Council relative to the regulation of court reporting; to require certification of court reporters; to provide for injunctions; to provide for penalties; to provide that it shall be unlawful for a person to engage in the practice of court reporting without being certified; to provide for rules and regulations; to provide for practice and procedure; to provide for other matters relative to the foregoing; to provide for severability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Georgia:

Section 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known and may be cited as "The Georgia Court Reporting Act."

Section 2. Declaration of Purpose. It is hereby declared by the General Assembly of Georgia that the practice of court reporting carries important responsibilities in connection with the administration of justice, both in and out of the courts; that the court reporters are officers of the courts, and that the right to define and regulate the practice of court reporting belongs naturally and logically to the judicial branch of the State government. Therefore, in recognition of these principles, the purpose of this Act is to act in aid of the judiciary so as to insure minimum proficiency in the practice of court reporting by recognizing and conferring jurisdiction upon the Judicial Council of the State of Georgia to define and regulate the practice of court reporting.

Section 3. Judicial Council of Georgia; Agency of Judicial Branch. The Judicial Council of Georgia, as created by an Act approved April 3, 1973 (Ga. L. 1973, p. 288), is hereby declared to be an agency of the judicial branch of State government for the purpose of defining and regulating the practice of court reporting in this State.

Section 4. Definitions. The following words and phrases when used in this Act shall have the following meanings:

(1) "Court Reporting" shall mean the making of a verbatim record by means of manual shorthand, machine shorthand or Stenomask or other means of personal verbatim transcription of any testimony given under oath before or for submission to, any court, referee, court examiner or board, commission or other body created by statute of this State, or any other proceeding where a verbatim record is required.

(2) "Court Reporter" shall mean any person who is engaged in the practice of court reporting as a profession as defined in this Act. The term "court reporter" shall include not only those who actually report judicial proceedings in courts, but those who make verbatim records as defined in subsection (1) of this Section.

(3) "Certified Court Reporter" shall mean any person certified under provisions of this Act to practice verbatim reporting.

(4) "Board" shall mean the Board of Court Reporting of the Judicial Council as hereinafter provided.

Section 5. Board of Court Reporting of the Judicial Council, creation, name, membership, appointment, qualifications, terms, vacancies, removal. There is hereby established a board which shall be known and designated as the "Board of Court Reporting of the Judicial Council" and shall be composed of seven members, four members to be Certified Court Reporters and two members to be representatives from the State Bar of Georgia, and one member from the judiciary, each of whom shall have not less than five years' experience in his or her profession. The initial board shall be appointed by the Judicial Council. The term of office shall be two years, and the Judicial Council shall fill vacancies on the board.

Any member of this board may be removed by the Judicial Council after a hearing at which the Judicial Council shall have determined cause for removal.

Section 6. Oath of office taken by board, certificate of appointment. Immediately and before entering upon the duties of said office, the members of the State Board of Court Reporting shall take the oath of office, and shall file the same in the office of the Judicial Council, which upon receiving said oath of office, shall issue to each member a certificate of appointment.

Section 7. Organization of board, rules and regulations. The board shall each year elect from its members a chairman whose term shall be for one year and who shall serve during the period for which elected and until his or her successor shall be elected. The board shall make all necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act, but said rules and regulations shall be subject to review by the Judicial Council.

Section 8. Certified Court Reporter, corporation and firm name; regulations. Any person who has received from the board a certificate as herein provided for shall be known and styled as a "Certified Court Reporter," and shall be authorized to practice as such in the State of Georgia and to use such title or the abbreviation "C.C.R." in so doing. No other person, firm or corporation, all of the members of which have not received such certificate, shall assume the title "Certified Court Reporter" or the abbreviation "C.C.R." or any other words or abbreviations tending to indicate that the person, firm or corporation so using the same is a certified court reporter.

Section 9. Issuance of certificate, qualifications for certification. The board shall grant a certificate as a Certified Court Reporter to any citizen of the United States residing or having a place for the regular transaction of business in this State (a) who has attained the age of eighteen years, is of good moral character, and is a graduate of a high school or has had an equivalent education; and (b) who has, except as provided in

Section 11 of this Act, successfully passed an examination in verbatim court reporting as prescribed in Section 10 of this Act.

Section 10. Examination of applicants, fee, scope of examination. Every person desiring to commence the practice of court reporting in this State shall file an application for a certificate with the State Board of Court Reporting upon such form as shall be adopted and prescribed by the board. At the time of making such application the applicant shall deposit with the board an examination fee, to be determined by the board. Examinations shall be conducted as often as may be necessary as determined by the board, provided, that examinations are conducted at least once annually. Applicants shall be notified by mail of the holding of such examinations no later than ten (10) days before the date upon which such examinations are to be given. Examinations shall be conducted and graded according to rules and regulations prescribed by the board.

Section 11. Exemption from taking examination. Any person, a citizen of the United States, who has attained the age of eighteen years, of good moral character, who shall submit to said board an affidavit under oath that he or she has been actively and continuously for one year preceding the passage of this Act principally engaged as a court reporter shall be exempt from taking such examination and shall be granted a certificate as a "Certified Court Reporter."

Section 12. Limitations after one year following effective date. After expiration of one year after the date this Act becomes law, no person shall engage in the practice of verbatim court reporting in this State unless such person is the holder of a certificate as a "Certified Court Reporter" issued under the provisions of this Act.

Section 13. Revocation, notice to certificate holder, hearing, witnesses. On a verified complaint, the board may revoke or suspend any certificate issued under this Act for unprofessional conduct or other sufficient cause after notice of and opportunity for hearing. Said notice shall state the cause for such contemplated revocation, the time and place of such hearing, and shall be mailed to the registered address of the holder of such certificate at least thirty (30) days before such hearing. Each board member shall be empowered to administer oaths and affirmations, subpoena witnesses, compel their attendance, take evidence and require the production of any records, concerning any matter within the jurisdiction of the board. The board shall reduce to writing a summary of the evidence given before it, and shall make a written finding of facts thereon. Certificates may be revoked or suspended for one or more of the following reasons:

- (1) Conviction of a felony subsequent to the passage of this Act;
- (2) Conviction of a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude subsequent to the passage of this Act;
- (3) Fraud, dishonesty, corruption, willful violation of duty, or has become incompetent to continue to perform his or her duties as a court reporter;
- (4) Fraud or misrepresentation resorted to in obtaining a certificate under this Act.

Provided, however, that any disciplinary action of the board may be appealed by the aggrieved person to the Judicial Council, which shall have the power to review said determination by the board.

Section 14. Penalties for violation. If, after this Act becomes law, any person shall represent himself or herself as having received a certificate as provided for in this Act, or shall practice as a Certified Court Reporter without having received such certificate, or, after having his or her certificate revoked, shall continue to practice as a Certified Court Reporter in the State of Georgia, or shall use any title or abbreviation indicating that the person using same is a Certified Court Reporter, or shall violate any of the provisions of this Act, said person shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished as for a misdemeanor.

Section 15. Injunction against violations. On the verified complaint of any person that any person, firm or corporation has violated any of the provisions of this Act, the board may, with the consent of the Judicial Council, file an equitable petition in its own name in the superior court of any county in this State having jurisdiction of the parties, alleging the facts and praying for a temporary restraining order and temporary injunction or permanent injunction against such person, firm or corporation restraining them from violating the provisions of this Act and upon proof thereof the Court shall issue such restraining order, temporary injunction or permanent injunction without requiring allegation or proof that the petitioner has no adequate remedy at law. The right of injunction provided for in this Section shall be in addition to any other legal remedy which the board has, and shall be in addition to any right of criminal prosecution provided by law.

Section 16. Temporary employment permit. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to prohibit the temporary employment of any person not certified under this Act who has first obtained a temporary permit from the board or from a judge in the circuit in which the cause is pending. The board may limit the extent of such temporary permit based upon the need for such temporary employment.

Section 17. Renewal of certificate. Every Certified Court Reporter who continues in the active practice of verbatim court reporting shall annually, on or before April 1, following the date of issuance of the certificate under which he is then entitled to practice, renew such certificate upon the payment of a fee established by the board. Every certificate which has not been renewed on the first day of April shall expire on that date of that year and shall result in the suspension of that reporter's right to practice under this Act, which suspension shall not be terminated until all delinquent fees have been paid.

Section 18. The administrative and staff work of the Board of Court Reporters of the Judicial Council shall be among the duties of the Administrative Office of the Courts, created by Ga. L. 1973, p. 288. The director of the Administrative Office of the Courts shall serve as secretary of the Board of Court Reporters of the Judicial Council, and shall perform all duties as may be assigned to him either by the board or the Judicial Council to implement the provisions of this Act.

Section 19. Effective date. This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without his approval.

Section 20. Repealer. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

Approved March 20, 1974.

Appendix Six

Judicial Council of Georgia To Set Court Reporter Fees

Code §§ 24-3103, 24-1304 Repealed
Act No. 558 Ga. Laws 1975, p. 852

An Act to amend an Act creating a Judicial Council of the State of Georgia, approved April 3, 1973 (Ga. L. 1973, p. 288), so as to provide that the Judicial Council of the State of Georgia shall promulgate rules and regulations which shall provide for and set the fees to be charged by all official court reporters in this State in all criminal and civil cases; to provide for per diem fees; to provide for the form and style of transcripts; to provide that this Act shall not apply to such court reporters under certain circumstances; to repeal Section 24-3103 of the Code of Georgia of 1933, as amended by an Act approved February 21, 1951 (Ga. L. 1951, p. 388) setting the compensation to be paid court reporters in all civil cases; to repeal Section 24-3104 of the Code of Georgia of 1933, as amended by an Act approved February 16, 1949 (Ga. L. 1949, p. 646); and by an Act approved February 21, 1951 (Ga. L. 1951, p. 630), and by an Act approved February 18, 1959 (Ga. L. 1959, p. 61), and by an Act approved April 10, 1968 (Ga. L. 1968, p. 1230), setting the compensation to be paid court reporters in all criminal cases; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Section 1. An Act creating a Judicial Council of the State of Georgia, approved April 3, 1973 (Ga. L. 1973, p. 288), is hereby amended by adding a new section to be known as section 2A, which shall read as follows:

"Section 2A. (a) The Judicial Council of the State of Georgia shall promulgate rules and regulations which shall:

(i) provide for and set the fees to be charged by all official court reporters in this State for attending court, taking stenographic notes and recording the evidence;

(ii) for furnishing transcripts of the evidence, and for other

proceedings furnished by the official court reporter in all civil and criminal cases in this State;

(iii) provide for a minimum per diem fee, which fees may be supplemented by the various counties within the circuits to which such court reporters are assigned;

(iv) provide for the form and style of the transcripts which shall be uniform throughout the State.

(b) The Judicial Council of the State of Georgia shall amend its rules and regulations providing for and setting the fees to be charged by all official court reporters whenever the Judicial Council of the State of Georgia shall deem it necessary and proper."

Section 2. This Act shall not apply to those court reporters taking and furnishing transcripts of depositions, nor for taking and furnishing transcripts of nonjudicial functions nor to any independent contracts of any reporters.

Section 3. Section 24-3103 of the Code of Georgia of 1933, as amended by an Act approved February 21, 1951 (Ga. L. 1951, p. 388), is hereby repealed in its entirety.

Section 4. Section 24-1304 of the Code of Georgia of 1933, as amended by an Act approved February 16, 1949 (Ga. L. 1949, p. 646), and by an Act approved February 21, 1951 (Ga. L. 1951, p. 630), and by an Act approved February 18, 1959 (Ga. L. 1959, p. 61), and by an Act approved April 10, 1968 (Ga. L. 1968, p. 1230), is hereby repealed in its entirety.

Section 5. This Act shall become effective January 1, 1976.

Section 6. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

Approved April 18, 1975.

Appendix Seven

Judicial Personnel Changes

(July 1, 1976 - June 30, 1977)

Appointments

Appellate Courts

Georgia Supreme Court: Justice Jesse Groover Bowles by Governor Busbee for term 4/25/77 to next general election.

Georgia Court of Appeals

Judge Harold R. Banke by Governor Busbee for term 4/1/77 to 12/31/78.

Judge William Leroy McMurray by Governor Busbee for term 12/22/76 to next general election.

Judge Arnold Shulman by Governor Busbee for term 1/7/77 to next general election.

Judge George T. Smith by Governor Busbee for term 8/23/76 to 1/1/77.

Superior Courts

Alapaha Judicial Circuit

Judge W. D. "Jack" Knight by Governor Busbee for term 5/24/77 to 12/31/78.

Atlanta Judicial Circuit

Judge Horace T. Ward by Governor Busbee for term 11/24/77 to 11/1/83.

Atlantic Judicial Circuit

Judge James Emory Findley by Governor Busbee for term 2/3/77 to 1/1/79.

Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit

Judge Richard B. Neville by Governor Busbee for term 5/13/77 to 1/1/79.

Clayton Judicial Circuit

Judge Joe C. Crumbley by Governor Busbee for term 5/24/77 to 1/1/79.

Dublin Judicial Circuit

Judge William M. Towson by Governor Busbee for term 6/29/77 to 1/1/79.

Middle Judicial Circuit

Judge Marvin B. Hartley, Jr., by Governor Busbee for term 5/24/77 to 12/31/78.

Northeastern Judicial District

Judge James E. Palmour, III, by Governor Busbee for term 9/27/76 to 1/1/77.

Oconee Judicial Circuit

Judge Preston N. Rawlins, Jr., by Governor Busbee for term 11/1/76 to 12/31/78.

Tifton Judicial Circuit

Judge W. J. Forehand by Governor Busbee for term 10/22/76 to 1/1/77.

Western Judicial Circuit

Judge Joseph J. Gainex by Governor Busbee for term 11/1/76 to 12/31/78.

State Courts

Fulton County

Judge Dorothy Toth Beasley by Governor Busbee for term 4/25/77 to 1/1/79.

Laurens County

Judge Dubignon Douglas by Governor Busbee for term 7/11/77 to 11/7/78.

Juvenile Courts

Colquit County

Judge William C. Peters by the Superior Court Judges of the Southern Judicial Circuit for term beginning 8/7/76.

Crisp County

Judge G. Mallon Faircloth by Cordele Judicial Circuit Superior Court Judge Hardy Gregory, Jr., for term beginning 2/20/77.

Griffin Judicial District

Judge Claude L. Goza by Superior Court Judge Andrew Whalen for term beginning 7/1/76.

Newton County

Judge Virgil Costley, Jr., by Alcovy Superior Court Judge Thomas Ridgway for term beginning 5/1/77.

Terrell County

Judge James G. Raines by Pataula Circuit Superior Court Judge Walter I. Geer for term beginning 12/17/76.

Probate Courts

Forsyth County

Judge Joyce Wallace Hawkins by Governor Busbee for term beginning 8/10/76.

Schley County

Judge Hinton M. Hambrick by the Superior Court Judges for term beginning 10/1/76.

Special Courts

Civil Court Richmond County

Judge Bacheller Flythe for term beginning 9/1/76.

Magistrate Court of Clarke County

Judge Pierre Boulange by Grand Jury for term 1/1/77 to 1/1/81.

Magistrate Court of Glynn County

Judge Lloyd E. Grimes by Governor Busbee for term 1/14/77 to 12/31/80.

Magistrate's Division of Recorder's Court, DeKalb County

Judge John Campbell by DeKalb County Board of Commissioners for two-year term beginning 3/28/77 or until successor is named.

Recorder's Court of DeKalb County

Judge Joe Johnson by the DeKalb Board of Commissioners for term 3/28/77 to 4/31/78.

Small Claims Court of Bacon County

Judge Kathryn Thorton by Waycross Judicial Circuit Judge Ben Hodges for term 12/8/76 to 12/31/78.

Small Claims Court of Bryan County

Judge J. R. Deloach by Governor Busbee for term 5/3/77 to 5/3/81.

Small Claims Court of Burke County

Judge Robert L. Hunnicutt by Governor Busbee for term 6/1/77 to 6/1/81.

Small Claims Court of Butts County

Judge Hugh Glidwell by Grand Jury for term 1/1/77 to 1/1/79.

Small Claims Court of Coffee County

Judge Margaret A. Kitchens by Governor Busbee for term 7/1/76 to 4/17/80.

Small Claims Court of Columbia County

Judge Lawrence E. Maloriello by Governor Busbee for term 8/16/76 to 7/1/77.

Small Claims Court of Dooly County

Judge Claude B. Greene by Governor Busbee for four-year term beginning 7/31/76.

Small Claims Court of Elbert County

Judge Robert Christopher Phelps by Grand Jury for term 3/7/77 to 3/7/81.

Small Claims Court of Evans County

Judge Larry Anderson by Superior Court for term 2/16/77 to 2/16/81.

Small Claims Court of Henry County

Judge John E. Bond by the Grand Jury for term 5/1/76 to 4/30/80.

Small Claims Court of Jefferson County

Judge Walter J. Wasden by Governor Busbee for term 7/2/76 to 7/2/80.

Small Claims Court of Jenkins County

Judge R. H. Reeves, III, by the Grand Jury for term 1/1/77 to 1/1/79.

Small Claims Court of Lamar County

Judge Forrest Watson by the Grand Jury for term 5/22/76 to 12/31/77.

Judge Jimmie Burousas by the Grand Jury for term 9/14/76 to 12/31/77.
Small Claims Court of Lee County
Judge Marlin R. Poole by the Superior Court for term 4/26/77 to 4/26/81.
Small Claims Court of Lowndes County
Judge E. Hulyn Smith by the Superior Court for the term 3/10/77 to 12/31/80.
Small Claims Court of Macon County
Judge A. C. Culpepper by Governor Busbee for term 2/25/77 to 4/3/80.

Small Claims Court of Newton County
Judge John Crosswell by Governor Busbee for term 10/4/76 to 1/1/77.
Small Claims Court of Pike County
Judge R. J. Adams by Governor Busbee for term 4/25/77 to 4/27/81.
Small Claims Court of Tattnall County
Judge Lamar L. McGregor by Superior Court Judge Davie Caswell for term 12/1/75 to 10/31/79.

Small Claims Court of Wilkes County
Judge Sharon Aldridge by Governor Busbee for term 1/6/77 to 12/31/80.
Traffic Court of Atlanta
Judge Louise Hornsby by Mayor Maynard Jackson for indefinite term beginning 5/3/77.

Elections

Superior Courts

(four-year terms beginning 1/1/77)

Cherokee Judicial Circuit
Judge Jere F. White.
Eastern Judicial Circuit
Judge Phyllis Kravitch.
Northern Judicial Circuit
Judge Ray B. Burruss.
Piedmont Judicial Circuit
Judge James L. Brooks.
Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit
Judge Robert K. Broome.
Judge Keegan Federal.

State Courts

(four-year terms beginning 1/1/77)

Chatham County
Judge David Elmore.
Clinch County
Judge Folks Huxford.
DeKalb County
Judge Ralph Carlisle.
Emanuel County
Judge Jay Carroll Cox.
Screven County
Judge Harry H. Hunter.
Sumter County
Judge George Ellis, Jr.
Toombs County
Judge Marvin Hartley, Jr.

Probate Courts

(four-year terms beginning 1/1/77)

Appling County
Judge Diane Hallman.
Bacon County
Judge Cecil Jackson.
Bleckley County
Judge Robert Johnson.

Brooks County
Judge Remer Edmondson.
Butts County
Judge Gene Blue.
Candler County
Judge Paul Bland.
Catoosa County
Judge Sam T. Dills.
Clarke County
Judge Margaret P. Hartman.
Clinch County
Judge Margaret H. Blitch.
Dawson County
Judge Joe Lane Cox.
Early County
Judge Eleanor P. Sheffield.
Effingham County
Judge Francis Y. Seckinger.
Fannin County
Judge Richard P. Arp.
Fulton County
Judge Floyd E. Propst.
Greene County
Judge Bobby Roper.
Haralson County
Judge W. Harold Blackmond.
Lee County
Judge Jeanette T. Long.
Long County
Judge Robert N. Milton.
Madison County
Judge Donald Hoppy Royston.
Miller County
Judge Frankie M. Phillips.
Murray County
Judge Harlan Peeples.
Newton County
Judge Henry Baker.
Oglethorpe County
Judge James R. Tiller.

Pickens County
Judge D. Rodney Gibson.
Pierce County
Judge Loleta W. Harris.
Spalding County
Judge John E. Snider.
Stewart County
Judge Jimmy B. Brazier.
Taylor County
Judge Ronnie A. Darker.
Telfair County
Judge Charlie Thomas.
Towns County
Judge Reuben Walls.
Wayne County
Judge Christine Burch.
Wilkinson County
Judge Lloyd Gibbs.

Special Courts

Civil Court of Richmond County
Chief Judge J. Bacheller Flythe for four-year term beginning 1/1/77.
Associate Judge Oliver K. Mixon for four-year term beginning 1/1/77.
Criminal Court of Fulton County
Judge William H. Alexander for six-year term beginning 1/1/77.
Judge Nick Lambros for six-year term beginning 1/1/77.
County Court of Echols County
Judge Leroy Price for four-year term beginning 1/1/77.
Small Claims Court of Camden County
Judge Dwight R. McCollough for two-year term beginning 1/1/77.
Small Claims Court of Troup County
Judge Ellen Higginbotham Hobley for two-year term beginning 1/1/77.

Analysis of Statewide Judicial Manpower Changes During Fiscal Year 1977 (July 1, 1976 to June 30, 1977)

Court	Total No.* Judgeships	Judges Beginning First Terms			Total No. New Judges	Judges Leaving the Bench			Total No. Judges** Leaving the Bench
		Method of Selection				Reason for Leaving			
		Elected	Appointed	New Judgeship		Retired	Resigned	Failed to be Reelected	
Supreme Court	7	—	1	1	1	—	—	1	
Court of Appeals	9	—	4	4	4	1	2	—	3
Superior Courts	90	6	7	4	17	2	5	6	13
State Courts	75	5	2	2	9	—	2	5	9
Juvenile Courts (full and part-time)	35	3	2	4	6	1	2	3	3
Probate Courts	159	32	2	1	34	—	1	32	33

*As of June 30, 1977.

**Total number of judges leaving the bench does not match total number of new judges in some cases because of vacancies which existed at the beginning or end of the fiscal year.

Appendix Eight

1977 Statutes Affecting the Judiciary

- HB 32 **Additional Superior Court Judge — Clayton (Act # 237)**
Adds one judge to the Superior Court, Clayton Judicial Circuit so as to provide for three judges in said court. Provides for the appointment, election, term of office, salary and other provisions dealing with the new office. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 541, effective 7/1/77)
- HB 33 **Procedure to Determine Judge to Preside Over Election Contest (Act #11)**
Amends code section 34-1704, relating to venue in election contests; so as to change the procedure for determining which judge shall preside over an election contest. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 175, effective 7/1/77)
- HB 48 **Institutional Personnel Reporting Suspected Child Abuse (Act #102)**
Amends the Georgia Code concerning the reporting of suspected child abuse by requiring that psychologists and day-care personnel report suspected instances of child abuse to the appropriate agency designated by the Department of Human Resources. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 242, effective 7/1/77)
- HB 58 **Minimum Salaries for Clerks of Superior Courts (Act #239)**
Amends Title 24 pertaining to minimum salaries for clerks of superior courts, to change minimum salaries. The act also provides for additional minimum salaries for clerks who also serve as clerks of juvenile courts. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 547, effective 7/1/77)
- HB 81 **Bail Bonds, Recognizances (Act #17)**
Amends code section 27-1402, relating to bail bonds. The Act provides for proceedings to forfeit bonds or recognizances upon failure of the principal to appear, and the prosecutor can initiate such proceedings. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 179, effective 7/1/77)
- HB 128 **Superior Court Clerk's Retirement Benefits (Act #643)**
Provides for additional and increased costs and fees to be used for retirement benefits for clerks of the superior courts. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 1098, effective 7/1/77)
- HB 130 **Fees for Justices of the Peace (Act #74)**
Amends code section 24-1601, relating to fees for justices of the peace. The act provides a fee schedule for applications for arrest and search warrants while repealing fees for issuing arrest and search warrants. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 196, effective 2/25/77)
- HB 143 **Compensation of Justices of Peace in Criminal Cases (Act #75)**
Amends an act providing manner in which justices of the peace and notaries public ex officio justices of the peace shall be compensated in criminal cases; provides for compensation in criminal cases where application has been made for the issuance of an arrest or search warrant. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 1977, effective 2/25/77)
- HB 145 **Additional Superior Court Judge, Middle Judicial Circuit (Act #244)**
Adds one judge to the Superior Court, Middle Judicial Circuit, so as to provide for two judges in said court. The act provides for the appointment, election, term of office and other provisions dealing with the new office. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 563, effective 3/23/77)
- HB 156 **Additional Superior Court Judge, Northern Judicial Circuit (Act #247)**
Adds one judge to the Superior Court, Northern Judicial Circuit providing for the appointment, election and other provisions of the office. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 572, effective 7/1/77)
- HB 166 **Powers of the Supreme Court (Act #249)**
Amends code chapter 24-39, relating to powers of the Supreme Court. Act authorizes the Supreme Court to receive and answer certificates as to State law from federal appellate courts. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 577, effective 7/1/77)
- HB 169 **Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (Act #250)**
Provides that the State of Georgia shall be a party to the "Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children" (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 578, effective 3/23/77)
- HB 243 **Employer Contributions to Superior Court Judges Retirement System (Act #263)**
Amends act creating the Superior Court Judges Retirement System, provides that employer contributions paid to the Board of Trustees on behalf of members withdrawing before acquiring a vested right not be returned to the employer but shall be retained as actuarial gains and be applied toward future decrease of employer contributions. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 607, effective 3/23/77)
- HB 252 **Immunity for Persons Making Reports Concerning Licenses to Practice Medicine (Act #186)**
Amends code section 84-916, relating to the refusal or revocation of licenses to practice medicine. Act provides for civil and criminal immunity for persons making reports and testifying concerning the refusal or revocation of licenses to

- practice medicine. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 317, effective 7/1/77)
- HB 261 **Child Support: Divorce and Custody (Act #265)**
Provides for a revision to the Georgia Code concerning the provision for fixing child support in circumstances where custody of a minor child is awarded to the mother as part of the divorce decree. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 619, effective 7/1/77)
- HB 285 **Facsimile Signatures: Superior Court Clerks (Act #269)**
Provides that the clerk of the superior court of each county of this state may authorize the execution of any public securities requiring or permitting his signature with an engraved, imprinted stamp or otherwise reproduced facsimile of such signature. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 633, effective 3/23/77)
- HB 322 **Child Support Recovery Act Clarification (Act #732)**
Provides for a revision in the Child Support Recovery Act so as to clarify the responsibility of the Department of Revenue to provide the Department of Human Resources with income tax information pertaining to the parents of children for whom the Department has custody. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 1279, effective 7/1/77)
- HB 323 **Child Support: Public Assistance (Act #272)**
Provides for a revision to the Child Support Recovery Act to allow the debt owed the State by the individual responsible for the support to be established by a legal process other than a court order. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 643, effective 7/1/77)
- HB 358 **Indictments, Presentments and Accusations (Act #240)**
Amends code chapter 27-7, relating to indictments, presentments, and accusations in general, provides for joinder of offenses, relief from prejudicial joinder and trial together of indictments or accusations. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 1293, effective 4/8/77)
- HB 360 **Increase of Salaries of District Attorneys and Secretaries of Superior Court Judges and District Attorneys (Act #278)**
Amends act fixing the salaries of superior court judges to provide salary increases for secretaries of district attorneys and of superior court judges. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 668, effective 7/1/77)
- HB 443 **Office of JP Emeritus (Act #658)**
Provides that in all counties in the state having a population of not less than 190,000 nor more than 300,000 the office of Justice of the Peace Emeritus shall be created. Act provides for the qualifications, duties, powers and compensation of such officer. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 4213, effective 3/30/77)
- HB 481 **Qualifications of Grand Jurors (Act #195)**
Amends code section 59-201, relative to qualifications of grand jurors; act changes the qualifying age for grand jurors from 21 years or more to 18 years or older. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 341, effective 7/1/77)
- HB 509 **Additional Superior Court Judge, Tallapoosa Judicial Circuit (Act #291)**
Adds one judge to the Superior Court, Tallapoosa Judicial Circuit, so as to provide for three judges in said circuit; provides for appointment, election, term of office, duties and other provisions dealing with the new office. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 687, effective 7/1/77)
- HB 526 **Additional Superior Court Judge, Griffin Judicial Circuit (Act #293)**
Adds one judge to the Superior Court, Griffin Judicial Circuit, so as to provide for two judges in said court; provides for the appointment, election, term of office and other provisions dealing with the new office. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 693, effective 7/1/77)
- HB 559 **Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act Clarification (Act #296)**
Provides for a revision to the Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act to allow for the determination of paternity. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 699, effective 7/1/77)
- HB 565 **Expansion of Definition of Term "Child" (Act #297)**
Amends code section 24A-401 of Juvenile Court Code; redefinition of the term "child" as it relates to deprived children—to include anyone under the age of 18 years. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 700, effective 7/1/77)
- HB 576 **Jurisdiction of Court of Appeals and Supreme Court (Act #299)**
Provides that the Court of Appeals has jurisdiction in cases involving armed robbery, rape, and kidnapping wherein the death penalty has not been imposed and Supreme Court has jurisdiction in cases involving State revenue, contested elections, and the validity of legislative enactments of municipalities. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 710, effective 7/1/77)
- HB 704 **Bail for Felony Commitments (Act #203)**
Amends code section 27-418, relating to commitment and bail; provides that no person shall be imprisoned under a felony commitment when bail has been fixed if such person tenders and offers to give bond in the amount of the bail fixed with sureties acceptable to the sheriff of the county in which the alleged offense occurred; provided, however, the sheriff shall publish and post written rules and regulations defining acceptable sureties and prescribing under what conditions sureties may be accepted; provided further this act shall not abrogate or repeal the common law authority of the judge having jurisdiction. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 346, effective 3/1/77)
- HB 718 **Small Claims Court, Elbert County (Act #148)**
Act creates and establishes a Small Claims Court in and for Elbert County. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 2940, effective 7/1/77)
- HB 728 **Small Claims Court, Fayette County (Act #276)**
Creates and establishes a Small Claims Court for

- Fayette County. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 4243, effective 7/1/77)
- HB 754 Lee County Small Claims Court (Act #152)
Creates a Small Claims Court in Lee County. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 270, effective 7/1/77)
- HB 808 Deletion of Authority of Department of Offender Rehabilitation to Supervise Parolees (Act #678)
Provides that the function and responsibility of supervising all persons placed on parole or other conditional release by the State Board of Pardons and Paroles is transferred to the State Board of Pardons and Paroles and deletes the authority of the Division of Community-Based Services of the Department of Offender Rehabilitation to supervise parolees. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 1209, effective 7/1/77)
- HB 810 Small Claims Court, Ben Hill County (Act #157)
Creates and establishes a Small Claims Court in and for Ben Hill County. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 2972, effective 7/1/77)
- HB 834 Small Claims Court, Randolph County (Act #443)
Creates and establishes a Small Claims Court in and for Randolph County. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 3440, effective 7/1/77)
- HB 837 Commitment of Mentally Ill and Retarded Children (Act #331)
Provides for a revision to the Juvenile Court Code of Georgia as it relates to the securing of hospitalization for mentally ill and mentally retarded children. Further provides for a redefinition of the methods and procedures for conducting commitment proceedings. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 774, effective 7/1/77)
- HB 840 Civil Court of Bibb County (Act #445)
Amends act creating the Civil Court of Bibb County so as to provide for the judge of the civil court of said county to have the power and right to appoint a competent and disinterested attorney-at-law and resident of Bibb County to preside over the civil court as judge pro tempore who shall exercise all the functions and powers of the judge thereof; provides that judge pro tempore shall serve at the pleasure of the judge and shall also serve concurrently with the judge to assist the judge when the courts business is deemed heavy enough to require such assistance. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 3453, effective 7/1/77)
- HB 853 Small Claims Court, Candler County (Act #221)
Creates and establishes a Small Claims Court in and for Candler County. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 3132, effective 7/1/77)
- HB 976 Additional Superior Court Judge, Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit (Act #336)
Adds one judge to the Superior Court, Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit, so as to provide for four judges in said court; provides for appointment, election, term of office, and other provisions dealing with the new office. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 784, effective 1/1/78)
- HB 1151 Small Claims Court, Thomas County (Act #580)
Creates a Small Claims Court of Thomas County. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 4043, effective 7/1/77)
- HB 1155 Small Claims Court, Walton County (Act #583)
Creates and establishes a Small Claims Court for Walton County. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 4057, effective 7/1/77)
- HB 1175 Small Claims Court, Jeff Davis County (Act #596)
Creates a Small Claims Court in Jeff Davis County. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 4097, effective 7/1/77)
- HB 1203 Small Claims Court, Dodge County (Act #609)
Creates and establishes a Small Claims Court in and for Dodge County. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 4135, effective 7/1/77)
- HR 35-158 Troubled Children Study Committee (Act #2)
Establishes a committee to study programs and services provided to the troubled children of this state. The committee also is authorized to prepare legislation necessary to improve existing services, and to study budget proposals necessary to improve on existing services and to implement such improved services. This committee shall make a report of its findings and recommend the Supreme Court, Chief Judge of the Court of any, to the 1978 Session of the General Assembly. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 237, effective 4/1/77)
- HR 116-513 Justice of the Peace Study Committee (Act #6)
Creates the Justice of the Peace Study Committee; authorizes the committee to study the laws of this state and other states relative to justices of the peace and the needs of the judicial system in each county; to review the qualifications and compensations of the justices of the peace and make a report of its findings and recommendations with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, to the 1978 session of the General Assembly. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 172, effective 3/23/77)
- HR 118-513 Compensation of Victims of Crime Study Committee (Act #7)
Creates the Compensation of Victims of Crime Study Committee, to be composed of three members of the Senate, three members of the House, and three gubernatorial appointees. Committee authorized to investigate and study the issues and problems relating to the feasibility of compensating victims of crime; and report its findings and recommendations to the 1978 General Assembly. (*Ga. Laws 1977*, p. 173, effective 3/23/77)
- HR 135-588 Select Committee on Constitutional Revision (Act #26)
Creates the Select Committee on Constitutional Revision composed of the Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker of the House, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Chief Judge of the court of Appeals, Attorney General, Chairman of Judiciary Committee of the Senate, Chairman of Judiciary Committee of the House, and a trial judge appointed by the Judicial Council. Defines its

duties and procedures. (Ga. Laws 1977, p. 180, effective 3/30/77)

- HR 217-838** **Code Revision Commission (Act #9)**
Creates the Code Revision Commission. The Commission shall continue the work of the Code Revision Study Committee and is authorized to select a publisher to conduct revision of the code and the laws of Georgia. (Ga. Laws 1977, p. 2505, effective 3/23/77)
- SB 12** **Additional Superior Court Judge, Alapaha Judicial Circuit (Act #340)**
Adds one judge to Superior Court, Alapaha Judicial Circuit, so as to provide for two judges in said circuit. Provides for the appointment, election, term of office, duties, and other provisions. (Ga. Laws 1977, p. 793, effective 7/1/77)
- SB 17** **Jurisdiction and Parental Rights (Act #27)**
Amends code Title 24A of Juvenile Court Code, concerning the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Courts over certain matters involving the termination of parental rights. (Ga. Laws 1977, p. 181, effective 7/1/77)
- SB 18** **Revision of Adoption Laws (Act #85)**
Comprehensively revises the adoption laws of this state; provides for jurisdiction and venue; defines who may adopt, requirements and form of a surrender of parental rights, contents of an adoption petition and numerous other provisions to implement the act. (Ga. Laws 1977, p. 201, effective 1/1/78)
- SB 38** **Small Claims Court, Evans County (Act #24)**
Establishes a Small Claims Court for Evans County. (Ga. Laws 1977, p. 2616, effective 3/1/77)
- SB 85** **Hearsay Evidence: Medical Statements (Act #88)**
Amends Code Chapter 38-3, relating to hearsay evidence; provides that certain statements for purposes of medical diagnosis or treatment shall be admissible as evidence. (Ga. Laws 1977, p. 226, effective 7/1/77)
- SB 65** **Appointment of Juvenile Judge Pro Tempore (Act #347)**
Amends Code Section 24A-3701 of Juvenile Court Code; redefinition of the conditions under which a Juvenile Court Judge Pro Tempore may be appointed by expanding the geographic boundary from which he may be appointed. (Ga. Laws 1977, p. 812, effective 7/1/77)
- SB 100** **Apprehension, Custody and Release of Juveniles (Act #724)**
Amends Code Title 24A, Juvenile Court Code; attempts to safeguard rights of juveniles by establishing a "juvenile court intake officer" and changing provisions relating to the apprehension, custody and release of children. Further provides for the definition of a "status offender." (Ga. Laws 1977, p. 1237, effective 12/31/78)
- SB 104** **Additional Superior Court Judge, Gwinnett Judicial Circuit (Act #353)**
Adds one judge to the Superior Court, Gwinnett

Judicial Circuit; provides for the appointment, election, term of office, duties, jurisdiction, salary and other provisions dealing with the new office. (Ga. Laws 1977, p. 837, effective 7/1/77)

- SB 145** **District Attorneys: Compensation, Travel Expenses, Additional Staff, etc. (Act #729)**
Provides travel expenses, compensation of attorneys acting as district attorneys pro tempore, costs in appeals by State, costs in cases removed to U.S. District Court; provides that district attorneys may not engage in private practice; adds one assistant district attorney in each judicial circuit; provides for repeal of sections such as 824-2910 (reporting of status of case); authorizes the attorney general to order any district attorney to represent or counsel certain officials and employees charged with violating federal laws or regulations; other provisions included. (Ga. Laws 1977, p. 1257, effective 4/6/77)
- SB 151** **Retirement Benefits for Widows of Judicial Officers (Act #386)**
Amends Act creating the Judges' and Solicitor Generals' Retirement Fund of Fulton County; provides that the widow of any officer who is otherwise ineligible for retirement benefits shall be eligible for retirement benefits upon attaining 62 years of age if the officer has elected to secure retirement benefits for his widow. (Ga. Laws 1977, p. 3186, effective 7/1/77)
- SB 166** **Attendance Outside the State by Witnesses Confined in Georgia Penal Institutions (Act #359)**
Amends uniform act to secure the attendance of witnesses from without the State approved March 31, 1976 (Ga. Laws 1976, p. 1366); provides the requesting jurisdiction may be required to perform the physical transfer of the prisoner, provide proper safeguards on his custody in transit, and be liable and pay for all expenses incurred in producing and returning the prisoner. (Ga. Laws 1977, p. 847, effective 3/23/77)
- SB 197** **Municipal Courts (Act #632)**
Amends Uniform Act Regulating Traffic on Highways; provides for jurisdiction of municipal courts to try and dispose of violations of Section 1260 of the act when the offense occurred within the corporate limits of the municipality. (Ga. Laws 1977, p. 1037)
- SB 198** **Municipal Courts (Act #633)**
Amends Article IV of the Driver's Licensing Act approved April 24, 1975 (Ga. Laws 1975, p. 1008); provides for jurisdiction of municipal courts to try and dispose of violations under this chapter when the offense occurred within the corporate limits of municipality. (Ga. Laws 1977, p. 1038, effective 7/1/77)
- SB 292** **Magistrate's Court, Baldwin County (Act #388)**
Creates the Magistrate's Court of Baldwin County. (Ga. Laws 1977, p. 3197, effective 4/1/77)

SB 293 **Magistrate's Court, Putnam County (Act #101)**
Creates the Magistrate's Court of Putnam County and provides that the judge of Small Claims Court shall serve as the magistrate, and other provisions. (Ga. Laws 1977, p. 239, effective 4/1/77)

SB 305 **Small Claims Court, Bryan County (Act #734)**
Creates and establishes a Small Claims Court in and for Bryan County. (Ga. Laws 1977, p. 4504, effective 7/1/77)

SB 312 **Appointment of Guardian (Act #378)**
Amends Code Section 49-604 relating to the procedure of appointment of guardian for persons who are mentally ill, mentally retarded or mentally incompetent to the extent that they are incapable of managing their estate, as amended; provides that the Commissioner of Human Resources or his duly appointed delegate may take the oath of guardianship before the judge of the Probate Court of Fulton County or before the judge of the probate court making the appointment of guardianship. (Ga. Laws 1977, p. 896, effective 3/23/77)

SB 325 **Procedures Subsequent to an Arrest by a Private Person (Act #381)**
Amends Chapter 27-2, relating to arrests; provides that a private person who has made an arrest shall without any unnecessary delay take the person arrested before a magistrate or deliver such person and all effects removed from him to a peace officer; provides that a peace officer who in good faith and within the scope of his authority takes custody of a person arrested by a private person shall not be liable at law for false arrest or false imprisonment. (Ga. Laws 1977, p. 902, effective 7/1/77)

SR 14 **Recall of Elective Public Officials**
Proposes amendment to Constitution to provide for the recall of State, county and municipal

public officials who hold elective office (to be voted on in November 1978 general election).

SR 17 **Minimum Sentencing Study Committee**
Creates the Minimum Sentencing Study Committee composed of five members of the Senate appointed by President of the Senate to investigate and propose legislation respecting mandatory minimum sentencing of criminals without opportunity for parole. (Effective 3/10/77)

SR 103 **Juvenile Court Judge Qualifications Study Committee**
Creates the Juvenile Court Judge Qualifications Study Committee composed of five members of the Senate appointed by the President to investigate and study the issues of juvenile court judge upon the appointment of the chairman by president of the Senate. (Effective 3/10/77)

SR 164 **Juvenile Offenders Study Committee**
Creates the Juvenile Offenders Study Committee to be composed of five members of the Senate appointed by the President; authorizes and directs the committee to conduct a thorough study of the juvenile laws of this State and other states, with particular emphasis on the desirability and feasibility of granting mandatory probation to first offenders except in cases involving extenuating circumstances. (Effective upon appointment by the President of the Senate.)

SR 197 **Juvenile Crime and Violence Study Committee**
Creates the Juvenile Crime and Violence Study Committee composed of three members of the Senate appointed by the President; authorizes and directs the committee to study and make recommendations regarding juvenile crime and violence, especially as it affects the schools of this state. (Effective upon appointment by the President of the Senate.)

