

# Council of Juvenile Court Judges of Georgia

Presented by:  
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# Council of Juvenile Court Judges of Georgia

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<https://georgiacourts.gov/cjcj/>

# Council of Juvenile Court Judges

- Statutory Authority
- Organization
- Mission Statement
- Personnel
- Programs

# Council of Juvenile Court Judges

- Statutory Authority
  - O.C.G.A. 15-11-58 : Council of Juvenile Court Judges established; powers and duties; director.
  - O.C.G.A. 15-11-59: Training seminars for judges and associate judges exercising juvenile court jurisdiction; expenses of program; training requirements.

# Council of Juvenile Court Judges

- CJCJ Organization
  - Membership comprises all judges and associate judges exercising jurisdiction over children.
  - Committees
  - Atlanta Office
  - Field Staff

# CJCJ Mission Statement

- The Council Staff provides support to juvenile courts through legal research services, legislative tracking, and specialized programs to assist in protecting the best interests of children and the state.
- Council policies are set by the Executive Committee, which consists of the President, President-Elect, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Immediate Past-President; and the Executive Council which comprises a District Representative from across the state.

- There are nine standing committees making recommendations to the Executive Committee:

Accountability Courts

Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

Bench Book/Uniform Rules

Children In Need of Services (CHINS)

Delinquency

Dependency

Education/Certification

Legislative

Technology

# Council of Juvenile Court Judges

- Personnel

- Presiding Judge: Hon. Warner Kennon, Sr., Muscogee Co.
- Director: Eric J. John, Esq.
- Atlanta Office Staff
  - Benita Baldwin, Program Administrator
  - Anne Kirkhope, Staff Attorney
  - Kristen Wallace, Finance Director
  - Vacant, CHINS Statewide Coordinator
- Field Staff, Permanent Homes for Children



# Council of Juvenile Court Judges

- Personnel, Continued
  - Executive Committee
    - Council Officers
      - Presiding Judge Warner Kennon, Sr., Muscogee Co.
      - President-Elect Judge Neal Brunt, Bartow Co.
      - Vice President Judge Maureen Wood, Rockdale Co.
      - Secretary Judge Michelle Harrison, Douglas Co.
      - Treasurer Judge McCracken Poston, Catoosa Co.
      - Immediate Past President Judge Render Heard, Tift Co.
    - District Representatives (10) – serve 2-year terms
  - Committee Chairs – appointed annually

# Council of Juvenile Court Judges

- Purposes and Projects and Programs
  - Court Improvement Initiatives
    - Dependency
    - Delinquency
  - Permanent Homes for Children (aka judicial citizen review panels)
  - Others as needed

# Children in Need of Services

- History of legislative development
  - Enacted in 2013, Effective in January 2014
  - Originally envisioned to focus on services
  - Enacted to resemble former law on unruly children

- Present barriers to effectiveness
  - No responsible agency
  - Significant variation among courts statewide
  - No consensus on how CHINS programs should operate
  - Little financial support, state or local

- Vision for future
  - Fill statewide coordinator position
  - Go back to focus on services
  - Consider need for change to legislation and/or court rules to support new focus
  - Strive for uniformity on process if not details

The End.