

**BYLAWS OF THE COUNCIL OF
MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGES OF GEORGIA**

ARTICLE ONE

The name of this Council shall be "The Council of Municipal Court Judges of Georgia".

ARTICLE TWO

The objectives of this Council shall be to effectuate the constitutional and statutory responsibilities conferred upon it by law, to improve the administration of justice in the municipal courts of Georgia, and to promote and assist in the training of judges of such courts so as encourage the proper execution of their duties.

ARTICLE THREE

All judges serving the municipal courts of Georgia shall be members of the Council.

A member in good standing shall be a judge who has paid their dues assessment and continues to keep their financial obligations to the Council current.

ARTICLE FOUR

The regular meeting of the Council shall be the annual recertification seminar for municipal court judges at which the greatest number of members will likely be present and such other meetings as necessary called by the President with (20) twenty days written notice to all members.

ARTICLE FIVE

Section 1. The Executive Committee of the Council shall consist of five officers and two representatives from each judicial administrative district. The Executive Committee shall be elected at the annual regular meeting of the Council for a term of one year, or until their successors are elected or appointed.

(a) The officers of the Council shall consist of a President, a President Elect, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

(b) Any position on the Executive Committee that becomes vacant due to resignation, death, or the holder is no longer eligible to hold membership in the Council shall be filled no later than the next meeting of the Executive Committee for the unexpired term of office.

(c) In the event of a vacancy to one of the officer positions, the Nominating Committee may propose a nominee to be voted upon at the next meeting of the Executive Committee. A majority vote of the Executive Committee members present shall be sufficient to fill the vacant position, providing a quorum exists.

(d) In the event of a vacancy to one of the District Representative positions, the President shall appoint a new representative to fill the vacancy until the next annual regular meeting.

Section 2. (a). Each year, not later than two (2) months prior to the regular annual meeting at which the election of the officers will occur, the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of five (5) members, one of whom is designated as Chairman, to prepare a proposed slate of officers for the ensuing year. The proposed slate shall be presented to the members of the Council at the regular annual meeting in which election of officers is to occur. Nominations shall also be permitted from the floor at such regular annual meeting.

(b). The Council Secretary shall by separate letter, or by means of the Council newsletter, notify the membership of the qualified candidates for each office and availability of absentee ballots from the Nominating Committee as described herein. The notice shall be sent to the membership not less than thirty (30) days prior to the announced annual meeting date. Absentee ballots will be available on written request from the Nominating Committee up to fifteen (15) days prior to the date set for the annual election. The ballots shall be prepared, and on request in writing, sent to the requesting member. Each absentee ballot will contain a numbered envelope for return of the ballot. Numbers on the return envelope will correspond to numbers assigned to each member on the membership list. Only mailed ballots returned in the numbered envelope will be counted in the election. Ballots must be returned by mail to arrive not less than ten (10) days prior to the annual meeting. Members who have solicited an absentee ballot and are in attendance at the annual meeting may vote at the meeting provided that their numbered envelope has not been returned to the Nominating Committee. Mailed ballots will not be opened prior to the date set for election. After verification by the Nominating Committee, each envelope will be opened and all ballots counted.

Section 3. The officers and members of the executive committee previously nominated and elected are hereby declared to be the officers and executive committee of the Council until the next annual regular meeting as above provided.

Section 4. The duties of the officers of this Council shall be as follows:

(a) President. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Council. The President shall be Chair of the Executive Committee of the Council and shall preside at all meetings thereof.

(b) President-Elect. The President-Elect shall become President upon the expiration of the term of office of the President. The President-Elect shall perform such duties as the President may delegate and such other duties as the Executive Committee may prescribe. The President-Elect shall also succeed to the office of the President in the event of a vacancy in that office at any time and for any reason and shall serve as President until the next Annual Meeting and for the following term. In the event of the absence of the President, the President-Elect shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Committee and Council, and shall perform all other duties of the President.

(c) Vice President. The Vice President shall perform such duties as the President may delegate and such other duties as the Executive committee may prescribe. In the event of the absence of the President and President-Elect, the Vice-President shall preside at all meetings of the Council and of its Executive Committee.

(d) Secretary. The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the Council and of the Executive committee, and shall keep a record of all matters of which a record shall be deemed advisable by the President. The Secretary shall give the required notice of all meetings. The Secretary shall notify the officers, the members of the Executive Committee, and the membership of the elections, and shall keep a roll of the members. The Secretary shall be Ex officio Secretary of the Executive Committee and shall perform all such other duties as the President and as the Executive Committee may from time to time prescribe.

(e) Treasurer. The Treasurer shall notify all members of dues and assessments made, shall receive the same membership and, upon direction of the Executive Committee, shall disburse all funds of the Council. The Treasurer shall make a report of all receipts and disbursements annually at the Annual Meeting or more often if required by the President or the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall keep regular accounts which shall at all times be open to the inspection of members of the Council,

and shall give bond for the faithful performance of duties as Treasurer in such sum and with such surety or sureties as the Executive Committee may determine.

Section 5. The Executive Committee shall constitute the governing body of the council between annual meetings of the Council, and shall be responsible for the general management of the business, funds, and policies of the Council. Such duties and responsibilities may be conducted in person, by mail, by telephone, or by other means, as the Executive Committee shall determine. A majority vote of the members shall be necessary for any action to be taken.

Section 6. Other committees, legislative liaisons, representatives on the Judicial Council of Georgia may, from time to time, as it may deem desirable in the furtherance of its duties and responsibilities, be designated and appointed by the President.

ARTICLE SIX

The Georgia Council of Municipal Court Judges shall be divided into districts based on the judicial administrative districts to ensure communication and interaction on a local level. The Council shall elect two representatives to be known as District Representatives for a two-year term, commencing at the June 2012 Business meeting (election) with odd number districts and the even number districts at the June 2013 Business meeting. Any person so elected may serve more than one term as District Representative but not consecutive terms unless there are no sufficient candidates to fill the slots. Representatives shall be responsible for communicating to the members of the district all issues concerning the municipal courts; encouraging participation in training and continuing education; for submitting information for publication about the activities of the District to the editor of the municipal court newsletter; and for promoting programs sponsored by the related organization of the municipal courts. Each Representative shall make a report of the District activities to the Executive Committee as directed by the President.

ARTICLE SEVEN

The Executive Committee shall have the authority to assess the members of the Council dues and other charges in amounts sufficient to carry out the activities of the Council.

ARTICLE EIGHT

Annual dues not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100) shall be fixed by the Executive Committee. In addition to dues, an assessment may be fixed by vote of the Council whenever there may be a legitimate and unanticipated need therefore to finance the work of the Council. Each member of the Council shall pay such dues and assessments promptly upon being notified thereof and is responsible for the payment of their Council of Municipal Court Judges membership dues in full each year. Any Judge who is not in good standing will not be eligible to hold any type elected or appointed position within or representing the Council of Municipal Court Judges.

ARTICLE NINE

The Council of Municipal Court Judges of Georgia, hereinafter, "the Council", is hereby authorized to create and thereafter oversee a savings and deferred compensation plan, "the Plan", for its members in good standing pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 36-32-41. Only a

member in good standing shall be eligible. Participation in “the Plan” shall be optional for members of the Council. The creation and oversight of “the Plan” by the Council shall not create a debt or other financial obligation for any political subdivision of this state nor the State of Georgia. The President, by approval of the Executive Committee, shall appoint a Committee, “the Committee”, consisting of three (3) members of the general membership of “the Council” and two (2) members of the Executive Committee who shall oversee the establishment, creation of the operating guidelines, enrollment of the membership, and once established “the Committee” shall have direct oversight of the “Plan”. The “Committee” shall report to the President within ninety (90) days following the adoption of the Bylaws of the Council creating “the Committee” as to the establishment, related guidelines, and implementation plans for “the Plan” and at the least annually thereafter. The creation and oversight of “the Plan” by the Council shall not create any liability on the part of the Council, the Committee, or its members. Upon approval of the Executive Committee, “the Plan” shall be disseminated to all members who are in good standing as defined by this Article by the Secretary of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE TEN

These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the membership of the Council, as provided for herein, by a two-thirds vote of the membership in good standing present at such meeting. Provided, however, that any proposed amendment shall be submitted to the membership of the Council not later than ten (10) days prior to the meeting at which it will be considered.