



Judicial Council of Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts

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PRESS RELEASE

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Council of Municipal Court Judges Elects New Officers, Gives Awards

St. Simons Island, GA — The Council of Municipal Court Judges met on June 23, 2016, at the Sea Palms Hotel to conduct its annual summer Law and Practice Update and business meeting. Topics of the Law and Practice Update included Ethics Issues, presented by Mark Dehler, Executive Director, Judicial Qualifications Commission; Ferguson Issues; Probation; Case Law; and Department of Drivers Services Traffic Law Update.

The Council elected new officers for 2016-2017: President Gary E. Jackson, Municipal Court of Atlanta; President-Elect Judge Pro Hac John Roberts, Municipal Court of Lithonia; Vice President Judge LaTisha Dear Jackson, Municipal Court of Stone Mountain; Secretary Judge Rashida Oliver, Municipal Court of East Point; and Treasurer Judge John “Clay” Davis, Municipal Court of Lovejoy.

The Council recognized a number of municipal judges with awards. Judge Margaret Gettle Washburn, received the Frost Ward Lifetime Achievement Award, which recognizes a municipal court judge who has made significant contributions to the Council of Municipal Court Judges over a long period of time.

The Council's President's Award was awarded to Judge Glen Ashman, East Point, and Judge John Cicala, formerly with DeKalb County Recorders Court, for their work on educating Georgia's Municipal Court Judges through writing and editing the Council's Bench book; Judge LaTisha Dear Jackson, Stone Mountain, was recognized for ensuring that the Municipal Courts of Georgia are accessible and fair; Judge Lori Duff, Loganville, for her column *Legalese*; and Judge Dennis Still, Lawrenceville, and Judge Thomas Bobbitt, Soperton, were recognized for their work on the Municipal Court Judges Training Council.

Judge W. Donald Patton, Jr., McDonough, was awarded the Special Recognition Award for his innovation, creativity, and conscientious efforts ensuring his court is fair and impartial. The Council's 2016 Legislative Award was presented to Representative Kevin Tanner, sponsor of HB 691, for diligent and unwavering support of the Council in the General Assembly.
