



# Notebook

Vol 3, Issue 2

The Official Newsletter of Georgia's Magistrate Court Clerks

## Executive Committee 2006/2007 Officers

*President*, Debbie Barron  
Fayette County

*Vice-President*, Cynthia Kelley  
Burke County

*Secretary/Treasurer*, Gayle Collins  
Whitfield County

*Immediate Past President*,  
Jo Anne Jones  
Lowndes County

## Executive District Members

DISTRICT 1:  
Kay Reese, Tatnall County

DISTRICT 2:  
Mathew Lovett, Worth County

DISTRICT 3:  
Connie Johnson, Sumter County

DISTRICT 4:  
Joy Wright, Rockdale County

DISTRICT 5:  
Vacant – Fulton County

DISTRICT 6:  
Leslie Dukes, Fayette County

DISTRICT 7:  
Marcia West, Gordon County

DISTRICT 8:  
Hope Christian, Morgan County

DISTRICT 9:  
Elaine Ray, Cherokee County

DISTRICT 10:  
Paulette Williamson, McDuffie Co.

## Greetings from the President

Hi All:

Hope you are enjoying this change in weather. I am looking forward to our training in Savannah. It will be here sooner than we think. I am excited about our agenda this year. We have Bonita Preston coming from GCIC to talk about changes with filing OTNs and we have Agent Silva from Gwinnett County who is going to talk about Gangs in Georgia. If you recall, he spoke to us several years ago on gangs and everyone who heard him has continuously asked that he come and speak again. We will be having our usual panel of experts so be thinking about questions you may have; hopefully we can provide answers.

We are excited to be returning to Savannah. There is always so much to see and do. The great thing about Savannah is that so much is available within walking distance. You can

leave your car parked and get great exercise seeing the sights. Personally, I hope to be able to take the Ghost Tour around the city.

I also want to remind you that next year we will be conducting two training sessions--one in July at Brasstown Valley Resort in Young Harris and another in December at Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, Georgia. It will be the same agenda at both, so you will just need to plan on attending one or the other. We hope that by scheduling two different sessions more of you clerks will be able to attend. If you need anything between now and December, please feel free to give me a call at 770-716-4236 or dbarron(il faycttcountyga.gov.

Hope to see you in Savannah!

Until then,  
Debbie Barron



## Training Topics for December 2008

Garnishments

Gang Activity

Fi Fas and Judgment Renewals

Leadership and Client Services

Deposit Account Fraud

Quarterly Report Procedures

Computerized Criminal History (CCH) overview

*Registration form on page 4.*

**Council of Magistrate Court Clerks & Secretaries  
Executive Committee Members 07-08**

Debbie Barron, President  
Fayette Co. Magistrate Court  
1 Center Drive  
Fayetteville, GA 30214  
770-716-4236/Fax 770-716-4855  
[d\\_barron@fayettecountyga.gov](mailto:d_barron@fayettecountyga.gov)

Cynthia Kelley, Vice President  
Burke Co. Magistrate Court  
P.O. Box 1375  
Waynesboro, GA 30830  
706-554-8750/Fax 706-554-8772  
[cynthia13\\_75@burkecounty-ga.gov](mailto:cynthia13_75@burkecounty-ga.gov)

Barbara Lowery, Secretary Treasurer  
Cherokee Co. Magistrate Court  
90 North Street, Suite 150  
Canton, GA 30114  
678-493-6437/Fax 678-493-6440  
[blowery@cherokeega.com](mailto:blowery@cherokeega.com)

Judge Connie Holt, Advisor  
Morgan Co. Magistrate Court  
P.O. Box 589  
Madison, GA 30650  
706-342-3088/Fax 706-343-6364  
[cholt@morganga.org](mailto:cholt@morganga.org)

Dr. Lynda Hanscome  
Educational Program Specialist  
I.C.J.E. University of Georgia  
123 Dean Rusk Hall  
Athens, GA 30602-6025  
706-542-7401/Fax 706-542-4211  
[lynda@icje.lawsch.uga.edu](mailto:lynda@icje.lawsch.uga.edu)

District One Kay Reese  
Tatnall Co. Magistrate Court  
P.O. Box 513  
Reidsville, GA 30453  
912-557-4372/Fax 912-557-3136  
[magkayreese@yahoo.com](mailto:magkayreese@yahoo.com)

District Two Matthew Lovett  
Worth Co. Magistrate Court  
1015 N. Isabella Street  
Sylvester, GA 31791  
229-776-8210/Fax 229-776-8245 no e-mail address  
as yet

District Three Connie Johnson  
Sumter Co. Magistrate Court  
P.O. Box 563  
Americus, GA 31709  
[conniej@sumter-ga.com](mailto:conniej@sumter-ga.com)

District Four Joy Wright  
Rockdale Co. Magistrate Court  
P.O. Box 289  
Conyers, GA 30012-0289  
770-929-4075/Fax 770-785-2496  
[joy\\_wright@rockdalecounty.org](mailto:joy_wright@rockdalecounty.org)

District Five  
Vacant - Fulton County

District Six Leslie Dukes  
Fayette Co. Magistrate Court  
1 Center Drive  
Fayetteville, GA 30214  
770-716-4237/Fax 770-716-4855  
[1\\_dukes@fayettecountyga.gov](mailto:1_dukes@fayettecountyga.gov)

District Seven Marcia West  
Gordon Co. Magistrate Court  
P.O. Box 1025  
Calhoun, GA 30703  
706-629-6818/Fax 706-602-1751  
[mwest@gordoncounty.org](mailto:mwest@gordoncounty.org)

District Eight Hope Christian  
Morgan Co. Magistrate Court  
P.O. Box 589  
Madison, GA 30650  
[hchristian@morganga.org](mailto:hchristian@morganga.org)

District Nine Elaine Ray  
Cherokee Co. Magistrate Court  
90 North Street, Suite 150 Canton, GA 30114  
678-493-6437/Fax 678-493-6440  
[eray@cherokeega.com](mailto:eray@cherokeega.com)

District Ten Paulette Williamson  
McDuffie Co. Magistrate Court  
P.O. Box 252  
Thomson, GA 30824-0252  
706-597-2618/Fax 706-595-2041  
[pierce@thomson-mcduffie.net](mailto:pierce@thomson-mcduffie.net)

## From Your Advisor

**H**ello Everyone. I hope this newsletter finds all of you doing well and enjoying the beautiful fall weather. Not a lot of news to share, but wanted to let you of some exciting things taking place and our upcoming training in Savannah

First, I wanted to report that our Council of Magistrate Court Clerks and Secretaries listserv is working very well and is being accessed by a lot you. I hope those of you that have not signed up, will do so and will start using it more to communicate with your fellow clerks and secretaries. I truly believe in helping one another and in sharing questions and problems with each other. We learn a lot from sharing.

As you all know, our training is December 3rd, 4th, and 5th, and is

in Savannah. Dr. Lynda Hanscome has really out done herself, as always, preparing our training. The exact times or days of each of the subjects or the speakers, is not in place as yet, because all things are subject to change. The Topics listed below were topics that you all requested to learn more about. They were taken from the evaluations from our last training in Brasstown Valley.

- Fi Fa's and Judgment Renewals and Garnishments
- Gang Activity
- Leadership and Client Services
- Deposit Account Fraud
- Quarterly Report Procedures
- Computerized Criminal History (CCH) overview

Your Executive Committee and Training Committee got together with Dr. Hanscome to work on your entire request so that you would be provided with great training topics and great speakers. I know you will all be very pleased with the subjects and the speakers.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Savannah and hope all of you will enjoy the great training Dr. Hanscome has prepared. Savannah should be beautiful in December and decorated for the Christmas Holidays. Until then, have a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday and see you in Savannah. ☐

The Gordon  
County  
Magistrate Court  
clerks want to  
know if you have  
seen any of these  
people in your  
court?



# 2008 MAGISTRATE COURT CLERKS & SECRETARIES REGISTRATION FORM

Return this form to ICJE, as soon as possible as enrollment is limited. Mailing address: ICJE, 123 Dean Rusk Hall, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602 OR Fax to: 706-542-4211. There is no registration fee but you must return the registration form to be eligible for enrollment. Questions? Call Lynda Hanscome at 706-542-7401 or E-Mail: lynda@icje.law.uga.edu OR Jean Hughes at 706-542-7940 or E-Mail: jean@icje.law.uga.edu  
Please Note: No Travel Expenses Will be Reimbursed By ICJE.

## 2008 REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TEL: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_ SS# (last 4 digits only) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

December 3 -5, 2008, Savannah Marriott Riverfront Hotel  
(This is a three-day course; however, on Day 2 attendees must choose either Track A or Track B)

- Day 2-Track-A – General Curriculum  
OR
- Day 2-Track-B – Introduction to Magistrate Court System for New Clerks & Secretaries
- Please check here if we need to contact you regarding a physical or dietary need.

### Important Input Requested From You!

1. Please suggest topics/questions that would be helpful.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Please suggest topics/questions that should be addressed for New Clerks & Secretaries.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. To respond to your request for more Clerks-Training-Clerks, please indicate if you are willing to facilitate or assist in a unit of instruction in your seminar.

Yes! I will contribute and Lynda Hanscome may contact me at tel: \_\_\_\_\_

**COUNCIL OF MAGISTRATE COURT CLERKS AND SECRETARIES**

**BUDGET PERIOD**

**February 21, 2008 - October 29, 2008**

Balance as of period ending February 20, 2008	\$8,110.37
Deposit for February 20, 2008	20.00
“ “ February 21, 2008	180.00
“ “ February 26, 2008	280.00
“ “ February 28, 2008	250.00
“ “ March 3, 2008	230.00
“ “ March 4, 2008	330.00
“ “ March 11, 2008	520.00
Returned Check Paulding County # 128620	(-) 50.00
Returned Check Fee	(-) 7.00
Deposit for March 21, 2008	110.00
March 12, 2008 Bank credit for returned check	7.00
Deposit for March 18, 2008 (includes \$50.00 from Paulding Co. #128959)	510.00
“ “ March 24, 2008	70.00
“ “ April 03, 2008	80.00
“ “ April 22, 2008	70.00
 Ending Balance as of April 24, 2008	 \$10,710.37
 No deposits in May	 \$10,710.37
 Deposit for June 5, 2008	 30.00
“ “ June 9, 2008	10.00
Ending Balance June 30 <sup>th</sup>	\$10,750.37
Deposit for July 21, 2008 (Pierce County)	200.00
July 21, 2008 Ck # 1001 S.S.S. Printing Services (Invoice 80241 Postage for CTS Newsletter)	(-) 126.76
August 21, 2008 Ck #1002 Pierce County (reimbursement pymt sent to wrong vendor)	(-) 200.00
Deposit for August 29, 2008 (Dues Fayette Co.)	50.00
 Balance as of August 30, 2008	 \$10,673.61
 October 29, 2008 Ck #1003 S.S.S. Printing Services (Invoice # 80228 Newsletter)	 140.00
 Balance as of October 29, 2008	 \$10,533.61



# Stephens County Courthouse Renovation

A century ago Stephens County farmers and townspeople often gathered on the lawn of the stately, brick courthouse during trial recesses or as a jury deliberated a verdict. Slow hours might pass before a court bailiff would step out onto the second-story porch to signal that the judge was calling the court back into session. All those interested made their way back inside to reclaim their seats and hear the proceedings. Those days, of course, are gone never to return, but the old Stephens County Courthouse itself is slowly making a comeback. In November the citizens of Stephens County will once again gather at the historic courthouse as it reopens following extensive renovation.

## Rededication Ceremony

Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears will give the keynote address on November 23, 2008 at the rededication of the old courthouse. The spacious, high-ceilinged second floor courtroom will be on view as will the ground floor county offices that are now fitted to accommodate com-

puters and other courtroom technology, security measures and handicapped access. The architectural integrity of the original structure has been carefully reclaimed over the past three years. Craftsmen have



The second-floor courtroom under construction.



This mural, painted in the 1930s, was uncovered during the renovation.

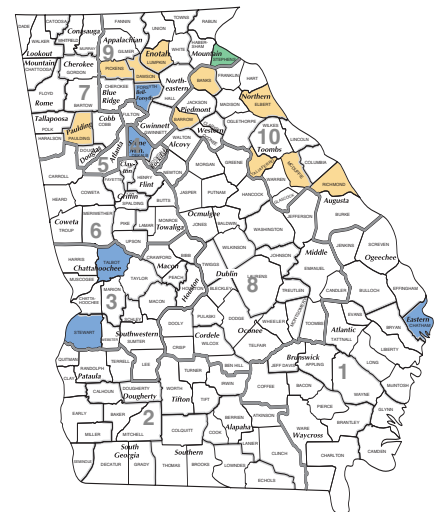
painstakingly washed away a century's worth of paint and grime to reveal the original colors and décor. A mural depicting a pastoral scene was discovered in the former county clerk's office; it had been painted sometime in the 1930's by a local artist.

Judges of the state court and magistrate court will be housed in the restored building; and soon the courtroom will again echo to the rapping of a judge's gavel as plain-

tiffs, defendants, lawyers and others take their places and another court session is brought to order.

## On-going Courthouse Construction Projects

Throughout the state many courthouse projects are underway. In the Tenth Judicial Administrative District, construction valued at over \$1,000,000 is underway thanks to population growth in Banks, Barrow, Elbert, McDuffie, Richmond, and Taliaferro counties. In other parts of the state courthouses in Dawson, Lumpkin, Paulding, Pickens, and Sumter counties have building projects. Courthouse renovations are in progress in Chatham, DeKalb, Forsyth, Pierce, Stewart, and Talbot counties. □



Construction throughout the state. Stephens County, in green, will dedicate its historic courthouse on November 23, 2008.

# Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts Mark 35 Years of Service

**2008** marks the 35th anniversary of the Administrative Office of the Courts. The Judicial Council/AOC was established in 1973 to provide support services to the Georgia Courts. Over three decades the agency has

staffed judicial branch commissions and initiated projects intended for the benefit and improvement of the administration of justice. The AOC has carried out research studies, organized meetings and produced publications to assist judges in their daily work, from the appellate

courts in Atlanta to the smallest county court in the Ocmulgee Circuit.

Take a look at [www.georgiacourts.org](http://www.georgiacourts.org) to learn more about the work of today's Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts!

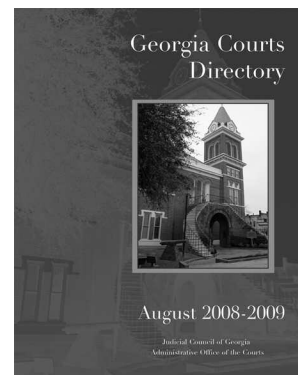
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## CLIMB TIL YOUR DREAM COMES TRUE

Often your tasks will be many,  
And more than you think you can do.  
Often the road will be rugged  
And the hills insurmountable too.  
But always remember,  
The hills ahead  
Are never as steep as they seem,  
And with Faith in your heart  
Start upward  
And climb 'til you reach your dream.  
For nothing in life that is worthy  
Is ever too hard to achieve  
[f you have the courage to try it,  
And you have the faith to believe.  
For faith is a force that is greater  
Than knowledge or power or skill,  
And many defeats turn to triumph  
If you trust in God's wisdom and will.  
For faith is a mover of mountains,  
There's nothing that God cannot do,  
So, start out today with faith in your heart,  
And climb 'til your dream comes true!

## 2008-2009 Georgia Courts Directory Now Available!

Copies are \$30, plus shipping costs. For more information, contact Ashley Stollar at [ashley.stollar@gaaoc.us](mailto:ashley.stollar@gaaoc.us)



*Please Recycle*



THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

SUITE 300
244 WASHINGTON STREET, S.W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334-5900
404-656-5171
FAX: 404-651-6449

NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE IN MAGISTRATE COURT PERSONNEL

In accordance with the Uniform Rules for Magistrates Courts: Rule 13. Notice of selection of magistrates, constables and clerks of magistrate court. Whenever a magistrate, constable, or clerk (but not deputy clerks) of the magistrate court shall take the oath required for office in O.C.G.A. ' 15-10-3, the chief magistrate shall forward to the Administrative Office of the Courts the name and title of the person taking the oath; the name of the person being succeeded; the term of office, if appropriate; the date assuming duties; and the address and telephone number the official wishes to use for business correspondence.

CHIEF MAGISTRATE SENIOR MAGISTRATE
MAGISTRATE CHIEF CLERK CLERK CONSTABLE
COUNTY
NAME
ADDRESS
PHONE( ) FAX ( )
EMAIL
GENDER: Female Male
ATTORNEY: Yes No
ELECTION/APPOINTMENT DATE: TERM from to
REAPPOINTMENT: Yes No TERM from to
Replacing someone ? If So, Who?
Has this person ever served as a magistrate? If so, when and in what county?

(Optional) Are you Spanish/Hispanic/Latino Yes No
(Optional): RACE African American (Black) Asian \ Pacific
Euro American (White) American Indian or Alaska Native

Fax or mail this form to the Administrative Office of the Courts at the contact information above.

Submitted by: NAME
ADDRESS
PHONE #



# Savannah, GA

## Things to do, places to go...

1) Old Town Trolley Tours  
Old Town Trolley/Ghosts &  
Gravestones - SAVE 10% when  
purchased online [www.historic-tours.com/savannah](http://www.historic-tours.com/savannah)

2) Oglethorpe - Gray Line Tours  
Trolley Tours of Savannah!  
\$10pp, fully narrated, unlim.  
on/off until 5:30 [www.oglethorpetours.com](http://www.oglethorpetours.com)

3) 60's,70's & 80's Musical  
The Savannah Theatre presents  
this musical extravaganza  
[www.savannahtheatre.com](http://www.savannahtheatre.com)

### RESTUARANTS

The Crab Shack  
(912) 786-9857  
[www.thecrabshack.com](http://www.thecrabshack.com)

Love's Seafood  
(912) 925-3616  
[www.lovesseafood.com](http://www.lovesseafood.com)

Chart House Restaurant  
(912) 234-6686  
[www.chart-house.com](http://www.chart-house.com)

Barbara Jean's Restaurant & Bar  
(912) 898-4424  
[www.barbarajeans.com](http://www.barbarajeans.com)

Chart House Restaurant  
(912) 234-6686  
[www.chart-house.com](http://www.chart-house.com)

Churchill's Pub & Restaurant  
(912) 232-8501  
[www.thebritishpub.com/](http://www.thebritishpub.com/)

Firefly Cafe  
(912) 234-1971  
[www.fireflycafega.com](http://www.fireflycafega.com)

Hooters  
(912) 925-2536  
[www.hooters.com](http://www.hooters.com)

Jazz'd Tapas Bar  
(912) 236-7777  
[www.jazzdsavannah.com](http://www.jazzdsavannah.com)

Live Wire Music Hall  
(912) 233-1192  
[www.livewiremusichall.com](http://www.livewiremusichall.com)

Molly MacPherson's  
(912) 239-9600  
[www.macphersonspub.com](http://www.macphersonspub.com)

River Street Riverboat Company  
(800) 786-6404  
[www.savannahriverboat.com/](http://www.savannahriverboat.com/)

### HISTORIC HOMES

*Andrew Low House*  
Built in 1848 for cotton merchant  
Andrew Low, this historic home  
features beautifully preserved  
interiors with period antiques.  
329 Abercorn Street, (912) 233-  
6854

*Davenport House*  
This historic Federal-style home,  
built between 1815 and 1820,  
was the house that launched  
Savannah's historic preservation  
movement in the 1950's. 324 E.  
State Street, (912) 236-8097

*Flannery O'Connor House*  
The childhood home of one of  
America's greatest writers, the  
Flannery O'Connor House fea-  
tures artifacts from O'Connor's  
years in Savannah. 207 E.  
Charlton Street, (912) 927-5289

*Green-Meldrim Mansion*  
General Sherman's Civil War  
headquarters, the Green-Meldrim  
Mansion is a fine example of  
neo-Gothic architecture and fea-  
tures a magnificent interior. Bull  
Street at Madison Square, (912)  
232-1251

# The Listserv....is ready to serve you!

We are setting up a listserv per the request of your Council and Advisor. The Listserv's purpose is to automatically send information out as well as provide interaction between all Magistrate Clerk/Secretary subscribers. For those of you who are not aware here are a few reasons to join listserv:

- 1) It's an inexpensive (free) way to interact with fellow Magistrates Court Clerks and discuss issues concerning your class of court,
- 2) Great way to seek out advice on unusual cases or cases you

may have not experienced before and,  
3) It's a quick way to send urgent notices that may otherwise require sending postcards, making long distance calls (faxes) and playing phone tag (remember the cost buildup).

The Council encourages you to subscribe to this list. It is convenient, informative, and not to mention, it can be used as a great reference in referring to past events. Subscribing takes one call or e-mail. Once you have subscribed,

you will receive a welcome message, providing instructions on using the service

To subscribe to the Magistrate Listserv, please contact LaShawn Murphy, AOC, at (404) 651-6325 or via email at [murphyla@gaaoc.us](mailto:murphyla@gaaoc.us)

Welcome aboard to all new subscribers! ☐



*The Reporter's Notebook*  
244 Washington Street, Suite 300  
Atlanta, GA 30334