



# Notebook

Vol 1, Issue 2

The Official Newsletter of Georgia's Magistrate Court Clerks

## Executive Committee 2006/2007 Officers

*President*, Jo Anne Jones  
Lowndes County

*Vice-President*, Debbie Barron  
Fayette County

*Secretary/Treasurer*, Gayle Collins  
Whitfield County

## Executive District Members

DISTRICT 1:  
Darlene Seagroves, Effingham Co.

DISTRICT 2:  
Joyce Ray, Terrell County

DISTRICT 3:  
Carla Brown, Lee County

DISTRICT 4:  
Joy Wright, Rockdale County

DISTRICT 5:  
Vacant

DISTRICT 6:  
Jan Streetman, Upson County

DISTRICT 7:  
Freda Maynard, Whitfield County

DISTRICT 8:  
Tammy Underwood, Greene County

DISTRICT 9:  
Brenda Gramling, Cherokee County

DISTRICT 10:  
Cynthia Lewis, Burke County

## Greetings from the President

**H**ope that all of you have had a great New Year. It is getting time for us to plan our summer vacations, but we want you to save the days in July for our 2006 Clerks and Secretaries Training. Our training this year will be July 12-14 at Brasstown Valley Resort in Young Harris, Georgia. Dr. Lynda Hanscome, ICJE is putting together some great classes and we hope that each of you will be able to attend. If

you did not receive registration information about training, you can call Dr. Hanscome or Mrs. Jean Hughes at 706-542-7940 and they will be able to help you. If you should have any other questions about our Association, you may contact your district representative or one of the officers.

Hope to see you in July!

Jo Anne Jones

## From Your Advisor

**H**ello to all...First I want to apologize for the news letter being so late. I had agreed with the Council of Magistrate Court Clerk and Secretaries to continue getting the news letter out to all of you, but have had some difficulties. I want to continue on with the news letter, but may have to pass it on to someone else for the next year. So, if any of you are interested in publishing the news letter, please let me know.

It has been hard trying to figure out what to put in your news letter. I had hoped that I would have gotten some news from our Officers and District Representatives. Please share news with us, so that we can share it with you.

There is not a lot to share with you

all, except that we had a very a busy Legislative Session this year. The Council of Magistrate Court Judges was successful in getting some things passed and some things defeated. I am going to list some of the bills that were passed, elsewhere in the news letter.

Dr. Lynda Hanscome of the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education (ICJE) is working hard with her staff to make sure that all of you have a very educational and informative program in July. Several of us met with Dr. Hanscome in Athens in March to discuss the curriculum and speakers for our upcoming training. As you all know, our training will be in Brasstown Valley again this year, and will be held from July 12th

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# Council of Magistrate Court Clerks and Secretaries

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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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## Minutes

We had a good meeting on Friday in Macon, Georgia at the Administrative Office of the Courts. Judge Connie Holt, Jan Streetman, Darlene Seagroves, Tammy Underwood, Joyce Ray, Carla Brown, Cynthia Lewis and Jo Ann Jones were in attendance.

We discussed the following business:

- Jo Anne Jones is going to contact Susan Barnes in the Fulton County Magistrate Court and see if she would like to be the district representative. If not we will see if she will suggest someone in her office.
- We would like to see if Judge Holt and her staff would continue to do the newsletter. It was discussed to see possibly in the news letter if we could get the laws that were updated.
- Discussion took place re: the certificates. Everyone thought that we needed to do than again. Would like issue them at the training session.
- Discussion took place regarding having an evening social. Would like to check into this once the training has been scheduled. Our Council will pay for this. We do not want ICJE to pay for this.
- Talked about issuing awards. Joyce Ray will gather information on this and let us know.
- We also discussed having door prizes. We will make a decision on this at our next meeting.

- We discussed possible classes for next school year. We would like for Judge Holt to talk to Dr. Hanscome about the following classes:
  - a. Civil cases from A to Z. This would be from filing until the judg-

ment is issued and then how to collect the judgment.

- b. Traverse of a garnishment.
- c. Default judgments against garnishee.
- d. Unliquidated Hearings.
- e. Class on Bench Book usage and inquire how much it would be to get a bench book for each clerk to have. We would like for Judge David Wood to teach this.
- f. Would like for Johnny Warren to teach a class and possibly get the newest edition of his book for each clerk. (Would like to know how much that would be)

- Some clerks seem not to get the information about training. It was suggested that each district representative contact the counties in the district they

represent and tell them about training.

- Would like for Judge Holt to promote clerks training at the meetings she attends.
- The following are email addresses that were given to me at the meeting:

Jan Streetman [jstreetman@mail.com](mailto:jstreetman@mail.com)

Darlene Seagroves  
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Joyce Ray  
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Carla Brown  
[cabrown@lee.ga.us](mailto:cabrown@lee.ga.us)

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## From Your Advisor cont.

thru the 14th, 2006. Dr. Hanscome does such a great job in making sure that we have the best training and speakers at our training. Of course, the subjects being taught came from each of you in your evaluations you turned in last year. Thank you Dr. Hanscome and your staff, for all your hard work put in to making our training a pleasure and full of knowledge.

Officers and District Representatives for the council are all working together to make the Council of Magistrate Court Clerks and Secretaries very strong organization. Your voice was heard in the Senate concerning the Clerk Bill, SB 383, and the bill was defeated. I am very proud of all of you that talked to your Representatives and Senators, which really helped defeat that bill. But

beware; it will probably pop up again next session.

Our meeting in Brasstown Valley will also be our annual meeting. At this meeting you will elect new officers and district representatives. If any of you would like to run for an office or district representative, please let any of the officers know or just put your name in the hat at the meeting.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Brasstown Valley in July. There won't be another newsletter until after our meeting, but if you have any news forward it on to me or any of your Officers or District Representatives.

Take care and see you all real soon,

Connie



# 2006 Clerks & Secretaries Training

TO: Georgia Magistrate Court Clerks and Secretaries  
 FROM: Lynda Hanscome, Ed.D., Education Program Specialist  
 DATE: March 2006  
 SUBJECT: 2006 CLERKS & SECRETARIES TRAINING

Please read this memo carefully. ICJE is offering a 14-hour Clerks & Secretaries Seminar on July 12 - 14, 2006, at Brasstown Valley Resort, Young Harris, GA. A registration form is attached. There is no registration fee for Clerks & Secretaries. However, you must complete and submit the registration form to be eligible to attend. Please complete the form and return the original to ICJE immediately as enrollment is limited. Be sure to keep a copy of everything you submit for your files!

Registration information. When your registration is received, you will be sent a confirmation letter. You may then proceed to make your accommodation arrangements, if required, at Brasstown Valley Resort. On the registration form, be sure to indicate which Track you wish to be enrolled in on Day Two: Track A (General Curriculum) or Track B (Introduction to the Magistrate Court for New Clerks & Secretaries-1 year or less). If you do not indicate your preference, you will be placed in Track A.

Reimbursement of Some Travel Expenses  
 Reimbursement by ICJE provides some travel expenses including two nights' lodging (July 12 & 13) at the group rate per night of \$124, plus state sales tax; one lunch (\$7) and 2 dinners (\$15 each). There is no mileage reimbursement from ICJE. Note: Reimbursement is for Clerks & Secretaries only.  
 Questions? Call: Lynda Hanscome, 706-542-7401; email, lynda@icje.law.uga.edu  
 Or Jean Hughes, 706-542-7940; email, jean@icje.law.uga.edu

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

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

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

Yes! Please enroll me in the Magistrate Court Clerks & Secretaries' Seminar, Brasstown Valley, Young Harris, Georgia.

**July 12 - 14, 2006**

(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 special physical or dietary

# Legislation Update

THE LEGISLATION LISTED BELOW IS THE UPDATE OF LEGISLATION FOR 2006  
Judge David Wood will present the new updates at the training at Brasstown Valley in July.

[signed by Governor, (+) ] - [not signed by the Governor, (-) ]

## House Bills:

HB 149 Garnishment; exempt certain IRAs (+)  
 HB 239 Civil practice; settlement offers; litigation cost (-)  
 HB 549 Bail bonds; fees of sureties (-)  
 HB 692 Probation; terms and conditions; amended (-)  
 HB 718 Pretrial intervention and diversion programs authorize certain courts to administer (-)  
 HB 804 Barratry; Code section; repeal (+)  
 HB 1032 License to carry pistol or revolver; temporary renewal permits; provide restrictions (+)  
 HB 1054 Controlled substances; certain classes; change provisions (+)  
 HB 1059 Sexual offenders; punishment; registration requirements; change provisions (+)  
 HB 1193 Vehicles; false or secret compartments; prohibit owning or operating (+)  
 HB 1195 Civil case; complaints and judgments; change provisions (-)  
 HB 1273 Security Deposits; escrow accounts; change certain provisions (-)  
 HB 1302 Georgia Street Gang Terrorism and Prevention Act; change certain provisions (-)  
 HB 1320 Environmental offenses; littering' revise provisions (+)  
 HB 1332 Terrell County; Clerk of Magistrate Court; provisions (+)  
 HB 1399 Magistrate's salary; waiver; provide (-)  
 HB 1421 Demand for trial; defendant present in court; require (-)  
 HB 1497 Vicious Dogs; requirements for owners; provide (-)  
 HB 1501 County Ordinance violations; maximum fines; change provisions (-)  
 HB 1544 Rockdale County; Magistrate Court; certain qualifications; provide (-)

## Senate Bills:

SB 3 Torts; evidentiary matters, civil practice; revisions of provisions (+)  
 SB 6 Criminal Background checks; authorize national exchange of information (+)  
 SB 13 Gift Card Integrity; unfair/deceptive practices in consumer transactions (+)  
 SB 19 Class Actions; appellate procedures; limitations/conditions on certification (+)  
 SB 45 Mobile telephone service; publishing numbers; written consent of subscriber(+)  
 SB 52 Child Support; un-reimbursed payment; provide negations, waiver (+)  
 SB 62 Georgia Slam Spam E-Mail Act; deceptive commercial e-mail; criminal penalties (+)  
 SB 77 Feticide; parental notification; define/eliminate terms; provide reports (-)  
 SB 87 Georgia Seed Law; preempt certain local ordinances; exemptions (+)  
 SB 88 Georgia Fertilizer Act; preempt certain local ordinances; exemptions (+)  
 SB 89 Controlled Substances, Schedule 1; definition of dangerous drug, exceptions; change provisions(+)  
 SB 90 Ga. Smoke free Air Act; definitions; exemptions; violations; penalties (-)  
 SB 133 Fireworks; change definition; certain combustible compositions; prohibit sale to 16 yr olds; penalty(+)  
 SB 135 Pretrial Proceedings; indictment for children; jurisdiction for Superior Court (+)  
 SB 141 Gambling; prohibit pyramid promotions schemes; definitions; penalties (+)  
 SB 203 Public Defenders; indigent defense services; attorney's fee/cost recovered (-)  
 SB 244 Magistrates Retirement Fund; define terms; create board of commissioners; powers(+)  
 SB 259 Firearms; discharging on Sunday; repeal provision (+)  
 SB 287 Permits; local government; operation of movie theaters/athletic events on Sunday/repeal prov.(+)  
 SB 383 Superior Court Clerk; serve as State,

# Figures For New Court Cost Effective July 1, 2006

SB 244- CHIEF MAGISTRATES RETIREMENT BILL PASSED AND WAS SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR ON APRIL 20TH, 2006.

AS YOU ALL KNOW THERE IS A \$3.00 FEE THAT WILL BE ADDED TO ALL CIVIL FILING FEES.

ALSO, YOUR COURT WILL RECEIVE A FORM OF HOW AND WHERE THE FUNDS ARE TO BE

DISTRIBUTED TO BY YOU AS THE CLERK PRIOR TO JULY 1, 2006. EXAMPLE OF COURT COST MAY VARY BECAUSE OF YOUR LAW LIBRARY AND ETC. THIS IS ONLY AN EXAMPLE BELOW:

- \$20.00 base filing fee
- \$25.00 Sheriff Service fee
- \$1.00 Sheriff Retirement fund
- \$5.00 Law Library fund

- \$15.00 Indigent Defense fund
- \$3.00 Chief Magistrate Retirement fund

Total Court Cost \$ 69.00

AGAIN THE NEW \$3.00 AMOUNT IS TO BE ADDED ON AND AFTER JULY 1, 2006. FORMS WILL BE PRESENTED TO YOUR COURT BY THAT DATE.

## Curriculum Meeting

CURRICULUM MEETING FOR CLERKS AND SECRETARIES CURRICULUM MEETING FOR CLERKS AND SECRETARIES TRAINING FOR JULY 12-14, 2006

Officers, District Representatives, and Advisor of the Council of Magistrate Court Clerks and Secretaries and Dr. Lynda Hanscome and staff; known as "the Curriculum Design Team"; all met at the University of Georgia, ICJE, on March 1, 2006 to discuss and create the curriculum for training for July 12th - 14th, 2006, at Brasstown Valley, Ga. Everybody worked together, discussing all the topics that had been presented by you all from your evaluation forms you

turned in last year. Based on those suggestions, the team came up with a pretty good training schedule. One we hope you will all benefit from. Dr. Hanscome always finds good training spots as well as good instruction and instructors. So listed below is a tentative schedule of courses to be taught.

- Nuts and Bolts of Civil Procedures (from filing to judgment)
- Traverse of Garnishments
- Default Judgments Against a Garnishee
- Unliquidated Damages Hearing
- Legislative Update
- Gangs of Georgia
- Identify Theft
- Pro Se Litigants & Limits of Authority
- Landlord and Tenant

Also, there will be a special training for New Clerks that will be taught by Judge Joy Wright of Rockdale County.

The instructors have been contacted, and have agreed to be the speakers at the training in July. The program schedule and speakers information can be found in this news letter. So please mark your calendars. Dr. Hanscome says we already have a really good crowd scheduled to attend.

Again, training is from July 12th thru July 14th, 2006 at Brasstown Valley, Georgia. If you have any questions please contact Dr. Lynda Hanscome, Ed. Program Specialist, (706) 542-7401 or [lynda@icje.law.uga.edu](mailto:lynda@icje.law.uga.edu)

## Legislation Update cont.

SB 396	Magistrate, Juvenile clerks (died in Senate) Crimes; person who is attacked has not duty to retreat; provide immunity from prosecution (-)	SB 450	Ad Valorem Taxation of Property; revise pay structure of certain county officers/officials (+)
SB 398	Criminal Proceedings; plea of insanity; revise procedures of psychiatric evaluations (-)	SB 462	Sheriffs; authority of courthouse security; remove courthouses/jails from list of properties pro.(-)
SB 413	Compulsory School Attendance Law; exemptions; provide local board of educations policies (-)	SB 503	GA Public Defender Standards Council; legal services to indigent persons; change provisions (-)
SB 442	Child Abuse; reporting; change certain provisions (-)	SB 572	Medical Assist. Managed Care Fraud; establish; define crime; administrative hearings (-)
		SB 588	Social Security Numbers; prohibit the use/display of; specified circumstances (-)

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

Donna J. Burnham Chief Magistrate, Heard County

Every county should have an active Domestic Violence Task Force. The benefits are phenomenal and could easily help curtail the number of cases or at least the number of victims. Some counties have “a” person in their Sheriff’s Department who works D.V. cases and is perhaps a liaison between them and the courts and then the victim advocates at times are in contact with various agencies. BUT, if all of these agencies sent a representative to monthly meetings and were actually a formed task force, think of the possibilities. It is not only permissible but, I believe, should be mandatory for the Chief Magistrate or their designee to be an active member of this task force. If your county doesn't have one,

START one. We have done this in Heard County and are very excited about the progress that has been made. The agencies involved in ours include, but are certainly not limited to; The Magistrate Court, The D.A.'s office, all victim advocates, the sheriff's depts., all local city police depts., the coroner, a rep. from Pathways or any other counseling service you might have, probation officers, DFACS, school counselors, the coordinator of our local Family Connection and volunteer parents. This task force is open to any agency, group or individual that feels compelled to be a member, this list is our membership. Since we've formed, almost two years ago, we have had a booth, when appropriate, at every event that's occurred in the

county, offering information and at times selling items as a fundraiser for school programs. We meet once a month and have recently been working on mission and vision statements and putting our own pamphlet together. On the 21st of April we have set up through the school counselors, times to address the students in a panel type discussion.

Our goal is to help prevent abuse through education and counseling, making our families stronger and healthier. I would like to see the other counties in our judicial district have the same, so we can then have representatives from each task force meet to share information. Please call if I can be of any help.



*The Reporter's Notebook*

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