
12 Judges Will Be Elected November 2nd

In this Issue: Research on the Candidates Running for Judge in November

Judges elected November 2, 2010 take office January 1, 2011.

Supreme Court Justices and Court of Appeals Judges are elected for six-year terms.

Superior Court Judges are elected for four-year terms.

Candidates in the Supreme Court race and the Appeals Court race will be on all ballots. Candidates in 10 Superior Court races will be on ballots, based on their judicial circuit.

(a) One judge will be elected from each of the following judicial circuits:

Atlanta, Brunswick, Douglas, Macon, Stone Mountain and Western.

(b) The following judicial circuits will elect two judges:

Cobb Circuit: Judge Bodiford has opposition and Judge Kreeger has opposition.

Enotah Circuit: Both Judge Barrett and Judge Alderman have opposition.

Three Candidates for Georgia Supreme Court

(These candidates will be on everyone's ballot.)

David Nahmias, age 45, is the incumbent. He was appointed associate justice August 13, 2009 by Governor Perdue and took office September 3, 2009, to fill the vacancy left when Justice Sears resigned. He grew up in Atlanta and was a STAR student at Briarcliff High School. He graduated summa cum laude from Duke University, second in his class, and magna cum laude from Harvard Law School, where he was editor of the Harvard Law Review. His extensive and varied federal career began in 1995 and culminated in August 2009 when he was appointed to the Georgia Supreme Court. This is his first campaign for public office.

Matt Wilson, age 58, received a BS degree from University of California, Berkeley in 1972 and a law degree from Washington College of Law, American University, in D.C. in 1975. He held a seat on the Chicago Board of Trade and says he "understands the modern world of business and the importance of free markets; the laws, rules and practices underlying complex financial transactions; and has witnessed his own clients' hardships in the current recession."

His private practice for 35 years has been first-chair experience with individuals, families and small businesses in jury trials, arbitration, mediation and appeals in all levels of Georgia courts. He identifies as a champion of individual rights and a total "outsider" candidate for government office. He is dedicated to enforcing constitutional limits to state and federal governments and, as an adult leader in the Boy Scouts of America, was chosen to serve as Scoutmaster.

Tammy Lyn Adkins qualified, but the only data available is that she's a 47-year-old attorney.

SPECIAL ACTION - Learn who is best qualified to decide legal issues by doing further research on the character, training and careers of these potential judges. For further information, contact the candidates for your circuit or their campaigns.

Six Candidates for Georgia Court of Appeals

(These candidates will be on everyone's ballot.)

James Barbalola, 47-year-old Air Force veteran says, "I will protect and uphold the individual liberties that are enshrined in the U.S. Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Georgia." He attended Air Force Community College, Southern Polytechnic State University, has a Master's in Administrative Sciences from Montana University and degree from Washburn Law School (1995) in Kansas, where he was on the Law Review and was Law Clinic Student Director. Admitted to the Georgia Bar in 1996, practiced 14 years in real estate, landlord and tenant law, estates, taxation, corporations, collections and veterans' law. Was Quality Renters CEO and Legal Counsel four+ years and for 7 years has been VA Decision Review Officer.

Antoinette (Toni) Davis, age 59, graduated from UGA School of Law (1978), where for two years was Director of the Legal Research and Writing program, teaching first year students. After working as Supreme Court of Georgia attorney (1980 – 1994), she began private practice in civil litigation and appellate work and is current partner in Boone & Stone, a civil litigation firm in Atlanta and Blakely, Georgia. She has litigated numerous cases in the Georgia Court of Appeals and Georgia Supreme Court. She attends Marietta First United Methodist Church.

Stan Gunter, age 51, of Habersham County, graduated from North Georgia College with a BS in chemistry (1981) and Woodrow Wilson College of Law. Then, was admitted to the Georgia bar (1986). After serving as Assistant Executive Counsel to Governor Joe Frank Harris (1987 – 1991) he moved to Blairsville, practiced law until 1998 and was Union County Attorney. He and his wife of 28 years are leaders in local organizations and members of First Baptist Church, Blairsville. He is a deacon and on the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. His philosophy is Deuteronomy 1:17, "Do not show partiality in judging, hear both small and great alike." In addition, he says, "The role of a judge is to interpret the law and not legislate from the bench."

Adrienne Hunter-Strothers, age 34, an Atlantan and Harvard Law School graduate, edited the Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review and interned with the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. She studied at Oxford University (U.K.) and at Brown University, as honor grad. Her almost ten years of trials and litigation began in N.Y., where she met her husband, continued in Georgia at King & Spalding, LLP and, currently, she is with Warner Mayou Bates & McGough.

Chris McFadden, age 63, wrote *Georgia Appellate Practice* (1996). It's the leading Georgia appeals reference and is published annually. Over 80 of his case opinions were published during his 20-year practice, primarily, in the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals. He is a founder and former chair of the State Bar, Appellate Practice Section, wrote a portion of the Appellate Practice law and is an Atlanta Bar officer. Most recently, he was on the executive committee for Ethical Judicial Campaigns and founded a Judicial Campaign Conduct Committee.

David Schaeffer, age 53, born in Augusta, son of a Lutheran minister/WW II chaplain. David worked his way through Duke University, graduated magna cum laude and earned a Virginia School of Law degree (1981). In his 29-year Atlanta career he has been with Kidd & Vaughan (now, Holland Schaeffer Roddenbery Blich LLP) and became partner in 1987. He has handled every kind of case in the Appeals Court, has tried dozens of jury trials and handled his own appeals. He chaired the Atlanta Bar Association Litigation Section, is now Atlanta Bar president and has helped implement "Lawyers Who Serve" to encourage pro bono work. In Atlanta, he and his wife of 26 years are active at St. Luke Lutheran Church. David is cantor and assisting minister.

Five Candidates for Superior Court Judge, Atlanta Circuit, 1 Seat

(These candidates will be on the ballot for voters in the Atlanta Judicial Circuit only.)

Chloe Dallaire, age 38, magna cum laude honor graduate of Wake Forest University, BA (1993). At Emory School of Law, she was on the moot court and earned her law degree (1997). As a trial lawyer, *Super Lawyers Magazine* and *Atlanta Magazine* named her Georgia Rising Star (2007, 2009, 2010). She has 12 years of experience in torts, employment matters, medical malpractice, defective products, premises liability, fraud, and complex business disputes.

Karlise Yvette Grier, age 45, has a BA in Computer Science from Dartmouth College (1986), a law degree from the Emory University School of Law (1992) and was admitted to the State Bar of Georgia (1992). She manages her own firm, Grier Law Office, P.C., concentrating on adoption law, divorce law, and family law. She has tried contested cases in child custody, child support, alimony, marital property division, and termination of parental rights before judges and juries in Georgia superior, state, and juvenile courts and is experienced in resolving contested divorce matters. She was appointed to the State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors in September 2000, where she continues to represent the Atlanta circuit in Post 30. She served as president of the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys (GABWA) (2001). A life-long United Methodist Church member, she, currently, attends and ushers at Ben Hill UMC.

Clarence R. Johnson, Jr., age 52, is a native of Atlanta, where he graduated high school with honors and from Clark College (Clark Atlanta University) magna cum laude with a BA in political science, concentrating in public policy. He made the dean's list and earned his law degree from Temple University School of Law in Philadelphia, where he was voted Most Instrumental Member in the Black Lawyer Students' Association (BLSA). He is owner and partner of his law firm, Clarence R. Johnson, Jr., P.C., in the Sweet Auburn district of Atlanta, specializing in general civil and criminal litigation matters ranging from personal injury and wills to traffic and misdemeanors.

He was inducted into The Ten Outstanding Young People of Atlanta (1990) and teaches Paralegal Litigation at Emory University. He's an active member of Ben Hill United Methodist Church, where he sings in the Sanctuary Choir, as well as the C.L. Henderson Male Chorus.

Kelly Amanda Lee, age 42, is a life-long Georgian and graduate of the UGA Terry College of Business and UGA School of Law. She was lead counsel in 30 civil jury trials to verdict in 17 years of practice in Fulton County and, currently, owns her own law office. For individuals, as well as multi-million-dollar public companies and small to mid-size businesses, her specialty is business litigation and insurance coverage. She was on the "short list" of five finalists for a vacancy on the Fulton County Superior Court (2009) and the "short list" for a Fulton County State Court judgeship (2008). *Atlanta Magazine* named her "Super Lawyer" (2009, 2010) and "Rising Star" (2005, 2006).

Shelitha Robertson calls herself a "Grady baby," was educated in Atlanta public schools, has two daughters and is an active member and trustee at Greater Piney Grove Baptist Church. She has been in the public safety and legal field for 30 years, including a decade as an Atlanta Police Officer (December 1980 – March 1990). After law school, she joined Atlanta Law Department and became Assistant Public Defender of indigents. As Assistant City Attorney for Atlanta, she drafted laws and resolutions, advised city officials and litigated in state and appellate courts.

Superior Court, Brunswick Circuit, 1 Seat

(These two candidates will be on the ballot for voters in the Brunswick Judicial Circuit only.)

Mary Helen Moses, age 56, born in Atlanta, grew up in Vidalia, graduate of Lakeside High in Atlanta, received a BA from Furman (1975) and JD from UGA School of Law (1978). Her first job was in a N.C. law school moot court program. Then, as a full-time government employee in D.C., she worked for a National Labor Relations Board member and earned her Masters of Law in night school (1981). For 18 years she was professor of law in Albany, N.Y., where she greatly improved the Albany Law School moot court. Returning to St. Simons Island, she went into private practice (1999) and is now a registered mediator and arbitrator in Georgia. She has written amicus curiae briefs for the U.S. Supreme Court and the N.Y. Court of Appeals and, most recently, was co-counsel in federal litigation to stop the expansion of Glynn County detention center in downtown Brunswick. She, also, teaches at John Marshall Law School.

Amanda P. Williams, age 63, superior court judge, williamsaf@bellsouth.net. (No other data.)

Superior Court, Cobb Circuit, 2 Seats

(The candidates in these two races will be on the ballot for voters in the Cobb Judicial Circuit only.)

(1) James Bodiford, age 60, of Cobb County, has a BA from Mercer University, a degree from John Marshall Law School and is a graduate of the National Judicial College. He was Cobb's Chief Magistrate Judge (1985 – 1994), conducted Georgia's First Drug Court, completed 500+ felony cases, judged the death penalty trial of Fred Tokars, the Lynn Turner (anti-freeze) murder trial and the Tri-State crematory case. He has been a Powder Springs Municipal Court Judge, Cobb County DA trial attorney, Continuing Judicial Education Institute teacher and advisor to the faculty at Nevada University National Judicial College. He was elected Cobb Superior Court Judge with 69% of the vote (July 1994) and re-elected (1998, 2002) without opposition.

Normarene Culver Merritt, age 62, of Kennesaw, is a graduate of Emory Law School and 1999 finalist for a new State Court Judge seat. She retired as Atlanta deputy solicitor in 2007.

(2) George H. Kreeger, age 69, has BS and JD degrees from UGA, practiced for 13 years, 11 as Tate & Kreeger. Member, Georgia House (1969 – 76), State Court Judge (January 1979 – June 1984), Superior Court Judge and Chief Judge (1997 – 98), Administrative Judge Seventh Judicial District, on Judicial Council (2002 – 04), presides over Cobb Superior Court Drug Treatment and Treatment Courts, is a member of First United Methodist Church in Smyrna.

Joan P. Davis, age 57, information available on YouTube, only.

Superior Court, Douglas Circuit, 1 Seat

(These two candidates will be on the ballot for voters in the Douglas Judicial Circuit only.)

Sonya Compton, age 48, a lawyer for 16 years, invites you to check her out on Facebook.

David T. Emerson, age 58, with a UGA BS in Math (1973), a law degree from UGA School of Law (1976), has practiced law since 1976. He is on the Georgia Judicial Council, is Seventh Judicial Administrative District Judge and serves on the Supreme Court Technology Advisory Committee. He received a medallion as a longtime presenter of training Superior Court judges. He and his wife of 31 years are members of Heritage Baptist Church in Douglasville.

Jennifer Knight, age 37, is married, has UGA Cultural Anthropology and Archeology degree and Loyola University law degree, worked with the Atlanta Solicitor, Fulton County DA and her firm's focus is civil litigation, criminal defense, family law and jobs. (See her on Facebook.)

Superior Court, Western Circuit, 1 Seat

(These candidates will be on the ballot for voters in the Western Judicial Circuit only.)

Pamela Lohr Hendrix, age 44, divorced single mother of two sons, moved to Watkinsville from Morgan County three years ago and has never locally tried a case in Superior Court.

David R. Sweat, age 55, born in Tifton and reared in Augusta, graduated from Harlem High, earned a BA degree from Augusta College (now Augusta State University) and received his law degree (1979) from UGA School of Law. He and his wife of 29 years were law partners for 15 years, after his eight-year employment with Georgia Legal Services. As a practicing attorney (1979 – 2002) he became a trained mediator and arbitrator. He advises and assists nonprofit organizations – Athens International Little League, Neighborhood Health Center, Justice Project, Community Connection, Food Bank, Nancy Travis House and AIDS Coalition of Northeast Georgia. He was elected Judge of Superior Court, Western Judicial Circuit when the incumbent retired (2002). He was appointed Municipal Court Judge of Athens-Clarke County (March 2005), served five years, but left just recently (July 2010). In the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Athens, he is a member, sings in the choir, teaches Sunday School and has served on the Board of Trustees as President and as a Healthy Congregation Consultant.

Superior Court, Enotah Circuit, 2 Seats

(These two races will be on the ballot for voters in the Enotah Judicial Circuit only.)

(1) David E. Barrett, age 55, a native Georgian, resides with his wife in Hiawassee, where he is active in church and charities. He practiced law 12 years before his appointment to the court (1992). He implemented the Drug Court, created a 9th District Alternative Resolution Program and gave jurors copies of the law for use in deliberation, developed self-representative divorce seminars and trains Superior Court Judges in continuing judicial education. He was nominated to learn computer forensics and, subsequently, instruct other judges in the same training.

David Turk, age 55, is a 30-year prosecutor and defense attorney, who resides in North Georgia with his wife and children. He attended Young Harris and Georgia State University, then graduated from Mercer Law School (1980). Governor Miller appointed him to be Enotah Circuit's first DA (1992). In 1995, he entered private practice and was appointed Juvenile Court Judge (2007). He helped set up Family Drug Court and initiated the Truancy Court.

(2) Lynn Alderman, age 49 has spent the last 13 years in the circuit and is seeking her second term as Superior Court Judge. She has been assistant DA, Chief Assistant DA, and Special Assistant AG, then Circuit Juvenile Judge (2003 – 2007). She established the DATE Fund Committee, a Domestic Violence "Fast Track" pilot project, assisted in setting up a family law program, the Family Drug Court and spearheaded the self-funded Pre-trial Service program.

Ridge Rairigh, age 43, is a graduate of LaSalle University in Philadelphia and Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing (1999). He was Shepard's Law Review legal director, passed the bar on his first attempt, became Deputy DA in Colorado Springs (2000) and wed a North Georgia girl (2002). In Hall County he was Northeastern Judicial Circuit staff attorney until he began private practice (2004) and opened his own office (2006). He served as U.S. Coast Guard Boatswain's Mate Second Class, attached to a law enforcement detachment on Navy ships, did counter-narcotics missions and boardings in the Caribbean, western Pacific and Atlantic oceans. He, his wife and two children attend Dahlonega United Methodist Church.

Superior Court, Stone Mountain Circuit, 1 Seat

(These candidates will be on the ballot for voters in the Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit only.)

Yvonne Hawks, age 53, native of Gainesville, educated in public schools, the Georgia State College and University in Milledgeville, earning a BA in Management. She worked with K-Mart as Assistant Store Manager for several years, then 13 years in the Departments of Revenue and Labor. With a degree from John Marshall Law School (1997), she became a licensed attorney and went into private practice in Metro Atlanta. She has worked with Defender's Offices in Fulton County and the City of Atlanta, representing indigents in the Pro Bono Project, the Truancy Intervention Program (TIPS) and senior citizens. She is a ten-year, Silver Life member in the DeKalb NAACP, and recent president of NAACP's DeKalb Branch. As a member of Greater Piney Grove Baptist Church, she sings in the choir and is president of the Social Action Commission addressing social issues – HIV/AIDS, homelessness, voter power, education and health issues of the community. She co-authored two books *This is not Cool*, Volumes I & II, and has conducted workshops in several counties on subjects affecting youth.

Courtney Johnson, age 35, of Atlanta, attended high school at Woodward Academy, graduated with a BA in Government from Georgetown University, D.C. and attended Emory Law School, where she was selected to intern in the DeKalb Solicitor General's office and conducted her initial jury trial as a law student. After passing the Georgia Bar, she became the Solicitor's Office advocate for domestic violence victims and conducted a weekly Domestic Violence Diversion Court, presided over by judges of DeKalb Magistrate Court. She became Assistant Solicitor General, prosecuting misdemeanors, while training new attorneys and police officers on certain topics. She researched, prepared and filed briefs in the Georgia Court of Appeals and, ultimately, drafted appellate briefs. As DeKalb County Assistant DA, she was responsible for felony prosecutions in the county and local municipalities. In 2008 she prosecuted more jury trials than all Superior Court divisions in DeKalb County.

Michael Rothenberg, age 32, grew up in Miami where his mother was the first female clerk in the Miami-Dade County Court. He met his wife the day after high school graduation. He invites you to follow him on Twitter.

Denise M. Warner, age 43, has practiced law in Georgia for 14 years. While attending the University of Connecticut School of Law, she was a leader in the National Black Law Students Association. After graduation, she moved to DeKalb County, where she was a court-appointed attorney in Juvenile Court. She joined a law firm as first-chair trial attorney, then opened her own law office in Stone Mountain. She is the second African-American female to serve as president of the DeKalb County Bar Association, which is comprised of over 400 attorneys. Five years ago (2005), she became Staff Attorney for Judge Mark Anthony Scott of DeKalb County Superior Court.

Superior Court, Macon Circuit, 1 Seat

(For voters in the Macon Judicial Circuit only. No other information available on these candidates.)

Jim Barnes, 55, attorney; **G. Morris Carr**, 36, attorney; **Howard Simms**, 47, attorney

ACTION – Research each judicial candidate that will be on your ballot November 2. Then, vote wisely.

Georgia Insight is a conservative publication financed entirely by its recipients.