

News Release

Superior Court of Fulton County
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SUPERIOR COURT OF FULTON COUNTY ANNOUNCES EXPANSION OF FULTON COUNTY JUVENILE COURT TO INCLUDE THREE ADDITIONAL FULL-TIME JUDGES

Making progress with additional full-time Judges for Juvenile Court

ATLANTA (January 18, 2023) – The Superior Court of Fulton County is proud to announce the appointments of three full-time Judges to the Juvenile Court Bench, which include Phillip Jackson, Coy J. Johnson, Jr., and T. Natasha Crawford.

Determined by statutory authority, the Superior Court Bench of Fulton County voted last year to convert the three, part-time Associate Judge positions to full-time Judge positions. This will provide additional support to better serve the families and children of Fulton County. Interviews with Judges from Superior Court began late last year and in early January the bench voted on the three candidates. They will preside full-time in Juvenile Court where they will hear cases involving allegations of deprivation (abuse and neglect), unruly conduct, delinquency, parental rights and traffic violations for juveniles. The three will be appointed January 23, 2023. The Juvenile Court has previously held a mix of Judge and Associate Judge positions, but will now consist entirely of full-time judges, increasing the total from four to seven. Two of the appointees have served as part-time Associate Judges on the bench of Juvenile Court in Fulton County, and the third appointee has been a Deputy Assistant Solicitor and Assistant Public Defender.

Judge Phillip Jackson has served as an Associate Juvenile Court Judge for Fulton County since June 2009 where he has presided over cases involving dependency and delinquency from probable cause, termination of parental rights, and designated felony hearings. Judge Jackson was born, and lived most of his life, in Atlanta, and was educated in Atlanta Public Schools. He is active with the Gate City Bar Association Judicial Section, having served as secretary and chairperson, and received the Judge Clarence Cooper Legacy Award in 2014. Judge Jackson previously practiced juvenile law for more than four years as a parent attorney, child attorney and defense attorney, as well as an Assistant Solicitor with both the city of Atlanta and Fulton County.

Judge Coy J. Johnson, Jr. has served as an Associate Juvenile Court Judge for Fulton County since February 2020 where he has over presided over dependency and delinquency cases, high risk youth, and status offenses, including Truancy Court. He also adjudicates all CHINS (Child In Need of Services) cases and leads the Court's Juvenile Justice Enhancement Initiative, which seeks to promote the use of best practices by all stakeholders and partners involved in juvenile delinquency cases. Judge Johnson was previously a Director and Senior Attorney with the Fulton County's Office of the Child Attorney for over nine years, and an Assistant District Attorney with the Barrow County District Attorney's Office.

T. Natasha Crawford has most recently served as Deputy Assistant Solicitor at the Office of the Solicitor General in Fulton County where she supervised trial division courtrooms, conducted competency and civil commitment hearings, and was instrumental in the creation of the Youthful Offender Program. She also supervises Accountability Courts, focusing on appropriately tailored intervention that addresses the needs of the defendant while reducing recidivism. Ms. Crawford served as a Public Defender on the Atlanta Judicial Circuit from 2014 to 2020; where she was heavily involved in the My Journey Matters program, a program designed to divert young men and women from a lifetime of crime and incarceration.

The three full-time Judges will be sworn in soon. Judge Juliette W. Scales currently serves as the Chief Presiding Judge of the Fulton County Juvenile Court.

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The Superior Court of Fulton County

The [Superior Court of Fulton County](#) is Georgia's busiest trial court of general jurisdiction. The twenty Judges of the Superior Court preside over cases involving misdemeanors, contract disputes, and various other actions. In addition, the Superior Court has exclusive equity jurisdiction over all cases of divorce, title to land, and felonies involving jury trials. The Court seeks to provide a forum in which legal disputes between citizens can be resolved in a fair and efficient process with attention to equal access, impartiality, efficiency, and safety.

Ural Glanville, Chief Judge * * * David Summerlin, District Court Administrator

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ⁱ For more information and resources, please visit our website at www.fultoncourt.org



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