

GSCCCA Update

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An update on the activities of the Georgia Superior Court Clerks' Cooperative Authority

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Authority welcomes new staff

With the addition of the Fines and Fees Division and the expansion of other projects, the Authority has added several new staff members.

John Earle – Project Manager, Fines and Fees Division

John is a native of Anderson, South Carolina, and a graduate of both The Citadel and the University of Georgia. He worked for twenty years in a variety of financial positions before joining the Authority. He and his wife, Denice, have two children, and when he's not managing the Authority's newest division, he has a passion for coaching youth sports, particularly baseball and basketball. When asked about his new job, he replied "I've never been around a more team-oriented, cooperative group of people in my life." Contact John directly at 404.327.7320 ext. 1400 or e-mail him at John.Earle@gsccca.org.

Tisha Olsen – Project Assistant, Fines and Fees Division

Tisha grew up in Lithonia, lived in Birmingham for a few years, and is now happy to be back in the Atlanta area. She has two children and is a self-proclaimed "super mom." Prior to joining the Authority, her favorite job was being a corporate event planner and "spending large amounts of money to plan the fun." When asked about the Fines and Fees Division, she stated "I love being a part of it because ... it's very satisfying to see this project through from the very beginning, to everything it is now, to how it will develop in the future." Contact Tisha directly at 404.327-7320 ext. 1401 or e-mail her at Tisha.Olsen@gsccca.org.

Julie Maher – Staff, Fines and Fees Division

Julie grew up in Stone Mountain and holds a B.S. from Georgia Southern University. She



Top (l-r): John Earle, Rachel Gittner, Tisha Olsen
Bottom: Julie Maher

and her husband have one daughter who will soon turn two. Prior to the birth of her daughter, she was director of operations for a mobile ultrasound and nuclear medicine company for nine years. When asked about her new job, Julie says she loves it because of the great people she works

with and the great people she works for. Contact Julie directly at 404.327.7320 ext. 1403 or e-mail her at Julie.Maher@gsccca.org.

Rachel Gittner – Authority Training Coordinator

Rachel is a native of Charlotte, North Carolina, where she graduated from Queens College with a mathematics degree. Before joining the Authority, she spent three years teaching 7-12th grade math and science and coaching volleyball, softball and basketball. Prior to being named the Authority's first training coordinator, she worked in the Fines and Fees Division. She loves her new job because she meets so many new people and looks forward to "being able to help in hands-on training." Contact Rachel directly at 404.327.9058 ext. 1010 or e-mail her at Rachel.Gittner@gsccca.org. ■

Joshua's Law has been signed by the governor. See article on Page 4 for more information.

January board meeting review

The Authority Board of Directors met on January 12 for its quarterly meeting. Following is a brief summary of the updates and actions.

- **Oath of Office** – The Hon. Hugh Stone, Chief Judge of the Superior Courts of the Enotah Judicial Circuit, was given the oath of office to become a member of the Authority board.
- **General Business** – The minutes for the September 8, 2004, and October 13, 2004, meetings were approved. Greg Morgan, of the accounting firm Mauldin and Jenkins, presented the Auditor’s Report and gave an overview of the financial health of the Authority which he stated was in good condition. He also stated that the Authority will replace 1,167 computers with new ones over the next three years.
- **UCC Project** – David Williams presented an update on the UCC project stating that the total number of UCCs filed statewide has diminished every year since 1999 to a low of approximately 247,000 for 2004. He also reported that the number of certified searches has continued to drop due to the online availability of the Statewide UCC Index.
- **PT-61 Project** – John Myers presented an update on the PT-61 Project noting that the number of PT-61 filings has dramatically increased since November 1, 2004 due to the elimination of paper-based PT-61 forms. He estimated that the number of PT-61 filings will number 500,000 to 600,000 per year. Mr. Myers also reported that the number of activations of electronically filed PT-61 forms is being monitored.
- **Fines and Fees Project** – John Earle presented an update on HB1EX, the Fines and Fees Project, reporting that the growth has been in the POPIDF-B surcharge. He projects that approximately 25-30 million dollars will be generated for Indigent Defense by the end of the fiscal year. When asked about enforcement of HB1EX, Mr. Earle responded that non-complaint courts are being notified by letter and telephone. Mr. Earle also presented financial reports for the Fines and Fees Division. He reported that there are several legislative challenges to complying with certain provisions of HB1EX and that the Fines and Fees Division is looking for clarification from the legislature.
- **Deed Indexing Standards** – Phil Kobierowski presented the proposed changes to the Deed Indexing Standards. Chairman Daniel appointed Board Members Barry Wilkes and Jean Rogers as a committee to work with Mr. Kobierowski on the proposed indexing changes.
- **Protective Order Registry Forms** – Richard McPhaul presented the proposed changes to the Protective Order Registry forms and a motion to accept the changes was approved.
- **Bylaw Changes** – David Williams presented the proposed changes to the Authority’s bylaws for discussion and action at the April board meeting. The changes, as stated by Mr. Banks, are primarily “housekeeping” items – nothing of major consequence.
- **Election of Authority Officers** – The new slate of Authority officers was approved. ■

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Attention Clerks!

Take advantage of the section of our site designed just for you. Visit the Clerk Resource Center at www.gsccca.org/clerkresource/ for clerk-specific information including program status reports, conference materials and links to Notary and PT-61 Online.

April board meeting review

The Authority Board of Directors met on April 13 for its quarterly meeting. Following is a brief summary of the updates and actions.

- Oath of Office – Dave S. Wills, Jr., chairman of the Webster County Commission, was given the oath of office to become an Authority board member.
- General Business – The minutes for the January 12, 2005 board meeting were approved. Greg Morgan, of the accounting firm Mauldin & Jenkins, presented the Auditor’s Report and stated that the Authority was in good financial shape based on the most current financial reports.
- UCC Project – David Williams presented an update on the UCC Project noting that the total number of UCC filings continues to decline primarily due to the adoption of Revised Article 9 in July 2001.
- Historical Deed Project – David Williams next reported on the Historical Deed Project noting that by July 2005 more than ninety counties will have historical deed data online back to 1993.
- Liens and Plats Project – David Williams also reported on the Liens and Plats Project stating that eight counties to date have not transmitted a plat. Those counties have been contacted and are working on becoming compliant. The Authority is now producing a compliance report detailing the status of all clerks’ offices in relation to all mandated projects.
- Fines and Fees Division – John Earle presented a report on the status of the Fines and Fees Division stating that collection for indigent defense will total approximately \$25 million for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005. Following a discussion on dealing with delinquent courts, a motion was passed authorizing the Authority’s executive director to request that the Attorney General, pursuant

to O.C.G.A. Section 15-21-4, notify the Chief Judge of any non-compliant courts in his or her circuit.

A motion was also passed directing the Authority staff to collect the money and remittances provided in Section 2 of SB 226 (Joshua’s Law) and to place those monies collected last on the priority list.

There was discussion concerning clarifying the definition of a case as it relates to fines and fees assessment for the Law Library Fee and the Crime Lab Fee. No action was taken to change the definition contained in rule 1.15 of the Interim Rules and Regulations.

- Standards Committee Report – Following a discussion on the importance of indexing all possible cross references in an effort to make the database more valuable, a motion was passed to accept the Standards Committee Report.

- Resolutions/Policies – A resolution concerning the use of credit card payments was adopted. A resolution regarding the Georgia Chamber of Commerce was tabled until a later date. Discussion on the adoption of a policy on data and image retrieval was also tabled. And a motion on a resolution honoring Woodson Daniel was tabled until a later date when Mr. Daniel and all board members could be present.

- Bylaw Changes – A motion was passed to accept proposed “housekeeping” changes to the Authority’s bylaws in an effort to clarify and update existing bylaws.

- 2005-2006 Budget – David Williams presented the 2005-2006 budget discussing the costs associated with every project and the anticipated revenue from the four revenue producing projects: Deed, UCC, Notary and Fines and Fees. A motion to approve the budget as presented was passed. ■

Joshua's Law signed by governor

Senate Bill 226 (Joshua's Law), which creates a new 5% surcharge on all traffic violations, was signed by Governor Perdue on May 11, and in accordance with Section 7 of the bill, Section 2 became effective upon the governor's signature. Therefore, clerks should begin including the new 5% surcharge on all traffic violations with an offense date of May 11, 2005 and thereafter. For the full text of SB 226, please visit our website at www.courttrax.org and click on the "Legislation" tab. On our website, you will also find FAQ # 25, a letter from the office of the Attorney General dated April 13, 2005, as well as an updated Consolidated Monthly Remittance Form which addresses the new surcharge.

You will note that there is a new line item on the **Consolidated Monthly Remittance Report** that you have been filing with the Authority. Collections of this new 5% surcharge will be remitted on this form similar to other remittable funds and included on the line noted as Driver Education and Training Fund. Please note that until Section 1 of SB 226 takes effect (January 1, 2007), this new 5% surcharge should be included last on the priority schedule applicable to partial payments. See Sections 7.12 and 7.13 of the board-approved Rules and Regulations located on our CourtTRAX website for a complete priority list.

When visiting our CourtTRAX site, you will also notice that a new type of summary report has been added. A Court Type Compliance Report for Remittable Funds and a Court Type Compliance Report for Reportable Funds are now available. To access these reports from the CourtTRAX homepage, click on the "CourtTRAX Reports" tab on the left.

If you have any questions regarding these matters or other issues related to CourtTRAX, please call the Fines and Fees Division at 404.327.7320, ext. 1400, 1401 or 1403. ■

Are you planning a move?

If your office is planning a move or a renovation that will require moving computer lines, please make note of the following information:

- Please call the Authority Help Desk (800.304.5174 or 404.327.9760) as far ahead as possible to let us know about the move. The phone company has informed us that it needs **45 days** in order to schedule the move of a circuit, with expedited service in 30 days.
- If you are put in a situation where you can't control the date of the move, please still contact Help Desk and we will do our best to prevent your system(s)/office from being down for an extended period. It is important to remember that Protective Orders need to be scanned/faxed to us the day your office receives them in order for us to get them to the GCIC registry. Also, if the lines are not set up so that you can scan UCCs to us for a day or two, you can still fax them to us. Please remember, the delay by even one county in sending its UCCs causes a delay in the advancement of the state's Good-Thru Date.
- The Authority will assist in moving any equipment we have installed (search terminals, etc.), but you will need to contact your vendor to move workstations. These stations have vendor software loaded on them that will need to be set up again.

If you have questions, please call the Authority Help Desk at 800.304.5174 or 404.327.9760 or e-mail at help@gsccca.org. ■



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