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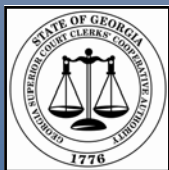
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Arch W. McGarity

Chief Judge
Superior Courts
Flint Judicial Circuit

Rhett Walker

Clerk of Superior Court
Dodge County



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Authority Expands Online Training

In a continuing effort to increase the ease and availability of training to Clerks' and their staffs, the Authority is developing two more online training courses.

Extended Training on Real Estate Indexing Standards – This online course is a continuation of the *Introduction to GSCCCA Indexing Standards* training course that is currently available and will provide expanded training of the Real Estate Indexing Standards. *Introduction to GSCCCA Indexing Standards* consists of nine modules and a Final Test. The extended training will begin with Module 10 which consists of five in-depth lessons covering:

- ❖ Conveyancing
- ❖ Voluntary Conveyances
- ❖ Involuntary Conveyances and Other Terms

- ❖ Liens
- ❖ Plats & Maps

UCC Training Online – This course will provide online training for all aspects of the UCC Project and will cover in detail:

- ❖ What a UCC is
- ❖ Clerk's responsibility regarding filing UCCs
- ❖ Transmitting UCCs to GSCCCA
- ❖ Thirteen reasons to reject a UCC filing

In addition to these two new courses that are being developed, the Authority has three other online courses that are currently available: *Introduction to GSCCCA Indexing Standards*,

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McGarity Joins Board

Chief Judge **Arch W. McGarity** of the Flint Judicial Circuit has been appointed by Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears to the Authority Board of Directors. In accordance with Georgia Code, the Authority Board has one judicial appointment. Judge McGarity, who also serves as Immediate Past President of the Council of Superior Court Judges, will serve a three-year term in this capacity. He replaces Chief Judge Hugh Stone. Pictured here at the Authority's recent Board meeting, Judge McGarity (on right) is administered the oath of office by Notary Public Mike Smith, the Authority's communications director.



January Board Meeting Review

The Authority Board met on January 14 for its quarterly meeting. Following is a summary of the reports and actions of the meeting.

General Business:

Notary Public Mike Smith, who serves as communications director for the Authority, administered the oath of office to new board member, Chief Judge Arch McGarity.

The minutes of the October 8, 2008, board meeting were presented and approved by the Board.



Chairman Tom Lawler & Executive Dir. David Williams

Greg Morgan presented the accountant's review of the financial reports. Morgan stated that a reduction in accounts receivables is probably due to fewer transactions and better collections. Fixed assets have declined due to depreciation of equipment placed in the clerks' offices. Computer equipment is depreciated using a "straight line" method over a three-year period. It was also noted that real estate revenue has been negatively impacted by the current real estate market. The year-end 2008 revenues were down approximately \$1.5 million compared to year-end 2007.

UCC Project:

As part of the UCC Project update, it was reported that overall filings for 2008 were down to approximately 222,000, the lowest in the existence of the Authority. The downward trend in the number of filings is expected to continue as it will likely track the economic climate.

Historical Deed Project:

A report was given on the Historical Deed Project. The 1990-1991 Historical Project is pro-

gressing with four vendors involved. Quality of data transmitted has improved compared to the 1992 Historical Project due to increased standards, more training of indexers and test requirements. Twenty counties have contributed approximately 30% of the statewide real estate data to date. More in-depth indexing training will be available soon.

Fines & Fees Division:

A report on the Fines & Fees Division was given that included an overview and brief history of the project and current financial reports.

Training:

An update on training was given and the 2009 schedule was provided. Training dates and locations were selected in an effort to provide the best coverage state-wide. Each area of the

state is represented so that attendees can reduce travel time and distance. Online training continues with real estate deed indexing, notary public and certified real estate indexing. An "extended" real estate indexing training module will be available in 2009.



Board members Arch McGarity (left) and Mike Johnson

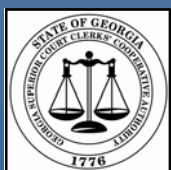
Other Issues & Projects:

A motion was made that would require that the same contractual standards applied to vendors also apply to clerks' offices regarding the indexing and transmission of historical real estate records and that payment

and acceptance of such records would only be made when such records are indexed by Authority-certified indexers. The motion was approved 5-1 by the Board. Chairman Lawler dissented.

A report was given on the Railroad Maps Project

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Authority Offers Training Across State

The Authority has set its 2009 training calendar and has scheduled ten classes for clerks and their staff around the state. These classes will be hosted by a Superior Court Clerk and will be offered free-of-charge. Five classes will cover Real Estate Indexing Standards and five will cover UCC and Notary Public training. Following are descriptions of the classes:

Real Estate Indexing Standards Training:

This session will review the GSCCCA statewide Standards for indexing real estate, lien and plat records. Suitable for new and experienced indexers, discussion will include the reasoning behind the Standards, the latest changes to the Standards, various deed and lien instrument types and their purpose, indexing difficult instruments such as those from securitization trusts, and displaying the online Standards training course.

UCC Training:

What exactly is the Uniform Commercial Code? This session will hold an in-depth discussion of Georgia's Uniform Commercial Code statute and will cover Revised Article 9 and how it relates to the processing and indexing of UCC financing statements. Participants will take a close look at UCC forms and administrative procedures. Additionally, a discussion on minimum filing requirements and reasons to reject a filing will be sure to inform and enlighten.

Notary Public Training:

The Clerk of Superior Court is the commissioning officer of notaries public within his/her county. What are the Clerk's duties and responsibilities? During this training, participants will both examine and discuss "real-life" scenarios during an insightful Q&A session and take an in-depth look at the Georgia statute governing notaries and Superior Court Clerks. A demonstration of the online notary public application process will also be conducted.

Each training class provides an opportunity to increase and solidify your knowledge or that of your staff. Registration can be made via e-mail or phone to Rachel Rice (rachel.rice@gsccca.org or 866.847.4058 ext. 1010) or Maureen Miranda (maureen.miranda@gsccca.org or 866.847.4058 ext. 1401). Registration is also available via fax (866.847.4105) or online at www.gsccca.org/training. Class size is limited, so register today!

Currently, the Authority has not scheduled any Fines & Fees training classes. This need will be revisited following the 2009 legislative session pending new legislation. However, the Authority continues to offer one-on-one training for Fines & Fees and other topics on an as-needed basis. If interested, contact Rachel Rice. ■

Each training class provides an opportunity to increase and solidify your knowledge or that of your staff.

2009 Training Schedule

Real Estate Indexing Standards Training

March 24	Swainsboro	Emanuel Co.
May 13	Greenville	Meriwether Co.
July 29	Waycross	Ware Co.
Sept. 16	Clarksville	Habersham
Nov. 4	Americus	Sumter

UCC & Notary Public Training

May 6	Douglasville	Douglas Co.
June 16	Adel	Cook Co.
August 26	Homer	Banks Co.
Sept. 23	Perry	Houston Co.
October 28	Lyns	Toombs Co.



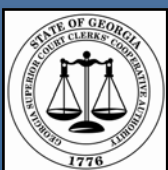
Authority Welcomes Newly Elected Clerks

Barrow – Regina McIntyre	Irwin – Nancy Ross
Ben Hill – Betty Lynn Johnson	Lanier – Deborah Clark
Berrien – Shawna Hughes	Laurens – Jackie Dalton
Brantley – Cindy Crews	Lee – Sara Clark
Bulloch – Teresa Tucker	Lincoln – Amanda Doss
Calhoun – Karen Taylor	Lumpkin – Rita Harkins
Carroll – Allen Lee	Miller – Gail Johnson
Clinch – Mary Ruth Handley	Murray – Connie Reed
Cook – April M. Garrett	Oglethorpe – Kelli P. Smith
Decatur – Cecelia Willis	Rockdale – Ruth Wilson
Douglas – Rhonda Payne	Schley – Kathy S. Royal
Evans – Kathy Hendrix	Stephens – Timothy D. Quick
Floyd – Barbara Penson	Terrell – Janice Bryant
Forsyth – Greg Allen	Turner – Mary Lee Green
Fulton – Cathelene “Tina” Robinson	Union – Judy Odom
Grady – Debbie Kines	Upson – Teresa Harper
Hall – Charles Baker	Walker – Carter Brown
Haralson – Rebecca S. Robinson	Wheeler – Carol Bragg
Hart – Frankie Gray	Whitfield – Melica Kendrick
Henry – Barbara Harrison	



(*Online Training — Continued from Page 1*)

Notary Online, and *Fines & Fees Online*. Online training is a simple and efficient way to train new employees, cross train employees or just stay well informed! Take advantage of this effective tool by registering at <http://training.gsccca.org>. The information is also available at the Clerk Resource Center by clicking “Training Workshops.” For questions, contact Rachel Rice at 404.327.9058 ext. 1010. ■



F&F Vendor Software Reviewed

As a courtesy to vendors and courts, the Authority reviews demonstrations of vendor Fines & Fees software to determine if the programs accurately account for the applicable fees remitted or reported to the Authority. The following vendors have been reviewed:

- ❖ CourtWare Solutions, Inc.
- ❖ Criminal Justice Technologies
- ❖ Harris Custom Programming
- ❖ Icon Software Corporation
- ❖ Management Data Systems, Inc.
- ❖ Sustain Justice Edition
- ❖ SysCon, Inc.
- ❖ Tyler Technologies

The Authority does not endorse or certify vendors and does not receive any compensation for listing vendors in this newsletter or on our website at www.courttrax.org/programs.asp. This listing of vendors is for informational purposes only and should not be construed to comment in any way regarding vendors that are not listed. Courts should make their own completely independent determination regarding an appropriate vendor based on their needs and circumstances.

If your vendor is not listed and would like to have their program reviewed by the Authority, direct them to Rachel Rice at the Authority, 404.327.7322. ■

DOC's Change in Monthly Process

The Department of Corrections "**Consolidated Banking Initiative**" became effective January 1, 2009. This initiative was designed to create greater efficiencies by establishing a single Offender Trust account and a single State Probation Office account that would be managed centrally.

Although a change for DOC, this initiative should be transparent to Clerks and their fines and fees staff. In other words, Superior Court Clerk offices should be receiving the same monthly "Offender" report that they have received in the past along with a monthly check or checks from Probation. The check(s) will be written off a different DOC bank account than in the past but that should have no bearing on the Clerk's ability to efficiently and accurately process fines and fees.

Mitzi Richards is leading this initiative at DOC and can be reached at 404.556.2469 for questions. As always, Clerks and their staff may also contact the Fines & Fees staff at the Authority for further assistance. Call locally, 404.327.7320, or toll-free, 866.847.4058. ■

(Board Meeting — Cont. from Page 2)

which began as a result of HB 1283. To assist clerks with the requirements of this legislation, the Authority is working with railroad companies to develop software that will allow them to file railroad maps directly with the Authority.

A report was given on the UCC E-Filing Project. The system is operational and is being tested before implementation. The system is accepting test filings from test counties. Solicitation of feedback from filers is being requested in order to shed light on the system and implement any worthy suggestions.

As part of a Notary Division update, it was reported that approximately 32,000 apostilles were issued by the Notary Division in 2008 and Georgia has approximately 47,000 active notaries.

The following board meeting dates were suggested: April 8, 2009, July 8, 2009 and October 14, 2009. A motion to accept the 2009 meeting dates was approved by the Board.

A legislative overview was presented to the Board. Extending the "sunset" provision and adopting UETA (Uniform Electronic Transaction Act) and URPERA (Uniform Real Property Electronic Recording Act) are at the forefront. ■

