



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF  
JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES

IN YOUR  
STATE



2022

# Georgia

The *National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges* (NCJFCJ) continues to provide quality education to judges and other judicial professionals despite the limitations imposed by COVID-19. Through webinars, Zoom calls, and other virtual methods, the NCJFCJ maintained its role as the national leader in judicial education and continued to provide the knowledge and skills that improve the lives of families and children who seek justice.

- In 2021, the NCJFCJ fulfilled 28 requests for technical assistance.
- In 2021, the NCJFCJ trained 195 judges, judicial officers, attorneys, and other juvenile and family court-related professionals working to protect **Georgia's** children, families, and victims in our communities.
- The NCJFCJ is funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to provide targeted support to the **Muskogee County and Rockdale County Juvenile Drug Treatment Court (JDTC) Teams**, which are implementing the Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Guidelines and other key recommended practices. The NCJFCJ also provides targeted support to the **Cherokee County JDTC Team**. The NCJFCJ provides targeted support through court assessments; onsite court observation; strategic planning activities; peer-to-peer learning; and individualized training.
- With funding support from the NoVo Foundation, the NCJFCJ provides training and technical assistance to the **Douglas County Juvenile Court** to identify and promote promising practices in juvenile and family courts to address child sex trafficking.
- The **Dallas NCJFCJ Child Abuse and Neglect Mentor Model Court** is recognized for its efforts to improve outcomes for abused and neglected children and their families.
- As part of the Implementation Sites Project, the NCJFCJ provides targeted training and technical assistance to the **Juvenile Court of Douglas County**, under the leadership of **Judge Michelle Harrison**, to improve practice in the handling of child abuse and neglect cases, reduce the number of children in foster care, and improve outcomes for children in care.
- The **Fulton County Juvenile Probation Department** is one of four jurisdictions receiving training and technical assistance as part of an Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Second Chance Act award made to the NCJFCJ's partner, the Performance-based Standards (PbS) Learning Institute. The Improving Juvenile Reentry Program's Data Collection, Analysis, and Reporting project will build state and local capacity to collect and use data to inform decision-making, monitor progress of juvenile reentry programs and services, and ensure they meet targeted outcomes for reducing reoffending.
- **Georgia** judicial system professionals received training on opioids and the challenges associated with intervention, treatment, and prevention.
- The NCJFCJ has 148 Judicial and Associate Members in **Georgia**.
- **Judge Wenona C. Belton** of **Atlanta** and **Judge Amanda N. Heath** of **Augusta** are Board Directors of the NCJFCJ. **Judge R. Michael Key** of **LaGrange** and **Judge Peggy Walker** of **Douglasville** are NCJFCJ Past Presidents.

## National Impact

In 2021, the NCJFCJ fulfilled more than **529** requests for technical assistance and trained more than **5,749** judges, judicial officers, attorneys, and other juvenile and family court-related professionals across the nation.

## Areas of Focus

- ▶ **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**  
Diversifying the bench to better represent the children and families served
- ▶ **Domestic Child Sex Trafficking**  
Improving outcomes for vulnerable and victimized children through judicial education and action
- ▶ **National Judicial Institute on Domestic Violence**  
Enhancing judicial skills to promote victim safety and batterer accountability
- ▶ **Juvenile Justice GPS**  
Providing juvenile justice policy, practice, and statistics by state
- ▶ **Trauma-informed Courts & the Adolescent Brain**  
Promoting trauma-responsive courts and practices informed by science
- ▶ **Child Abuse & Neglect Institute**  
Improving outcomes for abused and neglected children through dependency court best practices
- ▶ **Linking Systems of Care for Children & Youth**  
Promoting healing for victims of crime through trauma-informed prevention and intervention services
- ▶ **Military-connected Families**  
Enhancing judicial skills to best serve military-connected families
- ▶ **Tribal Courts & ICWA**  
Promoting collaboration between tribal and state courts
- ▶ **Juvenile Drug Treatment Courts**  
Enhancing effectiveness in addressing youth and substance abuse
- ▶ **Animal Cruelty & Its Link to Violence**  
Understanding the link between animal abuse and other forms of violence
- ▶ **Implementation Sites & Project ONE**  
Approaching families holistically and improving outcomes for children in care
- ▶ **Self-care and Wellness**  
Promoting judicial self-care and wellness for centering oneself for leadership

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