



Judicial Council of Georgia Access to Justice Committee Meeting

May 7th, 2025
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Join us on ZOOM:

<https://georgiacourts-gov.zoom.us/j/84747675925?pwd=kPLaN23tu6gHcfGwECm9GoFpb8EAmb.1>

Meeting ID: 847 4767 5925

Passcode: 315837

Meeting Starts @ 12 noon

Welcome and Introductions – Justice Verda Colvin- 10 mins

Written Reports- Summary of February 12, 2025

SAVE THE DATES – Upcoming Events

ABA Equal Justice Conference: May 15 – 17, 2025 in San Francisco, CA

Annual Diversity of Bars(DOB) Meeting: June 7th 12:30pm in Ponte Verda, FL

ABA ATJ National Conference: October 15th – 17th in Atlanta, GA

Upcoming A2J Committee Meeting Date: August 13th, 2025, at the AOC Ratley Conference Room

A2J Committee Project and Community Updates

- I. **White Paper/Carl Vinson Update** - Justice Colvin -7 mins
- II. **Court Notice Working Group Update** – Emily Spears – 3 mins
- III. **GLSP Legal Kiosk Update** – Mitzy Sharp Futro – 5 mins
- IV. **Forms Working Group Update** – GSU Law Student Presentation - 20 mins
- V. **Joint A2J & ATJ Committee Initiatives Update** – 10 minutes
Status of Law Student Practice & 3rd Year Practice Act – Judge Sara Doyle
Incentivize Pro Bono for CLE Credit – Karlise Grier
- VI. **Law Library Project Update** – Darlene Kelley & Naija Bridges – 10 mins
- VII. **Old Business** – Law Day Events
- VIII. **New Business** – Committee on Regulatory Reform, Commitments to DOB

Meeting Expected end time 1:20-1:30pm



Judicial Council of Georgia

Standing Committee on Access to Justice

Wednesday, February 12th, 2025

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Conference Call Login:

https://georgiacourts-gov.zoom.us/rec/share/l_kyzcPC0LYYCo-xxaNg6wgu-MilsmaTBweKyfXdVWcCUEbXWnUYipHEHSs-4wOa.3AWMwJRRj4BV8P5

Passcode: BVR7vJ#*

In-Person Attendees: Vice Chair-Judge Sara Doyle, Judge Belinda Edwards, Rachel Barnhard, Mazie Lynn Guertin, Judge Cassandra Kirk, Doug Ammar, Emily Spears, Wade Askew, Judge Tabitha Ponder, Noelle Lagueux-Alvarez, Deonte Mayfield

Online Attendees: Chair – Verda Colvin, Judge Cynthia Adams, Bill Adams, Sharon V. Edenfield, Terrica Ganzy, Judge Brendon Shaw Rhodes, Judge Pierce Hand-Seitz, Dr. Will Simmons, Judge Jason Thompson, Judge Chris Yokom, Nai’ja Bridges, Judge Latisha Dear Jackson, Mike Monahan, Judge Ryan Hope, Evan Gross, Tomieka Daniel, Rita Sheffey, Andrew Zoll, Cynthia Clanton

Written Reports

A motion for the minutes from November 20, 2024, committee meeting was brought to order. There were no objections, the minutes were approved.

White Paper/Carl Vinson Update

Justice Colvin shared this update with the committee. The study continues with Carl Vinson as the clerks from both the Dougherty Circuit and the Appalachian Circuit are sending over their data collection for the study. The data is being evaluated and analyzed by researchers from Carl Vinson. On average it takes the researchers between 20 minutes and 2 hours to go through a case. This analysis report will be the bandwidth we need to return to the state legislature with our white paper request to start a grant program for legal self-help centers in our state. Justice Bethel will be presenting the budget request of \$100,000 to the budget committee on February 18th. Judge Kirk offered Fulton County’s Self-Help Center as another site for the study. Justice Colvin responded that focus of the study will be for locales in Georgia without neighboring legal resources for unrepresented litigants and use that to juxtapose counties like Fulton County with available resources.

Court Notices Working Group Update

Emily Spears shared the update with the committee. The working group has worked closely with a national partner on this initiative, Ideas 4s, and many other stakeholders. The working group presented on CMS (Case management system) recommendations to improve appearance rates. Following the presentation of materials from this working group, committee members offered suggestions to include ADA language and practices to include people with disabilities. Once the language suggestions have been included in the materials the working group will then meet with Sean Golan and the CMS project team to discuss the implementation of these recommendations for court notices.

You can find the PowerPoint and recommendations in our meeting materials.

SRL Forms Working Group Update

Deonte Mayfield shared the update with the committee. The legitimation packet is in its final format and was presented to the committee. The Superior Court judges in this working group agreed to support this packet for approval usage in Superior court. The Judge Cythnia Adams and Judge Latisha Dear Jackson will present this packet to CSCJ. Judge Jason Thompson shared the update on the model disposition forms. These model forms are shared amongst different stakeholders and groups (i.e PAC, GACDL) for any feedback. This working group will meet to discuss the feedback, if any, and plan a strategy forward to get these forms approved by CSCJ. Judge Kirk shared the update on the Landlord-Tenant Forms. These forms were handed over to Judge Wolf and the Forms committee within CMCJ. We are awaiting a response to these forms.

Joint A2J & ATJ Committee Initiative Update

Judge Sara Doyle shared the update with the committee. Judge Doyle and any members that are interested will seek communication with the various law schools to create a program for law students to engage in pro bono work and serve unrepresented litigants. Judge Tabitha Ponder shared a contact, Billie Jo Kaufman from Mercer Law, as someone to help organize this A2J network. Alex Eichenbaum from GSU was also mentioned as another potential collaborator on this initiative. A correction was made from the last committee meeting on the expiration of the Supreme Court Rule for Law Student Practice with the help of the legal team at the AOC. Deonte will gather potential dates to meet with those interested in this initiative going forward. Judge Doyle and Karlise Grier shifted the discussion to the Pro Bono for CLE credit initiative. Currently, we are waiting for a Supreme Court vote on the new CLE credit rule and its adoption, as this will have some affect on the number of pro bono hours for CLE credit.

Law Library Project Update

Director Bridges shared the update with the committee. Recently, the center hosted a utilities clinic at the courthouse with the attended support of Judge Ponder and Deonte. Also, Rachel Barnhard visited the center during this clinic and witnessed the service of the center. The center is planning for its next gala event on April 25th in Albany, GA. More logistics to be finalized.

Old Business

No old business

New Business

Rachel Barnhard shared a proper introduction to the Georgia Bar Foundation and its new website. Rachel updated the committee on its upcoming grant application cycle which will open later this year. The Foundation's website was placed on display for all committee members to view.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Alternative Spring Break

Rural Access to Justice

March 13, 2025



Alternative Spring Breakers:



- Raphaëla Aleman (trip leader)
- Destiny Kimani (trip leader)
- Jack Breslin
- Philip Garnett
- Joseph Hernandez
- Noah Kroeger
- Sarah Pechenik
- Mia Plachkinova
- Ava Smith
- Sean Wills

Special Thanks to:



- Alex Eichenbaum
- Cari King and all GLSP Advocates
- Hon. Tabitha Ponder
- Deonte Mayfield
- Hon. Shawn Rhodes
- Tiffany Uke
- Hon. Deah Warren
- Hon. Catherine Salinas
- Susan Coppedge



UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW



IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF _____ COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

Petitioner,)
)
) Civil Action
v.)
) Case Number: _____

Respondent.)

**PETITION FOR LEGITIMATION
AND PETITION TO ESTABLISH**

Custody Visitation/Parenting Time Child Support
(Check All That Apply)

My name is _____ and I am the Petitioner
(Petitioner/Father's First & Last Name)

and Father in this case. I am representing myself in this case and I hereby file this *Petition for Legitimation and Petition to Establish* Custody, Visitation/Parenting Time, and Child Support (check all that apply), pursuant to O.C.G.A. §19-7-22 and §19-7-21.1. In support of my Petition, I respectfully state the following:

1. The Respondent's name is _____ and they are:
(Respondent's First & Last Name)

- [Check Only ONE (1) Option below – (a) OR (b)]*
- (a) The Mother of my Minor Child(ren).
- (b) A (b1) Third Party (b2) Legal Guardian (b3) Legal Custodian of my Minor Child(ren) via a Court Order/Temporary Placement. (Guardianship, Adoption, Safety Plan, etc.)
[Check Only ONE (1) Option – (b1) OR (b2) OR (b3)]

Jurisdiction & Venue

2. **Minor Child(ren):** The Minor Child(ren) is/are currently residing in the State of Georgia or were/was residing in Georgia within six months before the commencement of this action. Thus, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 19-9-61 Georgia is the home state of the Minor Child(ren). *(circle only one)*



Proposed Solutions:

- Create a video transcript using generative AI
- Optimize video resources and accessibility
- Integrate an AI chatbot to answer common questions

**GEORGIA ACCESS TO JUSTICE/ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF COURTS:
PETITION FOR LEGITIMATION PACKET SCRIPT**

Hello! If you are the biological father of a child born out of wedlock and would like to establish legal rights, here is how to do so.

WHO SHOULD FILE A PETITION FOR LEGITIMATION?

Legitimation is a civil legal action that is filed by the biological father of a child born out of wedlock. It is a legal process for the father to establish legal rights to his child and a way for the father to receive the same rights to his child as a married father would.

WHAT IS LEGITIMATION?

Anyone who is the biological father of a minor child that was born out of wedlock may file a petition for legitimation. Born out of wedlock means that the father was unmarried to the biological mother at the time the child was conceived or born, and the father is currently unmarried to the child's mother.

You may legitimize your child as soon as he or she is born, or as soon as possible.

WHERE DO I FILE MY PETITION FOR LEGITIMATION?

You should file your petition in the **Superior Court** in the county where the child's mother, guardian, or custodian lives. You should seek legal advice from a Georgia-licensed attorney if you are unclear on where to file because it may be in the Superior Court or Juvenile Court, depending on your case. If there is a pending adoption, you may file in the county where the adoption has been filed. If there is a pending dependency case, you may file in the county where the dependency case is.

WHY SHOULD CHILDREN BE LEGITIMATED?

There are many **benefits** of legitimating your child. First, you can obtain a Court Order granting custody and parenting time or visitation. Without legitimation, the father has no legal rights to custody and visitation or parenting time with the child. Further, the law encourages fathers of children born out of wedlock to legally recognize them. Legitimation allows you to inherit from your child, your child to inherit from you, and your child to obtain any other benefits from you such as social security, life insurance, and other benefits.

HOW CAN I LEGITIMATE MY CHILD?

If you are the Biological Father, you may legitimize your child by:

1. Marrying your minor child's biological mother OR
2. Both Biological Parents can sign and notarize the Voluntary Acknowledgment of

Parenting Plan Proposal



(ii) Children's Unaccompanied Travel - If the child(ren) travel unaccompanied by a parent to or from visitation by means of public transportation, including airline flight, train, bus or local public transit, the following shall apply:

(A) The parent receiving the child(ren) shall make the transportation arrangements for the child(ren) to travel to that parent, taking into consideration the safety, convenience, cost and schedule of the child(ren) and the other parent;

(B) The parent sending the child(ren) shall get them to the local airport, train, bus, or public transit station in a timely manner;

(C) The parent receiving the child(ren) shall arrange for them to be picked up at the appropriate airport, train, bus or public transit station in a timely manner.

(D) _____
_____.

Parenting Plan Proposal



(5) Supervision

(i) No supervision is required for the visitation.

(ii) The visitation shall be supervised as follows:

(A) Supervision shall be done by _____.

(B) The cost of supervision, if any, shall be paid by _____.

(C) Supervision shall be required until:

(1) the following date: _____.

(2) exercise of visitation the following number of times: _____.

(3) successful completion of:

(a) anger management training _____.

(b) substance abuse treatment _____.

(c) alcohol abuse treatment _____.

(d) other _____.

(4) the youngest child reaches the age of _____.

Domestic Relations Financial Affidavit



(4) ASSETS <i>(continued)</i> Description	Value	Separate Asset of Husband	Separate Asset of Wife	Basis of the Claim <i>(pre-marital, gift, inheritance, etc.)</i>
Life Insurance (net cash value)	\$	\$	\$	
Furniture / Furnishings	\$	\$	\$	
Jewelry	\$	\$	\$	
Collectibles	\$	\$	\$	
Other Assets <i>(specify):</i>	\$	\$	\$	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	\$	\$	

Video Optimization



Usually, you file for divorce in the county where your spouse lives.

SUPERIOR COURT OF _____ COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

Plaintiff

vs. _____ Civil Action No: _

Defendant

COMPLAINT FOR DIVORCE WITH MINOR CHILDREN

My name is _____ and I am representing myself in this divorce action. In support of my case, I state as follows:

1) **Subject Matter Jurisdiction:** I am the Plaintiff in this action and:
[Check only one of the following, either (a) or (b).]

(a) I have been a resident of the State of Georgia for more than six (6) months immediately prior to filing this action.

(b) I am not a resident of the State of Georgia, but my spouse has been a resident of the State of Georgia for at least six (6) months immediately prior to my filing of this action.

2) **Venue:** My spouse's name is _____, and he/she is the Defendant in this action.
[Check only one of the following, either (a), (b), (c), (d) or (e).]

(a) The Defendant is a resident of _____ County and is subject to the jurisdiction of this Court.

(b) The Defendant is a resident of Georgia in _____ County, but the Defendant and I lived together in _____ County at the time we separated, I still reside in _____ County, and the Defendant has only moved away from _____ County within the past six months before the date of my filing this action.

Transcript

Search in video

- 0:00 hello if you want to file for divorce
- 0:02 without an attorney and you share any
- 0:04 children under 18 years old with the
- 0:06 person you are married to you can use
- 0:08 this form complaint for divorce with
- 0:10 minor
- 0:11 children usually you file for divorce in
- 0:14 the county where your spouse lives in
- 0:16 the first blank fill in the superior
- 0:19 court of for example Cobb County state
- 0:22 of Georgia sometimes you can file where
- 0:25 you live if it has been less than 6
- 0:26 months since your spouse moved out of
- 0:28 your marital home or or if your spouse
- 0:31 now lives out of
- 0:32 state you are the plaintiff or
- 0:35 petitioner your spouse is the defendant
- 0:38 or respondent leave the civil action
- 0:41 number blank until you file the clerk
- 0:43 will then give you a civil action number
- 0:46 put in your name in the next
- 0:49 blank paragraph 1 the first paragraph
- 0:52 talks about subject matter jurisdiction
- 0:55 or whether the court can hear your case
- 0:58 for the court to be able to hear your

Georgia Complaint for Divorce With Minor Children Form Walkthrough



Judicial Council of Georgia
817 subscribers

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39



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Clip



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2,129 views Feb 12, 2024

Divorce Form Checklist: <https://georgiacourts.gov/wp-content/...>

Divorce With Minor Children Form: <https://georgiacourts.gov/wp-content/...>

Answer and Counterclaim for Divorce With Minor Children: <https://georgiacourts.gov/wp-content/...>

Transcript

Follow along using the transcript.

YouTube Studio interface showing video details for a video titled "How to Flip, Mirror & Rotate Webcam".

Channel content

Video details

Description

Get FineCam for free to flip, mirror and rotate your webcam effortlessly: <https://www.fineshare.com/finecam/>

Use your phone as a 4K webcam for video recording, streaming, meetings, calls, and interviews:

Google Play Store <http://bit.ly/3Fv5Vrm>
App Store <https://apple.co/42bKRQq>

Have you ever encountered a webcam incorrectly flipped or mirrored in virtual meetings or video interviews?

In this video, we give you a simple method to mirror and flip your webcam video on your Windows and Mac computer, either horizontally or vertically. It can give you a better video experience on all video platforms you are using.

Timestamps:

- 00:00 Intro
- 00:20 How to Flip, Mirror & Rotate Webcam Smoothly
- 01:33 How to Apply the Mirrored Webcam with Video Platforms
- 03.14 Ending

Refer to: <http://bit.ly/40cKioi>

Videos



How to Add YouTube Timestamp Links (YouTube Chapters ...

YouTube · Justin Brown - Primal Video
Dec 20, 2020

10 key moments in this video



From 00:00
How to Add
YouTube
Timestamps



From 01:05
Where are
YouTube
Timestamps...



From 02:30
How YouTube
Timestamps
are shown o...



From 04:15
How to title
YouTube
timestamps



From 05:00
Is it worth
adding
YouTube...

AI Chatbot



Hey there! I am a bot, and I am here to help you fill out your petition for legitimation in Georgia.

Do you have any specific questions?

do I need a DNA test?

No, you do not need a DNA test for the legitimation petition.

If you want to request one, you can check box 15(b).

If you do not want to request a DNA test, then check box 15(c)

cool, thanks

How should I split custody of my children with my ex?

I'm sorry but that's a question I can't answer. I recommend you speak to an attorney to determine the best option for you.

Would you like me to give you some references?

okay but free lawyers only

Certainly. Here is the contact information for the Georgia Legal Services Program...

Alternative Spring Break

Thank you!

