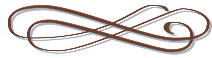


Court Operations

Managing today's court operations requires the expertise of many professionals other than judges. Court administrators, court clerks, prosecutors, jury managers, and court reporters are only a few of the staff members who are essential to keeping our trial and appellate courts working smoothly. Issues and decisions regarding automation technology, courthouse design and security, preservation and safekeeping of records make the business of court administrators and other courthouse personnel both complex and indispensable.



Citizen Jurors

Jury trials are a hallmark of the American legal system. Each day around the state, our trial courts require hundreds of ordinary citizens to report to the courthouse for jury duty. Both a right and responsibility, service as a juror places the individual citizen in a central role in the justice system.

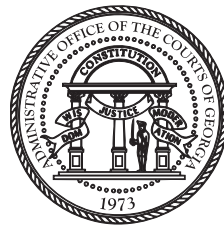
Court Funding

At the appellate level, salaries and operating expenses are paid from state revenues. Funding for the superior and juvenile courts is shared by state and county funding sources. Limited jurisdiction courts are funded solely by city or county governments.

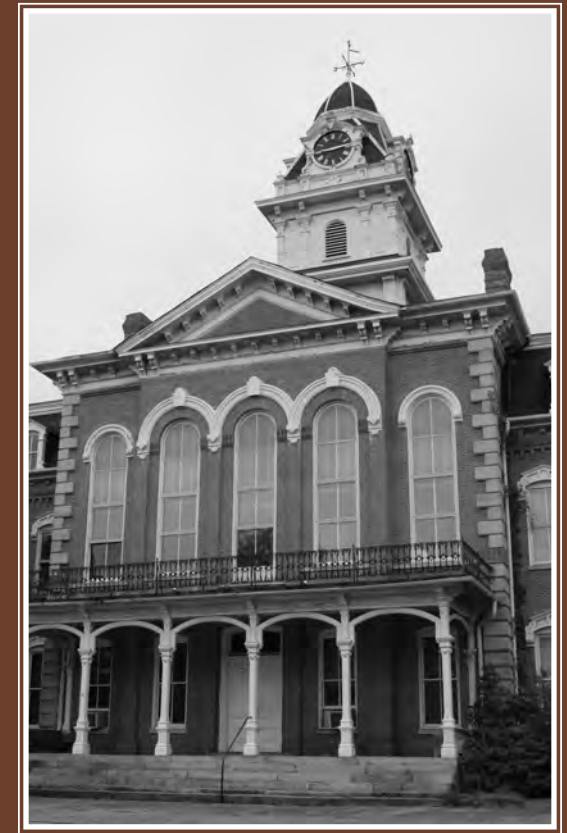
Serving the Courts

The Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts was established in 1973 to provide support services to the courts of Georgia. The agency oversees the annual workload assessment for the superior courts, secures grants for locally-administered drug courts and other projects, promotes automation efforts, and assists the trial court councils. The AOC also serves as the fiscal officer for a variety of judicial branch commissions and councils.

As an administrative arm of the Supreme Court of Georgia, the AOC operates under the guidance of the Judicial Council, a policy-making body chaired by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia.



Administrative Office of the Courts
244 Washington Street, Suite 300
Atlanta, GA 30334
404-656-5171
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Your Guide to the
**GEORGIA
COURTS**

At the Courthouse

The Georgia court system has five classes of trial-level courts: the magistrate, probate, juvenile, state, and superior courts. In addition, there are approximately 400 municipal courts operating locally. There are two appellate-level courts: the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals.

Each class of court has authority over specific case types as set forth in the Constitution of the State of Georgia.

Limited Jurisdiction Courts

The municipal magistrate, probate, juvenile and state courts are funded solely by county or city governments and preside over cases that arise within their geographical boundaries. These judges hear certain traffic cases, misdemeanors, civil disputes and minor infractions.

General Jurisdiction Courts

Superior courts exercise broad jurisdiction over civil and criminal matters. All felony cases are heard in the superior courts. These courts have exclusive jurisdiction over divorces and are also authorized to review decisions of limited jurisdiction courts to correct errors.

Courts of Review

The Court of Appeals is the court of first review for many civil and criminal cases decided in the trial courts.

The state's highest court reviews certain decisions made by the trial courts in civil and criminal cases. This court alone rules on questions involving the constitutionality of state statutes, cases involving a sentence of death, and petitions from decisions of the Court of Appeals.

