

JUVENILE COURT

2012 BUDGET
PRESENTATION



MISSION

The mission of the Juvenile Court of Gwinnett County is:

To enhance the likelihood of rehabilitation and behavior reform of delinquent children so that they shall be restored, if possible, as secure law-abiding members of society.

To provide the forum, personnel and facilities required for the fair, impartial and efficient administration of justice.

That each child coming before the court shall receive the care, guidance, and control that is in the best interest of the child and the safety of the citizens of Gwinnett County and the State of Georgia.

To promote the healing and recovery of abused and neglected children and to promote permanency for those that have been removed from their home.



VISION

The Juvenile Court's vision is to achieve excellence by providing quality services for the positive development of children, the safety of the community and the preservation of the family unit.



OVERVIEW

The Juvenile Court is a constitutional court. We are governed by State and Federal Statutory laws and rules. These laws and Rules mandate our existence and the functions of every division of our court.



OVERVIEW

The Juvenile Court has jurisdiction of delinquent children under the age of 17 years and deprived and unruly children under the age of 18 years.

Cases in Juvenile Court have over 20 separate time limits that mandate when legal documents and orders must be filed and when hearings must be scheduled.

We will schedule over 9,000 hearings in Juvenile Court this year.

With the mandated time limits, we have over 2,600 children that will be scheduled for a future hearing or review.

Managing these children is in addition to the over 9,600 new charges on over 6,600 new children expected in 2011.



OVERVIEW

The Juvenile Court currently has 56 full time employees, down from 61 employees in January of 2010

We have 7 divisions:

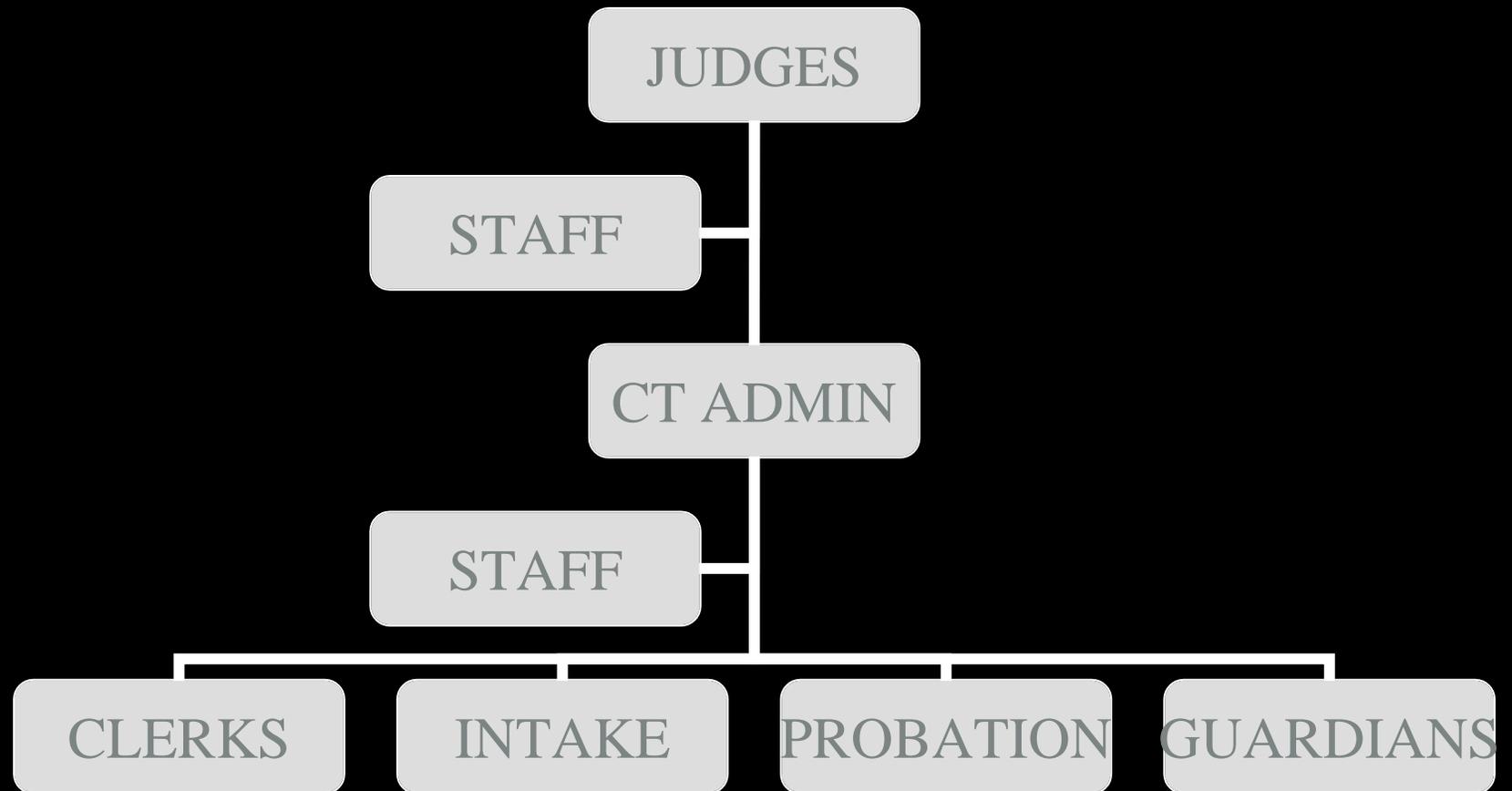
<i>Clerks Division</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>employees</i>
<i>Intake Division</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>employees</i>
<i>Probation Division</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>employees</i>
<i>Guardian ad litem</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>employees</i>
<i>Volunteer Resources</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>employees</i>
<i>Administration</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>employees</i>
<i>Judicial</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>employees</i>

This Staffing reduction will continue to reduce our 2012 service level by \$397,921.00

Just this reduction is a 6.5% savings from our 2008 service



ORGANIZATION



STAFF COMPARISON

	Cobb	Dekalb	Fulton	Gwinnett
School Enrollment	114,000	101,000	140,000	165,000
Court Staff	68	88	175	56



CASELOADS

Clerk of Court

Will enter over 10,000 dispositions in 2011.

Will file-in and scan over 130,000 documents in 2011.

Will handle over 11,000 financial transactions.

Maintains the courts filing system.

Staffs the reception windows for our court

Will enter over 9,000 new cases in 2011.



CASELOADS

Intake

Intake will be assigned over 6,500 cases in in 2011.

Open cases per officer 170.

Each officer will petition over 750 charges.

Staff will meet with over 2,500 walk-in citizens.

Will handle over 2,000 after hours calls for intake decisions.



CASELOADS

Probation

Currently supervising over 500 youth.

Will have over 3,000 youth participate in classes and programs in 2011.

Will administer over 1,000 drug screens in 2011.

Will file over 750 Violations of Probation in 2011.

Will make over 6,000 Home and School visits in 2011.



CASELOADS

Guardian Ad litem

Average over 1000+ open cases per attorney.

These Attorneys will prepare for and attend over 4,500 hearings in 2011.

The 3 Case Coordinators conduct interviews with each child, make recommendations and assist the Attorneys in preparing their case.



VOLUNTEER RESOURCES

The Juvenile Court has been utilizing volunteers from our community for 20 years. We have approximately 140 volunteers that will work on over 3,000 cases in 2011.



VOLUNTEER RESOURCES

This includes Citizen Panels for deprivation cases, Youth Diversion Panels for delinquent cases and CASA Workers to advocated on behalf of deprived children.



VOLUNTEER RESOURCES

*We estimate that these
Volunteers will save Gwinnett
County over \$200,000.00 this
year.*



PROJECTED BUDGET SAVINGS 2008-2011

<i>FUND</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>%CHANGE</i>
<i>JUV</i>	6.35	6.47	5.90	5.94*	-6.47%
<i>CLERK</i>	8.38	8.68	9.18	9.03	7.72%
<i>COURTS</i>	18.33	19.09	17.62	18.59*	1.40%
<i>DA</i>	7.53	7.70	7.85	7.78	3.26%
<i>SOL GEN</i>	3.79	3.87	3.31	3.76*	-0.79%
<i>PROBATE</i>	1.51	1.65	1.60	1.61*	6.58%
<i>SHERIFF</i>	68.49	66.85	67.60	69.88*	2.03%
<i>REC CLK</i>	1.12	1.16	1.19	1.19	6.55%
<i>REC CT</i>	1.27	1.30	1.35	1.28*	0.37%

Numbers are as of June 2011

**REFER TO 2011 BUDGET NUMBER BEING ADJUSTED TO REFLECT PROJECTED TRANSFERS FROM NON-DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS.*



COMMUNITY INTERACTION

Families

Parents seeking help filed over 1,600 charges against their own children in 2010.

Runaways

Theft charges

Assaults

We have Parents that padlock themselves in their bedrooms at night for fear of their own safety.

We have families that have no electricity, water or food. Live in their cars or in extended stay motels.



COMMUNITY INTERACTION

Neighborhoods

The majority of juvenile related property crimes and crimes against person are committed within walking distance of their residence.

One unsupervised incorrigible child can threaten the peace of the whole neighborhood.

Juvenile Court Intake Staff work with these victims and neighbors to bring the youth under the Court's supervision

Juvenile Court Probation Staff go into these neighborhoods and work with these families and supervise these youth in their homes.



COMMUNITY INTERACTION

Schools

Gwinnett County has the largest school system and the largest Juvenile Court At-Risk population in the State of Georgia.

The Gwinnett School System is 2nd only to the Gwinnett Police Department in filing charges in Juvenile Court.

Juvenile Court Staff work with School Officers, Teachers, Counselors and Administrators to provide intervention and resources.

Working together with our School System to assure a safe and positive learning environment for our students.



CHALLENGES

We have lost all in-home counseling and family services previously provided by DJJ.

The State is now requiring us to pay 25% of our Mental Health Liaison's salary and benefits. (We have, so far, been able to fund this with supervision and grant funds).



CHALLENGES

Increasingly, on Domestic Cases, one or more parties are choosing to be Pro se. This is causing delays and continuances and added workload on the Guardian ad litem's office.

The increasing need for Interpreters along with a new Supreme Court Rule that in Civil cases “Each non-English speaking party shall have the right to an interpreter at each critical stage of the proceedings at no cost to the non-English speaking person”.



CHALLENGES

Since 2009 there has been a bill in the State Legislature to revamp the existing Juvenile Code. The push for this change is stronger each year. The Judges and Staff at our Court are certain that many of the changes proposed are unnecessary, costly and not in the best interest of the children and families we serve.

