Judiciary 2026 Business Plan Presentation

Judicial Budget Committee

Superior Court
Judge R. Timothy Hamil, Chief
Judge Tadia Whitner
Judge Tracey D. Mason

State Court
Judge Carla E. Brown, Chief
Judge Shawn F. Bratton
Judge Ronda S. Colvin

Magistrate Court
Judge Kristina Hammer Blum, Chief

Gwinnett Judicial Circuit

Service Delivery Mission

To provide fair, impartial, and timely justice by resolving disputes, upholding the rule of law, and protecting the rights of all individuals in the community.

- Superior Court
- State Court
- Magistrate Court
- Administrative Office of the Courts

Gwinnett
Judicial Circuit

Approved 2025 Operational Request Updates

- Additional Staff approved and implemented:
  - Business Manager
  - Section Manager (IT Team)
  - Court Reporters
- With the addition of these positions, the department has increased productivity, improved essential fiscal and administrative support across all judicial divisions, and strengthened accountability.

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2025 Efficiencies and Improvements

- Ongoing implementation of streamlined scheduling and case management practices to ensure timely resolution of legal matters.

- Enhancement of existing court facilities to meet the needs of judges, staff, and the public to ensure safety and accessibility.

- Expanded utilization of mediation in select court proceedings to assist with accelerating case resolution.

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Emerging Developments and Our Path Forward

Staffing Shortages and Recruitment Challenges

- Enhanced recruitment efforts to attract and retain qualified candidates for critical positions, such as Court Reporters and Interpreters, to ensure we meet the growing demands of our circuit.

New Laws and Regulations

- Prepare to adapt and strategically realign Court programs to address evolving funding needs and priorities effectively.

Artificial Intelligence

- Cultivate a thorough understanding and implement effective oversight of Artificial Intelligence in court operations, thoughtfully harnessing its potential to enhance efficiency while safeguarding the integrity of the justice system.

Caseload and Limited Resources

- Modify and adapt case scheduling and courtroom sharing to maximize the efficient and effective processing of cases.

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Strategic Goals and Efficiencies

- Ensure that court facilities accommodate current and future workflow and technology needs.

- Promote timely case resolution by providing optimal resources to all judges and staff, to include the tools needed to operate in a digital court environment.

- Improve communication with the public to provide a better understanding of the issues that affect the delivery of justice.

- Expand the use of technology to enhance the accessibility, security, and convenience of court services, while ensuring cost-effectiveness.

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People Strategies

- Provide ongoing training and professional development opportunities for judges and court personnel.

- Focus on employee engagement and initiatives that improve workplace morale and create a positive work environment.

- Promote collaboration, respect, and open communication to boost employee satisfaction and retention, enhancing service delivery.
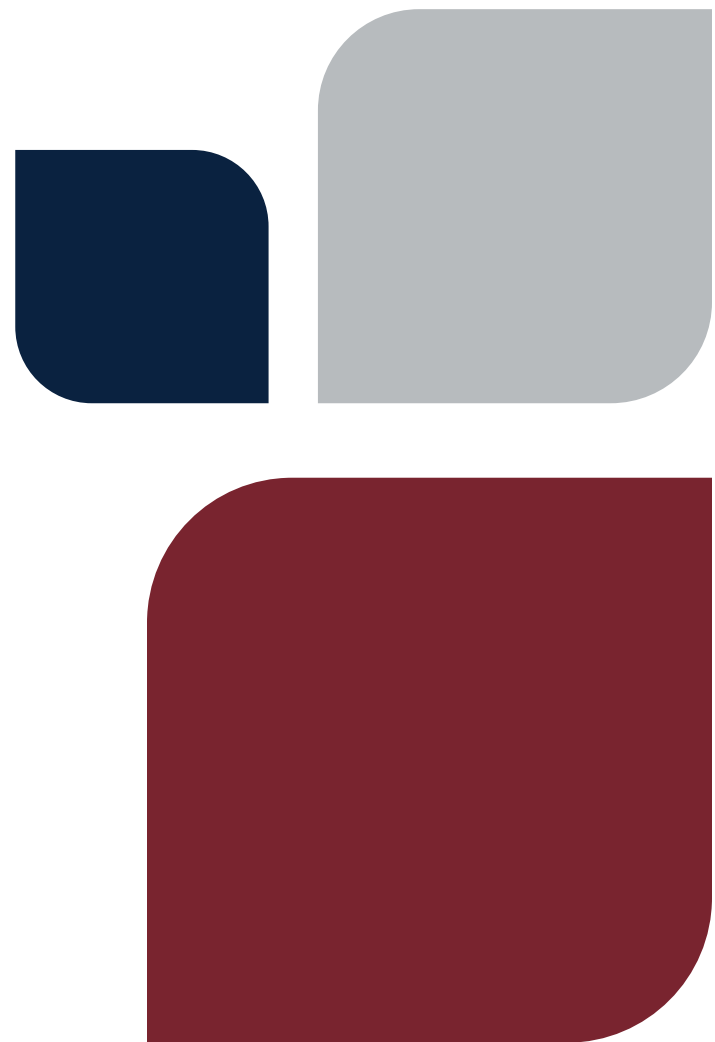
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New Operational Request

State Court – Mental Health Court

- An accountability court to provide a structured, treatment-focused alternative to traditional prosecution for eligible misdemeanor offenders with diagnosed mental illnesses.

Personal Services	General Operating	Total
$75,899	$163,237	$239,136

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New Operational Request Support

- The need for this program stems from the increasing prevalence of individuals with untreated or under-treated mental health conditions entering the criminal justice system, often for low-level, nonviolent misdemeanor offenses.

- This program will promote long-term recovery, reduce the burden on jails and courts, and foster more positive outcomes for both the participants and the community.

- The Case Manager will coordinate and monitor the participants' treatment plan, connect them to support services, and ensure compliance with court requirements