



Michael Barker

A lifelong resident of Savannah, Judge Barker was educated in the Chatham County public school system, graduating with honors from Jenkins High School in 1980. He graduated from Armstrong State College in 1984 with a Bachelor of Arts in History (cum laude) and earned his Juris Doctor from Georgia State University in 1987. After practicing with the firm of Jones, Bordeaux & Associates, Judge Barker accepted a position as staff attorney to Superior Court Judge James W. Head. Upon Judge Head's retirement, he continued working in the public sector serving as staff attorney to Judge James F. Bass, Jr. until his appointment to the Magistrate Court bench on December 1, 2003. Judge Barker was elected to a full term of office effective January 1, 2005, and continues to serve the citizens of Chatham County.



Susan Edlein has served as a Judge on the State Court of Fulton County since 2008. In 2013 the Georgia Association for Women Lawyers (GAWL) awarded Susan Edlein its highest honor, the Kathleen Kessler Award, which is given to a female attorney who exhibits the highest degree of professionalism and dedication to service in the legal community. Again in 2017, GAWL awarded Edlein with the Honorable Debra Bernes

Community Volunteer Award in recognition of exceptional service to the greater community through pro bono work and community service. The Atlanta Bar Association honored Edlein as the recipient of its “Professionalism Award” in 2012. Edlein is a 2013 graduate of Leadership Atlanta. She is also a graduate of both the Regional Leadership Institute and Commercial Real Estate Women’s Leadership Program. Before taking the bench, Edlein was a litigation partner with Holland & Knight. Edlein is an active participant in many bar organizations. She currently serves on the Board of Governors for the State Bar of Georgia and the executive committee for the Lawyer’s Club. Edlein is the President of the Judicial Section and a Board Member the Public Interest Law Section of the Atlanta Bar Association. She also serves on the Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism. Susan Edlein grew up in Atlanta. She received her undergraduate degree from UNC-Chapel Hill and her law degree from the University of Virginia. She and her husband Scott have three teenage children.



Judge Render M. Heard, Jr. is currently the Judge of the Juvenile Courts of the Tifton Judicial Circuit where he has presided over cases involving children in Tift, Worth, Turner and Irwin Counties since 2012.

Judge Heard graduated from Mercer University's Walter F. George School of Law with his Juris Doctor degree in 1997. Prior to that, he completed his undergraduate curriculum at Mercer University's College of Liberal Arts in 1992 where he was a member of Beta, Beta, Beta and Alpha Epsilon Delta Honor Societies earning a Bachelor's of Science degree in Biology.

After graduating law school, Judge Heard moved to Tifton, Georgia and began a private practice concentrating in general and family law litigation. From 2000 to 2004, he served as Assistant Solicitor General for the State Court of Tift County. In 2004, he was appointed as a Special Assistant Attorney General to represent the Georgia Department of Human Resources in child abuse and neglect cases. Prior to that time, he served as a parent attorney and guardian ad litem for children involved in juvenile and superior court matters.

Throughout his legal career, Judge Heard has been committed to improving the legal profession through his work with the State Bar of Georgia. Since 2010, he has served as the Tifton Judicial Circuit's representative member on the State Bar's Board of Governors, serving on a variety of committees during that time. Currently, he serves as Co-Chairman of the SOLACE committee, and as a member of the Member Benefits and Children and Courts Committees. He is a lifetime Fellow of the Lawyer's Foundation of Georgia, and previously served on the Board of Directors of the Young Lawyer's Division of the State Bar of Georgia from 2000-2004. He is also a member and past president of the Tifton Bar Association.

Since his appointment to the bench, Judge Heard has been active on Georgia's Council of Juvenile Court Judges, often appearing as a speaker for the Council's continuing education seminars. In May of 2018, Judge Heard was elected as Treasurer of the Council and is currently serving the Council as its secretary.

In addition, Judge Heard presently serves Georgia as a member of the State's Child Advocate Advisory Committee; the State Council for the Interstate Commission for Juveniles ; and the Supreme Court's Committee on Justice for Children.

In 2016, Judge Heard was honored to receive the Georgia Conference on Children and Families' *Friend of Children and Families Award* as an individual in our state who has made a significant commitment to making a difference for children in foster care and juvenile justice placements, and in 2018, he represented Georgia's juvenile court judges as a member of Team Georgia at the national Children's Bureau State Team Planning Meeting in Washington, D.C..

In his local community, Judge Heard has remained involved in various local boards, ministries, and public service organizations. He and his wife serve on the advisory committee for Tifton's

chapter of Young Life, an organization committed to reaching young people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He is a 2001 graduate of the Tift County Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Tifton program, a former Ambassador for the Tift County Chamber of Commerce, past president of the Board of Directors of the United Way of South Central Georgia, a past member of Board of Directors for the Tift County Foundation for Educational Excellence, and a past member of the Tift County Athletic Advisory Committee.

Judge Heard is married to the former Stacey Lamb of Tifton, and they have three children, Grant (21), Alexandria (17), and Gabriella (15). They reside in Tifton where they are active members of the First Baptist Church of Tifton.



Dawn M. Jones worked in various urban hospital ICU settings as a critical care registered nurse in her first career, gaining fourteen years of critical care experience before pursuing a law degree. After practicing law for 15 years on the defense side, Dawn established The Firm of Dawn M. Jones, LLC in May of 2014 to obtain justice for clients and their families for injuries resulting from malpractice, trucking collisions, slip/trip and falls, nursing home negligence, wrongful death and other serious tort-related matters. Additionally, Dawn has served as court-appointed Receiver for a multi-million dollar joint venture to ensure the continued functioning and day to day operations of the JV company during the pendency of the litigation. Further information about The Firm of Dawn M. Jones, LLC can be found at www.dawnjoneslaw.com.

Prior to starting her own firm, Dawn applied her medical training and background in her legal practice to defend manufacturers of pharmaceutical products and consumer goods in nation-wide product liability, toxic tort and mass tort litigation as a Senior Attorney at King & Spalding LLP for ten years. Dawn also served as an Associate General Counsel for the Grady Health System, the largest non-profit, public hospital system in the state of Georgia. As an AGC, Dawn defended Grady in premises liability and malpractice matters, protected its business interests in contracting and leasing of goods and services, conducted employment investigations, addressed EEOC claims, and managed regulatory and compliance issues, among other in-house duties. Dawn began her legal career in 2000 at Cozen O'Connor in Atlanta, where she actively defended healthcare providers insured by her clients, and issued insurance coverage opinions for matters throughout the southeastern United States.

Dawn remains highly active in local bar, state bar and non-profit activities, currently serving as President-Elect of the State Bar of Georgia. She is a frequent speaker on expert witness, product liability, nursing and physician malpractice, professionalism, and other law-related topics throughout the State of Georgia. In addition to speaking at various events and seminars annually, Dawn has received numerous awards and honors recognizing her service and dedication to the legal profession and to the community at large. Such recognition includes the 2018 Alumni Achievement Award from the University of Virginia School of Nursing, the 2017 Commitment to Equality Award from the State Bar of Georgia Committee to Promote Inclusion in the Profession, the 2015 Thomas R. Burnside Excellence in Bar Leadership Award from the State Bar of Georgia, the 2012 Attorney A. T. Walden Legacy Award from the Gate City Bar Association Judicial Section, the 2012 Leadership Award from the Atlanta Bar Association, the 2010 Barbara A. Harris Award for Service to the Community from the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys, the 2010 R. Pruden Herndon Service

Award from the Gate City Bar Association, and the 2010 Seth D. Kirschenbaum Diversity Award from the Multi-Bar Leadership Council, among others.

Dawn received a Law degree from Georgia State University College of Law, a Master of Science degree in Critical Care Nursing from Georgetown University, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from the University of Virginia. She is admitted to practice law in the State of Georgia and has one dog, Jack Jones. Dawn's other fur babies, Meadow Jones and Cleopatra Jones, have crossed the rainbow bridge.



Natalie Robinson Kelly is the Director of the State Bar of Georgia's Law Practice Management Program. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in English with a minor in Political Science from Spelman College and her Juris Doctorate from Atlanta's John Marshall Law School. Prior to attending law

school, she taught *Law Office Management* as an Adjunct Professor at Atlanta's John Marshall Law School; and she held positions in education, commercial real estate, hospitality and small law firm administration. In 2005, she was selected State Bar of Georgia Employee of the Year. At the State Bar serving as Georgia's PMA (*Practice Management Advisor*), she has conducted over 1,200 on-site management and technology consulting engagements with law firms and corporate legal departments. She co-teaches *Law Practice Technology* as an Adjunct Professor at Georgia State University College of Law.

Natalie is a Certified Consultant for multiple legal software applications, and has served on many legal technology advisory boards. She was named to the American Bar Association's inaugural list of *Women in Legal Tech*; and in 2014, she chaired the ABA TECHSHOW Planning Board. She was selected as a *Fastcase 50* honoree for being one of the law's smartest, most courageous innovators, techies, visionaries, and leaders; and is a fellow in the College of Law Practice Management.

Natalie speaks frequently and has presented in over 15 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Canada.

Natalie is active in the Law Practice Division of the American Bar Association including having served on the Division's Council. In 2016, Natalie won the Division's highest publication honor, the Robert P. Wilkins Award for best feature article in the Division's magazine, *Law Practice*. She is currently a member of the Division's Professional Development Board and responsible for the webinar series, Best of ABA TECHSHOW. She also writes a regular column in the *Georgia Bar Journal*; and is the co-author of the blog, *Georgia Practice Advisor*, offering office management, ethics and technology tips and advice to legal professionals in Georgia.

Natalie is a member of the National Association of Bar Executives, the National Bar Association, the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys and the Atlanta Bar Association. She also serves on the Board of Georgia's Lawyers for Equal Justice Incubator.

Natalie is a wife and mother residing in Atlanta with her husband, three daughters, and their family dog. You can reach her at NatalieK@gabar.org or 404-527-8770; follow her on Twitter @NatalieRKelly, or link to her at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/natalierkelly/>.



Michael Monahan serves as the director for the State Bar of Georgia Pro Bono Resource Center. His area is pro bono across the state of Georgia in technology. He is a former Advisor to the Supreme Court of Georgia Committee on Civil Justice and former Chair to the Individual Rights Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia. He is a member of ABA Pro Bono Standards Review Team, Pro Bono Task Force, Legal

Services Corporation, American Bar Association Pro Bono Summit. Staff Liaison to State Bar of Georgia Access to Justice Committee and Staff Liaison to the State Bar of Georgia Military and Veterans Legal Assistance Program Committee.



Judge Shondeana Morris was recently appointed to the DeKalb County Superior Court – by Governor Brian Kemp on June 17, 2019. Prior to Judge Morris’ appointment, she served as a DeKalb County State Court Judge - Traffic Division.

A graduate of Lakeside High School in DeKalb County, Judge Morris earned a Bachelor’s degree in Journalism from The University of Georgia and a Master’s degree in Criminal Justice from Albany State University. She graduated from Mercer University’s Walter F. George School of Law in 1997 and was admitted to the Georgia Bar that same year.

After graduating law school, Judge Morris served as an Assistant Solicitor in Atlanta, Georgia. In 1999, she joined the Fulton County Office of the District Attorney and was promoted to Deputy District Attorney. As Deputy District Attorney, Judge Morris provided leadership to the Public Integrity Unit, where she worked to ensure public trust in local government and law enforcement; the Crimes Against Women and Children Unit, where she worked to protect families and children; and the Community Prosecution Unit, where she worked with communities and criminal justice partners to provide safe neighborhoods. In recognition of her outstanding trial expertise, Judge Morris received the Association of Government Attorneys in Capital Litigation Trial Advocacy Award in 2009.

Judge Morris is involved with many professional, civic, and religious organizations. She is a member of the State Bar of Georgia, the American Bar Association, the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys, the DeKalb Bar Association, the Atlanta Bar Association, the Gate City Bar Association, and the Lawyers Club of Georgia. She serves on the Board of Governors for the State Bar of Georgia, the Judicial Review Committee for the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys, and the Chair of the Gate City Bar Association Judicial Section. Judge Morris serves as a proud member of the University of Georgia Alumni Board of Directors and Mercer University Law School Alumni Balsa Council Vice President.

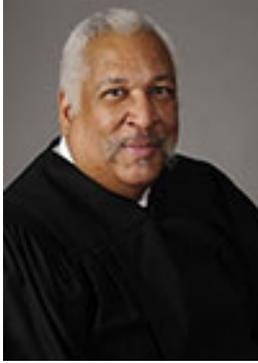
An alumna of Leadership DeKalb, Judge Morris is an Executive Board Member of the Day League (formerly DeKalb Rape Crisis Center), International Women’s House, a non-profit domestic violence shelter, and a member of Atlanta Lions Club. Committed to the development of young people, she is a member of the Criminal Justice Advisory Board for Atlanta Technical College and frequently serves as a mentor and speaker on topics ranging from law and ethics to mental and physical wellness. Judge Morris is the State Bar of Georgia Suicide Awareness and Prevention committee chairperson. Judge Morris also serves as the chairperson of DeKalb County CASA.

In 2016, the Georgia House of Representatives passed House Resolution 1271, recognizing Judge Morris “for her tireless contributions to the State of Georgia,” and August 28, 2015 was designated “Shondeana Crews Morris Appreciation Day” by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. Judge Morris also received the South Fulton Outstanding Citizenship Award (2014) and was acknowledged by Women Looking Ahead News Magazine as one of “Georgia’s Most Powerful and Influential Attorneys”

(2011) and by the Daily Report legal news publication as “On the Rise – A Dozen Rising Stars” (2009).

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated honored Judge Morris in 2016 with both the Pota E. Coston Trailblazer Award and the Pinnacle Leadership Award for her dedication to public service given to the community.

Judge Morris is married to attorney Joe Morris, III. They are the proud parents of two young children and are foster parents under Georgia Division of Family and Children Services.



Judge Clyde L. Reese III was appointed to the Court of Appeals of Georgia on November 1 of 2016 by Governor Nathan Deal to begin serving on the Court on December 1, 2016. Judge Reese was born in Florence, S.C. and moved to Atlanta with his parents in 1969 at the age of ten. Judge Reese, along with his cousin, Marsha Reese and her cousin, Alonzo Brown, integrated Pace Academy of Atlanta in 1969. He attended Pace from 1969-1976 (6th through 12th grades) and graduated in 1976.

He attended Georgia State University in Atlanta with a major in world history (emphasis on World War II and the Cold War) and a minor in economics. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1980. From 1980-1993, Judge Reese worked in residential real estate in the southwest Atlanta area. His family operated Brown and Reese Realty, one of the first African-American owned residential brokerage firms in Atlanta.

In 1993, Judge Reese entered law school at the Walter F. George School of Law at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia. He graduated in 1996 with a Juris Doctor degree. In the summer of 1996, Judge Reese began work as an Assistant Attorney General in the Georgia Department of Law under Attorney General Michael Bowers. He began in the Regulated Industries Section, which included the Department of Insurance, the Subsequent Injury Trust Fund, and the State Health Planning Agency (SHPA). In the fall, the SHPA, which administered the Georgia Certificate of Need law, hired him to be its in-house General Counsel. In 1999, SHPA was merged into the newly created Department of Community Health (DCH) along with the Georgia Medicaid program and the State Health Benefit Plan. From 1999 through the summer of 2003, Judge Reese was Deputy General Counsel of DCH, the largest health care agency in the Executive Branch.

In 2003, Judge Reese left state government for the private practice of law. From 2003-2004, he practiced with Rod Meadows at Meadows & Lewis in Stockbridge, Georgia. From 2004-2007 he was owner and principal of Reese & Hopkins, LLC, a firm specializing in state and federal health care regulatory matters. The firm represented hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers, physicians and physician group practices, imaging providers, and other health care entities.

In the fall of 2007, Judge Reese returned to state government with DCH to oversee the Certificate of Need program and as General Counsel. In May of 2010, Governor Sonny Perdue appointed Judge Reese as Commissioner of DCH. In January of 2011, Governor Nathan Deal appointed Judge Reese as Commissioner of the Department of Human Services (DHS). DHS oversees the state's child welfare system, human services benefits, child support and aging programs. In July of 2013, Judge Reese returned to DCH as Commissioner for a second time and served in that capacity until his appointment to the Court of Appeals. At the time of his departure from DCH, it had a combined state and federal budget of over \$14 billion with over 1,000 employees. Judge Reese spent considerable time traveling the state visiting hospitals and other health

care providers. He took a particular interest in the challenge of access to health care in rural areas of Georgia.

Judge Reese was appointed by the Supreme Court of Georgia to a five year term as Vice-Chair of the Commission on Interpreters. Judge Reese is a member of the Mercer Law School Board of Visitors. Judge Reese has established the Judge Clyde Reese Book Award at Mercer University Law School. The award, in honor of Judge Reese's parents, Clyde and Dorothy Reese, is \$1,000 to a deserving minority student selected by the school to help defray the cost of law books. He is also Co-Chair of the State Bar's SOLACE Committee. In May of 2018, Judge Reese won election to a new six-year term on the Court of Appeals, beginning January 1, 2019.

Judge Reese is a proud father of five children, three girls and two boys. He has two grandchildren, a boy and a girl. He is a resident of Douglas County and has been a member of the Friendship Community Church for over 30 years.