

**Chief Justice Harold D. Melton** was

appointed to the Supreme Court of Georgia by Governor Sonny Perdue on July 1, 2005.

He was sworn in as Chief Justice on September 4, 2018, by former Chief Justice P. Harris Hines.

Prior to joining the Court, Chief Justice Melton served as Executive Counsel to Governor Perdue, representing the Governor on legal issues covering the entire scope of

state government. Chief Justice Melton helped safeguard Georgia's interests in water rights disputes with Alabama and Florida, and he actively participated in administration efforts to advance the delivery of criminal justice services in the State.

Before serving as Executive Counsel, Chief Justice Melton spent 11 years in the Georgia Department of Law under two Attorneys General where he dealt with issues ranging from the creation of the Georgia Lottery Corporation to the administration of Georgia's tobacco settlement. Prior to leaving to join the Governor's Office, he served as Section Leader over the Consumer Interests Division.

Chief Justice Melton received a Bachelor of Science degree from Auburn University and his Juris Doctor from the University of Georgia in 1991. He previously served as a Volunteer Leader of Young Life Ministries for 11 years and currently serves on a local Young Life Board and on the national board. He is also a Board Member of Atlanta Youth Academies.

A native of Washington, D.C., Chief Justice Melton grew up in East Point and Marietta, Georgia. He currently resides in Atlanta with his wife, Kimberly, and their three children.



**Justice Sarah Hawkins Warren** was appointed to the Supreme Court of Georgia by Governor Nathan Deal and was sworn in on September 17, 2018. She previously served as Solicitor General for the State of Georgia under Attorney General Chris Carr.

Justice Warren earned a B.A. in Public Policy and Spanish, *magna cum laude*, from Duke University. After graduation, Justice Warren served as Deputy Press Secretary for the White House Office of Management and Budget.

Justice Warren received her J.D., *magna cum laude*, from Duke University School of Law, where she served as Editor in Chief of *Law and Contemporary Problems* and on the Executive Committee of the Federalist Society.

Following her graduation from law school, Justice Warren served as a law clerk to then-Chief Judge J.L. Edmondson of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit and to the Honorable Richard J. Leon of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. She also practiced as a litigation partner at Kirkland & Ellis LLP in Washington, D.C., where she represented clients before state and federal courts and was outside counsel to Georgia in *Florida v. Georgia*, No. 142 Original (United States Supreme Court).

In 2015, Justice Warren and her family returned home to Georgia, where she began service in the Office of Attorney General Sam Olens as Deputy Solicitor General and Special Counsel for Water Litigation. In January 2017, she was appointed Solicitor General by Attorney General Chris Carr, and in that role served as the chief appellate lawyer for the State of Georgia and the primary constitutional law advisor to the Attorney General. As Solicitor General, Justice Warren represented Georgia in multi-state litigation and in appeals before state and federal courts, including in an argument before the United States Supreme Court.

Justice Warren currently serves on the Duke Law School Board of Visitors, the Westminster Schools Alumni Association Governing Board, and the Advisory Board for the Atlanta Lawyers Chapter of the Federalist Society. She lives in Atlanta with her husband, Blaise, and their two children.

**Alex E. Crosby**, MD, MPH, Chief Medical Officer in the Division of Injury Prevention in the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Alex E. Crosby was raised in Detroit, Michigan. He is the son of Emeral and Corene Crosby and is a husband and father of four children. He graduated with a BA in chemistry from Fisk University, an MD from Howard University's School of Medicine, and an MPH in health administration and management from Emory University's School of Public Health. He completed training programs in Family Medicine then General Preventive Medicine and Public Health and epidemiology. He has responded to numerous public health emergencies and led investigative teams, addressing adolescent suicide clusters, civil unrest, school-associated violence, sniper attacks, firearm-related injuries due to celebratory shooting, Hurricane Rita, and Ebola. He has authored or co-authored over 100 publications. His work as a medical epidemiologist focuses on prevention of suicidal behavior, child maltreatment, intimate partner violence, interpersonal violence among adolescents, and assault injuries among minorities.



**Lynn S. Garson** serves as Counsel in the Atlanta office of BakerHostetler. Lynn has extensive experience with physician practice acquisitions, employment and related agreements and regulatory research. She has taken primary responsibility in managing acquisitions by a multi-hospital system of small medical practices, including negotiating and drafting documents from letter-of-intent stage through final documentation. She also advises a multi-hospital system on physician service agreements, consulting and employment contracts, leases, vendor contracts and clinical trial agreements. In addition, Lynn is a mental health advocate and author. In July 2012, she published *Southern*

*Vapors*, a memoir describing her journey from major clinical depression to recovery, and she has since spoken widely, including for a TEDx Emory talk: “Reforming the Approach to Mental Health in the U.S.” and made numerous presentations to private and public organizations. As Chair of the Lawyers Assistance Committee of the State Bar of Georgia, she is one of the principal architects of the “Lawyers Helping Lawyers’ program which launched in November 2017, a program which connects peer volunteers with colleagues who have challenges in mental health, substance use or general stress-related issues. She has also participated in two podcasts and a video for the American Bar Association describing both the challenges she has faced and the support she has received from her colleagues as a practicing attorney who has struggled with mental health issues. On December 8, 2013, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* published an article on her experience and mental health advocacy in a “Personal Journeys” segment, described by the paper as a feature that "spotlights the lives of extraordinary individuals and the stories that define our region and connect our community."

### **Memberships**

- American Health Lawyers Association
- American Bar Association (ABA Pledge Subcommittee Member)
- Georgia Bar
  - Lawyers Assistance Committee ((Chairperson)
  - Suicide Awareness and Prevention Committee
  - Mental Health Subcommittee of the Wellness Committee



**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.



**Monica Johnson, MA, LPC (Licensed Professional Counselor)** has worked in the behavioral health field for over 20 years and is currently employed with the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), as the Division Director for the Division of Behavioral Health. In this role she is responsible for leading a team of Directors for the offices of Adult Mental Health, Addictive Diseases, Children, Young Adults & Families, Deaf Services, Recovery, Prevention & Federal Grants & Culture Competency, Field Operations & Crisis Coordination. Functions include but are not limited to managing an extensive budget from federal and state funds, development of the

strategic plan for all community behavioral health programs, the development and oversight of policies and behavioral health practices, program development, and workforce development. Ms. Johnson is a seasoned executive leader with a proven track record of success. Over the last couple of decades Ms. Johnson has led the formation of several high-profile change initiatives, project management, chaired several collaborations, and served as a board member for a variety of governing boards

Ms. Johnson has worked in community behavioral health in a variety of clinical, management and leadership roles, including program development and implementation of federally funded initiatives. Ms. Johnson has overseen and successfully implemented several programs funded through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention, Department of Education and the Georgia Governor's Office of Children and Families.

Ms. Johnson is a published author (*"Fab 30: Critical Leadership Lessons for Women"*), lecturer and expert in mental health and women's leadership. She is passionate about developing and empowering women leaders and educating the community on mental health wellness; ultimately reducing the stigma associated with mental illness for healthier lives.

Ms. Johnson earned an undergraduate degree in Psychology (minor in Communications) from Kennesaw State University and a graduate degree in Professional Counseling / Psychology at Argosy University. Ms. Johnson is a proud Alumnus of the Georgetown University Leadership Academy and a recipient of the Intensive Cognitive Behavior Therapy for Schizophrenia Certification at the Aaron T. Beck Institute for Cognitive Behavior Therapy in Philadelphia.

### **Notable Presentations & Media Events:**

- 2020 – WAOK News & Talk Radio – Dr. Keith Slaughter – Women’s Leadership Interview
- 2019 – Georgia Library Association – Wonderful Wednesday Conference – Keynote Speaker “10 Strategies for Goal Achievement for 2020”
- 2019 – BET HER presents BWE Atlanta – Panel Presenter for “Self-Care & Sisterhood”
- 2019 – Georgia Library Association – “Empowering & Building Leadership”
- 2019 – Kaiser Permanente - Workshop Presenter - “Fab 30: Critical Leadership Lessons for Women” 2018
- 2019 – Speaker at Empire Beauty School – “Reducing Mental Health Stigma”
- 2018 – Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta – Workshop Presenter - “Fab 30: Critical Leadership Lessons for Women”
- 2018 – Live Interview with Morning Express with Lynn Smith on CNN HLN – Suicide Prevention & Mental Health
- 2018 – Radio Broadcast Interview for Rock 100.5 Community Programming – Suicide Prevention & Mental Health
- 2018 – GA Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities BH Symposium – Workshop Facilitator – “Fab 30: Critical Leadership Lessons for Women”
- 2018 – Kaiser Permanente Corporate Atlanta Office – Panel Participant – Reducing Stigma related to Mental Health
- 2018 – Panel Expert – Representative Mike Glanton, - Mental Health Education and Access to Services
- 2016 – WCLK 91.9 Jazz – Radio Broadcast (Live) - Understanding Mental Health & Accessing Treatment
- 2011 & 2015 –Expert Presenter Panelist for the President Carter Center Mental Health Forum.
- 2011 – National Presenter for Council of State Governments Justice Center (“Effective outcomes in juvenile justice and mental health collaborations”) Baltimore, Maryland
- 2009 – Presenter for Cobb County Community Collaborative (“Community Collaboration: The Key to Success”)
- 2009 – National Plenary Panel Presenter for Bureau of Justice and Council of State Governments Justice Center (“Juvenile Justice and Mental Health Collaborations: Keys to Implementation”) Washington D.C.



**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](http://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 nationwide 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.



**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 BALSAC Council Vice President.

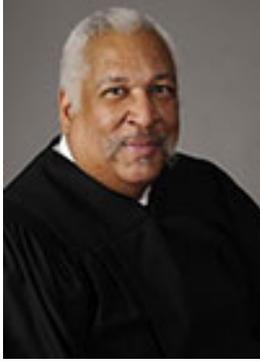
An alumna of Leadership DeKalb, Judge Morris is an Executive Board Member of the Day League (formerly DeKalb Rape Crisis Center), International Women’s House, a non-profit domestic violence shelter, and a member of Atlanta Lions Club. Committed to the development of young people, she is a member of the 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.