

CHIEF JUSTICE'S COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONALISM

Honorable Harold D. Melton
Chief Justice
Supreme Court of Georgia



Karlise Y. Grier
Executive Director

AGENDA

Professionalism and Technology: From Jury Trials to Social Media December 17, 2020, 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm via Zoom.us

2:00 pm Housekeeping Information and Introduction of Ms. LaToya S. Bell **Ms. Karlise Y. Grier**

Welcome and Introduction of Judge (Justice Appointee) Shawn LaGrua.... **Ms. LaToya S. Bell**
Member, Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism

2:02 pm – 2:12 pm Professionalism Presentation..... **Honorable Shawn LaGrua**
(10 minutes) Judge, Superior Court of Fulton County
Justice Appointee, Supreme Court of Georgia
Chair, Judicial Council/Admin Office of Courts COVID-19 Task Force

2:12 pm Introduction of Jury Trial Panel..... **Ms. LaToya S. Bell**

2:13 pm **Jury Trial Panel**
(60 minutes)

Moderator: **Ms. Elizabeth Fite**, President-Elect State Bar of Georgia
Member, Judicial Council/Admin Office of Courts COVID-19 Task Force
Member, Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism

Panelists:

- **Honorable Shawn LaGrua**, Justice Appointee & Chair Judicial Council COVID-19 Task Force
- **Honorable Robert D. Leonard II**, Chief Judge, Superior Court of Cobb Judicial Circuit,
Member, Judicial Council/Admin Office of Courts COVID-19 Task Force
Chair, Technology Committee, Judicial COVID-19 Task Force
- **Mr. Adam Malone**, Executive Vice President, Georgia Trial Lawyers Association
Member, Judicial Council/Admin Office of Courts COVID-19 Task Force
- **Ms. Jimmonique R.S. Rodgers**, Attorney-at-law, PhD. Student (Criminal Justice & Criminology)
Member, Judicial Council/Admin Office of Courts COVID-19 Task Force and
Co-Chair, Criminal Committee, Judicial COVID-19 Task Force
- **Tina Shadix Roddenbery**, President, GA Chapter, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers
Advisory Member, Judicial Council/Admin Office of Courts COVID-19 Task Force

Panel Discussion Abstract: Many counties now have in place (or are rapidly acquiring) technology that will allow some forms of remote or hybrid in-person/remote jury trials. Nevertheless, even assuming the technology is available, this new method for conducting trials will not work without all stakeholders working with professionalism to ensure fair and effective trials. What

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professionalism opportunities and challenges do the new technologies present? How do we as lawyers and judges lead our stakeholders in successfully navigating with professionalism this new paradigm?

3:13 pm – 3:14 pm Introduction of Before the Trial PanelMs. LaToya S. Bell

3:14 pm
(45 minutes)

Before the Trial Panel

Moderator: David N. Nelson, Immediate Past President, Georgia Defense Lawyers Association, Member, Judicial Council/Admin Office of Courts COVID-19 Task Force

Panelists:

- **Honorable Shawn LaGrua**, Justice Appointee & Chair Judicial Council COVID-19 Task Force
- **Honorable T. Russell McClelland**, Chief Judge, State Court of Forsyth County
Immediate Past President, Council of State Court Judges
Vice-Chair, Judicial Council/Admin Office of Courts COVID-19 Task Force
Chair, Civil Committee of the COVID-19 Task Force and CLE Program Chair
- **Ms. Tracy B. Johnson**, Executive Director, Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution
- **Mrs. Maria Mackay**, Certified Legal Interpreter in the State of Georgia
Member, Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism
- **Honorable Alvin T. Wong**, Judge, State Court of DeKalb County
- **Catherine Vandenberg**, Deputy Director, Atlanta Legal Aid Society
Member, Judicial Council/Admin Office of Courts COVID-19 Task Force

Panel Discussion Abstract: As lawyers and judges continue to use technology to prepare for jury trials and bench trials, what does professionalism require of lawyers and judges, especially as it relates to discovery, before the trial to ensure smooth trials? How do lawyers and judges fulfill the professionalism aspirations that challenge us to ensure access to the courts by all stakeholders, including the poor and those for whom English is not their first language, when incorporating new technologies into trials? What role does ADR play in confronting the professionalism opportunities and challenges presented by new technologies and in ensuring justice for all?

3:59 pm – 4:00 pm Introduction of Social Media Panel.....Ms. LaToya S. Bell

4:00 pm
(30 minutes)

Social Media Panel

Moderator: Ms. Lisa Liang, Staff Attorney to Hon. Susan Edlein, State Court of Fulton County

Panelists:

- **Honorable Stephen Louis A. Dillard**, Presiding Judge, Court of Appeals of Georgia
- **Mr. Francys Johnson**, Esquire, Member, Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism
- **Ms. Shiriki C. Jones**, Esquire, Member, Sub-Committee, Law School Orientations on Professionalism for the State Bar Committee on Professionalism

Panel Discussion Abstract: As lawyers and judges rely more on technology to stay connected, how does the lack of face-to-face interactions impact our professionalism. What are some professionalism considerations for communicating in the digital age?

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4:30 pm – 4:31 pm Introduction of Wellness and Professionalism Discussion.....Ms. LaToya S. Bell

4:31 pm
(30 minutes)

Wellness and Professionalism Discussion

Panelists:

- **Honorable Harold D. Melton**, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Georgia
Chair, Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism

- **Honorable Shondeana Crews Morris**, Judge, Superior Court of DeKalb County
Chair, State Bar of Georgia Suicide Awareness and Prevention Committee
Member, Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism

Panel Discussion Abstract: Transitioning to a new paradigm can be stressful. The holidays are not a happy time for everyone. How do we as a community of professionals encourage open and compassionate conversation about the intersection of our professionalism aspirations and wellness?

5:01 pm – 5:02 pm Closing RemarksMs. LaToya S. Bell/Ms. Karlise Y. Grier

5:02 pm Adjourn