



Judicial Council of Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts

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PRESS RELEASE

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Changes in Leadership for the Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution

Atlanta, GA — The Supreme Court of Georgia’s Commission on Dispute Resolution has a new chair after long-serving State Court Judge Charles E. Auslander, 10th Judicial Circuit, stepped down. He was appointed to the Commission in 2006 and led as chair since 2012. Judge Auslander- a UGA “Double Dawg”- *passed the gavel* to Chair-Elect Judge Jane C. Barwick,



Fulton County Superior Court, in a ceremony during a February 13 meeting at the University of Georgia’s Law School on his home turf: Athens.

Justice Keith R. Blackwell thanked Judge Auslander for his service and administered the oath to Judge Barwick. “It is a real pleasure to work with this Commission,” said Justice Blackwell, “The program is very well managed.

Justice Keith R. Blackwell administers the oath to Judge Jane C. Barwick, the new Commission Chair

That is a testament to Tracy [Johnson] and her office and the staff support of the AOC. The Commission itself is very well-run, and that is a testament to every member of the commission, especially to Judge Auslander, and I expect that to fully continue with Judge Barwick as our new chair.”

Justice Blackwell also ushered in the Commission’s new members, as appointed by the Supreme Court: Presiding Judge Renata Turner, Fulton County Juvenile Court; Ms. Nicole W. Hull, Esq., Managing Partner of the Hull Firm & Director of the Academy of Dispute Resolution; and Mr. Randall Weiland, Director of the Atlantic Judicial Circuit ADR Program.

In his introduction of the new members, Judge Auslander made note that “thriving in a



Pictured (L-R): Justice Keith R. Blackwell; Judge Renata Turner; Nicole W. Hull, Esq.; and Randall Weiland

successful organization involves not only bringing in good people who are willing to serve, but it also a way to revitalize, revamp, and reenergize. In this case, we are very fortunate that the Supreme Court has provided this

Commission with *these* three new commission members- ones who have particular expertise in areas that we are really seeking to venture into, in alignment with our strategic plan.”

Additionally, the Commission retired two sitting members- Stefani Lacour, Esq. and Vjollca Prroni Young, LL.M. Ms. Lacour served the Commission since 2014, having sat on the Training & Credentials and ADR Court Program Liaison Committees. Ms. Young served the Commission since 2012, having sat on both the Ethics and ADR Court Program Liaison Committees.

Ms. Young was present at the meeting, and Judge Auslander relayed commendation for her consistency and ongoing advocacy for fairness: “When it comes to the issues, I could always



Pictured (L-R): Judge Charles E. Auslander, III, outgoing Chair; Tracy B. Johnson, Executive Director, Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution; Judge Jane C. Barwick, incoming Chair; and Justice Keith R. Blackwell, Supreme Court

appreciate that Vjollca has thought around the other side to make sure everything has been considered... and she's done it in a very polite and thoughtful way. We are really going to miss her as a member of the Commission, but I know that she will always be a part of our Commission and a part of the wide scope of ADR.”

The Supreme Court established the Commission on Dispute Resolution to administer a statewide comprehensive Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Program; oversee the development and ensure the quality of all court programs; develop guidelines and approve court programs; develop criteria for training and qualifications of neutrals; and establish standards of conduct for neutrals. This year, the Supreme Court ordered a new chair be added to this commission to ensure a delegate from court ADR programs. The now 19 members of the Commission are comprised of representatives of all appellate and trial courts, representative of the General Assembly and the State Bar of Georgia, approved trainers and registered neutrals, a court ADR program director, and other professionals with an interest in dispute resolution. For more information on the Commission, please click [here](#).