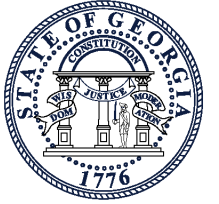




2024 Business Plan Presentation

Gwinnett County Probate Court

Judge Christopher A. Ballar



Mission Statement

The Gwinnett County Probate Court's mission is to serve our citizens by providing efficient, quality service in a professional and courteous manner, at all times maintaining our integrity and accountability, while safeguarding the best interests of those who are unable to protect themselves, in accordance with the laws and Constitutions of the State of Georgia and the United States of America.



Accomplishments

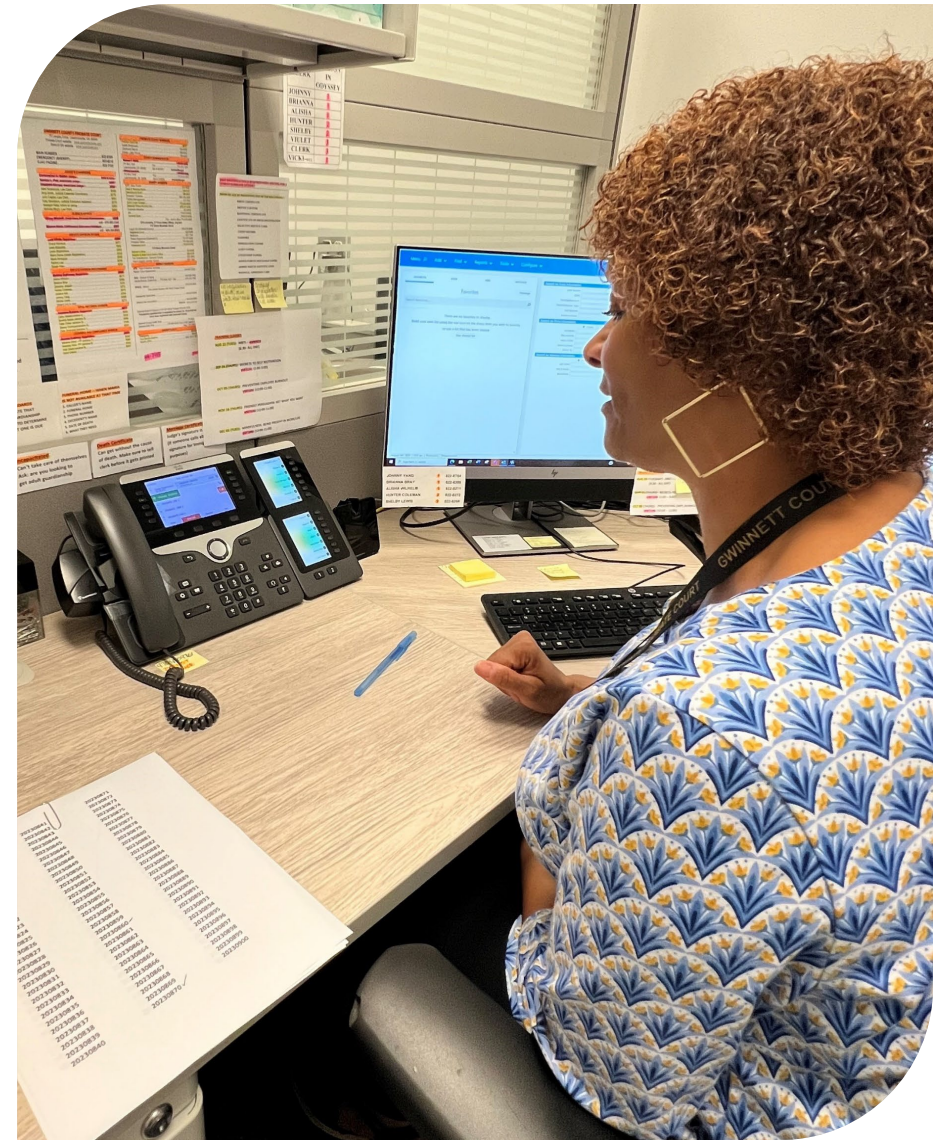
- New Associate Judge Elizabeth A. Strupe
- Successful implementation of e-filing
- Launch of a new program to support mental health initiatives in our County
- The Clerk's Office is fully staffed for the first time since the pandemic

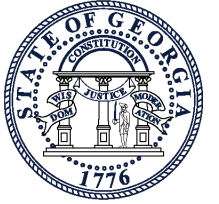




External Influences

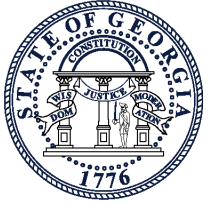
- The public
- Sheriff's Department
- Gwinnett Legal Aid
- Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI)
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- Court-appointed attorneys and evaluators
- View Point Health
- Attorneys





Challenges

- Lack of space negatively impacts many areas of the Court and Clerk's Office including the courtroom, public areas, and staff workspace
- Work areas for title searchers, real estate prospectors, and customers filing documents with the court using eFileGA and Guide-and-File
- Finding space on a consistent basis for the Pro Bono Clinic
- Positions within the Clerk's Office need reclassification based on evolving duties
- Shortage of court-appointed attorneys



Notable Metrics/Trends

- Greater number of birth and death certificates are being issued than projected for 2023
- 18% increase in estate filings in the last five years
- 2,912 transactions filed through eFileGA since becoming fully operational in September 2022. The number of attorneys using this service continues to increase
- 58.4% increase in mental health cases filed in the Probate Court in the last five years



PASS Pilot Program

- Probate Court has partnered with View Point Health to offer a pilot program called Probate Assessment and Support Services (PASS), which is a recovery-oriented service to help the most in need individuals that do not meet the legal guidelines for an Order to Apprehend (OTA)
- The budget request for this program is \$15,000



Operational Decisions

- Continue community outreach events to educate the public about services offered in Probate Court
- Continue to attract and retain qualified staff by offering professional development and career path growth opportunities
- Continue to identify areas that will allow the Court to go paperless with filings
- Changes were made to workflow assignments and processes within the Estate and Licensing Divisions to maximize staff efficiency and better serve the residents and attorneys





Planning for the Future

- Continue the implementation of Guide-and-File through the court's case management system
- Expansion of the Clerk's Office, the chamber's offices, and the courtroom facility is expected in 2024





Total Budget

Total Requested Budget

\$4,059,954