

Judge C. LaTain Kell, Sr. (retired)

“Tain”

Renaissance Trial Solutions, LLC

49 Atlanta Street
Marietta, Georgia 30060
(m)678-988-8171

Professional History

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 2022-Present | Owner, Renaissance Trial Solutions, LLC
Mediator, Arbitrator, Special Master |
| 2022-Present | Adjunct Professor, University of Georgia School of Law
Trial Practice, Georgia Practice |
| 2022-Present | Hearing Officer, Georgia Lottery Corporation |
| 2017-2019 | Chief Judge, Superior Court of Cobb Judicial Circuit |
| 2007-2022 | Judge, Superior Court of Cobb Judicial Circuit
Appointed 2007; Elected 2008; Re-Elected 2012, 2016,
2020 |
| 2020-2022 | Judge, Cobb Superior Court Veterans’ Accountability
and Treatment Court |
| 2016-2022 | Judge, Cobb Superior Court Intermediate Drug Court |
| 2000-2007 | Partner, Brock, Clay, Calhoun & Rogers, P.C. |
| 1997-2000 | Troutman Sanders, LLP |
| 1987-1997 | Office of the Attorney General |

Educational History

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| 2024 (anticipated) | Master’s in Judicial Studies,
University of Nevada, Reno |
| 1987 | <i>Juris Doctor</i>, University of Georgia |
| 1984 | A.B.J. (Journalism) <i>cum laude</i> and with honors
University of Georgia |
| 2017 | National Judicial College
Professional Certificate in Judicial Development
General Jurisdiction Trial Skills |

Awards

President's Award, Council of Superior Court Judges- 2022

Jack P. Turner Award, Family Law Institute- 2022

"Spirit of Justice" Award, Georgia Bar Association- 2023

Special Appointments

Supreme Court of Georgia, Justice Designate, November 2011

Georgia Child Fatality Review Panel, Governor's Appointee 2008-2019

Chairman (Governor's Appointee) 2012-2019

Georgia CAPTA (Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act) Panel 2008-Present

Chairman (Governor's Appointee) 2012-2019

State Bar of Georgia, Commission on Criminal Justice Reform 2011-2014

The Federalist Society of Atlanta, Board of Advisors 2011-Present

Personal Initiatives

Council of Superior Court Judges

New Judge Training (Annual) 2014-Present

- Drafted and implemented new statewide week-long training program for all new judges in Superior Courts, including all presentations and materials
- Trained over 160 new Superior Court judges to date

"Good Judge-ment" Podcast

Podcasting 2019-Present

- Recording podcasts on selected topics of interest to Superior Court judges, judges of other courts and attorneys
- goodjudgepod.com
- Available on Spotify, Apple iTunes, Soundcloud, etc.

"You Be the Judge"

2012-Present

Created special day-long mock trial program targeting 4th and 5th grade students in Cobb County

- Drafted script, program and special activities, including interactive mock trial and educational program
- Approximately 10,000 Cobb students have participated

Cobb County Superior Court Intermediate Drug Court

2016-2021

Initiated a charter program for intermediate risk/intermediate need drug offenders

Special Projects

Judicial Fellow, Administrative Office of the Courts

50th Anniversary Recognition Program

Special Skill

Certified in civil mediation and arbitration

Special Programs

Mentor, Transition into Law Practice Program

State Bar of Georgia, Appointed by Georgia Supreme Court

Superior Court Mentorship Program

Mentor 2017-2022

Wheeler High School Internship Mentor

2014, 2015, 2021

Law School Summer Clerk Supervisor

2008-2022

Personal

Wife, Sheri M. Kell; Son, Carlton Kell, Jr.

Hobbies: Family Activities, Photography, Hiking/Camping, Painting, Travel

Special Appointments and Professional Activities

Supreme Court of Georgia, Justice Designate November 2011

The Federalist Society, Board of Advisors 2011-Present

National Judicial College, Professional Certificate in Judicial Development
General Jurisdiction Trial Skills 2017

Georgia Child Fatality Review Panel, Governor's Appointee 2008-2019
Chairman 2012-2019
Maltreatment Committee 2014-2019
Legislative Committee 2015-2016

Georgia CAPTA (Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act) Panel 2008-2019
Chairman 2012-2019
Children's Justice Act Task Force 2019-2022

State Bar of Georgia, Commission on Criminal Justice Reform 2011-2014

Georgia Council on Criminal Justice Reform Georgia Sentencing Subcommittee 2016

Council of Superior Court Judges
New Judge Training Leader 2014-Present
Legislative Committee 2009- 2022
Legislative Action Team 2019-2022
Accountability Courts Committee 2012-2022
Judicial Education Committee 2014-2022

Cobb County Veterans' Accountability and Treatment Court, Judge 2020-2022

Cobb County Drug Court, Assisting Judge 2012-2020

Cobb Superior Court Intermediate Drug Court, Judge 2016-2021

Cobb Superior Court COVID-19 Emergency Committee March 2020-2022

Davis Direction Foundation Recovery Roundtable
2019-2022

National Judicial College- Group Discussion Leader
Advanced Evidence 2016

Charles Weltner Inn of Court 2011- Present

Community Activities

Cobb Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors 2002-2009, 2014-2019
Marietta Area Council 2002-2005
Chairman 2003
Chairman's Award 2009

Leadership Cobb, Class of 2001

Politics Day Committee 2006-2010, 2012, 2015-2019
Co-Chair 2009, 2012, 2019
Speaker, Public Safety Day 2018, 2019

Johnson Ferry Baptist Church

Deacon 2008-Present
Peru Mission Trip Group Leader 2020
Dominican Republic Mission Trip Group Leader 2019
Hospitality Committee 2005-Present
Budget Committee 2008-2010; Chairman 2010
Deacon Officer Nominating Committee 2014
Prayer Group Leader 2014, 2018
Men's Mexico Mission 2004
Christian Leadership Concepts 2012-2014
Next Steps 2016-Present
Upward Flag Football, Coach 2012, 2013
Arts Ministry, Core Artist 2015-Present

Johnson Ferry Christian Academy Board of Directors

2023-Present
Governance Committee 2023-Present

MUST Ministries Board of Directors 2008-2015

Governance Committee Chair 2012-2015

Cobb County School District

Superintendent's Business and Community Advisory Committee Member
2012-2014, 2016-2022

East Cobb YMCA

Advisory Board 2000-2005, Chairman 2004

Center for Family Resources

Gala Committee 2004, 2005

Timber Ridge Elementary School

Foundation Board 2006-2010
Advisory Board 2011-2013

Community Activities (continued)

Marietta Kiwanis, Member 2002-2017

Winner, Justice Jam 2014 with the band “Specific Deviations

Featured Performer:

Family Law Institute 2010-2018 “Specific Deviations”

“O Brother Where Art Thou”, Strand Theater, September 2016

“Strand Ole Opry”, Strand Theater 2016-2018 (6 performances)

Justice Jam 2014-2018

“Star Spangled Banner”- singer, Cobb County Law Day 2019

Photography:

Marietta Cobb Museum of Art Photography Exhibit 2024

Metro Montage, Marietta Cobb Museum of Art 2011-2018, 2023

Cobb Show House 2012, 2013

Glimpses of His Glory Gallery, Johnson Ferry Church, various shows 2011-2017

High Country Photography Gallery (featured artist) 2014-2016

DK Gallery, “Photo Abstraction” featured photographer November 2016

New Creations Gallery 2017

Speaking Engagements/Presentations

Continuing Legal Education Course Presentations:

Troutman Sanders Law Firm “Nichomachean Ethics” 2008
State Bar Headquarters “Ethical Considerations” 2009
Atlanta Bar Association Family Law Section “First Year on the Bench:
Lessons Learned” 2009
American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers “Ethics in the Courtroom for
the Family Law Practitioner” 2009
Atlanta Bar Association, Family Law Section “Sun Tsu and the Art of
War: Domestic Relations” (Presentation and Panel Discussion)
2010
Nuts & Bolts of Local Government Law “Conflicts of Interest and Other
Ethical Issues in Local Government Matters” (Panelist) 2010
State Bar of Georgia, “RICO and Ethics” 2011
Panel: “Domestic Violence and the Courts- A Judge’s Perspective” 2011
American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, Panel: “Child Support
Deviations” 2011
Cobb County Bar Association, Domestic Relations Section 2011
Society of Real Estate Attorneys- Professionalism and Ethics 2013
Professionalism, Ethics and Malpractice- Kennesaw State University 2013
Georgia Psychology Association- Judicial Perspective on Divorce 2013
Panel Discussion: “Current Financial Topics in Family Law” 2014
Atlanta Bar Association Panel Discussion: “A View from the Bench” 2014
Family Law Institute, Panel Discussion “Financial Statements in the
Courtroom” 2016
Georgia Defense Lawyers Association “Professionalism: 12 Steps to
Better Lawyering” 2016
Atlanta Bar Association Family Law Section Breakfast: “Topics of
Interest to the Family Lawyer” 2017
Family Law Institute, Panel Discussion “Financial Decisions” 2017
Cobb County Family Law CLE “Case Law Update” 2020
Cobb County Family Law Section, Panel Discussion “COVID 19: Lessons
Learned” 2020
Cobb County Family Law Section, Panel Discussion 2021
Family Law Institute, “Courtroom Evidence” 2020 (Invited)
Constitutional Officers Association of Georgia, “Politics and Social
Media” 2020 (Invited)
Georgia Family Law Institute (various topics) 2009-2018, 2020

Continuing Judicial Education Courses:

Council of Superior Court Judges, ICJE Training
Speaker, Winter Conference 2016
“Nuts & Bolts of Criminal Law for Judges”
Speaker, Winter Conference 2018

“Awarding Attorney’s Fees”
Speaker, Winter Conference 2020
“Human Trafficking”
Speaker, Summer Conference 2020 (invited)
“Case Law Update”
Speaker, Virtual Winter Conference 2021
“Discovery Disputes and Motions to Compel”
Speaker, Summer Conference 2021
“Jury Trials During COVID”
Speaker, Summer Conference 2022
“Judicial Writing”
Speaker, Winter Conference 2023
“Awarding Attorney’s Fees”

Constitutional Officers Association of Georgia
“The Media and Social Media” 2019
“Public Behavior and Campaign Season” 2020 (invited)

Magistrate Court Judges Training 2019 “Appeals from Magistrate Court”

Georgia Probate Judges Annual Conference 2023 “Ethics”

Probate Judges Spring Conference 2021 “Ethics and Professionalism- Oh the Places You’ll (Hopefully Never) Go”

Multi-Class of Court Online Legal Writing: “Striving for Clarity” 2023

Other Legal Education Courses:

Atlanta Bar Association, Domestic Relations Section 2008, 2014, 2017

Georgia Legislative Policy Briefing, “Conservative Criminal Justice Reform”, Conservative Policy Leadership Institute/Georgia Public Policy Foundation 2011

State Guardian Ad Litem Training 2023

Kennesaw State University Paralegal Training Course, Speaker, 2015, 2016, 2017

Cobb County Legal Secretaries Association “What It Means to Be a Superior Court Judge” 2009

American Probation and Parole Association 2016 Winter Training Institute, Judges’ Roundtable: “Justice Reinvestment Initiative, Risk/Needs Assessment and the Procedural Fairness Movement”

Speaking Engagements/Presentations (continued)

Other Speaking/Training:

Voices for Georgia's Children,
Legislative Appreciation Event, Panel Speaker 2015
 GBI Appreciation Event Speaker 2016
 Teen Suicide Prevention Event 2018

American Heritage Academy, Graduation Speaker 2008

Kell High School Baccalaureate Speaker 2012, 2013

Wheeler High School Class of 1974 Re-Graduation Speaker 2012

Brumby Elementary School Graduation Speaker 2016

Symposium on Solutions to Substance Use Disorder: A County-Wide Approach
-2019
-Presented by RRLC

Schools:

Timber Ridge Elementary School
Powers Ferry Elementary School
Bells Ferry Elementary School
Brumby Elementary School
Hollydale Elementary School
LaBelle Elementary School
Mt. Bethel Elementary School
International Academy of Smyrna
Campbell Middle School
Kell High School
Harrison High School
Wheeler High School
South Cobb High School
Sequoia High School

Special Mock Trials:

Timber Ridge Elementary (4th grade) 2012, 2013, 2014
Brumby Elementary (5th grade) 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018
LaBelle Elementary (5th grade) 2013
Bells Ferry Elementary (5th grade) 2014, 2015, 2017
Powers Ferry Elementary (5th grade) 2014, 2016
Mt. Bethel Elementary (3rd grade) 2014, 2015

Professional Training

National Judicial College:

General Jurisdiction- 2009
Handling Capital Cases- 2011
Financial Statements in the Courtroom- 2011
Human Trafficking- 2011
Judicial Philosophy and American Law- 2014
Advanced Evidence- 2016
Domestic Violence- 2016
Judicial Writing- 2017
Effective Caseload Management- 2017
Faculty Development: Presenting Courses Effectively- 2019
History and Philosophy of Jurisprudence- 2019
Gaming and the Law- 2019
History and Philosophy of Jurisprudence II- 2020
Scientific Research for Judges- 2020
Language and the Judicial Process- 2020
Thesis: "Saving the Ones Drowning in the Shallow End of the Pool"- 2024

George Mason University, Law and Economics Center

Selected Topics- 2012
Week One Training for Judges- 2014
Selected Topics- 2015