

April 19, 2002

Judge:

- 1) Enclosed are the **committee (should you be a member) and educational meeting schedules** for our Spring Conference as well as a Hotel Tax Exemption Certificate (please give to Hotel upon check-in) for your convenience. Also, please review the information sent out by Rich Reaves (ICJE) as reimbursements for this conference need to be remitted in a timely manner as the fiscal year is close to ending.
- 2) **PLEASE RESPOND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE: Our annual Appellate Reception** will be held Friday afternoon/evening, June 14th (as well as an Executive/Joint Committee Meeting on Saturday morning, June 15th) in conjunction with the State Bar of Georgia's Annual Meeting at Amelia Island, FL. Reimbursement will be determined by your officers at the Spring Conference (but will probably include Friday night's lodging for the \$165.00 room, at a minimum). Reservations can be made by calling the Amelia Island Plantation at 1-888-261-6165 and by letting them know that you are with the State Bar of Georgia. Also, they should be made by May 10th to ensure that you get the discounted rate of a room. Please fax back the enclosed form as soon as possible so that we can begin to get an idea of who will be attending.
- 3) Enclosed is the official **non-increase in base pay for superior court judges** for those of you that need it for your county commissioners (and for informational purposes for those that do not).
- 4) Enclosed is a **Council Survey** to receive your thoughts and opinions so that this office can be of best service to you.
- 5) At the behest of Judge Robins (DeKalb) and the outstanding legislative work by some of your colleagues, House Bill 254, a **retirement bill**, has been passed by both the State House and the State Senate. At this time, the Governor's action on the final budget is not available and signature or inaction by the Governor is still required for this bill to become law. If it is funded and enacted into law, please ensure that you decide whether to take advantage of this should it apply to you. In pertinent part, it changes (shown by italicization) existing law by providing that any superior court judge, *state court judge, solicitor general,* or district attorney who was previously an active member of the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia may elect to have all contributions made by or on behalf of such member transferred from such retirement system to this retirement system [Georgia Judicial Retirement System]. Any such member shall notify the board of trustees of each retirement system not later than December 31, ~~2000~~ 2002, or within 90 days after first becoming a member of this retirement system, whichever date is later.
- 6) **Stephan's cell phone** will be changing to (404) 606-6008 as of April 29th!

Best wishes, and I look forward to seeing you at Brasstown Valley!

Respectfully Yours,

Stephan J. Frank
Executive Director

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: The sooner you fall behind, the more time you have to catch up.