



## Council of State Court Judges of Georgia

244 Washington Street  
Suite 300  
Atlanta, GA 30334

Telephone 404-463-6296  
Facsimile 404-463-0844  
E-Mail franks@gaaoc.us

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Dear Judge:

- 1) We have had a recent **change in leadership** as Judge Vines (Chattooga) has stepped down and Judge Carriere (DeKalb) has become our President. Our best wishes to Judge Vines and our congratulations to Judge Carriere. Please see our website at [www.georgiacourts.org/state/](http://www.georgiacourts.org/state/) and go to the COMMITTEES button to see the most updated Committee Assignments. There have only been a few changes since the last update, including these and Judge Prodggers (Cobb) now assuming the Chair of the Case Counting Standards Committee. President Carriere will be happy to consider any requests to participate on any of the committees.
- 2) Enclosed is a **CRITICAL Indigent Defense Survey** which contains vital questions whose answers are needed by your Executive and Strategic Planning Committees and which also gives you the opportunity for input. Please fill out the survey the best that you can and either mail or fax back to me by July 21<sup>st</sup> so that I may compile for both committees. With input from the Strategic Planning Committee, the Executive Committee will be discussing potential participation in the new Indigent Defense system and funding thereof with legislators and other classes of courts.
- 3) For **background** on indigent defense, please see:
  - a. House Bill 770, *Indigent Defense Act...*, which was enacted this past legislative session and distributed at Brasstown Valley, which can also be found at [www.legis.state.ga.us/legis/2003\\_04/sum/hb770.htm](http://www.legis.state.ga.us/legis/2003_04/sum/hb770.htm). Among other items, please pay particular attention to the portion of the legislation containing newly enacted O.C.G.A. § 17-12-23 delineating which actions and proceedings the circuit public defender shall provide representation in.
  - b. House Bill 869, *Civil filings and criminal fines...*, which can be found at [www.legis.state.ga.us/legis/2003\\_04/sum/hb869.htm](http://www.legis.state.ga.us/legis/2003_04/sum/hb869.htm). Although not enacted this past legislative session, it has served as a starting point for discussion of this new system's funding.
  - c. The Spangenberg Group Study, Part 2: Analysis of Implementing Alabama v. Shelton in Georgia which can be found at [www.georgiacourts.org/aoc/idcreports.html](http://www.georgiacourts.org/aoc/idcreports.html) and deals with misdemeanors.

- 4) Enclosed is a letter from our Treasurer for **2003-2004 Council dues**. Please note that Senior Judges are now exempt from paying dues.
- 5) Please also check the new **CRIMINAL LAW UPDATE** button on our website where you will find this material updated every week or so by your friend and colleague Judge Studdard.
- 6) Please do not forget to mail or fax your Indigent Defense Survey back to me by July 21<sup>st</sup>!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Best wishes and I hope that you had a great 4<sup>th</sup> of July!!!!!!!!!!

Respectfully Yours,

Stephan J. Frank, Esq.  
Executive Director

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.