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A CAPACITY CROWD WILL ATTEND THE THIRD ANNUAL  
STATEWIDE DRUG AND DUI COURT CONFERENCE  
IN PEACHTREE CITY FROM MAY 30--JUNE 1, 2007

ATLANTA—Over 400 attendees, making up over forty statewide Drug and DUI Court Teams, plan to attend the third annual statewide Drug and DUI Court Conference next week in Peachtree City, hosted by the Judicial Council of Georgia's Standing Committee on Drug Courts. The conference, entitled "Georgia Drug Courts: Bridges to Recovery through Accountability," will be held at the Wyndham Peachtree Conference Center in Peachtree City, Georgia from May 30 through June 1, 2007.

With methamphetamine usage reaching crisis proportions in many Georgia communities, the Drug and DUI Court attendees will hear words of guidance from the White House, with a keynote address from Dr. Bertha Madras, Deputy Director for Demand Reduction with the White House Office on National Drug Control Policy. Additional featured speakers offering direction and best practices advice include Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears, C. West Huddleston, CEO and Executive Director of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP), and Dr. Carlo DiClemente, a nationally recognized expert on how people change addictive behaviors. Another returning favorite will be the Methamphetamine Lab Disassembly Truck presented by the Cobb County Sheriff's Office. Demonstrations of the five ton truck, which has the capacity to carry a team of personnel and all types of specialty equipment, will be given on June 1 from 8:00 a.m.--1:00 p.m.

"The Statewide Drug and DUI Court Conference provides an opportunity for professionals, officials and others in the community to come together and share lessons learned in everyday practice," said Cobb County Superior Court Judge George Kreeger, who also serves as Chair of the Judicial Council Standing Committee on Drug Courts. Those attending will include drug court teams of judges, prosecutors, public defenders, treatment providers, probation and law enforcement officers and other dedicated criminal justice practitioners.

In recognition of the achievements gained by more than the 50 Georgia Drug and DUI Courts, a proclamation by Governor Sonny Perdue establishing May as "Drug and DUI Court Month in Georgia" will also be presented at the Conference. The Proclamation will recognize the practitioners and participants who make Drug and DUI Courts work and the significant contributions that those Courts make in reducing drug usage and crime in Georgia.

“If you don’t like having to spend more money to build prisons, you’ll love drug courts. These courts have the support of judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials around the state because they all know that they work, and the work at a fraction of the cost of incarceration,” said Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice Sears. The costs saved alone show that Drug and DUI Courts provide a more cost effective way of dealing with criminal behavior for substance abusing offenders. As of January 2006, the average cost of incarceration per offender/per year in Georgia at medium security prisons and below is \$14, 184, while the average cost of incarceration per offender/per year at close security prisons and above is \$18,852. The cost of Drug and DUI Court per officer/per year is \$4,794.

Participation in a Drug and DUI Court program includes at a minimum, substance abuse treatment, judicial supervision every two weeks, random drug screens, home visits and services ranging from assistance finding a job to obtaining child care. The program is thorough and long term, often lasting as long as two years. Team members are quick to emphasize that the Drug and DUI Court program is not a “soft on crime” alternative to incarceration.

The Judicial Council of Georgia has appointed Standing Court on Drug Courts to encourage and support the implementation of drug courts in all 49 Georgia Judicial Circuits. These Courts have experienced phenomenal success and tremendous growth by reducing substance abuse, crime and recidivism. For more information about the conference, please visit [www.georgiacourts.org](http://www.georgiacourts.org) and click on “2007 Drug and DUI Court Conference.”