



# Technology Priorities of the Magistrate Courts of Georgia

Chief Judge W. Allen Wigington  
President, Council of Magistrate Court Judges

Chief Judge Robert E. "Bob" Turner  
First Vice President, Council of Magistrate Court Judges

# Who we are. . .

- The Council of Magistrate Court Judges (CMCJ) is the largest trial court council of the State.
- Comprised of 159 Chief Magistrates and more than 350 Magistrates.
- Across the State, more than 500,000 civil filings are made in the Magistrate Courts each year.
- With few exceptions, every criminal arrest case in this State starts in the Magistrate Courts and is sent to another court for disposition.
- Diversity and volume have driven the need for technology.



# Where we came from. . .

- In 2007, CMCJ completed a strategic planning process specific to IT needs.
- Following the plan led to going “paper-on-demand” for all CMCJ meetings and executive committee functions.
- CMCJ developed and worked with ICJE to implement web based training across classes of court.
- Electronically published the Magistrate Court Bench Book to the web and no longer prints copies or updates.
- Developed a published standard forms on our website.
- Provided regional training on computer topics to local courts.



# Where we are . . .

- Based on success of the 2007 plan, combined IT and Business Strategic Plans in 2013.
- Based on an identified need for increasing efficiency, CMCJ developed language for HB146 concerning the issuance of arrest warrants by video conference.
- Creation of a work group for a self-represented litigant (SRL) project.
- Building relationship with a preferred vendor and developing implementation for local courts of the SRL project.



# Where we are going . . .

- Engaging local courts to identify needs.
- Statewide implementation of the SRL project.
- Statewide implementation of a “opt-in” e-filing project.
- Engagement of FastCase as a vendor to update and maintain publication of the e-Benchbook.
- Continue to provide leadership in court technology implementation.
- Continue to advocate for legislation that increases efficiency and effectiveness of courts through the use of technology.



# Next steps . . .

- Full implementation of the Strategic Plan.
- Working to implement an overhaul to our website for efficiency and ease of use.
- Working with vendor to gather metrics on use of the SRL project.
- Continual efforts to work with local courts to identify and engage best practices for court technology implementation.

