

# FULTON COUNTY MAGISTRATE COURT

Chief Magistrate Judge Cassandra Kirk



## MEDIA ADVISORY

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### **Georgee Corley, Esq. Graduates from Inaugural Cohort of Accountability Court Coordinator Certification Program**

**Who:** Georgee Corley, Esq., Coordinator of the Fulton County Misdemeanor Mental Health Court, is the first Fulton County graduate of the inaugural cohort of the Carl Vinson Accountability Court Coordinator Certification Program.

**What:** The Council of Accountability Court Judges (CACJ) partnered with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia to create a certification program for Accountability Court Coordinators and Program Directors across the state. The program included 45 hours of instruction and all Accountability Court Coordinators and Directors are now required to attend and complete the program within three years. The program consisted of topics such as Accountability and Advocacy, Communication, Conflict Resolution, Financial Concepts, Grant Administration, Procurement and Contract Management, Succession Planning and Delegation, and Team and Group Dynamics.

**When:** Material for the course was first introduced in three online courses, followed by five classroom or interactive virtual instruction courses, beginning September 2020. Ms. Corley, along with other 39 graduates, were acknowledged at the CACJ Annual Training Conference held September 26 - 29, 2021 at the Classic Center in Athens, Georgia.

**Where:** The Carl Vinson Institute of Government, located at 201 North Milledge Avenue, Athens, GA 30602

**Why:** The CACJ Rules, effective 7/1/2020, require that all new and existing coordinators/directors must complete the certificate within three years. The failure to obtain certification timely may result in the de-obligation of grant funding pursuant to Article 8. The training goal of the certification focuses on carrying out the primary administrative functions of the accountability courts by increasing the knowledge, developing the skills, increasing the professionalism, and developing and maintaining high standards of the accountability courts and the accountability court coordinators.

**Note:** Ms. Corley expressed her extreme satisfaction with the program as it was “truly an all-encompassing overview of the many potential duties and occurrences in the life of a Coordinator.” She stated the program was a great foundation to introduce her to unfamiliar topics while sharpening her skills in other areas and developing transferable skills she was able to implement with her staff. Ms. Corley believes the program was beneficial and a great networking opportunity, noting that “differing perspectives are invaluable in the justice system” and are a support for her years ahead.

## **ABOUT THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF FULTON COUNTY**

The Magistrate Court of Fulton County works every day to Inform, Engage and Empower Our Community. The Court exists to serve the citizens of Fulton County in civil and criminal matters. The Magistrate Court, along with the State Court, the Solicitor General, and the Public Defender collaborate on the Misdemeanor Mental Health Court (MMC) program alongside the Sheriff, Marshal and Pretrial Service to provide county residents charged with misdemeanors who have mental health issues the benefits of MMC. Program participants complete a voluntary yearlong program, consisting of treatment, behavioral health, and supportive supervision. Improving the quality of life for people with mental illness charged with crimes makes more effective use of the community's limited criminal justice and mental health resources and offers participants a new way of life. Participants are treated with respect and dignity and thus empowered to make positive changes for their future.

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