

GSCCCA Update

Vol. 26, No. 3
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An update on the activities of the Georgia Superior Court Clerks' Cooperative Authority

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Authority success due to work of many

Following is the Executive Summary from the Authority's 2021-2022 Accomplishments & Year-end Report. Numbers within this article reflect fiscal year-end (June 30) totals unless otherwise stated, although other articles in this issue may reflect more updated information. Contact Communications Director & Compliance Officer Mike Smith at mike.smith@gsecca.org with questions.

The Māori — the indigenous people of New Zealand — have a centuries-old proverb: *Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, ēngari he toa takitini*. Translated, it means:

Success is not the work of an individual, but the work of many.

This ancient proverb speaks to a critical part of the DNA of the Georgia Superior Court Clerks' Cooperative Authority: **the power of community and collaboration**. It's been said many times before but always bears repeating ... the success of the Authority was only made possible by the willingness of 159 clerks of Superior Court to work together for the good of all clerks and the State of Georgia. The Authority was created by clerks for the benefit of clerks, and our symbiotic relationship is paramount to building on our progress to date and continuing to meet our goals in the future.

Despite the continuing challenges and uncertainty brought

about by the pandemic, geopolitical conflicts, and a mixed bag of economic conditions, **the Authority completed FY 2022 operationally intact and financially solid**. The resilience of our results is a testament to the quality of our products and a continued commitment to streamlining operations and managing costs. Our productivity and success are not an accident, but rather the result of the outstanding and prudent leadership of our Board of Directors, the effort, skill and dedication of our professional staff, and the commitment of Georgia's Superior Court clerks to remain united and collaborate for the good of all.

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July Board meeting review

The Authority Board met on July 13 for its quarterly meeting. Following is a summary of the reports and actions of the meeting.

General Business

The minutes of the April 13 scheduled Board meeting were approved.

Adam Fraley, with Mauldin & Jenkins, provided the Accountant's Review. He reported that the Authority remains on solid financial footing, reporting on the period ending May 31, 2022. The Authority staff continues to do an excellent job by adhering to sound accounting principles. Net revenues are running slightly lower than budgeted as are total administrative expenses. The Authority's annual independent audit begins July 25, 2022.

Statewide Network Upgrade/Outreach Initiative

The equipment to upgrade the Authority Data Center is currently being installed and should be completed by August 18, 2022. Phase 2 will consist of upgrading network equipment in five counties with work to begin by July 31 in Fayette County which will serve as the pilot county. Another objective of the initiative is to upgrade the bandwidth in counties with need. This effort was started a few weeks ago and involves upgrading 71 counties to 100 megabit fiber which is important for increasing the speed of uploads/downloads.

Fines & Fees Division

The Authority's software development team is in the final stages of the Fines & Fees Rewrite Project, with a launch of the new system very soon. The reporting compliance rate for courts remains very high at almost 100%.

Training & Outreach

While virtual programs continue to comprise the bulk of training at present, in-person classes on the Real Estate Indexing Standards are being held. Notary Public webinars continue to be sought after with the number of attendees for each class at the maximum limit. The Authority's online eLearn platform remains popular with clerks' offices and the public, with more than 78,000 unique logins to date.

eFiling Project

It was reported that 148 clerks participate in the UCC eFiling process, with 117 mandating the electronic filing of UCCs. For the fiscal year, 269,000 UCCs were electronically filed. This represents approximately 90% of all UCCs filed statewide.

For Real Estate eFiling, all clerks participate, with 140 allowing all document types to be eFiled. Efforts related to the Authority's Pending Lien Search Initiative are proving valuable to clerks. Over the years, pending liens have collected in the queue with no action taken upon them. Through this initiative, the Authority's Quality Control team researches the queue, identifies "old" pending liens, and then contacts the respective clerk's office for further action in order to clear out the queue. Through this research, 46 counties were identified as having pending liens that were 1,000 days old or older.

At present, 150 clerks participate in Notary Online, the Authority's online notary public application process. All clerks participate in the ACH deposit process where funds due to the clerk are electronically transmitted daily to the financial account designated by the clerk.

eFile System Certification

The Authority's eFile System Certification process is being developed to assist clerks in providing assurance that vendors offering services for deeds, liens, plats and UCCs have viable systems. The certification program is currently in Phase II which involves development of certification tests which include determining required functionality, testing requirements, and recommended system functionality. The target completion date for all testing is July 1, 2023.

Electronic Document Certification (eCert) Program

It was reported at the Board meeting that 37 clerks were participating in the eCert Program and 30 additional clerks were in the

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Board meeting review — Cont. from Page 2

testing phase. The program offers certain documents, as designated by the clerk, to be available to the requesting public in electronic/digital format. As of July 12, 2022, there had been 3,349 requests for electronic certified documents across all counties.

Historical Plat Image Project

As of July 12, 2022, more than \$2.6 million had been paid by the Authority to clerks who had submitted historical plats. Historical plats are defined as plats filed prior to January 1, 2004. Of the 76 counties provided to the vendor for imaging, 22 had been completed, 25 had plats scanned but the images had not been transmitted to the Authority, and 29 counties had yet to be started. The Authority's agreement with the vendor requires that all work be completed by October 31, 2022.

1989-1987 Historical Deed Project

The Board was updated on the recently launched 1989-1987 Historical Deed Re-Indexing Project. It was reported that compensation agreements had been sent to 60 clerks representing \$5.4 million in total compensation to be paid. At the time of the Board meeting, 56 compensation agreements had been signed and returned to the Authority with \$4 million having been paid to these clerks. Clerks were compensated for all 1989-1987 historical deeds on the Authority system as of April 30, 2022. Given the uncertain economic conditions, the Authority will only compensate for CY 1989 historical deeds for submissions made after April 30, 2022. As economic conditions crystalize, the Authority will consider opening 1988 and 1987 to compensation.

Voluntary Historical Deed Project

At present, 86 counties are participating in the Voluntary Historical Deed Re-Indexing Project, with 14 of those counties joining the program in the last three months. Over 4.5 million instruments are currently in production as a result of this project, and approximately 82,000 more instruments will be released to production in the near future.

UCC Project

During the past fiscal year, 297,006 UCCs were filed, the most since FY 2001. (Note: More

than 316,000 UCCs were filed during FY 2021 but it is believed this number is an outlier due to SBA security agreements executed in relation to federal COVID relief funds.) UCC Certified Searches for FY 2022 were the most since FY 2008, with 10,944 searches conducted by Authority staff.

The Authority Board will be asked to consider adoption of revised UCC forms at their October 2022 scheduled meeting. The forms would take effect July 1, 2023.

Notary & Authentications Division

The Notary & Authentications Division reopened its walk-in service on June 1, 2022. The Division had continued to provide quality service throughout the office shutdown which was due to the COVID pandemic. Several statistics were reported from the fiscal year. The total number of notary commissions indexed during FY 2022 decreased 2.7% compared to FY 2021. Incoming phone calls were down 6% when compared to FY 2021. For FY 2022, there were 35,717 apostille requests processed, which is 1.9% more than FY 2021.

Archival Services

At fiscal year-end, 232.3 TBs of data, representing 1.2 billion files, were contained in MyVault, the Authority's free data protection and monitoring service that boasts a 98% participation rate among clerks. The Authority's VMF (Virtual Microfilm) system is storing approximately 300 million images across nearly 525,000 deed, lien and plat books.

Record Detection & Notification Service

A motion was approved to direct Authority staff to explore development of a record detection and notification service, including consultation with the Georgia Attorney General and development of a proposed budget and timeline for completion.

Upcoming Board Meetings

Scheduled, quarterly Board meetings will be held on October 19, 2022 and January 11, 2023. ■



Authority success — Cont. from Page 1

“ Rather than yielding to the unprecedented challenges presented over the past several years, the Authority remained laser-focused on anticipating and meeting the evolving needs of Superior Court clerks and providing them with the tools to be successful.”

The Authority is constantly growing, changing, and evolving, but all priorities and momentum radiate from our primary role of supporting Superior Court clerks in the operation of their offices. Rather than yielding to the unprecedented

challenges presented over the past several years, the Authority re-mained laser-focused on anticipating and meeting the evolving needs of Superior Court clerks and providing them with the tools to be successful. These recent challenges have only highlighted the importance of the 27-year partnership between the Authority and Superior Court clerks and the transformational successes we have achieved together.

As the Māori would say: our success is not the work of one, but the work of many. Simply put, our success has

been and continues to be the result of the unity, collaboration and collective efforts of many. It's truly a testament to what can be achieved when partners work together towards a shared goal. For over a quarter of a century, the Authority and clerks have successfully worked together to adapt, innovate, and transform the office of Superior Court clerk to meet the technological demands of the 21st century.

Background

From the beginning and rooted to its core, innovation, collaboration and vision have defined the Authority. Although the culture remains the same, the GSCCCA is a very different organization today than the one that opened its doors in 1995. Since its inception, the Authority has not only fulfilled its original purpose of establishing a statewide system for the indexing of UCC documents, but has successfully developed and implemented, at no cost to the state, a variety of additional projects. Effective collaboration with other state agencies and numerous not-for-profit groups for the benefit of the State of Georgia and its citizens has become one of the hallmarks of the Authority's success and why it is respected both locally and nationally for its progressive, innovative and effective approach to problem solving.

For nearly three decades, the Authority has been an innovator within the public records arena and has led the State of Georgia to the forefront of court technology. Using a mix of old-fashioned cooperation and state-of-the-art technology, the GSCCCA has taken abstract ideas — often thought impossible — to the concrete world of implementation, and, in so doing, has changed the way many do business and made life easier for those accessing real estate records, financing statements, criminal case data, and other legal documents.

Today the Clerks' Authority is a diverse entity that oversees the following:

- ❖ Notary & Authentications Division
- ❖ Fines & Fees Division
- ❖ UCC Project
- ❖ Real Estate Deed Project
- ❖ Current Indexing Improvement Initiative
- ❖ Historical Deed Re-Indexing Project
- ❖ County-Funded Historical Deed, Lien & Plat Re-Indexing Project
- ❖ Lien, Plat & Map Project
- ❖ Historical Plat Image Project
- ❖ PT-61 Project
- ❖ UCC eFile
- ❖ Real Estate eFile

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Authority success — Cont. from Page 4

- ❖ Premium Search Account
- ❖ Clerks’ Authority Map Search Application (Mobile App)
- ❖ Protective Order Registry
- ❖ Criminal Case Data Project (Offender-Based Tracking System)
- ❖ eCertification Program
- ❖ Carbon Sequestration Registry
- ❖ MyVault Online Archive Program
- ❖ VaultTek Mobile (the app for MyVault users)
- ❖ Media Holdings Project (formerly known as the Georgia Archives Initiative)
- ❖ Virtual Microfilm (VMF) Program
- ❖ Statewide Computer Replacement Project

In successfully developing and implementing these projects, the Authority helped modernize Superior Court clerk offices and created several one-of-a-kind systems that integrated and standardized information from each of Georgia’s 159 counties on a central website, www.gsccca.org. The Authority databases provide accountability, uniformity, efficiencies and cost-savings by affording:

- ❖ Unprecedented access to valuable information – free access through search terminals installed in all Superior Court clerk offices, and convenient internet access, by subscription, for those desiring 24-hour, 7-day-a-week access.

- ❖ Approximately \$113 million in additional funding and 31,000 pieces of new equipment for clerks’ offices since the Authority’s inception.
- ❖ Information that allows lawmakers to more effectively set public policy.
- ❖ Critical and timely crime data to protect the safety of the public and law enforcement officers throughout Georgia.

Governed by a board of ten members whose meetings are open to the public, the GSCCCA was created, implemented and continues to operate without receiving any funds through local, state or federal taxes. The Authority has been continually praised for its wise use of available resources, and has proven to be a resounding success for offering unique services to Georgia counties and citizens.

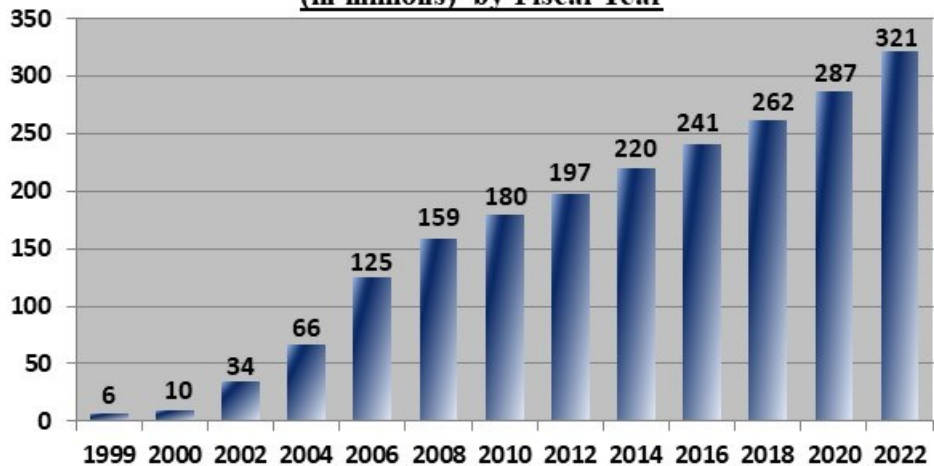
Accomplishments – Highlights from FY 2022

Following are some of the highlights or major accomplishments from the past fiscal year:

- ❖ **Compensated clerks’ offices** over \$8 million for prints off the Authority website and over \$1.1 million for deed images, resulting

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Images in GSCCCA Search System
(in millions) by Fiscal Year



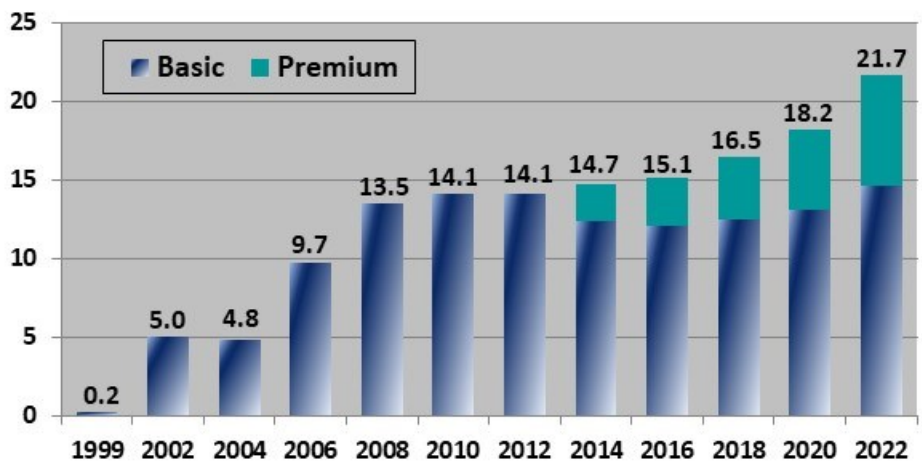
Authority success — Cont. from Page 5

in over **\$9 million** in additional funding for Georgia’s Superior Court clerks this fiscal year.

- ❖ Launched the **1989-1987 Historical Deed Project** in a continuing effort to add additional deed records to the Authority’s publicly searchable website and ultimately move the statewide “good-from” date further back. As with previous historical initiatives, the project will be complex as the Authority requires the complete re-indexing of these older land records in conformance with current Indexing Standards to create a cohesive record with current data in the system. A proposed timeline and implementation schedule for the project are currently being completed and the Authority has already begun reimbursing those clerks of Superior Court who had voluntarily completed their 1989, 1988 and 1987 historical deed imaging and indexing.

Program, an electronic certified document request and delivery system which allows the public to request and pay for certified documents electronically. Clerks’ offices process the requests and deliver the certified documents to the user electronically. Payments are processed through the Authority and included in the Daily County Disbursement reports. Following a beta-test phase, with Forsyth and Chatham counties going live in late 2021, the Authority began rolling out the product statewide. At fiscal year-end, 37 counties were actively participating, 30 counties had been trained and were actively testing,

Website Subscribers (in thousands) by Fiscal Year



and over 2,000 documents had been successfully certified.

- ❖ Developed and published a mobile application for MyVault users called **VaultTek Mobile**. The new app provides convenient, on-the-go access to records stored through MyVault allowing users to view and retrieve files quickly and easily from the palm of their hand. Among others, its convenient features include the ability to view current MyVault backup status at-a-glance, monitor recent activity, and view, print or download files on demand. VaultTek Mobile can be downloaded from the Apple App and Google Play stores.
- ❖ Initiated program for **eFiling System Certification** to create a formal process for certifying vendor eFile systems utilized by clerks for deeds, liens, plats, and UCCs for integrating with the GSCCCA eFile Portal. The Authority communicated notice to vendors of the certification requirement in January and held two webinars to address questions and discuss feedback. Phase two of the certification program is underway and involves finalizing the Authority’s eFile certification program document,

- ❖ Began statewide roll-out of **eCertification**

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Authority success — Cont. from Page 6

developing system certification tests, and reviewing eAssist to make any necessary programmatic changes to facilitate successful passage of the eFile Certification tests. Once complete, vendor system testing will begin with a targeted completion date of July 1, 2023.

❖ **Launched a Statewide Network Upgrade/ Outreach Initiative** to ensure continued

support and security updates for network equipment, and to prepare counties for future bandwidth upgrades. Through this project, the Authority will upgrade existing equipment in clerks' offices over the next two years. Additionally, the Authority worked with internet service providers to negotiate internet bandwidth upgrades for nearly half the Superior Court clerk offices across the state. Once the project is complete, with upgraded equipment installed and bandwidth upgrades in effect, clerks should see improved internet speeds and support staff will be able to more easily manage the statewide network.

- ❖ **Nearly completed two-year Fines & Fees Rewrite Project** with imminent launch of fully overhauled www.courttrax.org. With the goal of streamlining the fines and fees process, much thought and planning went into the rewrite plans which include a new and updated look for www.courttrax.org providing both visual appeal and enhanced ease-of-use. As importantly, though, the Authority has incorporated into the new site the option to electronically submit the Consolidated Monthly Remittance reports, Monthly Disbursement reports, and Trust Fund Interest reports through CourtTRAX along with an ACH payment. Once the new site is launched, there will no longer be a need for checks or manually

printing forms. In preparation for this and many other changes, the Authority has provided multiple webinars to review the changes, highlight new features, and detail court requirements to utilize these features.

- ❖ Continued to grow **Real Estate eFile** with a 47% total lifetime increase this fiscal

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New Fines & Fees site set to launch September 1

The Authority is in the final stages of completing its Fines & Fees system rewrite and is expected to launch the new system on September 1, 2022! The rewrite has been a massive undertaking and will introduce multiple new features including giving courts the ability to submit Consolidated Monthly Remittance reports, Monthly Disbursement reports, and Trust Fund Interest reports through CourtTRAX along with an ACH payment or have vendors integrate with the site using the new Fines & Fees API. With this feature, there will no longer be a need for checks or manually printing forms. Form submissions will be visible on a user's dashboard, and all court form submissions will be available in the submission history page.

In preparation for this and many other changes, the Clerks' Authority will be offering multiple webinars to review the changes, highlight new features, and detail court requirements to utilize these features. Webinars are available to all courts, free-of-charge, on the following dates:

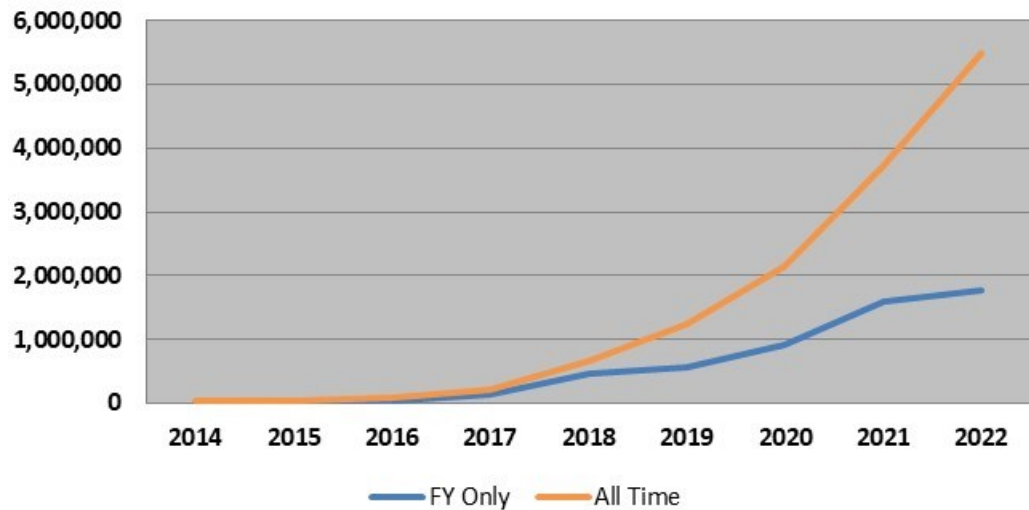
- August 23
- August 31
- September 9
- October 5

To register for a webinar, please use the following link: www.gsccca.org/training.



Authority success — Cont. from Page 7

Real Estate eFilings



year. Since the launch of Real Estate eFile in 2011, 5.5 million real estate documents have been electronically recorded with the vast majority of those in the last five years. All counties participate in the program to some degree, with 140 accepting all document types. In FY 2022, nearly 1.8 million real estate documents were electronically recorded, an 11% increase from the previous fiscal year.

approximately 912,000 images equaling \$2.7 million. Of the 117 agreements sent, 112 had been received by the Authority, and compensation to clerks' offices, as of June 30, had been more than **\$2.6 million** as a direct cash benefit to the clerks' offices and counties. The project is expected to be completed before the end of the year.

- ❖ Continued to grow **UCC eFile** with a 23% total lifetime increase this fiscal year. A record 282,509 UCCs were eFiled in FY 2022, with over 90% of accepted UCCs electronically filed. Since the pilot project began in May 2009, nearly **1.5 million UCCs** have been electronically filed. At present, **147** counties participate in the program, with **117** of those counties — **48** more than last year — mandating the electronic filing of UCCs. This means that **over 73%** of Georgia's counties only allow UCCs to be eFiled.
- ❖ Advanced the **Historical Plat Image Project** with the goal of making all historical plat images available on the Authority's search system. One of several priority initiatives identified by the Authority Board, the project includes images of plats filed on or before December 31, 2003 in all counties statewide, with a \$3 allowance for counties per plat image. At fiscal year-end, compensation agreements had been sent to 117 clerks, covering
- ❖ Continued efforts on **Current Indexing Improvement Initiative** by launching a project to identify deed indexes in all 159 counties that do not have any associated image. Through this project, which is currently in beta phase, each clerk will receive a report of all books and pages in the deed database where the Authority has index data but no image associated with it. Additionally, the Authority developed a new webinar to address PT-61 transmission errors. Training to improve data quality also includes the Authority's three-hour, in-person class and three online courses available through the eLearn platform on the Real Estate Indexing Standards, including one that specifically addresses common mistakes. All these efforts support the ongoing goal of improving current indexing data quality.



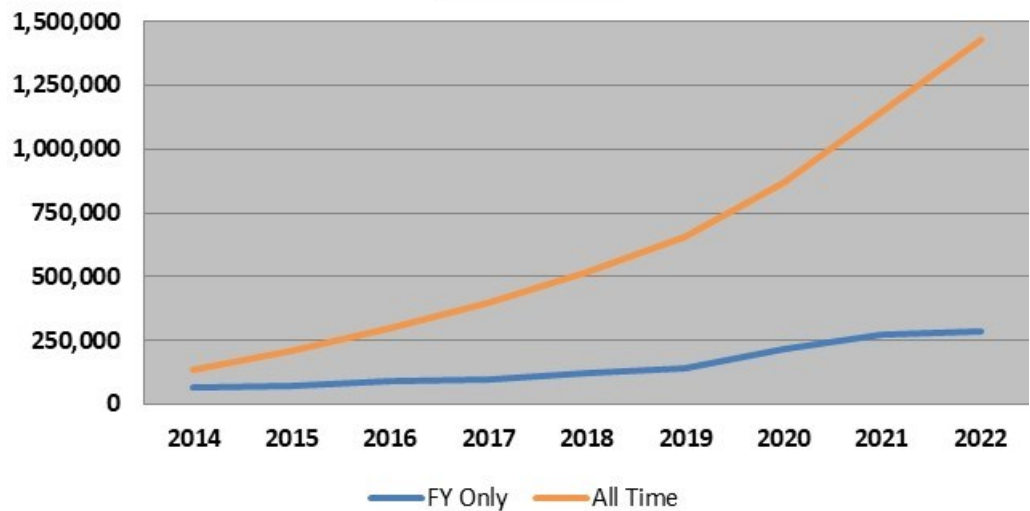
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Authority success — Cont. from Page 8

- ❖ Restored 392 GBs of data back to county systems in response to 22 requests from clerks through the **MyVault Online Archive Program**. Protecting the digital records of Georgia’s Superior Court clerks since 2007, MyVault is currently storing and protecting over 1.2 billion files totaling more than 231 TBs of live data, available for recovery in the event of a disaster. Since its inception, MyVault has responded to 207 data loss requests and has restored over 4.3 TBs of data back to county systems.
- ❖ Restored over 29,220 deed and lien images back to 5 clerk offices through the **Virtual Microfilm Program**. Through the VMF system, all deeds, liens and plats ever received by the Authority are directly available to clerks without the clerk having to make a records request or having to search the GSCCCA search system. The VMF image archive program not only provides an alternative to the traditional microfilm process, but provides clerks with easier access to their archived digital records and further protects them consistent with the law. Today, the system stores over 299 million images, across 522,280 books, totaling nearly 14 terabytes of data that is protected and accessible for viewing through the online portal.
- ❖ Advanced the **Media Holdings Project** (formerly the Georgia Archives Initiative). A total of **141 clerks** have elected to participate in this project to analyze the media holdings for their county with the goal of becoming better informed about how and where their data is protected. This analysis may also reveal any gaps in data protection that may exist. The media holdings of 57 counties have now been transcribed and will be queued for phase 3 analysis.
- ❖ Added 300,000 additional instruments to Authority website through the **County-Funded Historical Deed, Lien & Plat Re-Indexing Project** for a total of over 4.5 million instruments in production since the program was implemented in 2013. As a result of this project, the public has access to additional real estate information at no additional cost to the Authority, and clerks’ offices have access to additional resources through print image fees initiated through the Authority’s website. During FY 2022, 17 additional counties began participating in the project for a total of 84 counties in the voluntary program.
- ❖ Increased **Premium Search accounts** by nearly 16% adding 964 new accounts for a

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UCC eFilings



Authority success — Cont. from Page 9

fiscal year-end total of 7,119 accounts. Launched in 2012, the Premium Search account includes the Clerks' Authority Map Search Application and allows users to search by property address as well as land lot making it attractive to realtors, bankers, attorneys, surveyors, appraisers, and other members of the business community.

- ❖ Configured and approved for distribution a new and improved **Lenovo workstation** for clerks' offices. Specifications were significantly improved in order to stay up-to-date and provide better performance. The new

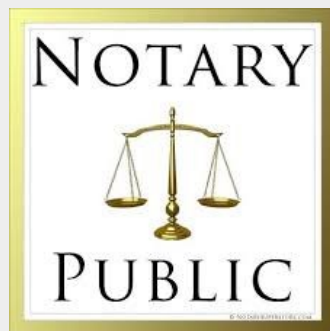
workstation has a higher capacity CPU, more memory and solid-state drives.

- ❖ Added the ability to **fund eFile escrow accounts** using wire transfers. The wire transfer process employs an automated self-serve approach that allows eFile customers to fund their account instantaneously at a lower cost. As of June 30, 806 wire transfers had been accepted for a total of over \$2.3 million, saving eFile customers \$61,000 in credit card fees.

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Provide service to constituents by hosting Notary Public Training webinar

Notary Public classes remain popular with the public with the number of attendees for each class at the maximum limit. The Authority continues to receive very positive feedback from attendees with the following comments shared on the Zoom chat feature following a recent webinar for the City of Stonecrest:



“Great presentation!!”

“Thanks for doing this training!”

“Thank you for the informative session!”

Previously offered as an in-person class, the training is now conducted via the Zoom platform allowing participants the convenience of “attending” from their office, home, car, or anywhere they can connect to the internet.

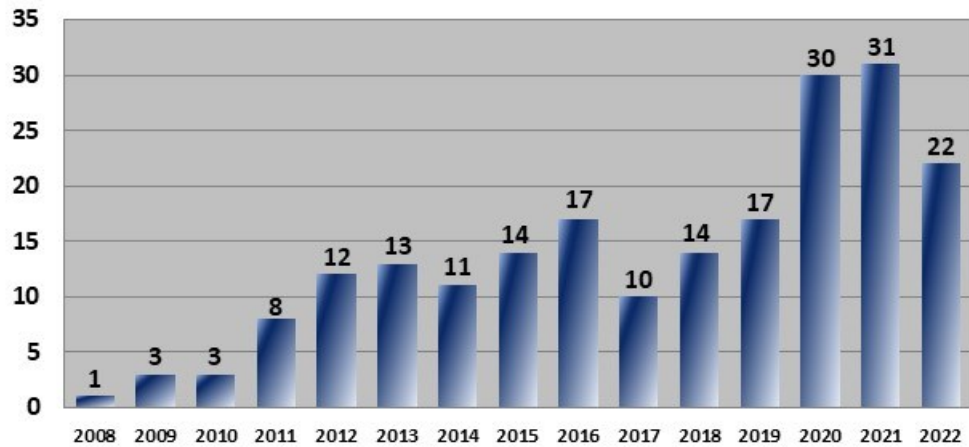
As before, each session is hosted by a Superior Court clerk who provides a link to the training on their website for public registration. Authority Communications Director & Compliance Officer Mike Smith conducts the training, while Authority Project Director Rachel Rice moderates the chat feature. This allows for Q&A from the audience while the training is able to move forward in a seamless manner. The 90-minute webinar covers the duties of a notary public, best practices, Georgia notary law, and real-life examples of the “dos and don’ts” of being a competent Georgia notary.

A webinar was recently hosted by Polk County and one is currently scheduled for Fulton County providing positive exposure for these clerks and a valuable service to their constituents. If interested in hosting the Notary Public webinar, contact Mike Smith (mike.smith@gsccca.org) or Rachel Rice (rachel.rice@gsccca.org) to get your class scheduled.



Authority success — Cont. from Page 10

Number of MyVault Restore Requests by Fiscal Year



- ❖ Enhanced the **Notary Renewal Notification** service to allow clerks to customize the email sent to their constituents by including county-specific language with special instructions or requirements on how to renew the notary commission. As a service to clerks since 2010, the Authority sends email notifications to all notaries with an email address on file 30 days prior to expiration of their commission.
- ❖ Maintained a compliance rate of close to **100%** for all courts through a dedicated and consistent notification process by the **Fines & Fees Division**.
- ❖ Added nearly **20 million** images to the GSCCCA search system for a fiscal year-end total of over **321 million** images accessible to the public through www.gsccca.org.
- ❖ Hosted nearly **1.7 million** unique visitors — 13% more than the previous fiscal year — with **605 million** page views on www.gsccca.org. The public accessed the Authority’s invaluable data via the internet nearly **6.9 million times** from **223 countries** this past fiscal year.
- ❖ Ordered, processed and shipped **977 pieces of new equipment** to clerks’ offices including CPUs, monitors, servers, laptops and scanners. The Authority purchased **\$503,553** of equipment for counties during FY 2022 to replace depreciated equipment as part of the Authority’s Statewide Computer Replacement Project for all 159 counties. The Authority has provided approximately **31,000 pieces of new equipment** to clerks’ offices since opening its doors in 1995.
- ❖ Trained more than **34,000 people** through 8 online classes, 69 webinars, 40 one-on-one virtual sessions, and

Program Statistics – Highlights from FY 2022

In addition to the many enhancements and new features that were added over the last twelve months, the Authority continued to successfully manage its many existing programs. While numbers don’t tell the full story, the following statistics show the volume of work handled by the Authority and its importance to Superior Court clerk offices and other constituencies across the state and beyond.

Following are some of the highlights from the past fiscal year:

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Authority success — Cont. from Page 11

multiple in-person training programs on a variety of important topics.

- ❖ Indexed and added to the database over **297,000 UCCs** — the second most in over 20 years — and conducted nearly **11,000 Certified Searches**, the most since 2008. From the project's inception in 1995, the Authority has indexed over **7.2 million UCCs** — an average of 22,000 per month — and conducted nearly **293,000 Certified Searches**.

- ❖ Increased participation in **Notary Online** by adding 2 new counties for a total of **150 counties** currently participating in the program. In FY 2022, **98%** of notary applications in Georgia were submitted electronically via the Authority's Notary Online application system.

- ❖ Continued to maintain the statewide notary database. A statewide total of nearly **52,000 notary commissions** were issued by clerks of Superior Court and then submitted to the Authority for inclusion in the statewide database.

- ❖ Processed over **16,000 apos-**

stille/authentication requests with nearly **36,000 apostilles** issued.

- ❖ Collected and disbursed over **\$77.3 million** in court fees; performed annual court reviews on approximately **1,100 courts** to help ensure the accuracy of the

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eCert participation on the rise

The Authority continues to see an increase in interest and participation in its eCertification Program (<https://ecert.gsccca.org>), an electronic certified document request and delivery system available to all Superior Court clerks and the courts they serve.

The eCert Program was launched as a beta site in November of 2021 and then was opened up to all Superior Court clerks in January 2022. Since the statewide roll-out, participation has increased rapidly with 41 counties currently participating and 34 more signed up for training! In addition to the increase in eCert participation by Superior Court clerks, there has also been a significant increase in requests for electronic certified documents, with over 5,900 requests having been submitted system-wide. Interested in offering this service to your constituents?

Contact Rob Young (rob.young@gsccca.org) for more information and to schedule training.



Flyer from Chatham County Superior Court promoting the eCertification service



Authority success — Cont. from Page 12

data being reported to the Authority; and processed nearly **31,000 monthly reports** submitted by reporting entities.

- ❖ Electronically transmitted to GCIC nearly **246,000 records of criminal court dispositions** from various courts in Georgia for the purpose of compiling criminal histories and background checks.

- ❖ Added another **140 million files** totaling more than **35 TBs of data** to the **MyVault** remote servers for a fiscal year-end total of over **1.2 billion files** stored and protected in the online vault. The Authority upgraded archive appliances in **34** counties during FY 2022.

- ❖ Imported over **13.1 million** new deed images and over **1 million** new lien images into the VMF system for a fiscal year-end total of over **299 million images** totaling nearly **14 tera-bytes** of data

that is protected and accessible for viewing through the VMF web interface.

- ❖ Protected users' mailboxes via Mimecast by blocking over **3,200** distinct malicious, virus-containing messages and phishing attempts to @gsccca.org accounts, in addition to the millions of verified spam senders that are rejected automatically. During FY 2022, nearly **17.3 million messages** were sent and received through the GSCCCA email server.

As the Authority closes another successful year, through partnership with and service to Georgia's Superior Court clerks, the words of the Māori ring true. The success we celebrate today was made possible by the efforts of clerks nearly three decades ago and their understanding that moving forward together was their only means to success. The steadfast partnership forged and the continuing support of today's Superior Court clerks empowers the important work of the Authority and has allowed for the many successes throughout our history including the numerous accomplishments of the past fiscal year detailed in the 2021-2022 year-end report.

The past few years, however, have underscored one timeless principle: change is the only constant. And this principle reinforces the important reality that we must continue to adapt and re-evaluate business as usual. The uncertain economic environment will likely continue through at least part of FY 2023, but the Authority will continue to evolve and build new capabilities in order to help clerks address upcoming challenges and capitalize on future opportunities.

With the same resolute commitment since opening our doors in 1995, the Authority remains focused on our overarching mission of supporting Georgia's Superior Court clerks, anticipating their changing needs and priorities, and advancing their resources and value by using technology to accelerate the scope and scale of innovation. As we have for nearly three decades, we will move forward together committed to building on our progress to date and achieving even greater results in the future. ■

“The uncertain economic environment will likely continue through at least part of FY 2023, but the Authority will continue to evolve and build new capabilities in order to help clerks address upcoming challenges and capitalize on future opportunities.”



Train your staff through Authority programs

Looking to further educate and prepare your staff? Take advantage of these remaining training opportunities for 2022.

Following a recent class in Albany, the Authority will hold its final in-person class on the Real Estate Indexing Standards in Savannah on September 15, hosted by the Chatham County Superior Court clerk's office. This three-hour session will offer an overview of the GSCCCA statewide indexing standards while also focusing on the dockets, extracting party data, sample indexing, reviewing indexing transmission errors and more! Available to Superior Court clerks and their vendors free-of-charge, this training is full of pertinent information.

In addition to this class, the Authority will hold eight more webinars over the next couple months on the following important topics:

- ❖ **Authority ACH 101** (30 minutes) — Learn about the ACH payment methods the Authority offers and get some training tips on ACH deposits!
- ❖ **Get to Know the Authority** (30 minutes) — Spend a little time getting to know the Authority and our staff. While putting a face to a name, find out who we are, what we do, and the many ways we can provide support to your office!
- ❖ **New Fines & Fees System** (1 hour) — With the launch of the new Fines & Fees system, learn how to create an account, navigate www.courttrax.org, submit reports, and much more!
- ❖ **PT-61 Transmission Errors** (30 minutes) — Getting PT-61 transmission errors? Find out why, what causes the error and how to resolve, and how to mitigate them going forward!

Remaining 2022 training dates

Classroom Training

September 15 Savannah RE Indexing Standards

Webinars

August 23	New Fines & Fees System (<i>New</i>)
August 25	Authority ACH 101 (<i>New</i>)
August 31	New Fines & Fees System (<i>New</i>)
September 9	New Fines & Fees System (<i>New</i>)
September 13	Get to Know the Authority
September 21	PT-61 Transmission Errors (<i>New</i>)
October 5	New Fines & Fees System (<i>New</i>)
October 20	Pending Lien Search

- ❖ **Pending Lien Search** (30 minutes) — Concerned about pending liens? Find out what causes this and how to research and resolve outstanding items on the pending lien search!

To register for any of these webinars or the classroom training in Savannah on September 15, go to www.gsccca.org/training.

Additionally, the Authority continues to provide its popular and widely utilized online training courses via its eLearn website. Courses include:

- ❖ GSCCCA Indexing Standards
- ❖ GSCCCA Indexing Standards – Extended
- ❖ GSCCCA Indexing Standards – Common Mistakes
- ❖ Introduction to GSCCCA Fines & Fees
- ❖ Notary Online
- ❖ Notary Online – Mail-In Renewal
- ❖ Notary Public Training
- ❖ Notary Public Final Exam
- ❖ UCC Training

Courses are available 24/7 making training completely flexible. Learn more about the Authority's online training options on <https://eLearn.gsccca.org>! With questions regarding the Authority's 2022 training, email training@gsccca.org. ■

