

GSCCCA Update

Vol. 11, No. 1
January 2007

An update on the activities of the Georgia Superior Court Clerks' Cooperative Authority

Board of Directors

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Tom Lawler
Clerk of Superior Court
Gwinnett County

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Cindy Mason
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Clerk of Superior Court
Hall County



GSCCCA
1875 Century Blvd. Suite 100
Atlanta, Georgia 30345
Tel: 404.327.9058
Fax: 404.327.7877
www.gsccca.org

Millsaps joins Authority Board

The Authority welcomes **Patrick N. Millsaps** as its newest member of the Board of Directors. Patrick was appointed to the Authority Board by Gov. Sonny Perdue and was sworn in at the Authority's quarterly board meeting in October. The oath was administered by notary public Mike Smith, the Authority's communications director.

Patrick is managing partner at Tyson and Millsaps, LLP, in Camilla. He is the co-founder of Clarity Graphics,

Inc., a company that produces trial exhibits for attorneys, and is co-founder of Flint River Mediation and Arbitration Services, LLC.

Patrick serves on the Legislative Advisory Committee of the State Bar of Georgia and is a member of the Executive Council of the Young Lawyers Division.

He serves as chairman of Better Hometown Camilla, is second vice chairman of the Camilla Chamber of Commerce, program chairman of the Camilla Rotary Club and past president of the Mitchell County Bar Association.

He earned his bachelor's degree from Samford University and his law degree from the University of Georgia. Patrick and his wife, Elizabeth, have three children.

With his years of experience and thoughtful insight, he will be an asset to the Authority board.

Congratulations, Patrick!



Patrick Millsaps



Tom Lawler



Jean Rogers

Congrats, Tom and Jean

Tom Lawler and Jean Rogers have been reappointed to the Authority board by the Council of Superior Court Clerks. They will both serve an additional three-year term on the board.

Tom is clerk of Superior Court of Gwinnett County and currently serves as chairman of the Authority board. Jean is clerk of Superior Court of Crisp County and currently serves as secretary/treasurer of the Authority board.

Congratulations, Tom and Jean! ■

October board meeting review

The Authority Board of Directors met on October 11 for its quarterly meeting. Following is a summary of the reports and actions.

■ **General Business** – Patrick Millsaps was sworn in as the newest member of the Authority Board. The minutes of the July 12, 2006, board meeting were approved. The Auditor's Report was presented by Greg Morgan and approved as presented.

■ **Project Reports** - David Williams presented a UCC Report including the number of filings. The number of statewide filings has remained consistent for the last three years.

John Myers presented a report on the 1992 Historical Deed Project. Mr. Myers stated that all vendors, except one, have responded to an initial survey and historical data has begun to be accepted by vendors. The 1992 data is quarantined until data is checked and analyzed before being merged with the index.

■ **Online Training** - Rachel Gittner presented a report on online training modules. The "Introduction to Indexing Standards" online training module went live in January 2006. The number of users accessing the training material continues to increase.

Two other online courses are nearing completion, a "Fines and Fees" course and a "Notary Public" course, and will be published after the development group finishes its work. Mr. Myers stated that a Deed Indexing Certification Test is nearing completion as well.

■ **Fines and Fees Division** - John Earle presented a report on the Fines and Fees Division that included a presentation of the division's financial statement. Mr. Earle discussed the issue of non-compliant courts and what is being done to encourage these courts to become compliant. At present, seventeen courts are non-compliant and letters have been sent to the Chief Judge advising them to take whatever action they deem necessary in order to bring the court into compliance. Wright Banks, the Authority's attorney, was asked to explore what steps the

Authority should take as far as remedies for non-compliant courts.

■ **Governmental & Legislative Update** - A recap of a senate committee hearing that explored fines and fees in the state of Georgia was presented by John Earle. Mr. Earle stated that many questions remain to be answered with regards to any auditing process of courts. Board members stated that any all-encompassing audit process should be conducted locally. In other words, the burden of conducting an audit should be on local municipalities.

Mr. Earle presented an update on SB 503 as it relates to the collection of the Indigent Defense Application Fee. A discussion ensued on different scenarios as to the collection and disbursement of the application fee.

Mr. Earle reported that, as a result of HB 1059, the Fines and Fees Division would be the collection point for the Sexual Offender Annual Registration Fee collected locally by the Sheriff's office. Mr. Earle stated that a two-year contract has been proposed between the Clerks' Authority and the Sheriffs' Association to allow for the Authority to collect the fee. The contract was approved by the board.

■ **Other Business** - Linda Miller, clerk of Superior Court of Clayton County, formally presented a proclamation initiated by Rep. Gail Buckner praising the Superior Court Clerks of Georgia and the GSCCCA.

A motion was made to initiate the development of an online notary renewal process and the board approved it by a vote of 6-1.

Jay Stephenson, clerk of Superior Court of Cobb County, made a presentation on the creation of the Florida Association of County Clerks and Controllers for the purpose of providing court information from all databases of the court systems. Mr. Stephenson suggested that the Florida system is something that Georgia should consider. The board asked John Myers to review the system for technical specifications and requested that the initial review be forwarded to the Council of Superior Court Clerks. ■

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Customer Support:

1.800.304.5174
or
help@gsccca.org

2006 IT achievements

Congratulations to Authority IT Manager Andy Wightwick and his staff for the tremendous work and many accomplishments they achieved throughout the year. Following are some of their many achievements:

- ✓ Added an additional search database to the database farm to provide even faster searches and less downtime
- ✓ Greatly enhanced overall system security to eliminate automated programs from rapidly downloading data ensuring that the system provides the same level of quality performance for all customers
- ✓ Restricted the ability for a user login to be shared by many users ensuring that system abusers do not impact the level of performance offered to all users
- ✓ Implemented the PT61 correction module which guides clerks through the process of correcting quality issues with PT61 documents
- ✓ Upgraded the Authority backup facility that provides emergency service in the event of a catastrophic issue at the primary facility
- ✓ Deployed Patchlink statewide which guarantees that all Authority-provided equipment is consistently protected against vulnerabilities in software such as Windows
- ✓ Installed a second tier of spam filtering to eliminate several types of spam
- ✓ Programmed and published an online training course for fines and fees
- ✓ Completed development of a “test drive” website that allows users to explore the benefits of becoming a GSCCCA subscriber prior to opening an account
- ✓ Implemented a data quarantine system allowing historical real estate records to undergo a quality control process before being merged with the production system
- ✓ Made numerous enhancements to further protect customer information and make overall account management simpler
- ✓ Had several CSRs complete their Dell technician certification
- ✓ Enhanced the Fines and Fees system to handle the SOAR (Sexual Offender Annual Registration Fee) fund, as well as to process LVAP (Local Victim Assistance Program) as a reportable fund rather than a remittable fund

- ✓ Overhauled the PT61 “Save and Retrieve” functionality to make the customer experience much more intuitive and user friendly

The Authority continues to solicit the suggestions of users and appreciates the continual feedback we receive. We continually strive to make our systems safer, more efficient and responsive, and more user friendly. Congrats to the IT Department for accomplishing that and much more in 2006! ■

Authority testifies on fees

The Authority testified in December before the Senate Study Committee on Court Fees and Surcharges. Authority Fines and Fees Project Manager John Earle testified for the second time before the committee and provided an informative and insightful presentation on court fines and fees and the implementation of HB 1EX. His remarks were well received by the committee and other interested parties at the hearing. The Authority will be actively involved in any legislation that involves court fees and surcharges. ■

Total Images in System

Deed	123,623,637
Lien	3,195,051
Plat	368,038
UCC:	4,794,391
PT61:	3,362,828
Other:	1,473,512
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Total:	136,817,457

New Images Added in 2006

Deed	16,796,923
Lien	1,240,714
Plat	112,450
UCC	320,994
PT61	2,260,624
Other:	94,021
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Total:	20,825,726

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Fines & Fees online course

The Authority is pleased to introduce its second online training program, "Introduction to Fines and Fees." This course joins the first online training course, "Introduction to Indexing Standards," which has been deemed a huge success among users both for the quality and comprehensiveness of the material and for the flexibility and ease involved in online training.

Recognizing the time constraints of clerks, both courses are designed to be flexible, convenient and easily completed on the user's schedule. Both include six modules comprised of lessons and a self-check portion at the end and then a final test. Online training is a simple and easy way to train and allows an employee to work before, during or after office hours, in the office or at home.

In addition to clerks, judges and other court personnel, this course would also be beneficial to Department of Corrections employees, private probation, and city and county administrators. The course gives users a comprehensive overview of fines and fees as it relates to the Authority and includes:

- information on H.B. 1EX and other bills affecting fines and fees;
- helpful guidelines for filling out forms; and
- an overview of the Authority's fines and fees website, www.courttrax.org.

To access the training, simply go to the Authority's training site, <http://training.gsccca.org>, and sign in. Participants can also access the training module through the Authority's website, www.courttrax.org. If you have trouble signing in or have other questions, please contact Training Coordinator Rachel Gittner at rachel.gittner@gsccca.org or 404.327.9058, ext. 1010.

The Authority continues to develop training that fits the needs and busy schedule of the clerk's office. Even as we announce our "Fines and Fees" course, we are completing development of an online "Notary Public" course that we will introduce in early 2007.

We are excited to kick off a new year with these expanding training opportunities and encourage clerks, their staff, and other court personnel to take advantage of these comprehensive, yet easy-to-use training tools! ■

Website Statistics

Number of hits in 2006:	1,162,708,739
Projected hits by year end:	1,220,815,913
Total bandwidth in 2006:	5.4 TB or 5,400,000,000,000 bytes

Visualization: If you own a standard T1 line and the T1 line is operating at constant 100% efficiency (1.5mbps), it would take 333 days of continuous downloading to download 5.4 TB of data.

Account/Customer Statistics

Current Active Regular Accounts:	11,760
New Customers in 2006:	
New Regular Accounts:	6,446
New Single-Use Accounts:	8,395
Total New Accounts:	14,841
New Customers in 2005:	
New Regular Accounts:	7,670
New Single-Use Accounts:	441
Total New Accounts:	8,111

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