

Best Wishes to Judge Peggy Walker, Douglas County Juvenile Court, Upon Her Retirement

As we celebrate Judge Peggy Walker's recent retirement as the Douglas County Juvenile Court Judge, we also look forward to what's ahead for Judge Walker and her dedication to strengthening the child welfare system. In her 30 years of service, Judge Walker has been a leader, champion, and advocate for children and families. As juvenile court



Sheryl Sellaway (National CASA), Angela Tyner (Georgia CASA), Judge Walker, Jennifer King (Georgia CASA) & Katy Hilbert (Children's Voice: CASA) at Judge Walker's Retirement Celebration, January 2020

judge, she embraced her leadership role in convening and spearheading efforts that increased resources, services, and supports for all families in the community. With a particular emphasis on families with children birth to three, Judge Walker led efforts in her court and county to address the specific needs of children before her court. Her work in this area expanded to include pre-natal supports and services for women and their families. A consummate teacher, Judge Walker never passed up the

opportunity to share knowledge and resources and opening her court to observers, researchers, and advocates.

As a graduate of Georgia College, she was a teacher in Clayton and Fulton counties before enrolling in the first class at Georgia State University's College of Law. In 1986, she graduated with her Master's Degree in Education and a Juris Doctorate of Law. From 1990 to 1998, she acted as the Associate and Judge Pro Tempore in the Juvenile Court of Douglas County. In 1998, she became the full-time Douglas County Juvenile Court Judge. She was a graduate fellow of the Zero to Three Class of 2005 and was a Senior Fellow at Emory University in 2008 where she edited a manual for judges and practitioners to promote the preservation of families.

Judge Walker served as a Georgia CASA Board member from 2001-2007 and has remained active as a supporter and advisor on various statewide projects and initiatives. She is a regular presenter at national and state CASA conferences, as well as supported local CASA programs by conducting orientations, swearing-in ceremonies, and attending events. Every day, Judge Walker promotes CASA's mission of every child's right to a safe and permanent home. We always appreciate connections that Judge Walker has made to expand and enhance our shared work.

In early 2014, Judge Walker was appointed by Governor Nathan Deal to serve on Georgia's Child Welfare Reform Council in which she worked alongside other child welfare experts to improve outcomes for Georgia's children. She also served six years on the Georgia Commission on Family Violence. She was the Chair of the Commission for two years and led the effort to write the state plan to end domestic violence. She was also appointed to the state Child Fatality Review Panel, served as President of the Georgia Council of Juvenile Court Judges, and was also a longtime member of the Georgia Supreme Court's Committee on Justice for Children. Verizon Wireless recognized Judge Walker for her work in the field of domestic violence with a Hopeline Hero Award in 2014.

Beyond Georgia, Judge Walker served as the President of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ). In this capacity, Judge Walker served as an ex-officio member of the National CASA Board. Through NCJFCJ, she served on the STRYVE (Striving to Reduce Youth Violence Everywhere) Action Council, a national effort to end youth violence.

We thank Judge Walker for her outward and vocal support of CASA advocacy at all levels, for our continued partnership, and for her career-long commitment to vulnerable children and families and juvenile court improvement efforts. Please join us in extending well wishes to Judge Walker in her much-deserved retirement!

