



# Council of Accountability Court Judges

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## PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

### **The Council of Accountability Court Judges Recognizes Carl Vinson Institute of Government Accountability Court Coordinator Certification Program Graduates at Annual Training Conference**

Athens, GA --- The Council of Accountability Court Judges (CACJ), along with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government, recognized the 2024 graduates of the prominent Accountability Court Coordinator Certification Program at the annual training conference's graduation ceremony on September 18, 2024.

Beginning in the Spring of 2020, CACJ and the Carl Vinson Institute of Government began providing coordinators and program directors of state-funded and/or certified accountability court programs the Accountability Court Coordinator Certification program. The objectives of this program are to increase the knowledge of the primary administrative functions of accountability court coordinators, develop the skills necessary to carry out the administrative functions as an accountability court coordinator, develop and maintain the high standards for the functioning of the accountability courts, and increase the professionalism of accountability court coordinators.

The program consists of a mixture of face-to-face classroom and online learning and is organized into eight courses for a total of 45 hours of instruction. The courses include Accountability & Advocacy, Communication, Conflict Resolution, Financial Concepts, Grant Administration, Procurement & Contract Management, Succession Planning & Delegation, and Team & Group Dynamics.

In December 2022, CACJ opened the Accountability Court Coordinator Certification Program to additional team member roles. The program is a professional development opportunity for accountability court team members including treatment providers, case managers, probation officers, etc. who are interested in completing the certification program.

The following 31 accountability court professionals completed the Coordinator Certification Program for 2024:

- \*Daphney Barnett, Gwinnett County Juvenile Mental Health Court
- \*Connie Bradshaw, Lookout Mountain Mental Health Court
- \*Rhonda Bruce, Mountain Judicial Circuit Mental Health Court
- \*Ramona Burkett, Cobb County Veterans Treatment & Accountability Court
- \*Hilliard Daniel, Troup County Drug Court
- \*Christina Frazier, Council of Accountability Court Judges
- \*Hunter (Slade) Freeman, Cherokee County DUI Court
- \*Shonda Gilkey, Clayton Judicial Circuit
- \*Lorie Gordon, Paulding Judicial Circuit Mental Health Court
- \*Michelle Green, Appalachian Judicial Circuit Mental Health Court
- \*Shyunda Heard, Rabun County Accountability Court
- \*Cali Hollis, Dublin Judicial Circuit Accountability Court
- \*Gina Hutto, Newton County Drug Court & Gwinnett County Accountability Courts
- \*Tiffany Jones, Cobb County DUI Court
- \*Donta' Justice, Cobb County Juvenile Drug Treatment Court
- \*Lisa Long-Johnson, Fulton County Accountability Court
- \*Laura McCoy, Western Judicial Circuit Drug Court
- \*Charlene Middleton, Cherokee County DUI/Drug Treatment Court
- \*Chelsea Nwaneri, Augusta Judicial Circuit Drug Court
- \*Bilisa Perkins, Gwinnett County Family Treatment Court
- \*Torri Poole, Carroll County Drug Court
- \*Brandon Quesada, Douglas County Family Treatment Court
- \*Ruby Ramirez, Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit Drug Accountability Court
- \*Nikita Robinson, Athens-Clarke County DUI Court
- \*Jessica Simmons, Hall County Family Treatment Court
- \*Stacey Sitten, Towaliga Accountability Courts
- \*Britni Stephens, Henry County Accountability Court
- \*Breanna Stubbs-Brown, Fulton County Accountability Court
- \*Kimela Swartzlander, Brunswick Judicial Circuit Drug Court
- \*Rachel Walker, Mountain Judicial Circuit Accountability Courts
- \*Anthony Warren, Fulton County Accountability Court

This graduating class is the fourth cohort to complete the Coordinator Certification Program, of which there are 197 graduates to date.

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