

**CONSTITUTION OF THE  
COUNCIL OF ACCOUNTABILITY COURT JUDGES OF GEORGIA**

**ARTICLE I**

**NAME**

The name of the Council shall be the “Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia.”

**ARTICLE II**

**PURPOSE**

The objects and purposes of the Council are to effectuate the constitutional and statutory responsibilities conferred upon it by law and to further the improvement of accountability courts, the quality and expertise of the judges thereof, and the administration of justice.

**ARTICLE III**

**MEMBERSHIP**

All Judges, Senior Judges and Judges Emeriti of Georgia who serve as the presiding judge of an accountability court shall be eligible for Council membership. For the purposes of this article, accountability court is defined as a drug court division, mental health court division, veterans court division, operating under the influence court division (hereinafter “DUI Court division” or “OUI Court division”), or family treatment court division.

**ARTICLE IV**

**GOVERNANCE**

The legislative powers of the Council are vested in the membership of the Council. The executive and administrative powers of the Council are vested in the elected officers of the Council.

**ARTICLE V**

**BY-LAWS**

The Council shall adopt By-Laws that are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution and the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 15-1-18, and the Act creating the Council.

**ARTICLE VI**

**AMENDMENTS**

The provisions of this Constitution may be amended by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the membership in good standing, present and voting, provided that notice of such proposed amendment shall have been given by the Secretary of the Council to the members, by mail (electronic or otherwise), not less than thirty (30) days prior to the annual or specially called meeting of the Council.

Voted upon and approved by the Council: **January 24, 2025**

**BY-LAWS OF THE  
COUNCIL OF ACCOUNTABILITY COURT JUDGES OF GEORGIA**

**ARTICLE I  
NAME AND OFFICE**

- Sec. 1           The name of the Council is the Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia.
- Sec. 2           The principal office of the Council shall be maintained at such location as may be approved by the Executive Committee of the Council.

**ARTICLE II  
PURPOSE**

- Sec. 1           The objectives and purposes of the Council shall be as stated in the Constitution of the Council.

**ARTICLE III  
MEMBERSHIP**

- Sec. 1           **ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP.** All Judges, Senior Judges and Judges Emeriti of Georgia who serve as a judge of an accountability court as defined in Article III of the Constitution herein, shall be eligible for Council membership.

**ARTICLE IV  
MEETINGS OF MEMBERS**

- Sec. 1           **ANNUAL MEETING.** An Annual Meeting of the members of the Council shall be held at such time and place as the Executive Committee, in its discretion, shall determine for the purpose of transacting such business as may come before the Council.
- Sec. 2           **SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING.** A Semi-Annual meeting of the members of the Council shall be held at such time and place as the Executive Committee, in its discretion, shall determine for the purpose of transacting such business as may come before the Council.

- Sec. 3        **SPECIAL MEETINGS.** Special meetings of the Council may be called by the Chair, of the Executive Committee, or not less than thirty (30) percent of the members of the Council. The time and place of special meetings shall be designated by the Chair.
- Sec. 4        **NOTICE OF MEETING.** Notice of each Annual or Semi-Annual meeting of the Council, stating the place, day and hour of the meeting shall be delivered either electronically or by first-class mail to each member of the Council, not less than thirty (30) days before the date of such meeting. If deposited in the United States mail, addressed to the members of the Council at their address as it appears on the records of the Council, with first-class postage paid thereon, it shall constitute notice. If faxed or electronically mailed to the address provided to the Council, it shall constitute notice.
- Sec. 5        **NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETINGS.** In the case of special meetings of the Council, notice of the place, day and hour of the meeting and purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called shall be delivered either electronically or by first-class mail to each member of the Council, not less than seventy-two (72) hours before such meeting. If deposited in the United States mail, addressed to the members of the Council at their address as it appears on the records of the Council, with first-class postage paid thereon, it shall constitute notice. If faxed or electronically mailed to the address provided to the Council, it shall constitute notice.
- Sec. 6        **QUORUM AND TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS.** The presence of one-fourth (1/4) of the members entitled to vote at any meeting shall constitute a quorum of such meeting. If a quorum is not present at any meeting of the Council, a majority of the members present may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice. The members entitled to vote at a meeting duly held, at which a quorum is present, shall decide any question brought before such meeting by a majority vote, unless a greater proportion is required by law or the Constitution or these By-Laws. The members present at a duly called meeting may continue to transact business until adjournment, even if enough members have withdrawn to leave fewer than a quorum, if any action taken (other than adjournment) is approved by at least a majority of the members present at the time the action is taken. When a vote is taken electronically, a quorum is not necessary so long as one-fourth (1/4) of members entitled to vote cast votes within the timeframe designated for the vote.
- Sec. 7        **VOTING BY MAIL OR ELECTRONICALLY.** Voting on all matters on which members are entitled to vote may be conducted by mail or electronically, in such manner as the Executive Committee shall determine.

**ARTICLE V**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Sec. 1       **GENERAL POWER.** Subject to the limitation of these By-Laws, the Constitution of the Council, and the laws of the State of Georgia, the business of the Council shall be managed and exercised by the Executive Committee, with the direction and consent of the membership.

Sec. 2       **COMPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.** The Executive Committee of the Council shall include:

- a) Chair
- b) Vice Chair
- c) Secretary, who is chosen from the members of the council included in paragraphs (d) through (h), if elected by the Executive Committee.
- d) Three judges who preside in drug court divisions.
- e) Two judges who preside in mental health court divisions.
- f) One judge who presides in a veterans' court division.
- g) One State Court Judge who presides over a DUI court division.
- h) One Juvenile Court Judge, who presides over a family dependency treatment court division.
- i) One Juvenile Court Judge, who presides over a juvenile treatment court division.
- j) The Immediate Past Chair, which shall be filled by the Judge who immediately served as the past chair for the Council. The Judge shall serve Immediate Past Chair until such time as the current presiding chair finishes their term.
- k) One advisory member accountability court coordinator appointed by the chair.
- l) Any other advisory members the Chair deems necessary and appropriate.

Sec. 3       **ELECTION.**

- a) The Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Executive Committee contained in paragraphs d-h above, shall be elected by the members of the Council and announced at the Annual Meeting of the Council.
- b) Voting shall be held electronically and shall be open for at least five business days prior to the day of the Annual Meeting. The window of time in which votes can be cast shall be set by the Chair of the Nominations Committee and emailed to the Council body with voting instructions. Voting shall close during the Annual Meeting at which time the Chair of the Nominations Committee, or their designee, shall count the ballots and announce the results. A simple majority vote is required to be elected.
- c) Should any candidates receive the same number of votes for the same position, a runoff shall be held electronically the week following the Annual Meeting for five business days. The results of the runoff election shall be announced via email after

the close of the runoff voting period.

- d) A Secretary may be elected by the members of the Executive Committee from the membership of the Executive Committee.

Sec. 4

**QUALIFICATIONS.**

- a) Candidates for Executive Committee membership designated in paragraphs (a) through (c) in Section 2 above shall be qualified to run if they have presided over an accountability court for a minimum of two years.
- b) Candidates for Executive Committee membership designated in paragraphs (d) through (f) in Section 2 above shall be qualified to run if they are (1) an elected Superior Court Judge and (2) have presided over an accountability court for a minimum of two years.
- c) Candidates for Executive Committee membership designated in paragraph (g) in Section 2 above shall be qualified to run if they are (1) an elected State Court Judge and (2) have presided over an accountability court, specifically a DUI court, for a minimum of two years.
- d) Candidates for Executive Committee membership designated in paragraph (h) in Section 2 above shall be qualified to run if they are (1) a Juvenile Court Judge and (2) has presided over an accountability court, specifically a Family Treatment Court, for a minimum of two years.
- e) Candidates for Executive Committee membership designated in paragraph (i) in Section 2 above shall be qualified to run if they are (1) a Juvenile Court Judge and (2) has presided over an accountability court, either a Juvenile Treatment Court, Juvenile Drug Court, or Juvenile Mental Health Court, for a minimum of two years.

Sec. 5

**TERM.** The Officers and members of the Executive Committee shall be elected at the first meeting of the Council and thereafter as provided in this article. The officers and members shall serve annual terms, beginning on July 1 following the meeting at which elected, to June 30 of the next succeeding year, or until their successors are elected and qualified. They may succeed themselves for up to four consecutive terms.

Sec. 6

**MEETINGS.** Meetings of the Executive Committee of the Council shall be on the call of the Chair or at least five (5) members of the Executive Committee. One of such meetings may coincide with the Annual Meeting of the Council. During any meeting of the Executive Committee, any member may make a motion to go into executive session to discuss sensitive or confidential issues. The reason for the executive session must accompany the motion. A majority vote is required to adopt this motion. All guests and nonmembers shall be asked to leave the meeting during executive session. Any council members who are not members of the Executive Committee may be allowed to stay during executive session, and any staff designated and approved during the adoption of the motion may also be allowed to stay.

- Sec. 7        **QUORUM.** A majority of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum. If a quorum is not present at any meeting of the Executive Committee, a majority of the members present may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice.
- Sec. 8        **MANNER OF ACTING.** Action by the Executive Committee shall be by a majority of the members present at the meeting held in which a quorum is present unless a greater number is required by these By-Laws or the Constitution of the Council.
- Sec. 9        **REMOTE PARTICIPATION IN MEETING.**  
Members of the Executive Committee may participate in a meeting of the Executive Committee via telephone conference, web-based meeting platform, or similar communication equipment, by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other and participation by such means shall constitute the presence in person at such meeting.
- Sec. 10       **EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL.** The Executive Committee, by a majority vote, may authorize the employment of such persons as may be necessary to carry out the efficient and effective purposes of the Council. A job description of each person so employed shall be approved by the Executive Committee. All part-time and full-time personnel shall report to the Council and serve at its discretion.

**ARTICLE VI**  
**DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS**

- Sec. 1        **DUTIES.** The duties of the officers shall be:
- a) **CHAIR.** The Chair shall:
- i.    Preside at all meetings of the members of the Council and of the Executive Committee;
  - ii.   Perform such duties and functions as may be specifically required by statute and such other duties that would promote the best interests of the general membership;
  - iii.  Be responsible for implementation of procedures to effectuate the projects and policies of the Council enacted by the membership or the Executive Committee;
  - iv.   Exercise supervision over the activities of the Committees of the Council, the employees of the Council and the Executive Committee and secure annual reports from the Committees of the Council;
  - v.    Appoint certain members and chairs of the Standing and Special Committees.
- b) **VICE-CHAIR.** The Vice Chair shall:
- i.    Perform such administrative functions as may be directed by the Chair;

- ii. Assist the Chair in facilitating and coordinating the activities of the Committees of the Council and of the Executive Committee;
  - iii. Perform the duties of Chair if a vacancy occurs in the office of the Chair.
- c) **SECRETARY.** The Secretary shall:
- i. Supervise the maintenance of Council records;
  - ii. Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Chair.
- d) **MEMBERS.** The members shall perform such duties as proscribed in the Constitution and By-laws and such duties as may be assigned by the Chair.
- e) **ADVISORY MEMBERS.** Advisory members shall perform such duties as proscribed in the Constitution and By-laws and such duties as may be assigned by the Chair. Advisory members shall provide advice to the Executive Committee related to their area of practice. Advisory members shall not vote on issues before the Executive Committee or the Council.

## **ARTICLE VII** **COMMITTEES**

- Sec. 1 **CLASSIFICATION.** The classes of Committees of the Council shall be:
- a) Standing Committees which shall be created for the investigation, study or implementation of matters relating to the general purposes, business, and objectives of the Council of a continuous and recurring type. The term of such committee shall begin on October 1 to September 30 of the next succeeding year, or until their successors are appointed.
  - b) Special Committees shall be created by the Chair or by resolution of the Executive Committee to investigate study and implement matters relating to specific purposes, business and objectives of the Council or the Executive Committee of an immediate or non-recurring character. The term of such committee shall end at the next Annual Meeting of the Council following its creation unless continued by action of the Chair or the Executive Committee.
- Sec. 2 **APPOINTMENT.** Unless otherwise stated in the provisions creating the committee, appointment of the chairpersons of committees, who shall be members of the Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia, shall be made annually by the Chair of the Council who is also authorized to appoint successors in the event of the death, resignation, or disqualification of any chairperson.
- Sec. 3 **MEETINGS.** Each committee shall meet on the call of the chairperson or Chair of the Council.

- Sec. 4      **DESIGNATION OF STANDING COMMITTEES.** There shall be standing committees on:
- a) Funding;
  - b) Standards & Certification;
  - c) Data and Research;
  - d) Training;
  - e) Legislation;
  - f) Nominations;
  - g) Treatment.
- Sec. 5      **DUTIES.** The duties of each Standing Committee are attached hereto and made a part of these By-Laws.
- Sec. 6      **REPORTS.** Before the Annual Meeting of the Council or at such other times as may be requested by the Chair, every Standing and Special Committee shall file with the Executive Committee a report, describing the programs, activities and recommendations of the Committee, together with any resolutions it may recommend for adoption. No Committee shall release any report of such Committee or take any action on behalf of the Executive Committee or Council before the same is presented to and approved by the Executive Committee.
- Sec. 7      **GOVERNMENTAL BOARDS, COMMITTEES, ETC. ESTABLISHED BY LAW OR OTHERWISE.** Judges who become members of governmental boards, committees, organizations, etc., by virtue of being a representative of the Council of Accountability Court Judges are requested to report at least annually to the Executive Committee as to the activities of such governmental board, etc.

**ARTICLE VIII**  
**CONTRACTS, CHECKS, DEPOSITS AND FUNDS**

- Sec. 1      **CONTRACTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS.** The Executive Committee may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents, of the Council or Executive Committee to execute or deliver, or both, any contract or other instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Council.
- Sec. 2      **CHECKS, DRAFTS, ETC.** All checks, drafts or orders for the payment of money, notes or other evidence of indebtedness issued in the name of the Council shall be signed by such officer or officers, agent or agents, of the Council and in such manner as shall be determined from time to time by resolution of the Executive Committee. In the absence of any such determination by the Executive Committee, such instruments shall be signed by the Secretary, the Chair or the Vice Chair.

Sec. 3 **DEPOSITS.** All funds of the Council shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the Council in such banks, or other depositories, as the Executive Committee may select.

Sec. 4 **GIFTS, GRANTS AND DONATIONS.** The Executive Committee may accept on behalf of the Council any contribution, gift, bequest or grant or donation for the general purposes or for any special purpose of the Council.

Sec. 5 **DESIGNATED FUNDS.** If the Council receives funds from a grantor, donor or other person or entity for a specified or designated purpose, such funds shall be maintained and accounted for separately from the general funds of the Council. The Executive Committee shall have the power to authorize the expenditure of such funds in such manner as will further the purpose for which the funds were designated.

**ARTICLE IX**  
**BOOKS AND RECORDS**

Sec. 1 The Council shall keep correct and complete books and records of accounts and shall also keep minutes of the proceedings of its members, Executive Committee and Committees having any authority of the Executive Committee and shall keep at the principal office of the Council a record giving the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the members of the Council. All books and records of the Council may be inspected by any member, for any proper purpose, at any reasonable time.

**ARTICLE X**  
**FISCAL YEAR**

Sec. 1 The fiscal year of the Council shall be commensurate with the fiscal year of the state of Georgia.

**ARTICLE XI**  
**WAIVER OF NOTICE**

Sec. 1 Whenever any notice is required to be given under the provisions of the Constitution or the By-Laws of the Council, a written waiver thereof, signed by the person or persons entitled to such notice, whether before or after the time stated therein, which is made a part of the minutes, shall be deemed equivalent to giving of such notice.

**ARTICLE XII**  
**RULES OF PROCEDURE**

Sec. 1 Roberts Rules of Order, newly revised, and as may be revised from time to time, shall

govern the conduct of all meetings of the Council, the Executive Committee and Committees, except as otherwise specifically provided in these By-Laws, the Constitution of the Council or by vote of a majority of those present at a meeting of the members, the Executive Committee and Committees.

### ARTICLE XIII

#### **PUBLIC RELATIONS POLICY, OFFICIAL OPINIONS AND POLICY STATEMENTS**

- Sec. 1       **Opinions and Policy Statements.** From time to time the Council shall issue, publish and distribute official opinions or policy statements concerning recommendations for the improvement and administration of accountability courts, including the recommendations of new legislation or repeal or modifications of existing laws. An opinion or policy statement shall be authorized by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.
- Sec. 2       **Right to Dissent.** Any member of the Council shall have the right to dissent from the majority of any official opinion or policy statement. The dissenting opinion shall be published and made a part of the statement of the majority.
- Sec. 3       **Public Relations and Dealings with the News Media.** The Chair shall be the official spokesperson for the Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia, although the Council, by majority vote, may direct the Chair in communications with the public and the news media. Other members of the Council are discouraged from communication directly with the news media unless directed to by the Council or the Chair. In the event a member of the Council is approached by the news media concerning work of the Council, that particular member should direct the inquiry to the Chair. Should a member be asked to participate in a forum, panel discussion, seminar, or television or radio program concerning work of the Council, the member should consult with the Chair or the Council, if practical, before making such appearance.

### ARTICLE XIV

#### **ADOPTION, AMENDMENT AND REPEAL OF BY-LAWS**

- Sec. 1       The By-Laws provided for herein may be adopted, amended or repealed by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any Annual Meeting or Semi-Annual Meeting of the Council, provided the proposed change or repeal has been presented in writing to the Executive Committee not less than sixty (60) days prior to such Annual Meeting or Semi-Annual Meeting and the Executive Committee will make provision for the proposed change or repeal to be mailed or delivered to the members of the Council not less than thirty (30) days prior to such Annual Meeting or Semi-Annual Meeting. These notice rules do not apply to the initial adoption of the By-Laws by the Council after its creation.

Sec. 2            Any change or repeal of these By-Laws without compliance with the above requirements shall not be considered if there is any objection and, even in the absence of objection, shall not be adopted except by unanimous vote of the members present.

Voted upon and approved by the Council: **July 31, 2024**

**DUTIES OF STANDING COMMITTEES OF  
THE COUNCIL OF ACCOUNTABILITY COURT JUDGES OF GEORGIA**

**FUNDING COMMITTEE**

- Sec. 1        **OBJECTIVE.** The primary objective of the Committee is the administering of all grants and funds on behalf of the Council. In addition, it shall be the funding committee's responsibility to administer the budget and payroll of the council.
- Sec. 2        **COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS.** The Committee shall be composed of Chairperson appointed by the Chair of the Council and two (2) representatives appointed by each of the remaining members of the Executive Committee and one (1) member appointed by the Chair of the Standards and Certification Committee. The Chair of the Standards and Certification Committee's appointed member must serve as a member of the Standards and Certification Committee during their term on the Funding Committee and shall serve as a liaison between the committees. The Chair of the Committee may also appoint a Vice-Chair of the Committee and non-voting *ex officio* members as it deems necessary.
- Sec. 4        **RESPONSIBILITIES.** The responsibilities of the Committee shall be to:
- a) Receive, review and recommend funding requests on behalf of the accountability court programs throughout the state;
  - b) Maintain not only the control of expenditures in accordance with budgetary provisions but also the compilation of data to serve as a guide in the preparation of future budgets;
  - c) Assist the Council Chair and the Legislation Committee in working with the appropriate State agencies to ensure proper presentation of the budget to the Georgia General Assembly;
  - d) Inform the Council of any expenditure patterns and balances of various accounts with which it is concerned;
  - e) Provide, in coordination with the Training Committee, a recommendation for funding of any regional, program-specific, statewide or distance learning opportunities;
  - f) Provide, in conjunction with the Standards & Certification Committee, a recommendation for funding of any data management, certification and peer review and similar projects;
  - g) Determine funding priorities for accountability courts based on direction by the Council;
  - h) Administer and allocate any state or federal grant funds made available to the Council;

- i) Review and recommend approval of any contracts for goods or services; and
- j) Provide direction to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council on finance matters as needed; and
- k) Report at least annually or as otherwise directed to the Council as to its activities.

**DUTIES OF STANDING COMMITTEES OF  
THE COUNCIL OF ACCOUNTABILITY COURT JUDGES OF GEORGIA**

**STANDARDS & CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE**

- Sec. 1        **OBJECTIVE.** The primary objective of the Committee will be development and refinement of the standards and recommendations for operation for approval by the Council.
- Sec. 2        **COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS.** The Committee shall be composed of a Chairperson appointed by the Chair of the Council and one (1) representative appointed by each of the remaining members of the Executive Committee. The Chair of the Committee may also appoint a Vice-Chair of the Committee and non-voting *ex officio* members as it deems necessary.
- Sec. 3        **RESPONSIBILITIES.** The responsibilities of the Committee shall be to:
- a) Develop the program certification and standards for eligibility for state funding based on adherence to such standards pursuant to O.C.G.A §§ 15-1-15 thru 19, and 15-11-70;
  - b) Update the Council’s standards and practices to incorporate research, findings, and developments in the field;
  - c) Establish a performance peer review process to ensure that each program is reviewed no less than once every three years;
  - d) Provide, in conjunction with the Funding Committee, a recommendation for funding of any certification and peer review and similar projects;
  - e) Recommend certification status for all programs in the state and provide such information to the Funding Committee for funding recommendations;
  - f) Provide guidance to programs on the implementation of policies and procedures, including, but not limited to, guidance on the implementation of a risk and needs assessment; and
  - g) Report at least annually or as otherwise directed to the Council as to its activities.

**DUTIES OF STANDING COMMITTEES OF  
THE COUNCIL OF ACCOUNTABILITY COURT JUDGES OF GEORGIA**

**DATA AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

- Sec. 1        **OBJECTIVE.** The primary objective of the Committee will be development and refinement of performance measures and research recommendations for approval by the Council.
- Sec. 2        **COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS.** The Committee shall be composed of a Chairperson appointed by the Chair of the Council and one (1) representative appointed by each of the remaining members of the Executive Committee. The Chair of the Committee may also appoint a Vice-Chair of the Committee and non-voting *ex officio* members as it deems necessary.
- Sec. 3        **RESPONSIBILITIES.** The responsibilities of the Committee shall be to:
- h) Identify elements necessary for performance measurement, including, but not limited to, recidivism, the number of moderate-risk and high-risk participants, drug testing results, drug testing failures, the number of participants who successfully complete the program, and the number of participants who fail to complete the program;
  - i) Coordinate with the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Georgia Council on Criminal Justice Reform on the development and management of performance measurement and data system;
  - j) Provide, in conjunction with the Funding Committee, a recommendation for funding of any data management or research projects;
  - k) Establish protocols for the use and dissemination of performance measurement and program data.
  - l) Report at least annually or as otherwise directed to the Council as to its activities.

**DUTIES OF STANDING COMMITTEES OF  
THE COUNCIL OF ACCOUNTABILITY COURT JUDGES OF GEORGIA**

**TRAINING COMMITTEE**

- Sec. 1       **OBJECTIVE.** The primary objective of the Committee will be development of courses and programs for the continuing education of the judiciary, court staff, and related personnel involved in the administration of accountability court programs throughout the state.
- Sec. 2       **COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS.** The Committee shall be composed of Chairperson appointed by the Chair of the Council and additional members as needed. The Chair of the Committee may also appoint a Vice-Chair of the Committee and non-voting *ex officio* members as it deems necessary.
- Sec. 3       **RESPONSIBILITIES.** The responsibilities of the Committee shall be to:
- a) Develop training priorities and recommendations for the Council;
  - b) Provide, in coordination with the Funding Committee, a recommendation for funding of any regional, program-specific, statewide or distance learning opportunities;
  - c) Plan and conduct a statewide educational conference at least biennially, funding permitted or oversee such conference if provided by a third party, such as the Institute for Continuing Judicial Education;
  - d) Present awards and other recognition of work done on behalf of accountability courts as needed;
  - e) Prescribe, by rules and regulations, the minimum requirements for curricula and standards composing the initial in-service, advanced, specialized, and continuing training courses needed for certification or funding approval;
  - f) Keep records of training completed by judges and programs; and
  - g) Report at least annually or as otherwise directed to the Council as to its activities.

**DUTIES OF STANDING COMMITTEES OF  
THE COUNCIL OF ACCOUNTABILITY COURT JUDGES OF GEORGIA**

**LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

- Sec. 1        **OBJECTIVE.** The primary objective of the Committee will be the monitoring of all legislation affecting the accountability courts of Georgia.
- Sec. 2        **COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS.** The Committee shall be composed of a Chairperson appointed by the Chair of the Council and additional members as needed. The Chair of the Committee may also appoint a Vice-Chair of the Committee and non-voting *ex officio* members as it deems necessary.
- Sec. 3        **RESPONSIBILITIES.** The responsibilities of the Committee shall be to:
- a) Provide to the Council with detailed information regarding the status of any legislation affecting accountability courts;
  - b) Develop a method of communicating to the individual members of the Council as promptly as possible on activities of the General Assembly which affect accountability courts;
  - c) Advocate for all legislation approved by the Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia and oppose legislation that the Council has determined not to be in the best interests of the accountability courts;
  - d) Coordinate with the legislative committees of the Judicial Council and any other court councils as needed; and
  - e) Report at least annually or as otherwise directed to the Council as to its activities.
- Sec. 4        **SPECIAL CONDITIONS.** This Committee, without the approval of the Council, shall not originate nor oppose legislation. The Committee, as well as all members of the Council, should welcome the opportunity for input on any pending legislation if an invitation is given by the General Assembly, but this input shall be on behalf of the individual appearing before the General Assembly and not on behalf of the Council unless the Council has previously given directions on the matter.

**DUTIES OF STANDING COMMITTEES OF  
THE COUNCIL OF ACCOUNTABILITY COURT JUDGES OF GEORGIA**

**NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

- Sec. 1       **OBJECTIVE.** The primary objective of the Committee will be to assist the Council in sustaining its elected leadership.
- Sec. 2       **COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS.** The Committee shall be composed of a Chairperson appointed by the Chair of the Council and one (1) representative appointed by each of the remaining members of the Executive Committee. The Chair of the Committee may also appoint a member of the committee as Vice-Chair and non-voting *ex officio* members as it deems necessary.
- Sec. 3       **RESPONSIBILITIES.** The responsibilities of the Committee shall be to:
- a) Solicit and encourage nominations from among the Council’s membership.
  - b) Nominate to the Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia the names of individuals to fill the elective offices of the Council.
  - c) Encourage all areas and program types of the State, from time to time, be represented and that all accountability court judges should be considered in selecting nominations for the elected officers of the Council.
  - d) Report at least annually or as otherwise directed to the Council as to its activities.
  - e) Ensure diversity of leadership to include consideration of geography, population, rural, urban, and suburban courts.

**DUTIES OF STANDING COMMITTEES OF  
THE COUNCIL OF ACCOUNTABILITY COURT JUDGES OF GEORGIA**

**TREATMENT COMMITTEE**

- Sec. 1        **OBJECTIVE.** The primary objective of the Committee will be to assist accountability courts in maintaining treatment integrity and improving treatment services.
- Sec. 2        **COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS.** The Committee shall be composed of Chairperson appointed by the Chair of the Council and additional members as needed. The Chair of the Committee may also appoint a Vice-Chair of the Committee and non-voting *ex officio* or advisory members as it deems necessary. Non-voting members are not limited to Council members, and the Chair may appoint treatment providers, coordinators, or others as non-voting *ex officio* or advisory members.
- Sec. 3        **RESPONSIBILITIES.** The responsibilities of the Committee shall be to:
- a) Educate accountability courts on treatment provider best practices and characteristics in collaboration and coordination with the Training Committee.
  - b) Evaluate accountability court delivery of evidence-based curriculum training.
  - c) Provide education, guidance, support, or technical assistance on any topic or matter that the Treatment Committee determines relevant to supporting accountability courts in delivering quality treatment services to participants.