

Candiss L. Howard



Honorable Denis Shortal

Mayor, City of Dunwoody

4800 Ashford Dunwoody Rd., N.E.

Dunwoody, GA 30338

Dear Mayor Shortal:

The City of Dunwoody has an outstanding, well-managed Municipal Court and I would very much like to join the Court as your new Judge. I had the pleasure of serving as an Assistant Solicitor in Dunwoody in 2013 and 2014, before becoming a Municipal Court Judge for Sandy Springs. Dunwoody has one of the most efficient courts I have encountered and an impressive emphasis on serving its citizens with fairness and courtesy. I know your court's procedures, am familiar with its systems and policies, and know the personnel, including your Court Clerk, Solicitors, Judges, bailiffs and police. I believe that my familiarity with your court, combined with my criminal and judicial experience would allow me to transition almost seamlessly onto your bench.

As you will see from my attached resume, I have substantial experience in the criminal justice system. I am retired from the United States Attorney's Office in Atlanta after serving under many appointed United States Attorneys, including Georgia Supreme Court Justice David Nahmias. I began my career as an Assistant District Attorney in Fulton County and, after retirement, worked with Bill Riley as a prosecutor in Dunwoody, Sandy Springs, Brookhaven and Johns Creek. I have the perspective and judgment that comes from serving at the local, state and federal levels and both before and on the bench.

Serving as a judge at the municipal level is extremely satisfying because it gives one the opportunity to engage one on one with a cross section of the community. For most this will be their only encounter with the justice system. It is possible in almost every case to make sure that citizens feel that they have been heard. Regardless of the outcome of their case, having this experience ensures that most people feel that justice has been served and that they have been treated fairly and with respect. There is also great opportunity to effect positive change, particularly with young offenders and environmental court. It is my practice with young offenders to maximize the use of community service, education and the like to change behavior. Working towards remediation in quality of life/environmental cases is always my first goal. Because of the smaller caseload in municipal court, I am able to sentence appropriately those who are repeat offenders or whose conduct poses a danger to the community.

I believe that I can be an asset to the Municipal Court of Dunwoody. Thank you so much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Candiss L. Howard

CANDISS L. HOWARD

WORK EXPERIENCE

Municipal Court for the City of Sandy Springs, GA

Municipal Court Judge

6/2014 – present

- Preside for jail, arraignment and trial calendars.
- Handle a wide variety of state and local misdemeanor cases, such as DUI, traffic, marijuana possession, shoplifting, and city ordinance offenses including environmental/nuisance cases.
- Issue arrest and search warrants, handle probation violation hearings and conduct first appearance hearings at the jail.

Solicitor's Office for the Cities of Sandy Springs, Dunwoody, Brookhaven and Johns Creek, GA

Assistant Solicitor

1/2013 – 6/2014

- Prosecuted a wide variety of state and local misdemeanor violations, represented the city for arraignment, trial and jail calendars, negotiated pleas and bonds with attorneys and directly with thousands of *pro se* defendants. Determined appropriateness of, and set terms of Solicitor's Pretrial Diversion program.

United States Attorney's Office, Northern District of Georgia, Atlanta, GA

Assistant United States Attorney

1987 - 2007

- Prosecuted a wide variety of federal criminal violations from grand jury investigation and/or complaint through post-conviction challenges, including complex OCDTF drug and money laundering cases, domestic terrorism, multiple-defendant/jurisdiction bank robberies, postal robberies, kidnapping, extortion, presidential threats, counterfeiting, mail fraud, credit card fraud, firearms violations, prison assaults and murder, ERISA violations, theft from interstate shipment, interstate transportation of stolen motor vehicles, and immigration violations, assisted with training of all new criminal assistants – 2002 – 2007 (including current United States Attorney Bjay Pak.)
- Key accomplishments:
 - Conception and implementation of the Violent Offender Rapid Reaction (V.O.R.R.T) initiative to address violent crime and repeat violent offenders.
 - Creation of "Operation Crack Down," a federal, state and local effort to focus resources on the problem of blight caused by active "drug houses" by utilizing federal forfeiture statutes.
 - Development of Express Mail investigative procedure that resulted in the successful prosecution of and long term imprisonment of many drug distributors and organizations.

Private Practice, Atlanta, GA

Attorney at Law

1982-1987

- Worked on variety of local, state and federal criminal cases.

Atlanta Judicial Circuit, Atlanta, GA

Assistant Public Defender

1982

- Represented indigent defendants charged with felony offenses in Fulton County Superior Courts Trials of murder and rape.

Atlanta Judicial Circuit, Atlanta, GA

Assistant District Attorney

1980-1982

- Prosecuted felony violations of state law, including trials of rape, aggravated battery, armed robbery, aggravated assault, theft by receiving, counterfeiting and felony possession of controlled substances.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

State Bar of Georgia Mock Trial Competition, Marietta, GA

Attorney Coach for Georgia Young Lawyers Division

2002 - 2018

- Provide guidance on mock trial participation by high school students, including team selection and mentoring to 14 to 16 students each academic year.

Communities in Schools, Marietta, GA

Reading Tutor

2007 – 2014

- Provide extra support in reading, spelling, math and test preparation for two children each academic year.

Girls Group, Cobb County Juvenile Court, Marietta, GA

Director of Girls Group

2007-2011

- Conceived, organized and operated a mentoring program for at-risk adolescent girls as a component of the Girls Court Program/Truancy Court Program operated by the Cobb Juvenile Court.
- Provided intensive mentoring for 10-15 group members each year.
- Implemented two to four hours of group programming per week that was focused upon the prevention of high school drop-out and avoidance of risky sexual behavior.
- Developed strategic partnerships with Girls Inc., the Art Place West Cobb/Mountain View Arts Alliance and others to leverage resources and expand breadth of programming.

EDUCATION

University of Georgia, Athens, GA

Juris Doctor, *cum laude*

1977-1980

University of Georgia, Athens, GA

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, *cum laude*

1971-1975

SIGNIFICANT AWARDS/HONORS

Assistant United States Attorney of the Year Award, United States Probation Office for the Northern District of Georgia, First Award Made by U.S. Probation Office (2006)

Director's Award for Outstanding Performance in Asset Forfeiture, Executive Offices for United States Attorneys, National Award presented in Washington, DC by United States Attorney General (2002)

Hammer Award for the V.O.R.R.T. initiative, Award Made by the Vice President of the United States (1995)

PROFESSIONAL

Admitted to practice before the Superior Courts of Georgia, the Georgia Courts of Appeal and the Georgia Supreme Court -- April 1980

Admitted to practice before the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals -- 1980

State Bar of Georgia, Sandy Springs Bar Association, Georgia Council of Municipal Court Judges

REFERENCES

F. Gentry Shelnett, Deputy United States Attorney, United States Attorney's Office, Northern District of Georgia
(404) 581-6065

Honorable Sharon Dickson, (678) 230-7710

Honorable Alan J. Baverman, United States Magistrate Judge : (404) 215-1395