

## **Judge Gosselin Receives Prestigious Emory Findley Award**

January 30, 2013

Hall County Superior Court Judge Kathlene F. Gosselin was named this year's recipient of the prestigious Emory Findley Award by her peers at the Council of Superior Court Judges' winter conference in Athens, Ga. on Jan. 24.

Judge Findley, who served from 1977 to 1995 as a Superior Court judge in the Atlantic Judicial Circuit, became president of the council in 1983. He transformed the Council of Superior Court Judges, taking it from largely a social organization which was lacking in direction, to the council we have today, giving all Superior Court judges of this state the opportunity to be individually involved in the operation of the business and pursuit of the aspirations of the council to improve the operation of the courts. The Emory Findley Award is annually awarded by the Council of Superior Court Judges to a Superior Court judge who has exhibited, through leadership and actions, outstanding judicial service in all areas, but particularly through service which has benefited judges statewide; thereby, enhancing the reputation of the justice system. Judge Gosselin's nominations for this award were many and included letters from the Superior Court judges of the Northeastern Judicial Circuit and the Appalachian Judicial Circuit as well as David Ralston, speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives.

Gosselin served as president of the council from 2010 to 2011. Her tenure coincided with a time of unparalleled challenge for our state as we faced the largest budget shortfall experienced in Georgia since the Great Depression. Facing serious budget cuts, Judge Gosselin was successful in leading the council forward in a progressive manner while insuring the needs of the justice system were met. In addition, Judge Gosselin has been a driving force in the creation and development of accountability courts throughout the state, including implementation of a mental health court in Hall County.

As was stated in one letter: "Throughout her tenure on the bench, Judge Gosselin has demonstrated an unprecedented level of leadership. She never declines when asked to step forward for the Superior Court judges of this state. She is an exemplar of true servant-hood and teaches all of us what it truly means to be a judge of this state."