

2022 CJA Task Force Membership

Section 107 of CAPTA, legislates that a CJA task force must be composed of professionals with knowledge and experience relating to the criminal justice system and issues of child abuse and neglect, child sexual abuse and exploitation, and child maltreatment-related fatalities. In addition, the task force must include representatives of parents' groups, adult former victims of child abuse and neglect, and individuals experienced in working with children with disabilities and homeless children and youth. 2019 Task Force members and their associated representation, include:

Cheryl Benefield, Mental Health & Wellbeing Coordinator
GA Department of Education

Lalaine A. Briones, JD, Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault & Crimes Against Children, Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia
Prosecuting Attorney

Kyle Browne, Child Advocate Attorney, Dekalb Child Advocacy Center
Child Attorney

Rachelle Carnesale, Fulton County Superior Court
Superior Court Judge

Jenifer Carreras, JD, Deputy Director
Office of the Child Advocate

Melissa D. Carter, JD, Executive Director, Barton Child Law and Policy Center, Emory University School of Law
Child Law Advocate

Nancy Chandler – Retired, Georgia Center for Child Advocacy
Advocate

Dena Crim, Special Assistant Attorney General, Georgia Department of Law, Cobb County

Latera Davis, Director of Professional Development & Standards, Department of Juvenile Justice

Nicholas Forge, PhD, MA, LMSW, Georgia State University
Clinical Assistant Professor
Homeless Youth Advocate

Darice Good, JD, CWLS, Good Legal Firm, LLC,
Parent Attorney

Jordan Greenbaum, MD, Medical Director, Global Child Health & Well Being Initiative, International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children
Health Professional

C. LaTain (Tain) Kell, Sr., Cobb County Superior Court
Superior Court Judge

Beoncia Loveless, Child Death Serious Injury Specialist, GA DFCS
Adoptive Parent (Former Relative Foster Parent)

Stephen Messner, MD, Medical Director, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Stephanie Blank Child Protection Center
Health Professional

J. David Miller, Sr. Assistant District Attorney
Southern Judicial Circuit
Prosecuting Attorney

Julia Neighbors, Fulton County Juvenile Courts

Amber Patterson, Cobb County Juvenile Court
Juvenile Court Judge

Stephanie L. Pearson, Ph.D., Director, Child and Adolescent Services Programs, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
Mental Health Professional

Mitzie Smith, Unit Director, Georgia Division of Family and Children Services, Knowledge Management Section, Policy and Regulations Unit
Child Protective Services

Angela Tanzella-Tyner, JD, Director of Advocacy & Program Development, Georgia CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocate

Kim Tesalona, Chief Investigator
Douglas County District Attorney's Office
Law Enforcement

Michelle Thomas, Forsyth County CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocate

Donnie Winokur
Adoptive Parent
Disabilities Advocate

Deb Farrell, Care Solutions, Inc.
Task Force Coordinator

Description in italics identifies mandated representation on CJA Task Force.

Georgia's Task Force has maintained a stable and committed core membership for many years and is currently chaired by Melissa Carter, Emory University School of Law, and Amber Patterson, Juvenile Court Judge for Cobb County.