

L. Gale Buckner, Commissioner

Emily Gest, Director
Office of Communications



DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

3408 Covington Highway ▪ Decatur, Georgia ▪ 30032-1513
Telephone: (404) 508-7147 ▪ Fax: (404) 508-7341

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CONTACT: Emily Gest
DJJ Communications
(404) 508-7147 landline
(404) 858-4226 cell
emilygest@djj.state.ga.us

DJJ COMMISSIONER L. GALE BUCKNER ANNOUNCES STAFF APPOINTMENTS
– New team has extensive experience in criminal justice –

(Decatur, GA) — Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice Commissioner L. Gale Buckner announced today that she has hired several highly qualified individuals to join the DJJ team: Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb will become Deputy Commissioner of Administrative Services; Tracy D. Masters will become Director of Legal Services; Carol Jackson will become Director of Legislative Affairs; and Diane Avery will become the Board and Constituent Liaison.

Current DJJ Deputy Commissioner Jeff Minor has been promoted to Assistant Commissioner, where he will function as a second-in-command of the agency and will continue to oversee the Offices of Budget Services and Human Resources. Minor joined DJJ in 2001 and is 32-year veteran of state government, having worked at the Department of Human Resources and the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget.

DJJ Commissioner L. Gale Buckner said, "Shawanda, Carol, Tracy, Diane and Jeff have extensive and valuable experience in a variety of areas that will serve the Department well. I look forward to utilizing their talents and skills as we face challenges and enhance DJJ all while helping the troubled youth we serve and ensuring public safety in our communities and facilities."

Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb will be the new Deputy Commissioner of Administrative Services and will oversee the Offices of Technology and Information Services, Financial Services, Audits, Contracts and Grants, Engineering, and Federal Programs. Reynolds-Cobb previously served as the Division Director for the Victim Services Division of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC). She began her career with the CJCC in 1993 as a Program Assistant for Grants Administration and the Georgia Crime Victims' Compensation Program. She has also served as a Program Manager, and Assistant Program Director. In 2006, she was appointed to the state's Interstate Compact Advisory Council on Adult Offenders. She was recently reappointed to that position by Governor Nathan Deal. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Georgia State University, and a Master's Degree in Administration from Central Michigan University.

Tracy D. Masters is the new Director of Legal Services where he will oversee the day-to-day operations of the Office of Legal Services. He is a member of the Navy Reserve and is just returning from a tour of duty at the Sixth Fleet Headquarters in Naples, Italy. Masters previously served as Board Advisor for the Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles. Before assuming that position, Master's spent 10 years as Director of Legal Services and another four years as Assistant Director of Legal Services for Pardons and Paroles. He also has extensive legal experience working for the Department of Corrections, and has served as a parole officer, as well as a teacher. Masters earned a *Juris Doctorate* from the Georgia State College of Law and a Bachelor's Degree in Vocational Education from the University of Georgia.

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

As Director of Legislative Affairs, **Carol Jackson** will be Governor Nathan Deal's liaison between the state Legislature and the Department of Juvenile Justice. For the past two years, Jackson was the County Manager of the White County Board of Commissioners. From 1999 to 2005, she represented the 50th District in the Georgia State Senate and served on the Policy Committee. From 1985 to 1998 she was the Superior Court Clerk of White County Georgia and was named "Superior Court Clerk of the Year." She graduated magna *cum laude* from Truett McConnell College. A member of Mt. Yonah Baptist Church, Jackson is active in community and civic affairs and has served on numerous boards including the Northeast Georgia Police Academy Board and the American Red Cross Board.

Diane Avery joins the Department as Board and Constituent Liaison. Avery previously served as a Confidential Secretary at the State Board of Pardons and Paroles. Before that, she spent 10 years as a Confidential Secretary at the Department of Corrections, as well as an additional five years in the same position at Pardons and Paroles. In addition, Avery spent 16 years as a secretary at the Georgia Bureau of Investigations.

Masters and Avery joined DJJ on Dec. 1. Jackson and Reynolds-Cobb will assume their responsibilities on Dec. 16.

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