

L. Gale Buckner, Commissioner

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Office of Communications



DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

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## **GALE BUCKNER APPOINTED COMMISSIONER BY BOARD OF JUVENILE JUSTICE**

**(Decatur, GA)** – L. Gale Buckner was unanimously appointed today as Commissioner of the Department of Juvenile Justice by the department's board at a special called meeting.

Buckner's first official day on the job will be Monday, November 14. She will be sworn in that day as well.

Buckner was recommended as Commissioner by Governor Nathan Deal on November 7. She replaces Amy Howell, who is now general counsel for the Department of Behavioral Health and Mental Disabilities.

Buckner comes to DJJ from the State Board of Pardons and Paroles, to which she was appointed by former Gov. Sonny Perdue in January 2005. She served as chair of the State Board of Pardons and Paroles from July 1, 2008, to June 30, 2010, and as vice chair from July 1, 2006, to June 30, 2008. Prior to joining Pardons and Paroles, Buckner spent five years as the executive director of the Governor's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. Buckner also served with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation starting in 1981, in which she served as assistant special agent-in-charge of the Atlanta field office for death investigations, child abuse, fraud and other criminal activities.

Of Ms. Buckner's ascension, Governor Nathan Deal said, "Gale Buckner combines many years of esteemed service to the state with an impressive resume in law enforcement. She possesses the right attitude and the right leadership skills to head the Department of Juvenile Justice. We will work together to make this department efficient, safe and effective."

Buckner thanked the Board of Juvenile Justice members for their unanimous vote today. "As a veteran of Georgia's criminal justice community, I am honored and privileged to lead this department, and I am energized by challenges ahead. I look forward to enhancing DJJ, helping the troubled youth we serve, and ensuring public safety in our communities and facilities."

Buckner currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange. She is a member of the Association of Paroling Authorities International, the National Criminal Justice Association, the FBI National Academy Associates, the International Association of Women Police, the Parole Association of Georgia, and the Peace Officers Association of Georgia. She received Crisis Responder national certification in 2003 from the National Organization for Victim Assistance.

Buckner earned a bachelor's degree in urban life at Georgia State University and a Master of Public Administration from Brenau University. She is a graduate of the FBI National Academy's 169th Session and was a delegate to Israel in 2003 for the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange program. She has also served as an adjunct professor, teaching classes in Criminal Justice and Management at Georgia State University, Mercer University and St. Francis University. Buckner resides in Chatsworth and is an active member of the Holly Creek Baptist Church.

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