



Georgia Commission on Family Violence

GCFV Family Violence Task Force Newsletter

 December 2018

TASK FORCE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE JEFFREY KIGHT

Judge Jeffrey Kight is a Superior Court Judge in the Waycross Judicial Circuit, and is also a Commission Member of the GCFV.

Additionally, Judge Kight serves as the Judge of the Parental Accountability Court for the Circuit. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the Council of Superior Court Judges, and the Administrative Judge of the First Judicial Administrative District for the Judicial Council of Georgia.

Judge Kight is also currently Chair of the Waycross Judicial Circuit Family Violence Task Force.

We appreciate Judge Kight for his service, as well as taking the time offer his perspective on Family Violence Task Forces:



Why is the Family Violence Task Force important to your community?

Our Judicial Circuit is comprised of six counties with several rural towns and communities. We have limited resources in the way of shelters and programs for victims and survivors of domestic violence. In addition, survivors face many individual challenges because of limited resources, transportation issues and sometimes extreme isolation because of the rural nature of our community.

Therefore, I believe that our Task Force is imperative in our relatively small community to help its members from all the various resources that may be available, including the local shelter(s), law enforcement, court system, etc. be extremely efficient and consistent in its education and awareness initiatives to victims, survivors, their families and the public, as well as in a coordinated response in our various jurisdictions so that due process is achieved for victims and offenders.

How important is judicial leadership to the Task Force?

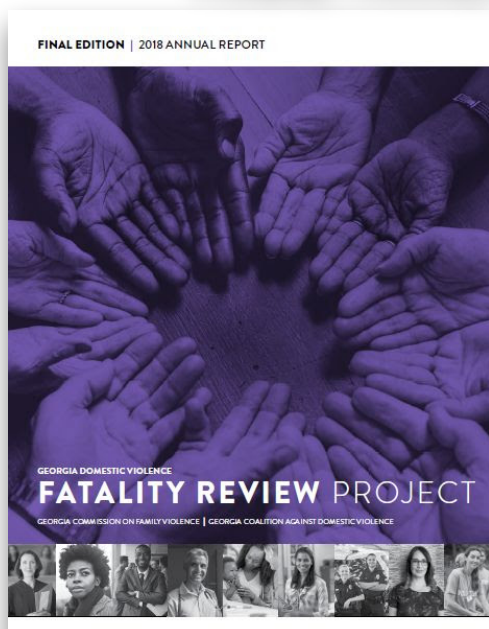
I think that judicial leadership is very important. In our court system, although there are many participants with different roles, from victim advocates, **(continued on next page)**

law enforcement, prosecutors, defense lawyers, clerks, and court personnel, at the end of the day, most individuals look to the judges of the various courts not only for final authority, but also for guidance and leadership in implementing and insuring that due process requirements are met for both victims and offenders. From a judge's perspective, by doing so, then we also ultimately achieve justice, fairness and safety for all involved.

What would you like to see your Task Force accomplish?

I think our Task Force does a tremendous job. There are always challenges, and again in our small communities, there are limited resources, including manpower. Many of our participant members and agency representatives wear many different hats in their professions and community and they all have many demands of their time and talents. I want our members to remain vigilant in continuing the efforts of education of the public, our first responders and court system, and to continue to improve in the consistent and persistent coordinated responses to domestic violence. ❄️

FINAL FATALITY REVIEW REPORT RELEASED



The Georgia Commission on Family Violence and the Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence released the 15th and final Annual Report of the Georgia Domestic Violence Fatality Review Project (the Project) on December 17, 2018.

Since 2004, these agencies worked with communities across the state to conduct in-depth reviews of 116 domestic violence-related fatalities and near-fatalities.

The Project's focus was to learn ways to more fully address the problem of domestic violence and to seek solutions to reduce the number of domestic violence-related deaths and injuries in Georgia.

**NEED
HELP?**

This comprehensive report is a great resource to guide the work of your Task Force. Please contact Stacey Seldon if you have any questions about using this resource in your Task Force.

The Annual Report offers "10 Key Goals to Improve the Response to Domestic Violence in Georgia." The goals were selected based on either the frequency with which the issue was noted in case reviews, or as follow-up to repeated findings identified through the fatality review process or recommendations made by the Project. These goals focus on areas for which Georgia's response needs improvement and represent opportunities to implement change that will ultimately create safer communities in Georgia. ❄️

SIGNS BEFORE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITIES



FROM THE WASHINGTON POST

An article from the Washington Post discusses indicators before domestic violence fatalities that may make homicides more foreseeable:

"The Washington Post found that nearly half of the women who were murdered during the past decade were killed by a current or former intimate partner. In a close analysis of five cities, about a third of the male killers were known to be a potential threat ahead of the attack. rmer intimate partner. In a close analysis of five cities, about a third of the male killers were known to be a potential threat ahead of the attack."



Please continue to send the SIGN IN SHEETS and MEETING MINUTES from each Task Force meeting.

You can download a copy of the sign in sheet [here](#).

Please return it by fax or email--the instructions are located on the sign in sheet.

FYI - if you choose to make your own sign in sheet, please be sure to include all of the information GCFV asks for on our template.

Thank you so much for all that you do! Your work is appreciated and valued. Please enjoy your holidays, and reach out to Stacey if you have any questions.