



Judicial Qualifications Commission
State of Georgia
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Judge Stacey Hydrick (left), Director Courtney Veal (center), and Deputy Director Ashton Murphy

DeKalb County Superior Court Judge Stacey Hydrick Elected as Chairperson of the Investigative Panel of the Judicial Qualifications Commission and Attorney Ashton Murphy Selected as Commission's Next Deputy Director

Atlanta, June 29, 2023 – The Investigative Panel of the Georgia Judicial Qualifications Commission (“JQC”) today announced that DeKalb County Superior Court Judge Stacey Hydrick was elected by unanimous vote on June 16, 2023 to serve as the Panel’s next Chairperson. Prior to becoming a Superior Court Judge in 2019, Judge Hydrick served for eight years as a DeKalb County State Court Judge. Judge Hydrick has served as a member of the JQC since 2017, when she was appointed by the Supreme Court of Georgia and has served as Vice-Chairperson of the Investigative Panel since 2019. Simultaneous with Judge Hydrick’s recent election, Atlanta attorney-member James Balli was elected to serve as the Investigative Panel’s next Vice-Chairperson.

Of her recent election, Judge Hydrick stated “I am honored to have been selected to serve as the next Chair of the Investigative Panel and I look forward to working alongside our new Director and Deputy Director. While we will continue the necessary work of investigating and prosecuting complaints of judicial misconduct, we remain steadfastly committed to educating and assisting judges across the State in order to aid in avoiding and mitigating conduct which runs afoul of the Code of Judicial Conduct.”

The Investigative Panel also announced that attorney Ashton Murphy has joined as the JQC's next Deputy Director. Murphy replaces Courtney Veal, who served as the Commission's Deputy Director for three years before recently being selected as the Commission's Director.

Murphy earned a B.S. in Psychology from Kennesaw State University in 2008 then worked as a paralegal for a year before deciding to go to law school. She received her J.D. from Atlanta's John Marshall Law school in 2012. Upon graduation from law school, Murphy began her career in public service as an Assistant Solicitor-General in Fulton County. She then served as an Assistant District Attorney in Cherokee and Cobb Counties, an Assistant Attorney General at the Georgia Attorney General's Office, and as Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney in Paulding County.