Georgia’s Municipal Courts

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Data Collection

- Voluntary versus involuntary reporting
City Clerks’ Survey

- Gage city clerks’ understanding
- City clerks serving as municipal court clerks
- City clerks not serving as municipal court clerks
Judges’ Survey

• “The information will be used to identify subject matter experts, improve training for elected municipal officials, and identify areas where GMA can help members reduce existing and potential costs associated with municipal courts” (Municipal Court Survey for Municipal Judges - July 2016)
Reporting Caseload Data to AOC

• “As staff of the Judicial Council of Georgia, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) provides subject-matter expertise on policy, court innovation, legislation, and court administration to the state’s trial and appellate courts. The AOC also furnishes a full range of information technology, budget, and financial services to the judicial branch” (Judicial Council of Georgia)

• Caseload data used
Does the city clerk also serve as the court clerk?
Elected Officials’ Role

- Understand the reality of their responsibilities related to the municipal court
- GMA’s role as it pertains to elected officials
How do the judges feel?
Future Research

• Survey to all municipal court clerks.
• Survey to public defenders
• Survey to court interpreters
• Cost of comprehensive survey of court officials
Conclusion

• Intention of the surveys
  • Focus of potential training
  • Means by which training can be delivered

• Focus on members of GMA