

**NAME: Jon Setzer**  
**PARTY: Nonpartisan**  
**SEEKING: Superior Court Judgeship**  
**(Davis seat)**



**Why are you seeking the office?**

I have made Gwinnett County my home for the last decade, and I have made it my community. I am running for Superior Court Judge because my trial and courtroom experience make me uniquely qualified to make the important decisions required of Superior Court Judges. Having handled the most serious felony cases over my nearly ten-year career as a Gwinnett County prosecutor has prepared me for this bigger role in the community. Becoming a Superior Court Judge gives me a chance to broaden my influence in the community to make it a safe and thriving place to raise my family.

**What distinguishes your candidacy?**

I am a Managing Assistant District Attorney at the Gwinnett County District Attorney's Office. I have tried the most serious felony cases, and I have been doing that my entire nearly twelve-year career. In addition, the unique combination of my trial and courtroom experience, my involvement in the legal community with the Gwinnett Bar Association and the High School Mock Trial Committee, and my contributions to the Gwinnett community over the last ten years distinguish me.

**What is the proper role of a judge in interpreting the laws and Constitution?**

Superior Court Judges should provide sound, fair, and just interpretations of the law that conform to the requirements of the Constitution and the laws of the State. In general, it is the judge's job to read, understand, and adhere to the plain language of the Constitution and the laws that apply in a particular case.

**What in your life experience makes you believe that you are or would be a good judge?**

There are three key parts of my life experience that have best-prepared me to be a good judge. First, I have extensive trial experience over the course of my career, and that experience has involved mostly very serious felony criminal cases. Second, I have a vested interest in my community, because my wife and I are fortunate enough to be raising our two sons here. Third, I have served my community, in particular as a youth soccer coach and as a volunteer with the High School Mock Trial Committee, and I have the drive to continue to do so.

**What do you think are the attributes of a good judge?**

I think it's important to have judges with a sharp legal acumen, true sense of fairness, and patient demeanor. Beyond that, I think a well-qualified judge has substantial trial experience and understands courtroom management. A well-qualified judge also understands how the cases that a judge handles affect the people involved. For many people who appear before a Superior Court Judge, they are going through the most difficult part of their lives. With a background in dealing with difficult and emotionally complex criminal cases, I think that I have the perspective to give each case the care it deserves.

**Please give a 100 word summary of your background.**

I live in Suwanee with my wife, Heather, and my sons, Caleb, 3, and Evan, 1. I have been an Assistant District Attorney with the Gwinnett District Attorney's Office for the last ten years. I worked for the Oconee Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office for two years before moving to Gwinnett. I earned my law degree from Emory and my Bachelor's Degree in Economics and Sociology from Vanderbilt. I am the President-Elect of the Gwinnett Bar Association, having served on the board for the last four years. I have served on the Georgia High School Mock Trial Committee since 2009.