

NAME: Deborah R. Fluker
PARTY: Non-Partisan
SEEKING: Superior Court Judge, Division 3

1. Why are you seeking this office?

I have been licensed to practice law in Georgia since 1997. I am currently a Magistrate Court Judge in Gwinnett County. I am designated by all eleven Gwinnett Superior Court Judges to sit primarily in Superior Court. I have presided over Superior Court cases on a daily basis since 2016. I am capable, experienced, and bench ready to be the elected Superior Court Judge. I am the only candidate in this race currently presiding over cases in Superior Court. I have a proven judicial record of handling complex legal issues in a balanced and fair manner.

2. What distinguishes your candidacy?

I have presided as a Judge in Superior Court, State Court, Juvenile Court, Magistrate Court and Municipal Court from 2013-present. I am the only candidate currently presiding over domestic, civil, and criminal matters in Superior Court. I am the only candidate making important, impactful, and complex legal rulings in Superior Court affecting the citizens of Gwinnett. I am the only candidate currently entrusted by all eleven Superior Court judges to sit by designation in Superior Court and to make legal rulings on their behalf. I have a proven record and reputation for being balanced and fair in my rulings.

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

A judge should follow and apply the law as enacted by the legislature. Judges are not legislators, but interpreters of the law. A judge's role is to administer justice in the legal system by applying the law and the Constitution in making legal rulings. Where the law and the Constitution allow for interpretation and discretion by judges, it must be exercised in a reasonable, balanced, and logical manner.

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

The sum total of my life experiences, and not my legal experience, makes me a good judge. My life experiences allow me to be a good judge of one's character, an important skill set for any judge. My work ethic and attention to detail allow me to manage large court dockets and make complex legal rulings. My commitment and adherence to my judicial oath makes me committed to making well-reasoned, legally sound rulings in a timely manner, without favor or affection to any party.

5. What do you see as a new challenge for judges in a post-pandemic court system?

The pandemic has created an enormous backlog in the court docket and the timely administration of justice. The new normal of handling matters virtually or remotely will likely continue, in some respects, in a post-pandemic court system. Court technology and the law are not currently equipped to handle all legal matters remotely or in a virtual environment. Social distancing recommendations will affect the Court's ability to efficiently conduct many proceedings. Adequate technology, funding for technology, and a backlog of cases will continue to impact the timely administration of justice which is the Court's primary responsibility to the citizens.

6. Please give a 100 word summary of your background

I have been a Gwinnett resident since 1999. I have a finance degree from the University of Virginia. I earned my J.D. from Georgia State University. I have been a licensed attorney since 1997. I was a prosecutor in Hall, DeKalb and Gwinnett counties for 10 years. I owned The Fluker Law Firm, PC in Lawrenceville and handled criminal defense cases. I am a former Municipal Court Judge in Suwanee and Dacula. I am a Magistrate Judge sitting by designation in Superior Court since 2016. I am married to Reginald Fluker, a veteran law enforcement officer. We have two children.