

Berryl A. Anderson, Chief Judge
DeKalb County Magistrate Court

Berryl A. Anderson was sworn in as Chief Judge of DeKalb County Magistrate Court in 2010 and has served the court for more than 23 years. As Chief Judge, she manages Criminal, Civil, and Ordinance Divisions of Magistrate Court and the Pretrial Services Office. The Court presides over Emergency Family Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking Protective Orders, several diversion calendars, including the state's oldest Misdemeanor Mental Health Court, a calendar for Victims of Sex Trafficking and Exploitation, Youthful Offenders and Domestic Violence. DeKalb Magistrate Court served as a U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women Mentor Court from 2014 through 2021, enabling Judge Anderson to provide mentorship to judges across the country on best practices in handling intimate partner violence, sexual assault and stalking cases.

Judge Anderson is the recipient of the 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award by the Council of Magistrate Court Judges. The award honors the significant contributions and distinguished career of consistent excellence and commitment to Magistrate Court. She recently participated on the curriculum development team for the #WeToo Advisory Committee created to combat workplace harassment and improve fairness, dignity and respect in the courts. Judge Anderson also serves on the Board of Commissioners for the Magistrate Retirement Fund of Georgia, Georgia Commission on Family Violence, Board of Governors, and chairs the Wellness Committee for the American Judges Association. For more than a decade, she has served on the Executive Committee of the Council of Magistrate Court Judges and represented the Magistrate Court on the Judicial Council of Georgia's Ad Hoc Committee on Misdemeanor Bail Reform.

Judge Anderson is co-author of the 2020-2023 editions of the Georgia Magistrate Court Handbook, published by Thomson Reuters. She is also creator and lead faculty for, "The People's Law School," a free, four-week community education program for lay citizens to provide an overview of Georgia courts, with a special emphasis on Magistrate Court. She has also trained hundreds of judges, attorneys and advocates while serving as faculty for the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the Center for Court Innovation, the National Network to End Domestic Violence, and the Georgia Institute of Continuing Judicial Education.

Judge Anderson received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia and her Juris Doctorate degree from the C. Blake McDowell College of Law at the University of Akron in Akron, Ohio.