Wednesday, January 8, 2020   SUPERIOR COURT OF FULTON COUNTY

Fulton County State Court Joins Metro Atlanta Business Case Division

ATLANTA – Effective January 1, 2020, Fulton County State Court has joined the Metro Atlanta Business Case Division. In 2016, the Supreme Court of Georgia amended Atlanta Judicial Circuit Rule 1004 ("Rule 1004"), renaming the business court program to the Metro Atlanta Business Case Division ("MABCD") and expanding it to allow courts within the metropolitan area that adopt Rule 1004 to join. Later that year, Gwinnett State and Gwinnett Superior Courts sought to become and were approved as the first court systems to join the newly expanded program. The inclusion of the Fulton County State Court in the MABCD continues the vision of the State Bar of Georgia Business Court Committee; that businesses throughout the state would have access to a specialized business court to consistently and efficiently resolve complex commercial litigation.

According to the Metro Atlanta Business Case Division Presiding Judge Kelly Lee Ellerbe, "The Fulton County State Court has a wealth of important business cases and is a much welcomed addition to the MABCD. For years attorneys have reached out to the MABCD to ask if Fulton State Court cases can transfer to the MABCD. We are grateful that we can now respond with a resounding 'Yes!' With this expansion of the MABCD comes the addition of two experienced Fulton County State Court Judges, Judge Eric A. Richardson and Judge Wesley B. Tailor, who will serve as MABCD Division Judges. We are hopeful that this most recent augmentation will continue with the addition of other metropolitan courts deciding to join the MABCD soon." State Court Chief Judge Fred C. Eady added, "Fulton County State Court is excited to partner with Superior Court and the MABCD to offer litigants with complex business disputes an additional avenue for efficient dispute administration and resolution. With Metro Atlanta being the center of the state's business hub and a large volume of business disputes filed in State Court, it makes sense for litigants originating cases in State Court to be able to take advantage of the focused resolution process offered by the MABCD." The Chief Judge of the Atlanta Judicial Circuit and Superior Court of Fulton County Robert C.I. McBurney commented, "Fulton County's State and Superior Courts have long partnered on issues important to our County's legal community. Having State Court join the MABCD is a natural and welcome extension of this partnership. It is also quite timely, as the MABCD will be losing two veteran judges, Alice Bonner and Elizabeth Long, both of whom have ably served as Business Court Judges for many years. We wish them the best as they begin their next chapters."

The Business Case Division was first established in 2005 and quickly developed a strong reputation for promptly and efficiently resolving complex commercial disputes. Formerly known as the Fulton County Superior Court Business Case Division, MABCD provides judicial attention, expertise, and administration of certain business cases filed in the superior and state courts of participating metro Atlanta counties. While the Division strives to rule on motions within 30 days of the motion being fully briefed and heard, the average time for resolution in 2018 was, on average approximately 17 days. Additionally, the Court serves to retain legal business in the State and aids in the development of a robust body of business case law in Georgia. For more information and resources, please visit our website at http://www.fultoncourt.org/business/.

The Superior Court of Fulton, Atlanta Judicial Circuit, is the largest and busiest trial court in Georgia, serving the county's almost one million residents, with 20 elected judges. For more information and resources, please visit our website at www.fultoncourt.org.

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