

STEPHEN S. GOSS

Stephen S. Goss is a judge on the Court of Appeals of Georgia. He was appointed to the appellate bench in 2018. Prior to this appointment, Judge Goss served as a state trial judge in Albany, Georgia for 23 years, first as a juvenile court judge and for the last 19 years as a state circuit Superior Court judge. Judge Goss is a past president of the Council of Superior Court Judges of Georgia. He is a graduate of the University of Georgia and the University Of Georgia School Of Law. Prior to becoming a Superior Court judge, he was in private practice as a trial lawyer. He is a past president of the Dougherty Circuit Bar Association.

In 2002, Judge Goss founded the Dougherty Superior Court Mental Health/Substance Abuse treatment court program. He presided over the program for 16 years until moving to the appellate bench. It was the first full scale mental health court in Georgia and one of the early felony programs nationally. The program has served as a national Learning Site for mental health courts since 2006 as designated by the Council of State Governments and the Bureau of Justice Assistance. He is the immediate past chairman of the Council of Accountability Court Judges of Georgia. He has also chaired its education and training committee. Judge Goss is a faculty member of the National Drug Court Institute and is a senior adviser to the United States Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration GAINS Center for persons in the criminal justice system with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders. He has published articles and book chapters on the issues of mental health courts, co-occurring disorders, mental competency and trial court professionalism. He is a graduate of the National Judicial College and has been on its teaching faculty since 2003.