

6 KEY TAKEAWAYS

The New Statewide Georgia Business Court

[Kilpatrick Townsend](#) recently hosted a presentation about the new statewide Georgia Business Court (“GBC”) that will begin accepting new cases later this summer.

Below are 6 key takeaways from the presentation:

1

Who: The GBC will be led by the Honorable Walt Davis. The first judge on the new court is the Honorable Walt Davis, a former federal law clerk, partner in the Atlanta office of an AmLaw 50 firm, and professor of securities law.

2

What: The GBC is a court to foster the efficient resolution of business disputes. Georgia is consistently ranked one of the best states in the country to do business but until now has not had a dedicated statewide business court as exists in places like North Carolina and Delaware, for example. The GBC is a specialized court to resolve business disputes efficiently.

3

When: The GBC opens on August 1, 2020. The process to start this new court began in 2017 and was made possible by a 2018 constitutional amendment.

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Where: The GBC will sit in Atlanta and Macon. The court will handle pre-trial proceedings from a courtroom in the new Nathan Deal Judicial Center as well as from facilities at Mercer Law School. If a case requires a jury trial, that will occur in a county where venue would be appropriate under the Georgia constitution’s typical framework.

5

Why: The GBC will further enhance Georgia’s strong judicial system. The new court emerged from the same reform efforts that have reshaped Georgia’s legal landscape in the past few years – e.g., criminal justice reform. An effective business court with a body of published case law enhances Georgia’s legal system as a whole and makes Georgia an even better, more predictable place to do business.

6

How: The GBC has limited jurisdiction and aims to manage its caseload efficiently. The new court’s docket is restricted to commercial disputes in which more than \$500,000 is in controversy. The GBC also shares equity jurisdiction with Superior Courts in commercial disputes, though there is no amount in controversy requirement in those cases. Some of the ways the court plans to facilitate pretrial proceedings include early case management, regular status conferences, a focus on technology, and clear and concise rules. The GBC will conduct virtual and telephonic hearings as needed.

For more information, please contact:

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