

Public Defender Standards Council Selects Chief Legal Officer

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jim Martin joins the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council (GPDSC) as the Chief Legal Officer and will server as the legal advisor to the Director of the Council. Primary among his responsibilities will be to assist the 49 public defender offices with legal issues in regard to contractual matters.

Mike Mears, Director of GPDSC is excited about the endeavor and having Jim Martin become a part of the team. “I am thrilled about having Jim Martin as a part of our organization. Jim brings experience, knowledge and commitment to the creation of the state-wide public defender system. The people of Georgia are extremely fortunate to have Jim Martin’s commitment and dedication to this important endeavor. I am extremely fortunate to have Jim working with me as Chief Legal Officer for the Standards Council.”

Before joining the GPDSC, Martin served as Commissioner of the Department of Human Resources. He was a member of the House of Representatives of Georgia for eighteen years. Prior to being a member of the General Assembly, Martin was a staff attorney and lobbyist for the Atlanta Legal Aid Society and the Georgia Legal Services Program, which represent indigent clients.

“The recently created Georgia Public Defender Standards Council is an important part of the criminal justice system in our State. I look forward to working with the members of the Council, Mike Mears, the Council’s Executive Director and the other members and their excellent staff. It is a privilege to be a part of this new organization,” states Martin.

Martin has won dozens of awards for his innovative legislation and advocacy, especially for public health and in behalf of children, women, and people with mental and physical disabilities. An Atlanta native, he earned the A.B., J.D. and LL.M. degrees from the University of Georgia and an M.B.A. degree from Georgia State University, and served as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army in Vietnam. He is married and has four children.

The Georgia Public Defender Standards Council is an independent agency within the judicial branch of state government. House bill 770 created the Georgia Public Defender Standard Act of 2003, under this Act GPDSC is responsible for assuring that adequate and effective legal representation is provided, independent of political considerations or private interests.

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