

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Statement on Behalf of Judge Shermela J. Williams**

On Friday, February 20, 2026, after deep reflection, thought, and prayer, Judge Shermela J. Williams submitted her resignation from the Fulton County Superior Court bench, effective immediately.

Judge Williams is a committed public servant who has always understood that the privilege of serving on the bench carries with it immense responsibility—to the law, to the litigants who appeared before the Court, and to the citizens who entrusted her with their votes. Both in and out of the courtroom, Judge Williams served her community with heart, honor, diligence, respect, and impartiality. She hosted hundreds of students in her courtroom as part of her commitment to youth and community outreach.

She is a pillar in the community who routinely volunteered her time and talents at a myriad of community events, panels, career days, and other service-related events. She coordinated and oversaw a comprehensive summer judicial fellowship program, which placed college and law students from around the country with local judges and included weekly lunch-and-learn sessions.

People who appeared before Judge Williams describe her as a smart, personable, diligent, hard-working, and compassionate jurist who knows the law and genuinely cares about people and her community. She and her team successfully resolved over 6000 cases, presided over hundreds of trials, and successfully tackled the significant backlog inherited in her division. Throughout her tenure, Judge Williams worked tirelessly to ensure fairness, integrity, efficiency, transparency, access to justice, accountability, and respect for all who entered her courtroom - as evidenced by the way she managed her courtroom and the numerous policies and procedures she created to improve various operations of the Court.

Nonetheless, while she has serious concerns about the fairness of the JQC process and disagrees with its removal recommendation, Judge Williams made the extraordinarily difficult decision to resign.

Her resignation represents a profound loss for the citizens of Fulton County. The will and voice of the voters who elected—and reelected—her to serve have taken a significant hit. Fulton County has lost an experienced jurist who endeavored to be fair and do what was right in every case over which she presided.

Judge Williams remains proud of the work she has accomplished and grateful for the trust placed in her by the citizens of Fulton County. She is humbled and thankful for the immense outpouring of love and support from her supporters - many of whom include lawyers, litigants, and victims who appeared before her. She especially thanks the citizens of Fulton County for the opportunity to serve and to fulfill her campaign promise to bring "balance to the bench," and remains committed to serving Fulton County.