

# Rotary Club of Gainesville Newsletter



## Meeting Location: April 29, 2024 - Hall County Judges Panel

First Baptist Church  
Banquet Hall  
751 Green Street  
Monday at 12:30 PM  
Lunch begins serving at  
Noon  
Founded in 1923

### Links:

[Club Website](#)  
[Facebook](#)  
[Instagram](#)  
[LinkedIn](#)  
[New Member Application](#)



### Club Leaders



**Ron G. Quinn**  
President



**Christina D. Jones**  
President-Elect



**Marsha Hopkins**  
President-Nominee



**Joey Tripp**  
Secretary



**Zachary T. Propes**  
Treasurer



**Julia Gesch Hayes**  
Membership Director



**William D. Lee**  
Membership Vice Director



**Lindsay Allison**  
Public Image Vice Director

**CLUB MEETING**  
**04.29.24**  
**12:30 AM**



**JUDGE JOHN BREAKFIELD**  
**HALL COUNTY JUDGES**  
**PANEL MODERATOR**



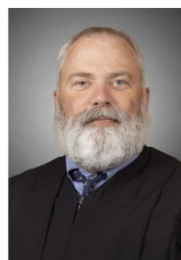
**JUDGE BRIAN HECK**



**JUDGE PATTY LAINE**



**JUDGE ALISON TOLLER**



**JUDGE JASON DEAL**

**Rotary Club of Gainesville**



### Judge John Breakfield

John Breakfield was elected to Hall County State Court in 2016 in a contested election and re-elected in 2020. As a judge, he handles both civil and criminal jury trials, arraignments, legal motions, non-jury trials, bond hearings, probation revocations, and various other legal matters. Judge Breakfield has presided over 65+ jury trials.

On the statewide leadership level, he is a member of the Executive Committee of the Georgia Council of State Court Judges, the District Chair for his region, and on the Legislative Affairs Committee. In these roles, he assists the Council of State Court Judges on administration, policy, and recusal appointments.

Prior to taking the bench, Judge Breakfield owned and managed his own law firm and handled both civil and criminal matters for individuals and small businesses. He also served as the prosecutor for the City of Gainesville Municipal Court, Assistant City Attorney for the City of Gainesville, and taught paralegal classes at the University of North Georgia.

Prior to law school, Judge Breakfield was a Taco Bell manager where he learned the importance of customer service and hard work. Judge Breakfield lives in Flowery Branch with his wife Astrid and their two wonderful sons.

### Judge Brian Heck

Brian Heck has been an Associate Magistrate Court Judge since January 2022. Prior positions include Vice President and General Counsel for a lawn and garden distributor, Owner/attorney of Heck Law Firm, Assistant Hall County Solicitor General, Staff Attorney for Honorable Clint Bearden (Superior Court Judge for Hall and Dawson Counties), Assistant District Attorney in Hall County.

He earned a bachelor's degree in history from LaGrange College and a law degree from Atlanta's John Marshall Law School.

Judge Heck and his wife Emily have two daughters: Olivia and Lindsey.

### Judge Patty Laine

Patty Laine was born and raised in Gainesville, Georgia. After graduating from Gainesville High School, she earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Furman University and a law degree from the University of Georgia School of Law. She then spent 2 years as a law clerk/staff attorney for the 5 Superior Court judges in the Ocmulgee Judicial



**Carol M. Colón**  
Club  
Administration  
Director



**Robert E. Cuttino Jr**  
Sergeant-at-Arms



**Jon Peterson**  
Rotary  
Foundation  
Director



**Michele L. Rasmussen**  
Public Image  
Director



**Kathleen Owen**  
Club  
Administration  
Vice Director



**Chris Davis**  
Service  
Projects  
Director



**Liz Coates**  
Youth  
Services Vice  
Director



**Jennifer Tamowski**  
Youth  
Services  
Director



**Mike McGraw**  
iPast  
President

of Law. She then spent 2 years as a law clerk, then attorney, for the 3 Superior Court judges in the Gainesville Judicial Circuit before spending 10 years practicing law in Gainesville. In 2012, she was elected Probate Court Judge and was reelected in 2016 and 2020.

Judge Laine is committed to her community and volunteers through various organizations, including being a troop leader for Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia for the past 16 years and through her church, St. Paul United Methodist. She is also a member of the Northeastern Circuit Bar Association and is involved with leadership in the Council of Probate Court Judges of Georgia. She is past chair of the Council of Probate Court Judges Training Council and currently serves as Vice President of the Council of Probate Court Judges. In 2022, Judge Laine was named Outstanding Probate Judge of the Year by the Council of Probate Court Judges and, in 2023, was given the Special Recognition Award by the Council.

Judge Laine and her husband Jesse have 2 adult daughters.

#### **Judge Alison Toller**

Alison W. Toller is a judge for the Northeastern Judicial Circuit Juvenile Court in Georgia. She was appointed to the bench by a panel of superior court judges in 2014, filling a vacancy created by the retirement of the Hon. Cliff L. Jolliff. Prior to her appointment, Toller was an attorney at the Weaver Law Firm in Gainesville, a position to which she was selected in 2013.

Toller earned a bachelor's degree in economics and political science from Emory University in 1996. She then completed a J.D. at Georgia State University College of Law in 1999.

After graduating from law school, Toller began her legal career as an assistant solicitor general for the DeKalb County Solicitor-General's Office in 2000. However, her time there was brief. Later that year, she moved to Hall County, where she joined the Hall County District Attorney's Office as an assistant district attorney.

#### **Judge Jason Deal**

Jason J. Deal was appointed Judge of the Superior Court of the Northeastern Judicial Circuit of Georgia by Governor Sonny Perdue effective June 22, 2005, and ran unopposed for re-election to the post in 2006, 2010, 2014, 2018, and 2022. Deal became the presiding Judge of the Hall County Drug Court in January 2006 and started the Dawson County Treatment Court (Drug/DUI) in July 2006. The Dawson County Treatment Court now includes DUI, Drug and Mental Health tracks. In 2013, Deal started the Hall County Probation Drug Court. Today Deal shares duties with Judge Clint Bearden in the Hall County Drug Court. Deal presides over Alpha Track and Bearden presides over Bravo, and Charlie Tracks. Deal also served as the first chairman of the Georgia Council of Accountability Court Judges from 2015 to 2017. He was a member of the Governor's Criminal Justice Reform Council from 2012 to 2018 and the Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council from 2015 to 2017. In 2017, Deal received the Emory Findley Award from the Georgia Council of Superior Court Judges. He formerly served as Chair of the Accountability Courts Committee of the Council of Superior Court Judges and on the Supreme Court's Justice for Children and Families Committee. In February 2024, Deal became the Chief Judge of the Northeastern Judicial Circuit.

Prior to becoming a Superior Court Judge, Deal served as District Attorney of the Northeastern Judicial Circuit from May 1, 2002, until June 2005. While serving as District Attorney, he was involved in the planning and implementation of the Hall County H.E.L.P. court and served on the Georgia Crime Information Center Advisory Council. He also previously served as a Magistrate Judge in Hall County, and as an Assistant District Attorney for Hall and Dawson Counties. As an ADA, Deal received the 1999 Work Horse of the Year award. Deal also worked as an associate in the Dawsonville branch office of the firm Fox, Chandler, Homans, Hicks & McKinnon and served as County Attorney for Dawson County.

Deal is a long-time resident of Hall County, having graduated from North Hall High School. Deal obtained a Bachelor of Science degree from Furman University and his law degree from the University of Georgia. Deal also served honorably as an active-duty infantry officer in the United States Army.

Deal is the son of former Governor Nathan and Sandra Deal. He is married and has three children. He is a member and past deacon of the First Baptist Church of Gainesville, Georgia. Deal works on his small cattle farm in his spare time.

## District 6910 Conference Results



## Mike Giles Rotary Club of Gainesville

2023-2024 District 6910 W. Lee Arrendale  
Vocational Excellence

GEORGIA POULTRY  
FEDERATION

Poultry Proud, Georgia Strong Since 1951





## Midland Music Fest 2024

LIVE LOCAL FOOD  
MUSIC BREW TRUCKS

Rotary Club of Gainesville

PRESENTS THE THIRD ANNUAL

MAY 25<sup>th</sup> 2024

OUTDOORS AT THE  
Smithgall ARTS CENTER

MIDLAND MUSIC FEST May 25 GAINESVILLE, GA

SKYNFOLKS  
THE AUTHENTIC LYNYRD SKYNYRD EXPERIENCE

Street Choir  
A VAN MORRISON TRIBUTE

5:00<sup>pm</sup> Gates Open

5:30<sup>pm</sup> Music Starts

midlandmusicfest.com

QR CODE

### CHECK OUT THE MIDLAND MUSIC FEST PROMOTIONAL VIDEO!

[This video is for internal club reporting only. The Rotary Club of Gainesville claims no ownership over the copyrights in this video. This video features materials protected by the Fair Use guidelines of Section 107 of the Copyright Act. All rights reserved to the copyright owners.]

## Get Involved with Midland Music Fest!

### SPONSOR

Don't miss out on this wonderful sponsorship opportunity! Midland Music Fest would not be possible without the generosity of our sponsors each year.

Sponsor packages not only include advertising across various platforms, but also an 8-person Event Table and VIP Tickets for you and your guests. VIP Tickets include access to the VIP tent area, a catered meal, open bar (beer & wine only), and 1 event t-shirt per person.

For questions regarding sponsorship, please contact Tommy Howard.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT SPONSORSHIP](#)

### SHARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

One of the most important ways that Rotarians can participate in this event is to share on social media.

Your support in sharing Midland Music Fest on social media promotes community engagement and has a major impact on the success of this event. As Rotarians, we can showcase our dedication to service by sharing with our networks.

[LIKE, FOLLOW, SHARE ON FACEBOOK](#)

### VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are the backbone of putting on such a big event for our Rotary Club. Seeing the volunteer involvement at Midland Music Fest the last two years has been amazing!

This is such a fun event to be a part of, and we hope everyone can come together again this year to make it a huge success! All volunteers receive VIP admission!

For questions about volunteering, please contact Chris Davis or Lindsay Allison.

[SIGN-UP TO VOLUNTEER](#)

### ATTEND

The easiest way to participate in Midland Music Fest is to attend and invite your friends, family, and coworkers!

Featured artists include: SkynFolks: The Authentic Lynyrd Skynyrd Experience, Street Choir: A Van Morrison Tribute, and local band, GoodFolk. Tickets are \$30 presale and \$35 at the door.

VIP Tickets are also available for individual purchase at \$150 per person. This includes access to the VIP tent, a catered meal, open bar (beer & wine only), and 1 event t-shirt!

[PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS](#)

### LOCATION

We are so pleased to be hosting this year's event at The Arts Council's Smithgall Arts Center while the amphitheater is being completed at the Midland Greenway. With such a beautiful venue in the heart of Downtown, we know this year will be a huge sensation!

## Thank You to Our Sponsors!



## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Proceeds from the event will be directed to the Midland Music Fest Fund, administered by North Georgia Community Foundation (NGCF). The Fund will grant to this year's event beneficiaries, the Hart Joiner Endowment Fund for Children & Youth and The Rotary Club of Gainesville Centennial Project that is in collaboration with the City of Gainesville.



PREMIER SPONSORS



# Northeast Georgia Health System

EVENT SPONSORS



MIDLAND SPONSORS



IN KIND SPONSORS



## Birthdays



[David G. Haynes](#)  
April 29th

## Wedding Anniversaries



[Thomas N Shirey](#)  
April 28th



[Jennifer M Bero](#)  
May 2nd

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 382  
Gainesville, GA 30503