



Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates, Inc.  
104 Marietta St. NW, Suite 600  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
(p) 404.874.2888  
(f) 404.874.2889  
800.251.4012  
gacasa.org

**Contact:** Rachele Mosely  
Georgia CASA  
404.874.2888 or 800.251.4012  
[rmosely@gacasa.org](mailto:rmosely@gacasa.org)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Judge R. Michael Key of Troup County Juvenile Court Awarded with 2024 President's Award from Georgia CASA

*Atlanta, Georgia, August 27, 2024* – Judge R. Michael Key, Troup County Juvenile Court, has received special recognition by Georgia CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) with the 2024 President's Award. As Judge Key approaches his retirement this December, Georgia CASA was honored to celebrate his contributions with the presentation of the President's Award at the Georgia CASA Conference in Atlanta on August 24th.

When Judge Key was appointed on March 1, 1989, he transformed juvenile court in Troup County and across Georgia, first as a part-time judge for nearly three decades before becoming a full-time judge in December 2016. Judge Key is known for his tireless work ethic, early morning focus, and undivided attention. He has held leadership positions in both the Georgia Council of Juvenile Court Judges and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. His dedication over the past 35 years has earned him numerous awards, including the prestigious Georgia Supreme Court Amicus Curiae Award in 2018.

Judge Key's legacy is his relentless pursuit of excellence and high standards. Fittingly, he led Georgia's Court Improvement Initiative and pioneered projects like the Visitation/Family Time Protocol and The Promise of Permanency. His local stakeholder meetings are known for their high participation and engagement and have set a benchmark for community and court collaborative that often garner state and national attention. Judge Key was a pioneer in trauma-responsive courts and systems in Georgia that notably includes comprehensive support from education, law enforcement, and healthcare professionals.

In 1998, Judge Key started the CASA program in Troup County and has been a steadfast supporter ever since. On the Board of Trustees of the National Council, he chaired the Judicial Liaison Committee, fostering cross-jurisdictional learning and promoting the role of CASA volunteers as the sole Guardian ad Litem. He has co-led the Multi-Disciplinary Child Abuse & Neglect Institutes for the past seven years, integrating the CASA organization into essential training programs. Judge Key's unwavering belief in the mission of CASA and his advocacy for hope and support for children and parents highlight his extraordinary contributions to juvenile justice and the CASA organization.

**About Georgia CASA:** Forty-six affiliate CASA programs, serving all 159 counties in the state, have been established since Georgia CASA was founded in 1988. Each affiliate CASA program engages the community to train volunteer advocates. Volunteers are everyday citizens who offer individualized attention and best-interest advocacy for children in foster care. The CASA organization is the only model of this kind, built around one child and one compassionate, highly trained adult advocate. For more information about Georgia CASA or to find an affiliate program near you, visit <https://www.gacasa.org/>.

###