



Superior Courts

OF THE

Northeastern Judicial Circuit

JASON J. DEAL, JUDGE
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DAWSON AND HALL
COUNTIES

July 31, 2018

Chairman Pete Robinson
Judicial Nominating Commission
State of Georgia
600 Peachtree Street, NE
Suite 3000
Atlanta, GA 30308-2216
Via Hand Delivery

Dear Chairman Robinson:

For more than 20 years, I have worked in the legal field in a variety of capacities, whether in private practice, as the Dawson County Attorney, as a prosecutor, or as a judge. I have served as a Hall County Magistrate Judge and as the District Attorney, and subsequently, as a Superior Court Judge for the Northeastern Judicial Circuit. I am the presiding judge over the Hall County Drug Court and the Dawson County Drug Court. I was selected by my peers to be the first chairman of the Georgia Council of Accountability Court Judges and I have served on the Criminal Justice Reform Council.

My decision to pursue a career in the legal profession was influenced by my father, Nathan Deal. An attorney himself, he has been a role model and mentor throughout my life. I love my father and am blessed to be his son. His wisdom and guidance, as well as his name, have benefited me throughout my career as a soldier, a lawyer, a prosecutor and a judge.

Growing up, my mother always taught me that I was to be held to a higher standard because of who my father was and the positions he held as a legislator and public servant. To those to whom much is given, much is expected. It would be my honor to serve on the Georgia Supreme Court, and my experience and qualifications would equip me to do so well. However, my nomination could put the JNC at risk for allegations of political favoritism. Similar allegations would be leveled at my father if he considered me for the position. I would not put either the JNC or my father in that position.

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I believe that it is important to avoid even the appearance of impropriety or political favoritism. In order to safeguard the reputation of the JNC, my father Nathan Deal, and the Deal family name, I respectfully withdraw my name for consideration by this commission and Governor Deal for a seat on the Georgia Supreme Court. It has been my intention to withdraw my name since the day I was nominated. However, I did want the experience of going through the process of completing an application and interviewing with the JNC. I hope you will see fit to forgive this one vanity.

Finally, if I seek this position, or something simiiar, in the future, I want to be judged solely on my merit. I have been honored to be nominated to the commission and I appreciate the JNC's willingness to allow me to interview.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason J. Deal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "D".

Jason J. Deal

Judge, Superior Court

Northeastern Judicial Circuit

c: Members of Judicial Nominating Commission