

COURT REFORM COUNCIL

BUSINESS COURT SUBCOMMITTEE

Meeting #1

Thursday, July 13, 2017 at 2:30 PM

State Capitol, 206 Washington Street SW, Atlanta, Georgia

Room 107

Attorney General Chris Carr called to order the Business Court Subcommittee meeting on Thursday, July 13, 2017 at approximately 2:30 p.m. After introductions, Attorney General Carr turned the meeting over to Kade Cullefer, Georgians for Lawsuit Reform. Mr. Cullefer announced his group's interest in exploring the idea of the Business Court. His guests were as follows:

- Ray Fortin, General Counsel, SunTrust
- Rocco Testani, Partner, Eversheds-Sutherland
- Judge Gale, Chief Judge of the [North Carolina Business Court](#)

Mr. Fortin provided his professional background and expressed his interest in exploring a statewide Business Court model in Georgia. He briefly provided historical context for his interest in a Georgia model based on litigation in which he participated in the North Carolina Business Court.

When Mr. Fortin finished, Attorney General Carr called for questions and comments from the subcommittee members.

Mr. Cullefer then introduced Judge Gale to speak to the group.

Judge Gale presented on North Carolina Business Court, including logistical items, success rates and judicial selection.

When he finished Attorney General Carr called for questions and comments from the subcommittee members. Attorney General Carr asked if the North Carolina Business Court was created by statute or constitutional amendment. Attorney General Carr reminded everyone that it is our role to provide an array of options to Governor Deal, and he asked for a summary on how the different business courts are established around the country. Judge Trent Brown asked how a case ends up on the business court docket in North Carolina.

Mr. Cullefer then introduced Rocco Testani to present to the group.

Mr. Testani provided background on his professional career in business law as well as background on his experience in Fulton County Superior Court's [Metro Atlanta Business Court](#) and his opinion on exploring a statewide Business Court in Georgia. On behalf of the Georgia Chamber Judiciary Committee, Mr. Testani provided detail on his proposal for a Georgia Statewide Business Court.

Attorney General Carr called for questions and comments from the subcommittee members before opening up the discussion to the members of the public. After discussion, the subcommittee agreed that further research into potential solutions and ideas was needed. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:45 p.m.