



Donald F. Hawbaker

Commissioner District 5

Don Hawbaker is an attorney who was elected in November 2014 and began service on the Board of Commissioners on January 1, 2015. He resides in the Sun City Peachtree community of Spalding County and is married to Gayle Hawbaker, who is a fitness instructor, paralegal and passionate dog-lover.

The son of a Baptist minister, Mr. Hawbaker graduated from Glenbard East High School in Lombard, Illinois in 1973 and received a Bachelor's degree from Baylor University in Waco, Texas in 1977.

In 1979, he earned a Juris Doctor degree from Baylor Law School and was admitted to the State Bar of Texas. He practiced commercial litigation with several Texas-based law firms and frequently was appointed by state or federal courts, or by private parties, as a lawsuit-mediator.

In 1998, he was hired by the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit in Boston to serve as its Chief Circuit Mediator, attempting to resolve civil cases on appeal to the Court from four New England states and Puerto Rico. In 2007 he was employed by a sister federal appellate court, the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta with jurisdiction over appeals from federal district courts in Alabama, Florida and Georgia, as its Chief Circuit Mediator and served there until 2012. Since, Mr. Hawbaker has maintained a private law practice with emphasis in estate planning, elder law, probate and similar subjects. Additional information about his professional practice can be found [here](#).

Don Hawbaker is a member of the State Bars of Georgia and Texas. He has five children and seven grandchildren.



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