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Meet the Fulton County Judge Assigned to Trump's Criminal Case

"He handled a very difficult situation that was getting a lot of press and a lot of viewers online," said plaintiff attorneys in a suit against pr L. Lin Wood, another case on the judge's docket.

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Judges



Alex Anteau



What You Need to Know

- Fulton County Superior Court Judge Scott McAfee was assigned to the criminal case against former President Donald Trump.
- Lawyers in another high-profile suit praised the judge's handling of their case.
- Though McAfee has been on the bench for less than a year, he is a career prosecutor with an extensive criminal law background.

Fulton County (Georgia) Superior Court Judge Scott McAfee has only been on the bench since January, but before he was handed the criminal prosecution of ex-President Donald Trump, he took on yet another [high-profile case](#) that could fuel partisan passions.

McAfee did not speak to ALM about his selection, but attorneys [Drew Beal](#) and [Milinda Brown](#) of Beal Sutherland Berlin & Brown said that when litigators argue cases in his courtroom, they should be prepared and on point. McAfee tends to be very well versed in the facts of his cases and doesn't like to reread arguments that have already been made.

[Charlie Bailey](#), an attorney at Sutton Connelly who previously worked in the Fulton County District Attorney's Office with both McAfee and District Attorney Fani Willis, who is bringing the case against Trump, said: "I know him to be a nice, good person. Like Fani, he is conscientious, he's thorough and he's fair. I don't know what he's like as a judge because I haven't been in front of him, but he's got a very even-keel personality and calm demeanor."

Beal and Brown are plaintiffs' attorneys in a civil lawsuit against noted pro-Trump attorney and right-wing internet figure L. Lin Wood—another case assigned to McAfee.

According to the duo, while McAfee doesn't have rigid guidelines regarding court decorum, if attorneys go off topic, he will admonish them to get back to the point to keep arguments moving. They also noted that McAfee tends to use oral arguments as a way to make final decisions on rulings.

Regarding their own case, "[McAfee] handled a very difficult situation that was getting a lot of press and a lot of viewers online," Beal said.

McAfee has a [live video feed](#) of his courtroom what Wood's online followers would attend during his hearings and fill with disparaging comments against the plaintiffs and sometimes the judge. In addition to making sure there was a public forum where the people could still remotely view the proceedings, Brown said McAfee's team also managed routine hearings with high in-person attendance from Wood's supporters.

Beal described an instance where Wood's supporters made a "concerted effort to deluge [McAfee's staff attorney] in phone calls and harassment" which "she handled pretty effortlessly."

"McAfee and his entire team do a great job at putting order in situations like that and making sure that it doesn't detract from us as attorneys for being able to do our job," Brown said.

[Before he was](#) tapped to fill the Fulton County Superior Court vacancy left by former Chief Judge Christopher S. Brasher, McAfee was Kemp's March 2021 inspector general appointee. In that role, McAfee was responsible for investigating allegations of fraud, waste and abuse in the executive branch of state government.

Prior to the appointment, [McAfee became](#) an assistant U.S. attorney for the Department of Justice in the Northern District of Georgia, where he investigated and prosecuted drug-trafficking organizations, fraud and illegal firearms possession. He also handled hundreds of felony cases in his three-year tenure as a senior assistant district attorney at the Fulton County DA's office, where he worked under Willis.

McAfee earned his juris doctorate from the University of Georgia School of Law in 2013. While enrolled, he was vice president of the Federalist Society and the treasurer for the Law Republicans, according to [The New York Times](#). He also interned with Justices David Nahmias and Keith Blackwell of the Supreme Court of Georgia.

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