

May 26, 2026

The Honorable Brian Kemp, Governor
Office of the Governor
206 Washington Street
111 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

RE: Letter of Recommendation on Behalf of Catherine Autrell Sumner for Appointment as District Attorney of the Ogeechee Judicial Circuit

Dear Governor Kemp:

As the four elected sheriffs serving the Ogeechee Judicial Circuit of Georgia, it is our distinct privilege to write in strongest support of Catherine A. Sumner for the position of District Attorney, said appointment taking place in the wake of the tragic passing of District Attorney D. Robert Busbee.

Having observed Ms. Sumner's legal career span more than a decade in the Ogeechee Circuit, we can collectively state, with absolute confidence, that she represents the very best of the prosecutorial profession. Ms. Sumner is exceptionally skilled in the courtroom, deeply dedicated to public safety, and possesses unyielding ethical integrity. Of critical importance, Ms. Sumner is an advocate for law enforcement, and has served as an invaluable resource and partner to officers throughout our jurisdiction for nearly twelve years.

Ms. Sumner's career reflects a rare trajectory of continuous growth, leadership, and public service. Currently serving as the elected Solicitor-General for the State Court of Bulloch County (elected in 2020, re-elected without opposition in 2024), she bears the immense responsibility of managing the prosecution of misdemeanor offenses, traffic violations, and crucial civil matters for Bulloch County. Navigating an elected position requires not only masterful legal knowledge, but also a profound connection to the community and an understanding of public trust—qualities Ms. Sumner exhibits daily.

Before her election to public office, Ms. Sumner spent over six years as an Assistant District Attorney in the Ogeechee Judicial Circuit. During this time, she served as the prosecuting attorney assigned to felony cases originating from major law enforcement agencies, including the four Sheriff's Offices, Georgia State Patrol, and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI). She managed complex, high-stakes felony cases from inception to disposition—successfully navigating the intricacies of murder, sexual assault, drug trafficking, and financial crime prosecutions. This intense, hands-on experience has given Ms. Sumner a seasoned, battle-tested command of trial advocacy, rules of evidence, and criminal procedure.

What truly sets Ms. Sumner apart, however, is her unwavering commitment to seeking justice first. Her balanced perspective is rooted early in her training, having earned the prestigious

Outstanding Prosecutorial Clinician of the Year award at the University of Georgia School of Law, while also gaining invaluable insight into the justice system through internships with United States Senator Johnny Isakson, and the District Attorney's Offices for the Ogeechee and Ocmulgee Circuits.

Furthermore, Ms. Sumner understands that a prosecutor's duty to the community and the law enforcement officers she supports extends far beyond convictions. Ms. Sumner's years spent as a staff member for the Bulloch County Mental Health Court and as a board member for the Effingham County Victim-Witness Assistance Program demonstrate a deeply rooted belief in justice and supporting the victims of crime. Furthermore, Ms. Sumner's leadership is recognized widely by her peers, as evidenced by her past service as President of the Bulloch County Bar Association and her graduation from the J.W. Fanning Institute for Leadership Development. She has also been given the designation of "Forty Under Forty" by both Georgia Southern University and The Statesboro Herald.

On a personal level, Ms. Sumner is a person of exemplary character. Whether teaching Sunday school, volunteering at local missions, or raising her sons, she brings the same dedication, humility, and energy to her community as she does to the courtroom.

Ms. Sumner is an elite advocate, a proven leader, and a dedicated public servant who possesses the exact temperament, experience, and legal acumen required for District Attorney. As such, the four elected Sheriffs of the Ogeechee Judicial Circuit of Georgia are proud to recommend her to you, without reservation.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Noel Brown
Sheriff of Bulloch County, Georgia

Sheriff Jimmy McDuffie
Sheriff of Effingham County, Georgia

Sheriff Robert Oglesby
Sheriff of Jenkins County, Georgia

Sheriff Normal Royal
Sheriff of Screven County, Georgia



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