



# Court of Appeals

## Memorandum

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To: Dirk, Rob and Ida  
Staff of G. Alan Blackburn

From: Presiding Judge Blackburn *GAB*

Subject: Inauguration Celebration

Date: January 14, 2009

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In an writing in response to an e-mail I received from Vicki Bell and apparently approved by Chief Judge Miller, Judge Phipps and not objected to by Bill Martin. There are those who apparently feel it is appropriate to cheer, give standing ovations, hug people you don't really know and shed tears of joy as you come to the courtroom with your favorite campaign buttons or souvenirs.

The courts of Georgia are non-partisan, and I think such displays are inappropriate whether they are done in honor of democrats or republicans, especially since the participants and space are funded by the State of Georgia and we are in a budget crisis. As a caveat, I have no objection to this Court as a matter of course showing any president's inauguration ceremony (democrat or republican) for a limited period, i.e. 11:30 - 1:00. I don't think we are authorized to effectively take a day off and hold a celebration.

If any member of my staff wishes to attend or participate in this event, please schedule a days vacation for that day, which you are free to do.

GAB/sh  
Encl.

cc: Judges, Court of Appeals  
Jim Wooten  
Randy Evans

**From:** Vicki Bell  
**To:** Court of Appeals  
**Date:** 1/13/2009 4:38 PM  
**Subject:** Inauguration Day - Can't be in DC? Celebrate HERE!

***You are cordially invited to watch the***

***Inauguration of President-Elect Barack Obama***

***on January 20th  
in the Courtroom of the Court of Appeals!***

Wear your favorite campaign buttons!  
Show off your campaign souvenirs!  
Dress in your patriotic best!

The festivities will be piped into the courtroom beginning at **10 am**. There will be speeches, music, and more, culminating in the Oath ceremony, which begins at **11:30 am (sharp)**. Following the oath of office, President Obama will deliver his inaugural address. The inaugural poem and music will follow, ending sometime between 1 and 1:30 pm. The parade will begin around 2:00 pm (perhaps a bit later), and should end by 3:30 - 4:00 pm.

Please feel free to come and go throughout the day while you experience this historic event with your friends and colleagues. **Don't forget to bring in your lunch in time for the 11:30 - 1:00 portion of the ceremony.\*** Out of respect for the occasion and to ensure that everyone can enjoy the oath ceremony and inaugural speech, however, please silence your phones and keep conversations to a minimum during the 11:30 - 1:00 time period. (Of course, please feel free to cheer, give standing ovations, hug people you really don't know that well, and/or shed tears of joy as you feel the need.)

\* Drinks and dessert will be provided. If you would be willing to make a small contribution toward the drinks or to bring in desserts, please contact Vicki Bell at 3-3023.