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Perdue taps Kell as new Cobb judge

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MARIETTA - Gov. Sonny Perdue on Tuesday announced the appointment of Tain Kell of the Marietta law firm Brock, Clay, Calhoun and Rogers as Cobb's 10th Superior Court judge, a post the General Assembly approved last session. His appointment is effective Jan. 1. Kell is the son of the late Carlton "Corky" Kell, a beloved Wheeler High School football coach, district athletic director and namesake of Kell High School. Kell's mother is Carole Kell, a retired Hightower Trail and Dickerson Middle School principal, who was named the Cobb Chamber of Commerce East Cobb Citizen of the Year in December.

Among Kell's more famous cases is when he represented the Cobb Board of Education in front of Cobb Superior Court Judge S. Lark Ingram in 2005, arguing for then Superintendent Joe Redden's \$100.8 million laptop program. Kell squared off against former Gov. Roy Barnes, who represented former commissioner Butch Thompson in the case.

Kell lost that case when Judge Ingram ruled in favor of Thompson, and lost again when the school board appealed to the state Supreme Court, which also ruled in favor of Thompson.

A graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law, Kell spent 10 years with the state Department of Transportation as an assistant attorney general before joining Brock Clay, where he specializes in civil litigation and transportation.



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