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## < 2023 40 Under 40 Awards

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# Judge Jana J. Edmondson-Cooper

Magistrate Judge, Magistrate Court of Cobb County



Judge Brendan F. Murphy, Chief Magistrate of Cobb County, appointed Judge Jana Edmondson-Cooper to the magistrate in 2022 and nominated her to the Chronicle's 40 Under 40 in 2023.

“Her appointment, at only age 38, was yet another exceptional professional accomplishment by an exemplary career public servant and visionary leader who has shaped, and continues to shape, Georgia’s judicial landscape regarding access to justice,” he said of Edmondson-Cooper in the nomination. “She embodies integrity, character and commitment to service.”

A former legal interpreter, legal aid attorney and federal prosecutor, Judge Edmondson-Cooper has worked to alleviate language barriers, including foreign languages and sign language, in court. She also served as a subject-matter expert for the 2017 revision of the Judicial Council of Georgia's handbook for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and has educated judges on protocols related to language assistance services for people with limited English skills, or who are deaf or hard of hearing.

"Judge Edmondson-Cooper is a compassionate and fiercely effective advocate and access-to-justice leader who has carved out a niche and continues to be at the forefront of the access-to-justice battle through the strategic, well-informed creation of critical innovative approaches and policies at local, state and federal levels which ensure justice for all..." Judge Murphy said in the nomination. "She exhibits an unwavering commitment to increasing her service footprint year after year to not only the Atlanta area, but our entire state."

Prior to her appointment, Edmondson-Cooper served as a senior trial attorney at the U.S. Department of Labor Office of the Solicitor, prosecuting complex labor and employment enforcement matters. — *Tonya Layman*

### **Fave childhood sitcom**

"A Different World"

### **First news event you remember**

Desert Storm/War in Iraq. I remember beginning to see yellow ribbons being tied around trees in my neighborhood to commemorate fallen soldiers.

### **What's something that happened to you that made you first feel like an adult?**

Getting my first apartment

### **What childhood item do you still treasure?**

Several of my childhood books, which I now read to my own child

### **Hidden talent**

Crafting/arts and crafts

### **Business bucket list**

Travel internationally to discuss with/train lawyers, judges and other stakeholders on access-to-justice issues

### **Who is someone you wish you could meet and what one question would you ask them?**

Hon. Constance Baker Motley, the first Black woman to be appointed to the federal bench. Question: How did serving as a lawyer with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund shape you as a jurist and what lessons from that season in your life did you carry with you to bench?

### **Life hack**

Setting firm boundaries to facilitate work/life balance

### **Pick one: four-day workweek, unlimited vacation, free lunch or a year of paid family leave.**

Four-day workweek

### **Where do you take people to show off Atlanta?**

Atlanta University Center and Truist Park

### **If you are going out for a fancy night on the town, where do you go?**

A show at the Fox Theatre or Cobb Energy Center

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