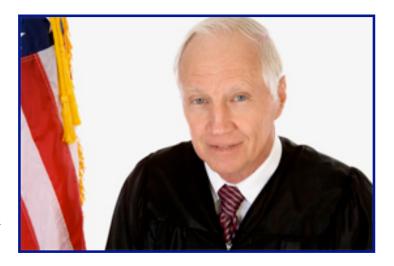# Exsys Case Study

Electronic Legal Assistant for Magistrate Court Judges

The Georgia Magistrate Court Judges Training Council,
State of Georgia Department of Information Systems and Communications,
Georgia College

The Georgia Magistrate Court Judges are composed of elected judicial representatives from each of the counties in Georgia. The representatives vary in their formal legal training, which ranges from limited experience in judicial areas to advanced degrees in jurisprudence.

The Electronic Legal Assistant, a knowledge automation system, was designed to assist magistrates in determining whether the known evidence supports the issuance of either a criminal arrest warrant or misdemeanor bad check prosecution. The purpose of the program is to help judicial performance in terms of efficiency, uniformity in judgment, and currency in knowledge of legal rulings and procedures.

The Electronic Legal Assistant consists of 25 areas that are necessary to consider in making a decision. The knowledge automation system makes use of extensive hyperlinks and varying degrees of "the reasons why", for questions and statements. The program feedback has been positive with indications of ease of use, and favorable response to the interface including hyperlinks and "what-if" options. The hyperlinks proved to be especially helpful in that they provided word definitions and references to relevant cases.

The system is being used by experienced judges to show newly elected or appointed judges issues that need to be considered. It is also being used in workshops held for the magistrate court judges, and in private offices and homes of the judges. System placement is also being considered for business owner and general public access.