



A MESSAGE FROM THE
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Avery D. Niles, Commissioner
Jim Shuler, Director
Office of Communications



DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

3408 Covington Highway • Decatur, Georgia • 30032-1513
Telephone: (404) 508-7147 • Fax: (404) 508-7341

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CONTACT:
Jim Shuler, Director
DJJ Communications
(404) 508-7238
JimShuler@djj.state.ga.us

**COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCES JAMES VALBRUN APPOINTED
NEW DJJ BOARD MEMBER**

(ATLANTA - GA) The Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice is pleased to announce the appointment of a newly named DJJ Board member by Governor Nathan Deal. Commissioner Avery D. Niles announced the appointment of Lithia Springs resident James Valbrun to the state Board of Juvenile Justice.

Mr. Valbrun is the founding attorney of the Valbrun Law Group, LLC. Prior to starting his own Atlanta law firm, Valbrun practiced with Wotorson, Thompson & Valbrun from 2009 to 2013. He was an associate at Nelson Mullins from 2006 to 2008.

“We welcome Mr. Valbrun to the Juvenile Justice Team as a new Board partner,” said DJJ Commissioner Avery D. Niles. “We hope to benefit from the fresh perspective he brings to the task of helping Georgia’s juvenile offenders to eventually re-enter their hometowns and communities as proud and productive citizens.”

As DJJ’s newest Board Member, Attorney Valbrun is one of 15 members appointed by the Governor to serve in an advisory capacity to the Department of Juvenile Justice, each providing leadership and guidance to its Commissioner. The Board is composed of one member for each of its Congressional Districts in the state to help improve Georgia’s juvenile justice system.

Professionally, Valbrun has been honored as a Georgia Super Lawyers Rising Star. He has found recognition in Atlanta’s Business Who’s Who, as well as Who’s Who in Black Atlanta. The solo practitioner earned his Bachelor’s Degree from the University of Michigan and he holds a Law Degree from Georgetown University. He and his wife, Tanika, have one son. They reside in Lithia Springs.

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Commissioner Niles expressed the appreciation of the juvenile justice agency and sitting Board members for the Governor's latest appointment to the DJJ Board. "We admire the professionalism this new Board Member brings to our mission," said Commissioner Niles. "We will value his viewpoint as we provide continued access to education and effective programs as the foundation for the rehabilitation and reentry of Georgia's juvenile offenders as productive citizens."

(END RELEASE)