

# Conservative attorney's book offers different ideas

## Swindle gives insight on the judicial system

**BY DONNY KARR**  
THE TIMES-GEORGIAN

A book released by a Carrollton defense attorney was listed as the number one bestseller on Amazon.com's list of Trial Practice books in its first two weeks of publication.

Jason Swindle, a criminal defense attorney in Carrollton, said his book, "The Verdict Is In: Fix the Criminal Justice System," offers a unique look into the changes being discussed in the political arena regarding Georgia's judicial system.

"About 90 percent of criminal defense attorneys consider themselves to be very liberal," said Swindle. "I'm a conservative and the topics I wrote about in the book are things that are not usually discussed by conservative lawyers and lawmakers. It's a very right-wing, conservative look at our judicial system, but it's also

a common sense look at what needs to be done to fix it."

Swindle, who has handled more than 5,000 legal cases as a defense attorney, said he noticed thousands of cases in which current laws are not effective in dealing with offenders.

"Our state has traditionally been very tough on drug offenders, but these offenders are constantly in and out of the correctional system," said Swindle. "In the book, I talk about taking a new approach to these offenders who are accused of non-violent offenses."

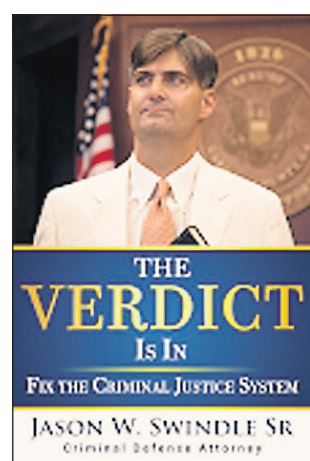
His views on non-violent drug offenders are consistent with views held by many left-wing politicians and legal experts. Swindle notes that the sentiment toward marijuana use is leading to legalization efforts across the country that could play a

significant role in improving the judicial system.

"If you look at the states who have legalized marijuana, they are taxing the sales of it and now they are starting to bring in quite a bit of money that the state can use," said Swindle. "I'm not saying we need to legalize marijuana in Georgia, but we do need to rethink the laws related to it."

Swindle suggests rewriting laws in order to lessen the harshness for those who are arrested for using or possessing small amounts of marijuana. He believes the penalty should be more similar to receiving a traffic citation.

"In the cases I have dealt with related to marijuana, it has not led anyone to act violently," said Swindle. "In the cases I've handled related to alcohol, it's much different. Alcohol been involved in many violent incidents."



He also discusses in his book the issues surrounding capital punishment and calls for laws to be adjusted so that it saves the state time and money. Swindle says that, under current law, those sentenced to the death penalty are being held too long before execution.

"In general, I'm for the death penalty," said Swindle. "As of right now, it costs us way too much money to enforce and it takes too long. I'm calling for lawmakers to completely do away with the

death penalty as it is written and rewrite it so that it makes sense."

Swindle says the book has been a project that has spanned nearly a decade in writing and getting published. He said that he interviewed Gov. Nathan Deal years ago and spoke about many of the topics discussed in the book.

He said the book is one that can be read in just a few hours.

"It's less than 100 pages long, so anyone can read it, or skim over it in a very short time,"

said Swindle. "The basic premise of the book is to help our government save money," said Swindle. "There's so much money being wasted on enforcing drug laws and other legal issues that have been on the books for years. Georgia is a conservative state, and for a long time, we've seen politicians run on the idea of being tough on crime. I'm saying that it's time for us to start being smart on crime."

The book is available for purchase on Amazon.com in paperback or Kindle.

## SCHOOLS

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

determines the amount of funding each school receives.

"This is a major shift from the method used in the Quality Basic Education formula," said Dr. Kent Edwards, superintendent of Carrollton City Schools. "Instead of funding full-time equivalents based on instructional segments, the proposed formula will use student enrollment counts as a way of funding purpose. It really then comes down to giving a great deal of local control and flexibility with money to meet the needs of your students in your system."

Edwards was appointed to the education reform commission's 10-person funding subcommittee by Deal earlier this year. He said the proposal before the funding committee is the development of a student-based funding formula that consists of three components,

student-based funding, student characteristics and categorical grants.

"It's a completed process," said Edwards. "One of the major concerns among superintendents and boards of education is that the austerity cuts had created a system that was underfunding schools in the state of Georgia. The education reform commission's funding formula subcommittee brought forth a recommendation today that \$267 million be added across the state of Georgia."

If the new formula is adopted, Carrollton City Schools would receive an extra \$900,000 per year.

Carroll County Schools, a much larger system than Carrollton, would take in nearly \$2 million in extra funds. The subcommittee's recommendation has to

be approved by the entire funding commission before it will go through the governor's office and then on to the general assembly.

"Recommendation will go before the entire Reform Commission on Nov. 19," said Edwards.

"If approved, the recommendations will go to Gov. Deal who will decide to change it if he sees fit, then send it to the General Assembly."

"This will help us provide opportunities for schools to meet the needs of their students," said Edwards. "It will help give more funding for early education. It's something that will benefit education and elevate our ability to have a higher quality education. This is going to be exciting if it keeps going down the predicted path in which the General Assembly will support it entirely."

**"It really then comes down to giving a great deal of local control and flexibility with money to meet the needs of your students in your system."**

— Dr. Kent Edwards  
superintendent,  
Carrollton City Schools

### Carrollton Club

Independent Living At It's Best -

## Independent Living... With Services

### Amenities:

- A full-course meal each day in our Dining Room (or delivered to your apartment)
- Housekeeping
- Personal handyman services
- Transportation
- Beauty shop, library & internet

Carrollton Club Congregate Community offers each resident an affordable, suitable-sized private apartment equipped with individually-controlled heating and air conditioning, kitchen with full-size appliances, big windows to let in lots of light, and a private patio so you can enjoy our beautiful landscaping.

Designed for seniors (age 62 or older) or disabled adults (of any age), Carrollton Club Congregate Community provides the privacy, comfort, convenience, and social opportunities needed for dignified independent lifestyle.

Furnish your apartment with your own personal furniture and decorations, making it truly home. Each apartment has two entrances, lots of storage and some units have washer and dryer hook-ups.

Mon-Fri. 9am-4pm Weekend Tours by Appointment  
For more information, including photos and floor plans:  
[www.CarrolltonClub.com](http://www.CarrolltonClub.com)  
**770.830.6610**

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

### WEST GEORGIA'S FAMILY CONCERT VENUE

1031 ALABAMA AVENUE, BREMEN, GA 770.537.6455 [WWW.MILLTOWNMUSICHALL.COM](http://WWW.MILLTOWNMUSICHALL.COM)

## WHERE THE STARS SHINE BRIGHT ON A GEORGIA NIGHT

### WET WILLIE

SATURDAY,  
NOVEMBER 21  
TIME: 8:00 PM  
TICKETS:  
\$25/\$30

### MARK LOWRY, THE MARTINS, & STAN WHITMIRE

FRIDAY,  
DECEMBER 11  
TIME: 7:30 PM  
TICKETS:  
\$30/\$35

## Putting the unity in COMMUNITY BANK

We've helped customers PURSUE THEIR H★PPIN≈SS for over 60 years, and we don't plan on breaking that streak anytime soon. Chat with us today. We'd love to help in YOUR PURSUIT too.

820 Dixie Street, Carrollton, GA 30117 | 800.763.4444

[WWW.CHARTERBANK.NET](http://WWW.CHARTERBANK.NET)

Member FDIC

THANK YOU TO OUR GREAT SPONSORS!