

GeorgiaWatch

Protecting Consumers, Promoting Transparency, Empowering C

The Watcher: The newsletter of Georgia Watch, state's leading consumer watchdog

A decade of representing your voice

For the past ten years, Georgia Watch has served as the state's leading consumer advocacy organization. The special interests in our state are well funded and wield significant influence among the state's decision makers. We work hard so that hardworking Georgians have a voice on matters that impact their wallets and quality of life.

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Georgia Watch focuses mainly on issues such as health care, access to civil justice, energy and utility concerns, identity theft, and foreclosure. Our membership is more than 2000 strong, and many take an active role in our efforts to protect consumers.

[Read more about our 10 years of accomplishments here.](#)

Update on 2012 legislative session

The overall legislative dynamic in 2012, as in recent years, has been challenging for advocates of pro-consumer policy and ethics reform, but it is more important than ever that our voice be heard over the din of special interests. Our work is cut out for us as we counter the abuses of a legislative system that is influenced by special interests that make it difficult to get traction on bills that would benefit Georgia consumers. Thanks to Georgia Watch supporters, we continue to represent the voice of average Georgians at the capitol – something we could not do without your help.

Through the media and grassroots outreach, we work hard to shine a light on the important issues and also to prevent bad bills from being passed in the dark. We stand up for Georgia's consumers,

Quick Links

[Georgia Watch online](#)
[Georgia Hospital Account Project](#)
[Donate Now](#)

Clark Howard says support Georgia Watch!



For
pa
ye
Ge
Wi
re
yo
int
no
int

We're here to ensure Georgians get a fair shot aren't taken advantage keep doing this work next ten years and be need your support.

As Georgia Watch board member Clark Howard Georgia Watch is "the bona fide group in Ge

advocating for stronger ethics reforms, cleaner energy, infection reporting at hospitals, and restored funding for the Consumer's Utility Counsel (CUC).

Here is an update on some of the bills we're following:

Georgia Watch welcomes new staff

Karla Johnson, Outreach Coordinator

kjohnson@georgiawatch.org

Karla joined Georgia Watch as grassroots coordinator in January 2012. Karla is a true native of Georgia, having lived in Atlanta her entire life. The daughter of a truck driver, Karla knows the importance of hard work and perseverance. She also understands non-profits have been the catalyst for civic participation and the voice of the people. Karla received her Bachelor of Arts from Clayton State University, where she studied communication and media studies.



Karla worked for the State of Georgia for ten years, first at the State Board of Workers Compensation and then at the state capitol. Whether tasked with the job of signing-up students to serve as a page at the capitol or aiding in the passage of a bill or resolution, Karla has a solid understanding of the practices and policies under the Gold Dome. She has worked through the years with many legislators and advocacy groups and brings a wealth of on-the-ground experience and relevant expertise to her role as grassroots coordinator. Within her role, Karla works hard to engage everyday people in matters that impact their lives by speaking at community outreach events. Karla is also a member of Leadership Georgia, class of 2012.

Liz Coyle, Communications Director

lcoyle@georgiawatch.org

Liz joined the team at Georgia Watch in February 2012, as communications director. She brings to her position more than 25 years of experience as a communications professional. Since 1984, she has consulted with a broad spectrum of organizations including multi-national consumer products companies, public utilities, non-profit associations, and local governments.



A champion of community causes, Liz has served in numerous volunteer roles as a neighborhood leader and advocate for children. Currently, Liz is chairman of the Historic Fourth Ward Park Conservancy board. She is a founding member and chair of the BeltLine Network, an alliance of organizations all working to ensure the Atlanta BeltLine lives up to its vision to connect Atlanta and its citizens through transit, trails, parks and economic development.

looking out for consumer
a donation to Georgia
"double the bang for y
buck, because you're
great organization tha

Matthew Massey, Court Watch Fellow

Matthew is Georgia Watch's Court Watch Fellow. He is a third-year law student at Emory University, where he is a managing editor of the Emory Law Journal. Matthew has worked in a variety of public sector capacities, including as a legal intern with the U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission in Atlanta and as a law clerk with the Bureau of Consumer Protection at the U.S. Federal Trade Commission's headquarters in Washington, D.C. Matthew also served as the Criminal Justice Student Leader for the Emory Legislative Policy Group, which successfully worked with members of the Georgia State Senate to pass legislation supporting statewide mental health courts. Matthew graduated from the University of Virginia in 2009 with B.A. degrees in Economics and Psychology.



working for you *and* y
savings back on your
tax."

*Every donation coun
fully tax deductible.
today!*

At Georgia Watch, Matthew will be reporting on cases that impact consumers and businesses throughout Georgia. His reviews will be available in Georgia Watch newsletters and in a comprehensive report at the end of the year.

Please visit our website at www.GeorgiaWatch.org and www.GaHAP.org