

# DA DISPATCH

FANI T. WILLIS, District Attorney



Judson Whitlocke Lyons, Georgia's First Black Attorney.

## FCDA Office Commemorates Black History Month

The Nine Black Female District Attorneys Serving in Georgia pg. 9



**Patsy Austin-Gatson**  
Gwinnett County District Attorney



**Sherry Boston**  
DeKalb County District Attorney



**Anita Howard**  
Macon County District Attorney



**Alisha Johnson**  
Rockdale County District Attorney



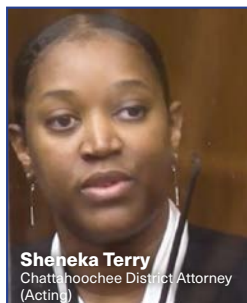
**Shalena Cook Jones**  
Chatham County District Attorney



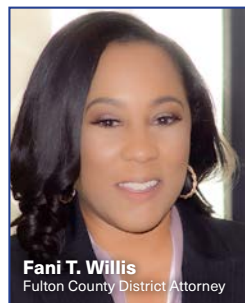
**Tasha Mosley**  
Clayton County District Attorney



**Dalia Racine**  
Douglas County District Attorney



**Sheneka Terry**  
Chattahoochee District Attorney  
(Acting)



**Fani T. Willis**  
Fulton County District Attorney

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 OFFICE OF THE  
FULTON COUNTY  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

# Content

## Editor-In-Chief

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Jeremy Murray

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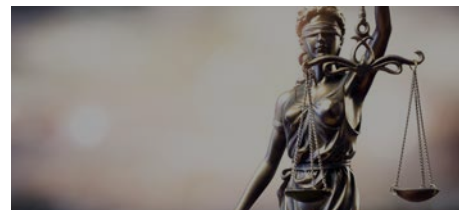
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# Important Dates and Special Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
FEB 2022	31	1	2	3 Wellness - Trinidad Toby 	4	5 Implicit Bias Training
6	7	8 FCDA  Valentine's Day Party Wellness - Trinidad Toby 	9 Investigator Training - BOC Assembly Hall	10 Attorney Training Wellness - Trinidad Toby 	11 \$\$ Fulton County PayDay	12
13	14  Valentine's Day	15 Wellness - Trinidad Toby 	16	17 Wellness - Trinidad Toby 	18	19
20	21  President's Day	22 Wellness - Trinidad Toby 	23	24 Leadership Meeting Wellness - Trinidad Toby 	25 \$\$ Fulton County PayDay	26
27	28 Evaluations Due	1	2	3	4	5

## MANDATORY IMPLICIT BIAS TRAINING

February 5, 2022 | 9am-5pm

**EXPECTED TO BE IN ATTENDANCE:**

Lawyers  
Investigators  
VWAP  
Community Resource Specialists  
Adult Diversion Director  
Diversion Operations Manager



# Welcome **New Hires**

We extend a warm welcome and lots of great wishes for becoming part of our growing family. Your remarkable skills and talents will be a great addition to our office.



**KAVON ARNOLD**  
Social Media /Brand Manager  
- Graphics Unit



**JORDAN BARRY**  
Evidence Telecommunications Technician



**BILLY CARTWRIGHT**  
Investigator - Case Intake Division



**NELDIA FERRIA**  
WWAP - Trial Division

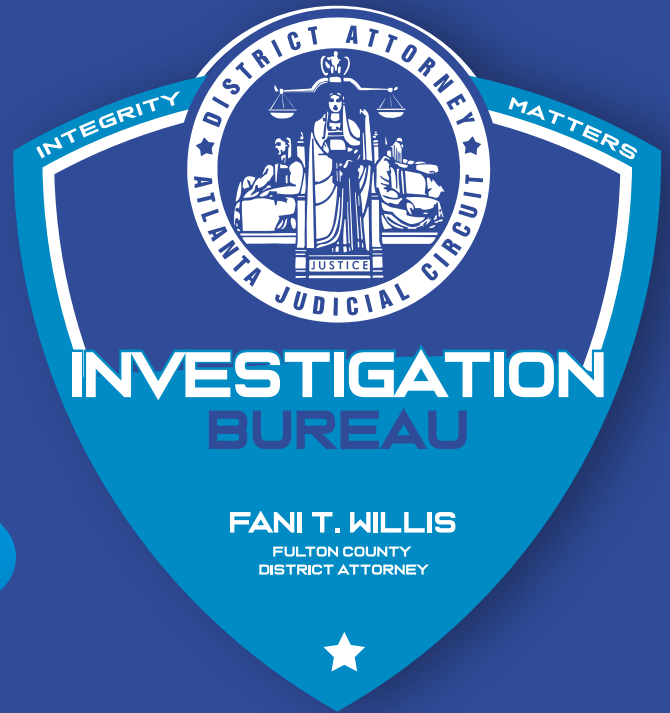


**HAVEN HARTSFIELD**  
Evidence Telecommunications Technician



**JAYSON THOMAS**  
Sr. Investigator - Major Case Unit

# 10-Week Investigator Training



## Objective

Prepare all FCDAO Investigators with the knowledge, skills and understanding of pertinent forms, documents, process, procedure and legal standard to accomplish the mission.

## Mission

Committed to the protection of life and property, through excellence in the fields of prevention, enforcement and apprehension.

Guided by the principles of integrity, professionalism, cooperation and concern for human dignity.

## Week 5:

February 9, 2022  
Flying While Armed

**Time: TBA**

Place: TBA

## Contact

Michael Green  
Deputy Chief of Investigations  
404.613.2400  
michael.green@fultoncountyga.gov

## Week 6:

Jail Process  
March 9, 2022

## Week 7:

Evidence /  
Electronic Evidence  
March 23, 2022

## Week 8:

Technical Investigations  
March 30, 2022

## Week 9:

Firearms Training  
April 6, 2022

## Week 10:

Health and Wellness  
April 27, 2022

# Atlanta's First **EIGHT**

IN 1948, THESE OFFICERS BROUGHT COMMUNITY POLICING TO ATLANTA AND PUSHED BACK AT JIM CROW.



## **Atlanta's First Black Police Officers:**

Claude Dixon, Henry Hooks, Johnnie Jones, Ernest Lyons, Robert McKibbens, John Sanders, Willard Strickland and Willie Elkins.

As early as the 1930s, Black community leaders were asking for Black officers. Not only would such officers break a racial barrier, leaders argued, but their understanding of the Black community would allow them to police these neighborhoods better than white officers.

In 1948, Atlanta Mayor William Hartsfield and Police Chief Herbert Jenkins, both white, stood before the city's first Black officers as they prepared for duty. The officers ranged in age from 21 to 32. All but one were World War II veterans. Hartsfield gave a rallying speech, warning that though 95 percent of the white officers didn't want them, they were here to do what Jackie Robinson had done for baseball the year before.

When the officers stepped outside, they were greeted by a crowd of 400. An elderly woman handed them flowers. They split into pairs and began walking their beats, with many in the crowd following them in an impromptu parade down Auburn Avenue.

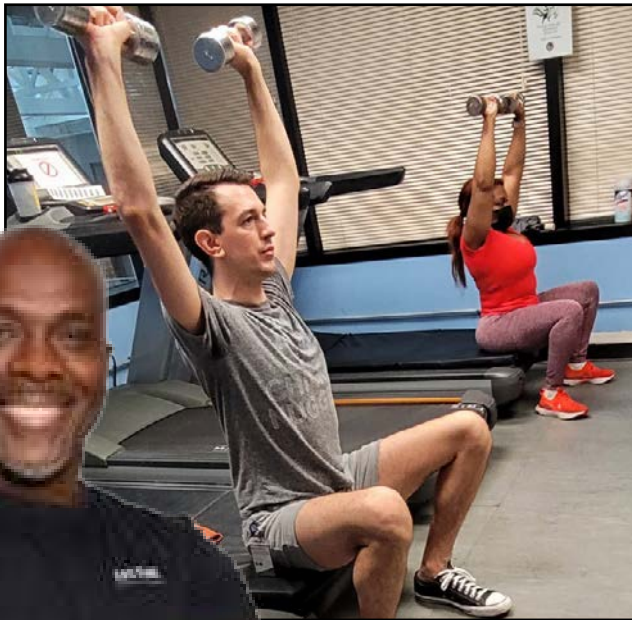
Despite Hartsfield's comparison to Jackie Robinson, the Atlanta Police Department wasn't being integrated. A YMCA basement served as the precinct for the Black officers because they weren't allowed to use police headquarters. They also were not permitted to drive squad cars, patrol white neighborhoods, or wear their uniforms to or from work, and they absolutely could not arrest white people.



**TRINIDAD TOBY**  
TRAIN. TEACH. TRANSFORM.

FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

# Continuing Wellness Series



**Afternoon**  
**Class Added!!!**  
**3:30 - 4:30pm**

Classes conclude  
Thursday, March 10th.

Your time at class is considered part  
of working hours.

Limited slots available.  
Please sign up today.

You are encouraged to bring  
a mat and 5lb weights.

Government Center 4th Floor  
141 Pryor Street | Atlanta, GA

**Upstairs at Fitness Center**

**FEBRUARY 3, 8, 10 & 22**

Every Tuesday and Thursday in February

**First Class:\***

7:45 am - 8:45 am

**Second Class:\***

8:45 am - 9:45 am

**Third Class:\***

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

\*Must Show Up on Time

# Georgia's **FIRST**



**Judson Whitlocke Lyons**  
Georgia's First Black Attorney

Lyons attended the Augusta Institute, which later became Morehouse College. He graduated from the Howard University School of Law in 1884. After graduating, Lyons was admitted to the Georgia Bar, becoming the first African American licensed to practice law in the state.



**Austin "A.T." Walden**  
Georgia's First Black Judge

Before serving as judge, he had a trailblazing legal career that had an incalculable impact in elevating the rights of African Americans in Georgia. He led a six-year battle to win pay equity for Georgia's black teachers in the 1940s and fought to allow African Americans to vote in party primaries. He was the lead attorney in litigation to force the desegregation of Atlanta's city buses and public schools.



**Chief Justice Robert Benham**  
Georgia's First Black Judge to serve on the Supreme Court of Georgia.

Appointed by Governor Joe Frank Harris in 1989, Robert Benham is the first African American to serve on the Supreme Court of Georgia. The following year, he was elected to the court, where he served for more than 30 years. He also was the first African American to serve as Chief Justice from 1995 until 2001 before he retired from the court in March 2020.

The great-grandson of enslaved African Americans, Benham was born in 1946 in Cartersville, Georgia, where he graduated from Summer Hill High School in 1963 before attending Tuskegee University in Alabama, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science in 1967.

In 1970, Benham became the second African American to graduate from the University of Georgia's School of Law. He became a captain in the U.S. Army Reserve, went on to earn a Master of Laws in 1989 from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia, and attended Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

He began his legal career as a trial attorney for the Atlanta Legal Aid Society and became the first African American to establish a law practice in Bartow County and the county seat in Cartersville.

Benham's participation in numerous professional organizations include serving as vice president of the Georgia Conference of Black Lawyers, board member with the Federal Lawyers Association and the Georgia Association of Trial Lawyers, and chairman of the Governor's Commission on Drug Awareness and Prevention.



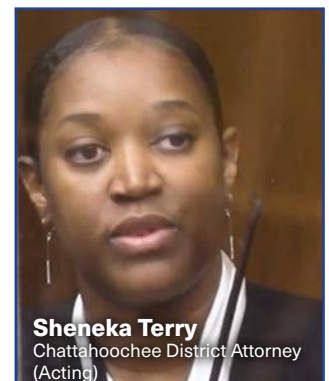
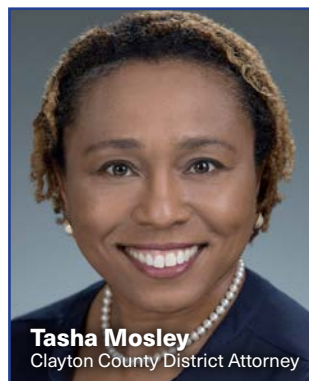
# The Nine Black Female District Attorneys Serving in Georgia



For the first time in 232 years, there are nine black women who are the lead prosecutors in some of Georgia's largest counties. Fulton, Gwinnett, DeKalb, Macon, Rockdale, Chatham, Clayton, Douglas and Chattahoochee all have black women as district attorneys. There are 50 elected prosecutors for the state of Georgia.

These women worked hard and earned their positions like all of the prosecutors who came before them. The fact they were not prohibited based on their gender or their race shows some progress. Let us all take a moment to appreciate that.

Less than 2% of elected district attorneys in the United States are African American.



# Who started valentine's day?

Valentine's Day can be bittersweet. Each year, red balloons, boxes of candy, teddy bears, cards, flowers, etc. besiege stores and television screens. Love it or hate it, February 14 happens. As commercialized as Valentine's Day has become, it has a history steeped in ancient Rome and Victorian England - far removed from today's glorified romance. The story of its patron saint - St. Valentine - is hard to trace. According to History.com, the Catholic church has records of at least three martyrs named Valentine or Valentinus.

One of them, a priest in third century Rome, defied Emperor Claudius II who had outlawed marriage for young men because he decided that single men were better soldiers when they were unencumbered by wives and families. Claudius had Valentine killed when he found out Valentine had been performing marriage ceremonies for lovers in secret. Another Valentine was martyred for supposedly helping Christians escape from prison.

Another one is said to have sent the first "Valentine" letter from prison, allegedly to the jailor's daughter. Legend has it, he signed the note, "from your Valentine." Whichever saint the day memorializes, there's little doubt that he was a nice and

courageous guy, and most importantly, very much pro-love. Valentine can be a masculine or feminine name, or a surname derived from the Roman family Valentinus, stemming from the Latin word "Valens," which means "strong, vigorous and healthy." Valentine can also be considered an English translation or adaptation of the names Valentinus or Valentinian.

It is said that we may have begun celebrating Valentine's Day in February to detract from a Pagan festival that occurred around the same time; that was Lupercalia, a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, and to Romulus and Remus, the founders of Rome. According to Encyclopedia Britannica, during the festival, Roman priests visited the cave where Romulus and Remus were said to have been raised by a she-wolf in order to sacrifice a goat for fertility and a dog for purification. The priests dipped a hide in the blood and went around town smacking women and crop fields with the hide to encourage fertility.

As part of the celebration, women placed strips of paper written with their names in a giant urn and each eligible bachelor drew out a name; each couple would partner up for the year. Many of those matches ended up married. At the end of

the fifth century, the pope declared the holiday un-Christian and replaced it with St. Valentine's Day.

While people did share Valentine's Day greetings with one another as early as the Middle Ages, written notes weren't as popular. The oldest known valentine is a poem written in 1415 by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London after his capture in battle. The poem can be viewed at the British Library in London. Exchanging cards didn't become widely popular until the 18th century. In the 1900s, improvements in printing technology and affordable postage made exchanging cards easier.

In 1840, Esther A. Howland, known as the "Mother of the Valentine," switched things up when she began selling the first mass-produced cards in the United States; she created elaborate pieces of art that had lace, ribbons and colorful pictures. According to the Greeting Card Association, an estimated 145 million Valentine's Day cards are exchanged each year, not counting those children pass out in the classroom. Besides the United States, Valentine's Day is celebrated elsewhere in the world, such as Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, Australia and France.



# Horace T. Ward

FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN TO SERVE ON THE FEDERAL BENCH IN GEORGIA

The first African American to serve on the federal bench in Georgia, Horace T. Ward was the first African American to apply for admission to the University of Georgia's School of Law. While the school rejected Ward's application and a federal court upheld the decision, his challenge to the University of Georgia's segregationist policies began a legal process that eventually ended the school's 175-year history of segregation.

Born in LaGrange on July 29, 1927, Ward was the only child of Minnie Ward, who worked as a domestic. He never knew his father. Because his mother lived with the white people for whom she worked, Ward stayed with his maternal grandparents until he began school at age nine. Despite the late start, he was a bright and eager pupil. After finishing the fourth grade, he was allowed to skip the fifth grade and go directly to sixth grade. He graduated valedictorian of East Depot Street High School in 1946.

He earned a bachelor's degree at Morehouse College and a master's degree at Atlanta University (now Clark Atlanta University), where he was influenced by William Madison Boyd, chair of the political science department and president of the Georgia branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Boyd had been searching for someone to break the color barrier at the University of Georgia, and he believed that Ward had the credentials to do it.

Ward had been interested in studying law since learning about A. T. Walden, one of the few Black lawyers in Georgia at the time. But Ward had no interest in attending an out-of-state school. He knew that the state's premier law school, located in Athens, did not admit Black students, so he agreed to apply. Ward went on to enroll in law school at Northwestern in Evanston, Illinois, in the fall of 1956. After law school, Ward returned to Georgia and assisted in renewed efforts to desegregate the University of Georgia. On January 6, 1961, U.S. District Judge William A. Bootle ordered the school to admit two Black students, Hamilton E. Holmes and Charlayne A. Hunter.





**Dr. Carter G. Woodson**  
Father of Black History

# THE ORIGINS OF **BLACK** HISTORY MONTH



The origins of Black History Month, which is observed in February, can be traced back to 1915 when Harvard-trained historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson co-founded an organization called the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. Known as the "Father of Black History," Woodson studied African American history, wrote books and published journals.

Woodson knew the importance of preserving one's heritage and, upon his urging, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity created Negro History and Literature Week in 1920. In 1926, the name was changed to Negro History Week. February was selected for the month of celebration as a way to honor the birth of two men whose actions drastically altered the future of black Americans, Abraham Lincoln (February 12) and Frederick Douglass (February 14), two men with prominent roles in eliminating slavery.

Woodson also founded the Journal of Negro History, which was established in 1916. In 2002, the journal was renamed the Journal of African-American History, which is published today. Most of Woodson's academic career was spent at Howard University, where he eventually served as the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Although Woodson died in 1950, his legacy continued as the celebration of Negro History Week was accepted nationwide by cities and organizations. Decades later, mayors across the country issued yearly proclamations. The Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s brought about a growing awareness and Negro History Week evolved into Black History Month on many college campuses. President Gerald R. Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

Although Black History Month originated in the United States, it has also received official recognition from governments in Canada, the United Kingdom, and Ireland.



# George Napper

## Atlanta's First Black Police Chief



Atlanta's first African American police chief, George Napper Jr. created a White Collar Crime Unit and Special Investigations Section. He served as police chief from 1978 until 1982, when he was named Atlanta's Director of Public Safety. He also was the first head of Georgia's Department of Children and Youth Services and co-founded the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (N.O.B.L.E).



Napper served in the U.S. Marine Corps and graduated with a Doctorate in Criminology from the University of California-Berkeley. It was said that Napper believed strongly in love, family, community and doing the right thing. He wasn't concerned about being popular or winning accolades and awards. Napper died on October 2, 2020, in Atlanta.



# Investing in Our Youth

## The DA's Office Encouraging the Youth at Promise Center

The Fulton County District Attorney's Office takes every opportunity to reach out to our youth. In collaboration with Promise Center, the Office provided a platform for young people to engage with law professionals in an event aimed at fostering a renewed sense of purpose and value. The positive impact was felt by all the volunteers.



*From Left to Right: January Towles, Community Resource Specialist; Sammy John, Investigator; Travis Thomas, Assistant District Attorney; Bryan Brinson, Dependency & Diversion Coordinator; Aakeem Woodard, Executive Assistant - Juvenile; Keehlan Haygood, Deputy Legal Assistant - Records; Dashawn Raymond, Investigator; Donald Moore, Executive Assistant To Justice Liason / Chief / Deputy Chief's*

# Roll Call with Atlanta Police Department

On Thursday, January 27, 2022, Madam DA, Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens, and Kenneth Hutcherson, Executive Deputy District Attorney – Case Intake Division, met with Atlanta Police Department officers at the Zone 4 Precinct to discuss how to build a safer Atlanta together.



# Mclver v. State

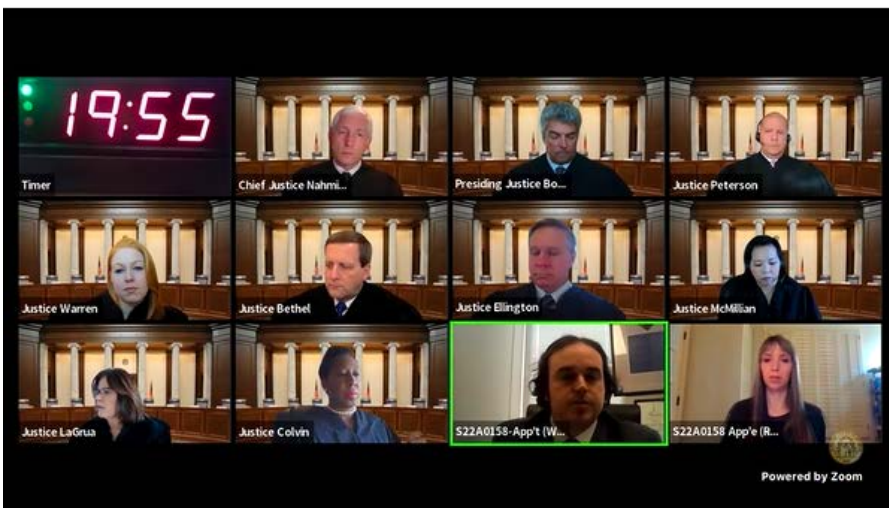
## (S22A0093) oral argument summary

On January 19, 2022, the Georgia Supreme Court heard oral argument in the case of Claud "Tex" Mclver in his appeal of his 2018 convictions for felony murder and other crimes arising out of the shooting death of his wife, Landa Diane Mclver.

On the night of September 25, 2016, Mclver and his wife were being driven to their Buckhead home in his white Ford Expedition by a friend when Mclver, unprovoked, fatally shot his wife in the back. At the time of the shooting, the vehicle was stopped at a traffic light on Piedmont Avenue at 14th Street and Mclver was sitting in the back seat holding a gun in a plastic bag. At trial, the State presented evidence that Mclver murdered his wife for her money, while Mclver's attorney argued that the shooting was accidental or inadvertent.

Attorney Don Samuel argued on behalf of Mclver that the trial court erred in failing to provide his requested jury charge on misdemeanor involuntary manslaughter (unintentionally causing death by a lawful act in an unlawful manner). Mr. Samuel argued that Mclver's actions in holding the gun in his lap while falling asleep constituted evidence of criminal negligence which required the trial court to provide the requested charge. Mr. Samuel argued that the failure to provide the requested charge on misdemeanor involuntary manslaughter entitles Mclver to a new trial.

ADA Ruth Pawlak argued on behalf of the State that the trial court correctly determined that the requested jury charge on misdemeanor involuntary manslaughter was not supported by the



evidence in this case because Mclver's conduct amounted to reckless conduct rather than a lawful act performed in an unlawful manner. Ms. Pawlak also argued that the trial court properly admitted evidence about racially related statements made by Mclver and the driving directions to Emory hospital provided by Mclver because they were relevant to show his motive, intent, and state of mind. Although Ms. Pawlak agreed that a slide shown during the State's rebuttal closing argument improperly contained a reference to a matter which had not been part of the evidence, Ms. Pawlak argued that there was no reasonable probability that the result of the trial would have been different but for that single improper reference in the context of the closing argument and the entire trial.



# Lawyer Spotlight



**Jayne Easton**  
Assistant District Attorney

Jayne Easton joined the appellate unit at the Fulton County District Attorney's Office after practicing as a solicitor in Gwinnett County. Recently, she argued in her first motion for new trial proceeding in the case of Dontaye Hudson (16SC142249). She was so successful that Judge Krause denied the motion for new trial from the bench. We are very proud of her and her success in handling her first motion for new trial and first proceeding with our office. She is certainly an up-and-coming appellate star!



**Julianna Sleeper**  
Senior Assistant  
District Attorney

Julianna Sleeper joined the appellate unit of the Fulton County District Attorney's Office two years ago after an 18-month stint in trial division. A brilliant legal writer and orator, Julianna is a tremendous asset. She works amazingly hard and is extremely devoted to our office and her cases. She is eager to take on projects and never complains despite a heavy schedule. Recently, she offered at the last moment to put together a presentation on "Collier Motions, the Motion for Out-of-time Appeal" at the statewide PAC Appellate Training Seminar. Afterward, PAC's director texted Deputy DA Lyndsey Rudder to compliment Julianna's wonderful job and how impressed he was with her presentation and worth ethic. DA Rudder has a copy of the PowerPoint for those interested in learning more about the presentation, which demonstrates Julianna's great work.

# Atlanta's Desegregated **Police Force**



**April 1948:** the basement of the Butler Street YMCA becomes a precinct for the city's first black officers - Claude Dixon, Henry Hooks, Johnnie P. Jones, Ernest H. Lyons, Robert McKibbens, John Sanders, Willard Strickland and Willie Y. Elkins. Their law enforcement powers were limited. They were prohibited from driving squad cars, patrolling white neighborhoods, arresting white people without a white officer present, or working at the main police precinct. By 1949, they had two patrol cars.

**March 6, 1950:** six female African American traffic police officers are hired.

**1952:** Howard Baugh Sr. joins the police force and becomes the first black officer to make detective. He subsequently becomes the first African American promoted to sergeant, to lieutenant and to captain. He ultimately becomes the first black assistant chief.

**1961:** Officer Claude Everette Mundy is murdered in the line of duty.

**1962:** African American officers are given the right to arrest white people.

**1969:** First integrated class where black and white officers start working together.

**1971:** Linnie Hallmon becomes the first female African American to join the police department.

**1978:** George Napper Jr. is appointed as the first African American police chief in Atlanta Police Department, where he creates a White Collar Crime Unit and the Special Investigations Section. He also becomes the first head of Georgia's Department of Children and Youth Services and a co-founder of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE).



**FEB**  
**8**  
2:30pm

**All we need is**

**Love**

**...And A Party!**

**FulCo Lab @ 141 Pryor Street**  
**Wear your Red, Pink, Purple, Black & Love**



**Fani T. Willis**  
Fulton County District Attorney

# SHINING *stars*



## JACOB ROBERTSON

Mr. Robertson has held 18 individual 30 minute Dropbox training sessions with legal assistants in Major Case Unit, Gang Unit, White Collar Crimes Unit, Capital & Cold Case Unit, and Civil Rights Unit. Mr. Robertson held several training sessions in December. In January MCD needed to expedite training to achieve our goal. We sent Mr. Robertson our schedules, and he set up back-to-back Dropbox trainings with legal assistants on January 21 and January 24 to ensure we met our goal. Mr. Robertson assisted legal assistants with account set up, use of the system, and answered questions about the product.

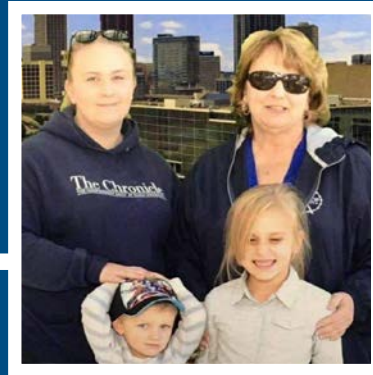
This training is essential to our new business process as we are transitioning from uploading large expensive usb drives and discs to sharing discovery electronically. Now we can realize our goal of going live on Dropbox on January 31 in MCD! We are so thankful for Mr. Robertson's training, support, patience, and enthusiasm as we achieve this innovative transition together.



## LASHAWNDA WOODS- ROBERTS

The purpose of this email is simply my attempt to call attention to what I believe was the outstanding work and professionalism shown by one of your prosecutors, Lashawnda Woods- Roberts. I was tasked with dealing with a very difficult case with her in juvenile court. Ms. Woods-Roberts represented the State. She was, much to my chagrin at times, always very prepared, knowledgeable about the case, and fought hard for your office and the victim. Ultimately, Ms. Woods-Roberts was able to sway the Court to NOT follow my recommendation on sentencing with her own compelling arguments, but that is completely beside the point. Ms. Woods-Roberts in no way "took it easy" on my client, but she was very courteous and fair to both myself and more importantly my client. I am occasionally critical of certain prosecutors whom I feel cross the line in a negative way, so I believe that it is only fair that I do my best to acknowledge when prosecutors go above and beyond. As a Fulton County resident, I feel that Ms. Woods-Roberts did an OUTSTANDING job representing the community in our case and simply wanted to let you know about my positive experience.

# The Fab Four Spotlight



## Lynn Carter

Legal Assistant  
Grants Unit - Operations Division

One of the rare Georgia natives, Lynn Carter started her journey with Fulton County in 1989 as a member of the Garnishment department. Her diligence, positive rapport with coworkers, and attention to detail catapulted her to the supervisor's job in the department. Still, Lynn has always been fascinated with the behind-the-scenes facets of the Fulton County Court System. She was honored and thrilled to work as the Judicial Assistant for the Honorable Rowland W. Barnes until his passing. Afterward, Lynn took the opportunity to join the wonderful team in the Honorable Fred C. Eady's court until she retired in 2011.

Not one to want to sit still for long, Lynn took a job at Atlanta Partners, LLC when her son reached out about an open administrative position. Her role quickly expanded to sales, human resources, and customer service as she became the resident Jacqueline-of-All-Trades and helped the company grow and thrive into today's Atlanta institution known locally as The Wheel.

Nonetheless, Lynn always felt a pull to return to Fulton County. So when the opportunity arose to work for the District Attorney's Office in the Operations and Grant Division as a Legal Assistant, she was grateful to be able to come home while getting to learn about a new facet of the Court System.

Outside of work, Lynn loves nothing more than to spend time with her three children and three grandchildren. She organizes family vacations and outings whenever she can. She can also be found at her granddaughter's volleyball matches or her grandson's baseball games cheering on each one! Always one to root for the home team, Lynn is a huge fan of both the Atlanta Braves and the UGA Bulldogs.

# The Fab Four Spotlight



## Fred Glenn Deputy Chief Investigator

Deputy Chief Investigator Fred Glenn, Jr., has been employed with the Fulton County District Attorney's Office since July 2015. He started as an investigator in the Trial Division and was soon promoted to senior investigator in the Major Case Unit.

In Major Case, he worked closely with assigned assistant district attorneys on cases involving homicides, gangs, and vehicular homicides. Fred prides himself on the fact that none of his cases has led to an acquittal. He is skilled at ensuring that communication among the trial team, consisting of the first and second chair ADAs, legal assistants, victim/witness advocates, flow in a seamless manner and that everything from certified convictions, to travel plans for witnesses, to strategizing with the ADAs are all in place. His accomplishments allowed Fred to win Investigator of The Year In 2019.

In January 2021, Fred became Assistant Chief Investigator under the current administration and supervised investigators assigned to the Major Crimes Division, which includes those assigned to the Major Case Unit, Gang Unit, Appeals Unit, Civil Forfeiture Unit, and White Collar Unit. In the latter part of 2021, he was promoted to Deputy Chief Investigator of the Trial Division (Complex/Non-Complex Units), Case Intake Division, Administration Unit, Technology Unit, Evidence Unit, and Accountability Court.

Born and raised in Tallahassee, Florida, Fred graduated from the top Historically Black College and University in the United States: Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) with a B.A. in Criminal Justice. He then took a job in the firearms purchasing program at the Florida Department of Law Enforcement where he was responsible for running FCICs (equivalent to GCICs) and completing criminal history background checks on people seeking to purchase a firearm in Florida. Fred ran the criminal histories of some very famous people in this job

He then relocated to Orlando, Florida, to work as a Probation and Parole Officer with the Florida Department of Corrections, where he received several promotions. In 2006, Fred, his wife, Robin Glenn, and their two children moved to the Atlanta area, where he began his policing career. He started as an officer with the Georgia State University Police servicing the downtown area before moving on to the Atlanta Police Department, where he served citizens in Zone 1 (Bankhead) and Zone 2 (Buckhead). He also gained some valuable experience working in all the areas of the city while assigned to APD's Community Oriented Policing Section as a Community Liaison Unit Officer.

For fun, Fred enjoys spending time with his family, which now includes two more daughters, and a grandson. He loves playing golf, watching movies, and thrifting. He can honestly say: "one man's junk is really another man's treasure" as people part ways with some really expensive stuff.

# The Fab Four Spotlight



## Helen Bastien

### Chief Legal Assistant - Major Crimes Division

Helen Bastien was born and raised in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, before immigrating to the United States. To support her mother and her siblings, Helen has been working in the legal field for 15 years and worked in foreclosure for about 11 years. In December 2017, Helen packed a Budget truck and moved from Boca Raton, Florida, with her newborn son, her sister and her niece. She took a leap of faith coming to Georgia without a job because she wanted to find better opportunities for herself and her family.

In 2018, Helen joined the Fulton County District Attorney's Office as a legal assistant. She worked in the Complaint Room for three months and did a two-week stint in the Trial unit prior to moving to the Major Case Unit. In October, she was honored with a promotion to Chief Legal Assistant for Major Case, the Gang Unit and Cold & Capital Case – thanks to Madam District Attorney Fani T. Willis, to whom she will be forever grateful for the opportunity.

In her spare time, Helen enjoys reading, volunteering with her church, decorating, and going out with friends. She loves spending time with family, such as having movie nights with her son (whom she calls her beautiful baby boy) and her niece. Helen says motherhood is the hardest job on the planet but she wouldn't trade it for anything.

She loves to travel and the beach – something she has missed since moving from the Sunshine State. She also finds meditation helpful - something she started after she lost her mother.

A funny thing about Helen is that she is scared of the dark.

# The Fab Four Spotlight



## Peter Faile

Assistant District Attorney  
Juvenile Unit - Special Victims Division

Peter Faile grew up in the rural village of Nalerigu, Ghana, where his parents ran a mission hospital. He spent his formative years climbing trees, riding donkeys, and battling yearly bouts of malaria. He graduated high school in Ghana before taking a year off to acclimate to U.S. culture. After a year of saying “my pleasure” 40 hours a week at Chick-fil-A, and nowhere near understanding the South, Peter decided it was time to go to college.

Having no clue as to what makes a good or bad college, Peter chose the cheapest and smallest school from the brochures he received – Shorter College (now University). Ultimately for Peter, college was not the end goal. In his mind, he would eventually drop out, move to California, and become a movie star. Unfortunately for Peter, he never dropped out, never became a movie star, and did graduate college.

Peter then lived communally for a year with eight housemates, before moving to Philadelphia to study International Development. After grad school, Peter worked for various non-profits in Cambodia, Malawi, and Ghana – mostly on child-focused projects. After a few years, Peter decided law school would be a good fit, because, why not.

Peter earned scholarships to attend Georgia State University, where he focused on not one single area of law. Was that wise? Should he have focused on a specific area? Time will tell. But he enjoyed it and graduated with a job working for the Supreme Court of Georgia’s Committee on Justice for Children. This work focused on supporting legislative policy and the state-wide juvenile court system to implement best practices when dealing with child welfare issues.

Still with a bit of an acting bug, Peter decided he wanted courtroom experience and applied to the Fulton County District Attorney’s Office. Little did he know, a raging pandemic would strike the week he was to report to work in April 2020 as an assistant district attorney.

After too many months working from home “in the Complaint Room,” Peter was hired by the new district attorney and allowed to begin work in January 2021 in Juvenile Court, where he had always wanted to be – even before he knew it was the best unit in the office!

Peter is married to a beautiful music therapist and elementary school teacher and father to a spoiled basenji brought over from Ghana. In his free time, Peter enjoys traveling anywhere, cooking new foods, hosting friends, writing spoken word poetry, and figuring out how to get more comp days.



# BuzzREPORT

The Trendy section of the Dispatch...where we will be showcasing the latest happenings around the office. We will be calling on you to give us the scoop once a quarter. So get ready...if you have a new baby, get married, graduate, etc. this section will be for "You".



On April 2, **Asia Baysah** gave birth to Joshua Baysah.



**Joshua Baysah**



**Parker Faye Green**

On June 10, **Capers and Tia Green** welcomed Parker Faye Green, who shares the same birthday as her grandmother. Although Parker will never get to meet her grandmother, the two will forever share this special bond. Parker's parents say they are "blessed beyond words" and that their daughter "is truly a little lady who is full of personality and we are so thankful to the Lord for our beautiful bundle of joy!"



**Wylie Conway Fortuna**

On October 23, **Meredith Fortuna** welcomed Wylie Conway Fortuna. Meredith says "he's sweet as can be, he's a GREAT sleeper (thankfully), and he's already winning everyone over with his bright eyes and big smile."

# BuzzREPORT



**Robin Bryant** and her fiancé Leroy pulled off a surprise wedding in November in Los Cabo, Mexico, where family and friends thought they were celebrating Robin's 50th birthday (even her parents). During the celebration, Robin slipped away and changed into her wedding dress – a big surprise that triggered a lot of emotions! Robin's last name is now Yeartie.

# BuzzREPORT

**Valerie Carson** got married on June 19, 2021.

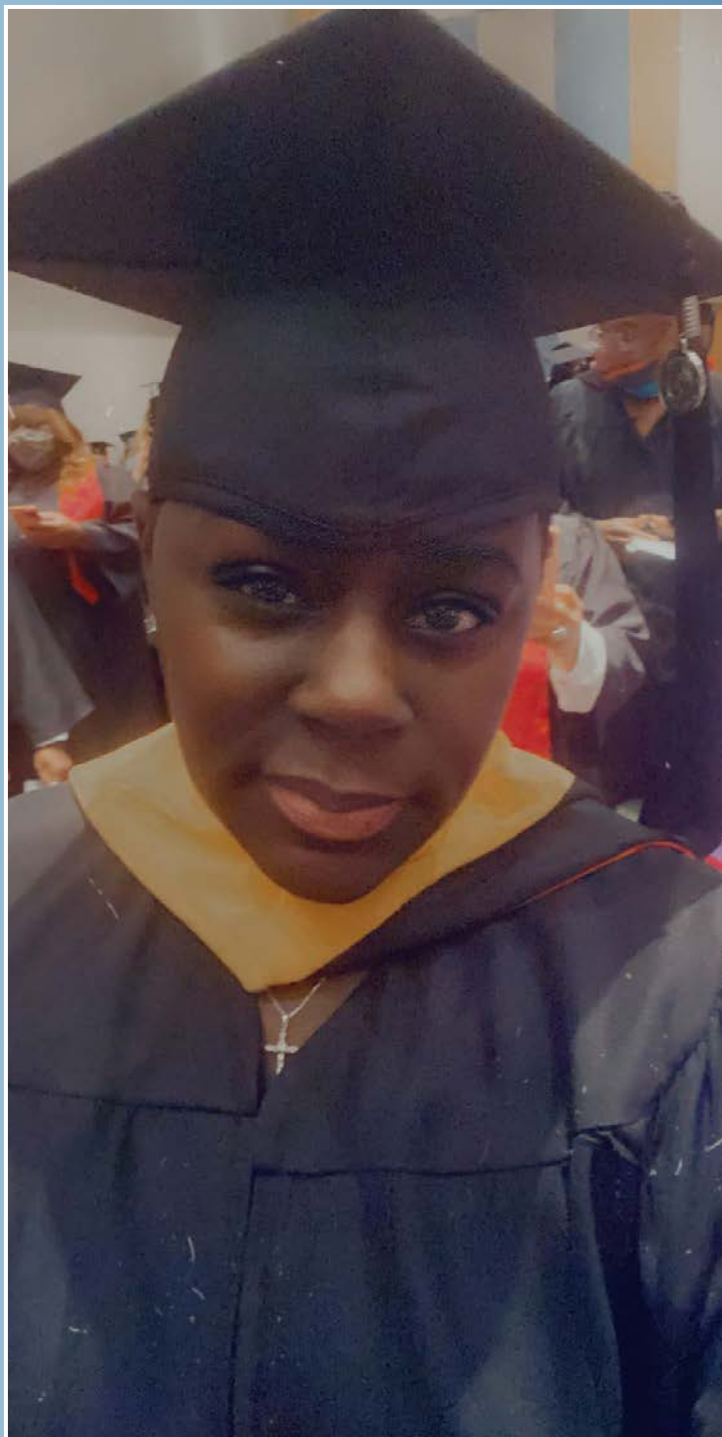


# BuzzREPORT

**Melissa Roth** had an eventful 2021. She was married on May 10. She passed the Georgia bar and then got sworn into the Georgia bar. She joined the Fulton County District Attorney's Office in August.



# BuzzREPORT



Last September, **Leenessa Landor** graduated with her Master's Degree in Psychology from The University of Phoenix.



Graduating a semester early, **Michelle Andrews** earned her Juris Doctor on December 17, and plans to take the Georgia Bar in February. While she was finishing her final semester as a visiting student at Georgia State College of Law, she interned with the Special Victims Division.

# Newsroom

Click or scan story for more information

# High profile cases in a courtroom near you

## Domestic Violence

**Joshua Middlebrooks**

#21SC178527

Courtroom: Adams

2/3/2022

9:30am

Trial Calendar

**Diallo Burke**

#19SC169893

Courtroom: Leftridge

2/3/2022

1:00am

Immunity Hearing

**Shakeyla Greenidge**

#18SC160702

Courtroom: Edwards

2/3/2022

9:30am

Status Hearing

**Jason Hall**

#21SC179556

Courtroom: Glanville

2/4/2022

9:00am

Bond Hearing

**Malik Grant**

#20SC175101

Courtroom: Ingram

2/8/2022

9:00am

Jury Selection

## Major Case

**Bryan Schmitt**

#21SC179512

Courtroom: Leftridge

2/4/2022

9:30am

Status

**Barron Brantley &  
Jordan Jones**

#20SC174703

Courtroom: Edwards

2/8/2022

9:30am

Status

## Crimes Against Children

**Willie Brown**

#21SC179241

Courtroom: Glanville

2/4/2022

9:00am

Status

**Robert Vandell**

#21SC179190

Courtroom: Ellerbe

2/9/2022

Final Plea

## Gangs

**Jayden Myrick, Torrus  
Fleetwood, Kevon  
Reeves**

#18SC161858

Courtroom: Carnesale

2/7/2022

9:00am

Status

**Mender et al (rolling  
60 RICO)**

#21SC178250

Courtroom: Eaton

2/7/2022

9:30am

Plea and Arraignment

## Trial - Complex

**Kameron Lenear  
Robinson**

Courtroom: Richardson

2/11/2022

9:00am

Final Plea & Trial

**Anti-Corruption  
Lawrence McCurdy**

#21SC178324

Courtroom: Edwards

2/3/2022

9:30am

Status Hearing





***FANI T. WILLIS***  
District Attorney

**DA**DISPATCH  
The Fulton County District Attorney's Office