

DA DISPATCH

FANI T. WILLIS, District Attorney



ALL WE DO IS WIN

Congratulations

The Fulton County District Attorney's Office



KICKBALL OPENER: FCDA vs. Solicitor General

FCDA WINS! 5-0

FULTONCOUNTYDA

FULTONCOUNTYDA

FULTONCOUNTYDA

OFFICE OF THE
FULTON COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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Don't forget

SPRING REPORT CELEBRATION

at 5:05pm outside atrium
next to the BOC

today!

¡Cinco de Mayo!

Cinco de Mayo, or “Fifth of May” in Spanish, commemorates Mexico’s victory over France at the Battle of Puebla in 1862 during the Franco-Mexican War.¹ It is not Mexican Independence Day, a popular misconception. While Cinco de Mayo is a relatively minor holiday in Mexico, the celebration in the United States has evolved into a commemoration of Mexican culture and heritage, particularly in communities with substantial Mexican-American populations.²

In Mexico, Cinco de Mayo is primarily observed in the state of Puebla and in the neighboring state of Veracruz.³ Traditions include military parades and battle recreations.⁴ However, for many Mexicans, May 5 is like another other day, where offices, banks and stores remain open.⁵

During the Battle of Puebla, the French army lost more than 500 soldiers and the Mexican army lost fewer than 100 men.⁶ Although not a major strategic victory, the battle represented a great

symbolic victory for the Mexican government and bolstered the resistance movement.⁷

In the United States, Cinco de Mayo celebrations began in California, where they have been observed annually since 1863.⁸ The day gained nationwide popularity because of advertising campaigns by beer, wine, and tequila companies. Today, Americans consume more beer on this day than during the Super Bowl or St. Patrick’s Day.⁹

¹ <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/cinco-de-mayo>

² Id.

³ Id.

⁴ Id.

⁵ Id.

⁶ Id.

⁷ Id.

⁸ <https://www.abc10.com/article/news/community/race-and-culture/history-of-cinco-de-mayo-california/103-8d41915d-6d2e-4f78-9c11-672e8b223891>

⁹ <https://www.foxnews.com/lifestyle/cinco-de-mayo-beer-sales-outpace-st-patricks-day-and-super-bowl>

Important Dates and Special Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
MAY 2022	2	3	4	5 Legal Asst. Training Cinco de Mayo Spring Report Celebration	6 Fulton County PayDay	7
8 Mother's Day	9	10	11 VWAP Training FulCo Lab	12 Legal Asst. Training Kickball vs. FC Sheriff	13	14
15	16 NEW Employees Start Adult Diversion Orientation	17	18 VWAP Training FulCo Lab	19 Legal Assistants Master Class GRADUATION	20 Fulton County PayDay	21
22	23 Monday Matinee Movie Day!!	24 Kickball vs. Clerks Office	25 VWAP Training FulCo Lab	26 DA Dispatch Release	27	28
29	30 Memorial Day Holiday	31 NEW Employees Start	 FCDA 93 Mile Wellness Challenge: May 1st - May 31st DOWNLOAD THE APP & JOIN THE CHALLENGE TODAY! Walk or Run 93 miles in the month of May. If interested, email JermeY Murray at jeremy.murray@fultoncountyga.gov .			

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
JUNE 2022	30	31	1	2	3 Fulton County PayDay	4
5	6 Adult Diversion Orientation	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 Fulton County PayDay	18
19	20	21	22 Leadership Meeting @ Fulton County Central Library	23	24	25
26	27 Monday Matinee Movie Day!!	28	29 Popsicles & Polo's	30	1	2

11-WEEK COURSE (through May 2022)

VWAP TRAINING

Contact

CHANDRIKA DERRICHO

Victim-Witness Assistance Program Director
678.362.9188
chandrika.derricho@fultoncountyga.gov



WEEK 9:

May 11, 2022

BOC Assembly Hall
Community Partnerships

Week 10 | 5/18/2022 | TBD
Victim's Compensation Overview

Week 11 | 5/25/2022 | BOC Assembly Hall
Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders

9-WEEK COURSE (through May 2022)

LA MASTER CLASS TRAINING

Contact

LORA.ANDREWS@fultoncountyga.gov

WHITNEY.MEYER@fultoncountyga.gov

QUINASHA.PRITCHETT@fultoncountyga.gov

FELICIA.DICKENS@fultoncountyga.gov



CLASS 8:

May 5, 2022

BOC Assembly Hall
Record Room & Record Restriction

Class 9 | May 12, 2022 | Q&A Session

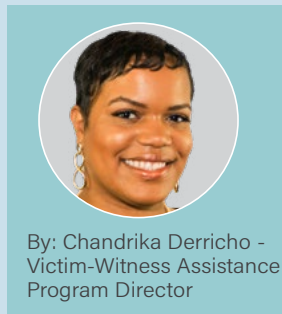
GRADUATION | May 19, 2022 | BOC Assembly Hall

Download the App today!



Mental Health Corner

"We can't be there for the community, if we aren't there for ourselves." - Madam DA Willis



Being a Victim Advocate supervisor is more than advocating for victims, it also means advocating for staff. There's plenty of burnout and mental strain that comes with the work at the Fulton County District Attorney's Office. As a clinician (Psychology major undergrad and Master of Social Work graduate) as well as an advocate, I want to ensure that everyone remains mentally and emotionally healthy while serving the public. My endeavor started with an office-wide email about free services offered through the employee-assistance program. Following the spirit of Madam DA's push for employee wellness, I am widening my scope to include monthly psychoeducation, tips, and tools for maintaining mental health.

Being a Victim Advocate supervisor is more than advocating for victims, it also means advocating for staff. There's plenty of burnout and mental strain that comes with the work at the Fulton County District Attorney's Office. As a clinician (Psychology major undergrad and Master of Social Work graduate) as well as an advocate, I want to ensure that everyone remains mentally and emotionally healthy while serving the public. My endeavor started with an office-wide email about free services offered through the employee-assistance program. Following the spirit of Madam DA's push for employee wellness, I am widening my scope to include monthly psychoeducation, tips, and tools for maintaining mental health.

The Importance of Taking Breaks

Taking breaks is an excellent form of self-care. Prior to being a supervisor, I did not like working lunch and I never understood it. But now, working lunch is the norm and all too familiar. How many of you sit at your desk, eat, and read emails or return phone calls? Most of us feel we are too busy to take a full 30-minute break. But, try to focus on taking at least 15 minutes to eat your food, unwind, and literally give your brain a break. Some people do not like to eat at work but I encourage you to walk around the building or walk outside for a few minutes to take a break. As an alternative you can play a game on your phone, call your best friend, scroll through social media, do something that takes your mind off of work briefly so that you can recharge.

Welcome **New Hires**



RODERICK BRIDGES

Chief Senior Assistant
District Attorney
Gangs Unit -
Major Crimes Division



MATTHEW NORWOOD

Assistant District Attorney
Non-Complex Unit -
Trial Division



ELNA REESE

Chief Senior Assistant
District Attorney
Case Intake Division



**FELECIA GRANT
MARDEHOW**

Assistant District Attorney
Case Intake Division



TERRANCE BROWN

Senior Investigator
Major Case Unit -
Major Crimes Division



ANDRE PITTS

Senior Investigator
Major Case Unit -
Major Crimes Division



KENNETH ALLEN

Senior Investigator
Evidence Unit



KIMBERLY BOYD

Criminal Analyst
S.A.K.I. Unit -
Special Victims Division



KAYLA GARNIGAN

Victim Witness Advocate
Crimes Against Children Unit
Special Victims Division



CHOWAN MOORE

Victim Witness Advocate
Major Case Unit
Major Crimes Division



CHERRILIE TONGE

Victim Witness Advocate
Complex Unit - Trial Division

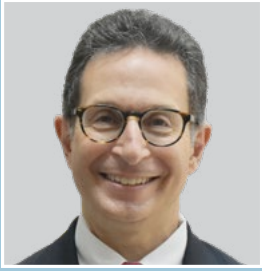
We extend a warm welcome and lots of great wishes for becoming part of our growing family. Your remarkable skills and talents will be a great addition to our office.

Swearing-In with Judge Shermela Williams



Congratulations

OFFICE PROMOTIONS



BRAD MALKIN

has been promoted to serve as our new
**SUPERVISING CHIEF
SENIOR DA OF TRIAL DIVISION**



DASHAWN RAYMOND

has been promoted to serve as our new
**ASSISTANT CHIEF OF
MAJOR CRIMES DIVISION**



BERNICE HIGGINS

has been promoted to serve as our new
ASSISTANT CHIEF OF TRIAL DIVISION

Tech Corner



JACOB ROBERTSON

Jacob Robertson is an Information Technology Administrative Specialist and a graduate of Tulane University. He was a member of their football team and was a part of the first team in school history to win back-to-back bowl games. He grew up in the College Park/East Point area in Atlanta. He enjoys video games, action sports, and anything that involves being outside. An interesting fact about him is that he plans to do a road trip to ride dirt bikes at all the best trails around the country.



TESS GIBSON

Tess Gibson is an IT specialist working with Special Victims Division. She really enjoys helping people with technology. Originally from Portland, Oregon, she moved to Atlanta 10 years ago because of the culture and diversity. She has two young boys, two gerbils, and a turtle. Her newest hobby is creating a Minecraft World with her six year old son using Legos. "It warms my heart seeing my son's joy bringing his Minecraft game to life."



2022



Jan Wilho
FANI T. WILLIS
District Attorney

APRIL

employee of the month

TAMMY BIRRIIS-MAYO

Senior Investigator
SB440 Unit

I would like to nominate Tammy Birris-Mayo as employee of the month. Tammy was able to adapt and overcome from transitioning from the Civil Rights Unit to the SB440 Unit. Tammy shows her hard work and dedication for the Fulton County District Attorney's Office by staying positive from the unit change and to continue to persevere and strive to be the best investigator in her unit. I spoke with her supervisors, Deputy Chief Johnna Griffin, Assistant Chief Paula Dupree and Chief Senior ADA Shannon Trotty and they unanimously agreed that Tammy is a awesome worker, willing to learn and help the team. Tammy has proven that she is dependable, has a positive attitude, great energy, and she shows a willingness to learn and help.

- Chief Capers Green

Madam DA, the Executive Team and my fellow SB 440 team members really humbled me being awarded EOM.

Back story: I worked over 30 years at the Columbus PD, during which time, I worked very hard and diligently. I always presented myself as a true professional. I represented the department and myself in a favorable light in the community-at-large, the schools as well as the department as a whole. During that time, I was never selected as employee of the month.

I shared all of that to convey how much this honor means to me. With a grateful heart, I say thank you!
- Tammy

Johns Creek Summit

On April 19, 2022, Madam DA presented leadership certificates at the Johns Creek Leadership Summit to students from the following high schools: Northview, Chattahoochee, Johns Creek and Centennial. These amazing students created a documentary film titled "They Were Here: The Future of the Preservation and Commemoration of the Macedonia African Methodist Cemetery." This film was about finding, restoring and sharing the history behind this forgotten Georgia slave cemetery tucked away in a neighborhood off Medlock Bridge Road in Johns Creek.



Child Abuse Protocol Signing

April 21, 2022, at the Central Library, One Margaret Mitchell Square, Atlanta.



Deputy District Attorney Lauren McAuley speaking to the attendees.



From Left to Right: Deputy Chief Hampton (APD), Sheila Ryan (GCCA), Madam DA Fani T. Willis, Deputy District Attorney Lauren McAuley

Giving Back to Our Community

FCDAO visits Jean Childs Young Middle School



Jean Childs Young Middle School's administration invited members of the Fulton County District Attorney's Office to speak to 8th-graders about the juvenile justice system in conjunction with the school's Social Studies Milestones test preparation efforts. The "Juvenile Unit's Day Out with Young Middle School" initiated a lasting partnership. The curriculum aims to instill positive values in students, increase knowledge of the law, promote leadership, develop positive self-esteem, build conflict-resolution skills, and increase the ability to resist peer pressure. Young Middle School is committed to increasing partnership activities with the DA's office to educate children and deter delinquent activity. Those in attendance were Assistant District Attorney Lawshawnda Woods-Roberts; Chief Legal Assistant Yolanda Shorthouse; Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Jawara Mars; Dependency Diversion Coordinator Bryant Brinson; Community Resource Specialist January Towles; Investigator William Ward; and Victim-Witness Advocate Azaria Graham.



Georgia Tech's 28th Annual Take Back the Night Candlelight Vigil

On April 4, 2022, Georgia Tech's 28th Annual Take Back the Night candlelight vigil and survivor speak-out invited the Fulton County District Attorney's office as community partners to speak with college students about special victim services the office offers.



From Left to Right: Executive District Attorney Daysha Young; Deputy District Attorney Yolanda Mack; Deputy Victim-Witness Advocate Dilma Dos Reis; and Community Resource Specialist LaRhonda Maiten.



On the Right: Deputy Victim-Witness Advocate Dilma Dos Reis.

Giving Back to Our Community

Giving Atlanta a **New Grief (GANG)** Forum

On April 16, 2022, Senior Investigator James "J.P." Miller and (newly-promoted) Assistant Chief of Major Crimes Dashawn Raymond were guest speakers at Friendship Baptist Church forum attended virtually and in-person. The duo engaged in an open dialogue with the community about criminal street gangs in Atlanta, gang trends, and the consequences of violating Georgia's Street Gang and Terrorism Prevention statute.



Giving Back to Our Community

Canine Cellmates: Beyond the Bars Ceremony



On April 14, 2022, Beyond the Bars, in partnership with the Fulton County District Attorney's Office, celebrated the second group of men to complete their first 90 days in the year-long program. Hand-picked participants are given a second chance (or, in some cases, a third chance) to get their lives back on track. The program, through intensive classes and hands-on work with dogs rescued from Fulton County Animal Control, teaches life skills such as conflict resolution, emotional maturity, financial responsibility, parenting and job skills. To date, 15 men have made it through the first portion of the program and enrollment in the next cycle is on-going. Deputy District Attorney Jill Hollander, Assistant District Attorney Matt Holmes, and Fulton County Commissioner Khadijah Abdur-Rahman attended the ceremony.

Spreading the Word About FCDA Record Restriction

On March 21, 2022, Record Restriction staff attended a free job fair at West Hunter Baptist Church in Atlanta to inform attendees about the Record Restriction process.



From Left to Right: Pre-Indictment Diversion / Record Restriction Liaison Kirsten Williams, Record Restriction Chief Legal Assistant Valencia Younger, Diversion Operations Manager Deonté Pollard, Deputy District Attorney Ramona Toole and Records Clerk Linda Long.

On April 23, 2022, Record Restriction staff visited Cosmopolitan AME Church in Atlanta, where they set up a table and educated the community about the Record Restriction process.



From Left to Right: Record Restriction Chief Legal Assistant Valencia Younger, Deputy District Attorney Ramona Toole, Records Clerk Linda Long and Records Deputy Legal Assistant Keehlan Haygood.

CONVICTION ALERTS



GAUTAM RAO

Chief Senior Assistant
District Attorney
Major Case Unit
Major Crimes Division



ADA Christian Adkins



Sr. Inv. Amanda Bear



VWA Tameka Kelley



Chief LA Helen Bastien



LA Andre Moore

DA Family,

Congratulations to the Major Case trial team on their guilty verdict before Judge Ellerbe in **State v. Adrian Dudley**. Mr. Dudley represented himself which always makes for an interesting trial... Upon Mr. Dudley's conviction, Judge Kelly Lee Ellerbe sentenced the Defendant to life without the possibility of parole.

Thank you all for the outstanding work in honor of Mr. William Franklin, his family, and our office. Each one of you played a very important role in the process to successfully achieve closure for the family members of Mr. Franklin. I am very proud of the work, determination, and joint effort by all!

Congratulations!

Adam Abbate, Deputy District Attorney
Major Case Unit - Major Crimes Division



DANIELLE RUSSELL

Senior. Assistant District Attorney
Domestic Violence Unit
Special Victims Division



KARA ROBERTS

Assistant District Attorney
Complex Unit
Trial Division



Sr. Inv. Tangela
Culbreath



VWA Caitlin Bradley



LA Jasmine Knight



Sr. ADA
John Weitnauer



Inv. Julisha
Lansiquot



VWA Alia Kea



LA Sheila
Francois

DA Family,

I want to say a HUGE congratulations to the Domestic Violence trial team on their 47 MINUTE conviction on ALL COUNTS in **State v. Efran Alcaraz**. This was a very hard domestic violence homicide, where the defendant not only stabbed and killed his wife, but stabbed his two children as they were trying to protect their mother.

The defendant was sentence to ife without possibility of parole + 45 years

Simone Hylton, Deputy District Attorney
Domestic Violence Unit - Special Victims Division Division

DA Family,

HERE HERE!! Please help me congratulate Kara Roberts on her guilty verdict before Judge Matt Simmons in **State v. Jeriod Mathis** (He is an A & C Recidivist) on aggravated battery and a sentence of 20 years to serve.

George Jenkins
Executive District Attorney
Trial Division

CONVICTION ALERTS



MARSHAL HODGE

Senior Assistant District Attorney
Sex Crimes Unit
Special Victims Division



Chief Senior ADA
Nailah McFarlane



Inv. Ronald Coloma



VWA Nicole Whigham

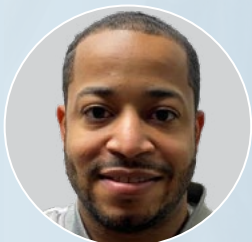


LA Tammy Jackson

DA Family,

Congratulations to Marshal Hodge and team on the guilty verdict before Judge Krause in **State v. Venson Smith**. These are some of the hardest cases and most dangerous defendants. Thanks for removing a predator from our county.

- Madam DA Willis



SETH BROWN

Senior Assistant District Attorney
Sex Crimes Unit
Special Victims Division



Inv. Lloyd Owens



VWA Dilma Dos Reis



LA Chrissandra Jallah



LA Marlene Wilson-Hacker

DA Family,

Congratulations to Seth Brown and team on the guilty verdict on all counts before Judge Ingram in **State v. Randy Palmer**. This defendant was sentenced to life without parole. Way to go team!

Yolanda Mack
Deputy District Attorney
Sex Crimes Unit - Special Victims Division



KELCEE JONES-CONNOR

Senior Assistant District Attorney
Major Case Unit
Major Crimes Division



Chief Sr. ADA
Gautam Rao



Inv. Marcus Gerald



VWA Dericka
Mitchell



LA Keira Jackson



LA Breanna Barrett

Good afternoon DA Family,

Congratulations to the Major Case trial team on their guilty verdict before Judge Edwards in **State v. Samuel Arnold**. It was a hard fought trial that ended in a 42 minute guilty verdict on all counts. Kelcee and Gautam nailed the State's closing!

Thank you all for the outstanding work in honor of Mr. Ezekiel McNair, his family, and our office. It was a true team effort and each one of you played a very important role in the process to successfully achieve closure for the family members of Mr. McNair. I am very proud of the work, determination, and joint effort by all!

Congratulations!
Adam Abbate, Deputy District Attorney
Major Case Unit - Major Crimes Division

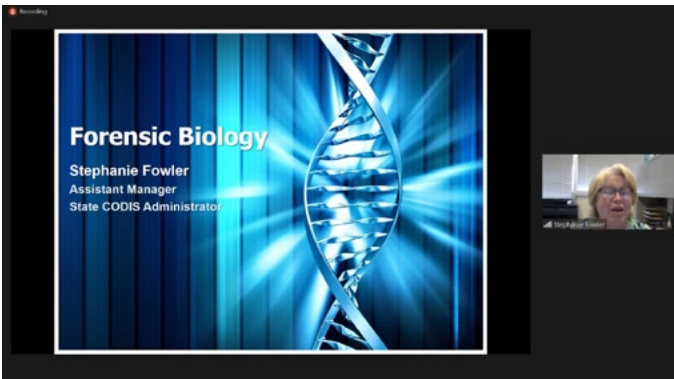
FCDA Trainings



COURTROOM TECHNOLOGY DEMO

with the FCDA IT Department

On April 8, 2022, the Fulton County District Attorney's Office's IT Department co-hosted a courtroom technology demonstration with Superior Court Technology Services specialist Thomas LaGon in courtroom 4F to show members of the Fulton County District Attorney's Office how to present evidence in the courtroom through zoom, the podium computer, ELMO, and other technology. Attendees were able to ask questions related to presenting PowerPoints, audio, etc.

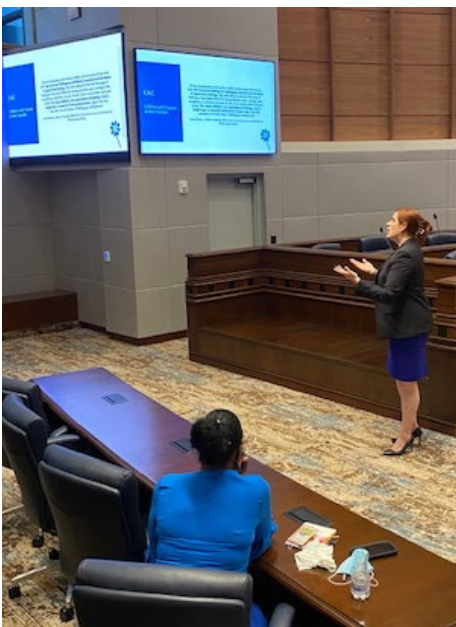


VIRTUAL DNA TRAINING with the S.A.K.I. Unit

On April 25, 2022, the S.A.K.I. Unit hosted Stephanie Fowler, Assistant Manager & CODIS Admin at the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, gave a presentation about DNA basics to members of the Fulton County District Attorney's Office. She presented a cursory look into DNA and GBI procedures for submitting and processing DNA evidence. On May 9, 2022, Ms. Fowler will be presenting DNA Advanced.

Madam DA School of Integrity **VICTIM WITNESS ADVOCATE CLASSES**

Deputy District Attorney Lauren McAuley presenting on Child Abuse Victims.



Deputy District Attorney Symone Hylton presenting on Domestic Violence Victims.



Deputy District Attorney Yolanda Mack presenting on Sex Crime Victims.





MAY 8, 2022

HAPPY
Mother's
DAY 

BEING A MOTHER IS LEARNING
ABOUT STRENGTHS YOU
DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD AND
DEALING WITH FEARS YOU
DIDN'T KNOW EXISTED.

- Linda Wooten

"WE WEAR BLUE" Child Abuse Awareness Month

April 14, 2022



"DENIM DAY" Sexual Assault Awareness Month

April 27, 2022



Chat & CHEW

Friday, April 15, 2022

Major Crimes Division, Special Victims Division, Anti-Corruption Division & Civil Rights Division



Monday, April 20, 2022

Case Intake Division, Trial Division, Investigations Division, Operations Division, Programs & Records





April 21, 2022

KICKBALL OPENER

FCDA vs. SOLICITOR GENERAL

FCDA WINS! 5-0



August 21, 2022

KICKBALL OPENER

FCDA vs. SOLICITOR GENERAL

FCDA WINS! 5-0



April 22, 2022

LAW DAY

FAMILY FEUD Live DISTRICT ATTORNEY EDITION



WINNER: Team DA AvengHERs



ADA Jason Adams as host.



Team Rocket



Team T-4



Team 5 Hearts - 1 Beat



Team Show Me The Money



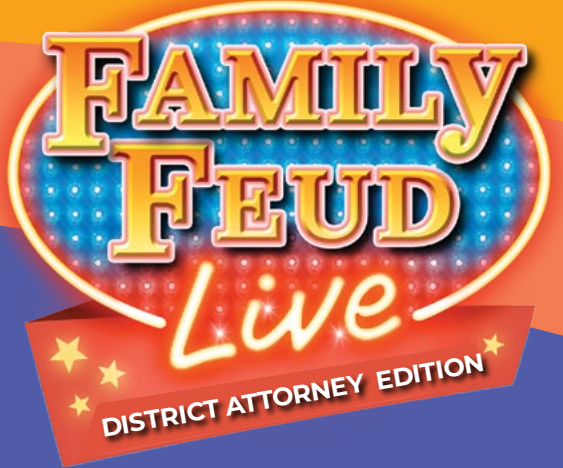
Team RRD



Team The Furious Five

April 22, 2022

LAW DAY



WINNER: Team DA Avengers



Team Civil Rights



Team Anti-Corruption



Team Domestic Vigilantes



Team Arrested Development

Partnering With Police

Civil Forfeiture's Presentation to Police in North Fulton



On April 13, 2022, Civil Forfeiture Unit members, Deputy District Attorney Stephany Luttrell and Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Grant Rood, met with members of the Alpharetta Police Department, the Johns Creek Police Department, and the Milton Police Department at the Alpharetta Police Department's headquarters for informative and insightful discussion. Topics of discussion centered on crimes other than drug crimes (as is most common) that can form the basis of forfeiture. General questions dealt with the disproportionality between value of the property sought to be forfeited and the gravity of the purported offense. Other questions included: what type of property is forfeitable in child sexual-exploitation cases; the time-table for seizing a motor vehicle; deadlines for when property can be seized (statute of limitation question); whether a house that served as the venue for sex trafficking can be forfeited. Luttrell and Rood each received a Public Safety Alpharetta Police Department coin from Lt. Ronald Splawn as a sign of appreciation for their service to the community.



Lisa Holland Presents CourtWatch in Alpharetta



On April 21, 2022, Lisa Holland, Community Resource Specialist for North Fulton County, announced the launch of the CourtWatch Atlanta program, which begins in May. At the Alpharetta Police Department's Citizen Police Academy Class, she spoke to potential CourtWatch volunteers about the criminal justice system and how the District Attorney's new program can foster accountability, aid in public trust, and hone in on repeat offenders to curb crime in the community.

From Left to Right: Alpharetta Police MPO Hal Shoffeitt, Lisa Holland, Captain Sean Woods, Alpharetta Police Criminal Investigations

NEW Wellness Series

Monday Movie Matinee - Black Panther



Fani T. Willis School of Integrity

Investigators' Graduation

On April 27, 2022, our Investigators concluded the Fani T. Willis School of Integrity 10-week Investigators' Training Course with a Graduation. We had forty-three graduates with fourteen of those reaching perfect attendance. Thank you to our presenters in sharing your knowledge and expertise in your specific area.



Left Picture of Graduates: Saul Alter, Billy Ansel, Raymond Baez, Partrena Baker, Amanda Bear, Tammy Birris-Mayo, Gregory Campbell, Billy Cartwright, Ronald Coloma, Shae Corso, Loran Crabtree, Ranetta Cruse, Tangela Culbreth, Timothy Effler, Obed Ford, Justin French, Marcus Gerald, Michael Green, Bernice Higgins, Sammy John, Jason Johnson, Tiffany Johnson, DeAntoine Johnson, Kevin Lewis, Antonio Long, Christy Manos, Harold Milanes, Sharon Pauls, Pat Ponder, Allonya Ragland, Dashawn Raymond, Joseph Rickman, Kenneth Rucker, Stephanie Samples, Bryan Shea, Wesley Smith, Richard Stein, Greg Thomas, Robert Turner, Gerald Walsh, William Ward, Shaniece Withrow, Fatimah Winston.

Presenters (group not pictured): Richard Stein; Osiris Carter (Fulton County 911); Tom Sinclair (CLEAR); Dan Greathouse (ROCIC); DDA Stephany aLuttrell (Subpoenas and the Law); DDA Michael Sprinkel (Securus); John Leonard (R.A.P.L.D.S.); Barry Hunter (Flying Armed); Dr. Pierluigi Mancini (NARCAN); Senior Investigator Alfred Martin (Use of Force); Assistant Chief Dashawn Raymond (De-Escalation); Amanda Bear (Health and Wellness); Assistant Chief Loran Crabtree (First Aid - Tourniquet Training); Senior Investigator Gerald Walsh (Cell-phones and Search Warrants); Assistant Chief Bernice Higgins (Evidence.Com and AVAIL).

Below Picture of Perfect Attendance Recipients: Partrena Baker, Tammy Birris-Mayo, Billy Cartwright, Ranetta Cruse, Michael Green, Jason Johnson, DeAntoine Johnson, Antonio Long, Christy Manos, Pat Ponder, Joseph Rickman, Stephanie Samples, Richard Stein, Fatimah Winston.



Administrative Professionals Day

April 27, 2022





Michael Wilson

Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney - Major Case Unit

A native of Ohio, Michael Wilson grew up in northeast Louisiana, where he earned a Bachelor's degree from Northeast Louisiana University, a Master's degree in Education from William Carey University in Gulfport, Mississippi, and a law degree from Southern University Law Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He's a former U.S. Marine. Prior to retiring as a senior agent with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, he lived in about 15 different states ranging from the East and West coasts, south Florida to upstate New York.

While working full time as a federal agent, and not wanting to give up his dream of becoming a lawyer, Michael attended law school at Southern University's newly created evening division in Baton Rouge, which required a 2 1/2 hour (one way) commute four days a week from Biloxi, Mississippi. Initially after graduating law school, he almost exclusively handled pro bono family law and immigration cases. In 2013, he received one of 12 pro bono awards from the Mississippi State Bar.

In between stints in private practice, he joined the Mississippi Attorney General's Office, where he worked in several divisions. He was initially assigned to the child-protection service, where he prosecuted parental termination cases. His last assignment before relocating to Atlanta was In-House Counsel to the Commissioner of the Mississippi Department of Corrections, and Counsel to the Mississippi State Parole Board.

Fun fact: he has visited every continent, including Antarctica. He is a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. He enjoys riding his Harley motorcycle and his first language is Spanish thanks to his Cuban parents.

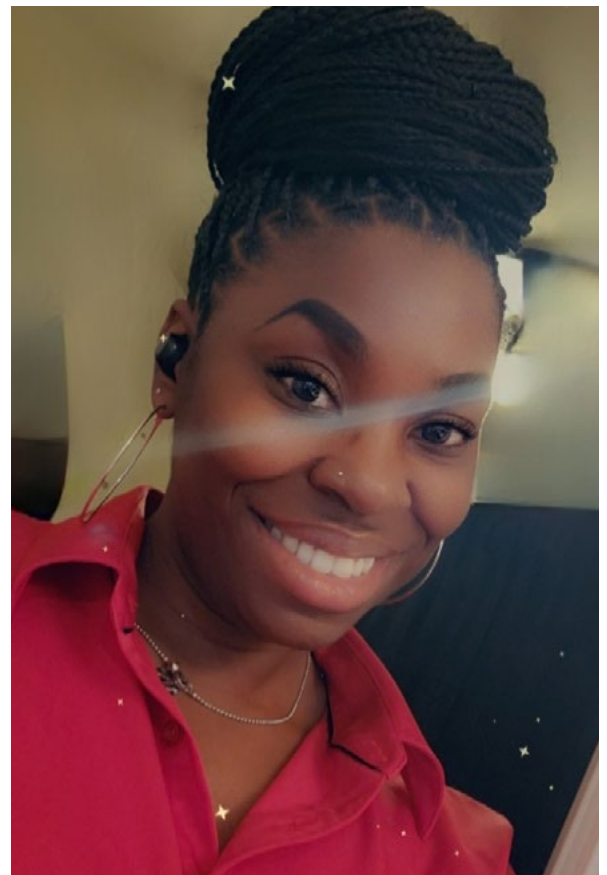


Tangela Culbreth

Senior Investigator - Case Intake Division

Born and raised in Albany, Georgia, Investigator Tangela Culbreth had planned to become a teacher but took a different route. Her family always mentioned law enforcement. When she decided to give it a try, it turned out to be one of her best decisions ever. She has a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Master's degree in Criminal Justice. Joining law enforcement has given her the opportunity to help so many people and actually rerouted her back to teaching.

Although Tangela is the youngest of four children, her siblings say she's the oldest at heart. She enjoys spending time with family. A true "country girl," she loves being outside on a beautiful day just sitting around having great conversation. When she leaves home, she's usually en route to a beach.





Marlene Allen

Operations Division

A member of the Operations Division, Marlene Allen wears many hats in the Fulton County District Attorney's Office. However, many don't know that she has been a licensed massage therapist. So, at least, she knows how not to rub people the wrong way.

Marlene is both a mother and a grandmother. As she puts it: "my kids got kids! They call me Mimi." Her grandchildren can attest that she's a clean freak. Her water bill attests to the fact that she takes multiple daily showers.

She's obsessed with eating healthy and working out often and hard. She strives to look like she swims a few laps in the Fountain of Youth. However, she spends much of her off time baking cakes, cupcakes and cookies. These decadent treats are not for personal consumption; they are intended to help her daughter's blossoming baking business. Seeing her daughter succeed is the icing on Marlene's cake.

Marlene is an early bird. If she is not working or hanging out with family or friends, she is in bed by about 7pm. Her faith is super important to her and she stands by the three F's: faith, family and friends.

According to interested parties, her theme songs should be "Track Star" by Mooski and "Needed Me" by Rihanna. Although some people who don't know her find her aloof, she considers herself shy and a free spirit.





Tiffany Johnson

Senior Investigator - Sex Crimes Unit

Tiffany Johnson's favorite quote is "courage doesn't mean we are never afraid, courage is simply daring to take action, despite our fear." Tiffany has learned that most of the decisions she has made in her life involves a little fear. Born and raised in Carol City, a neighborhood in Miami, Florida, Tiffany moved to Atlanta in 2015 to change her surroundings as she pursued a law enforcement career – a decision that brought some fear.

Tiffany loves traveling. She decided that she would no longer wait on people to join her to see the world. So she started traveling to different states and countries by herself. She did her first trip alone with some trepidation. Last month, she took this photo in Montego Bay, Jamaica, on her birthday. She urges others: don't let fear stop you from living the life you desire.





CaseLaw

By: Chief Senior ADA - Training
Kevin Armstrong

Sentencing: Concern with Downward Deviations. For serious violent felonies which occurred on or after July 1, 2013, “the judge may depart from the mandatory minimum sentence specified in this Code section for a person who is convicted of a serious violent felony when the prosecuting attorney and the defendant have agreed to a sentence that is below such mandatory minimum.” OCGA § 17-10-6.1 (e) (emphasis added). OCGA § 17-10-6.1 specifies mandatory minimum sentences for most serious violent felonies. *Id.* at (b). However, it does not specify mandatory minimum sentences for malice murder, felony murder, kidnapping for ransom, or kidnapping with bodily injury. In a recent case which the Georgia Supreme Court resolved by an order, Justice Ellington and Chief Justice Nahmias took an unusual step and added a concurrence on an issue which the order did not address. That concurrence asserted: first, a downward departure in a murder case, which resulted in a split sentence rather than a sentence of imprisonment for life, resulted in a void sentence; and, second, given that a defendant retains the absolute right to withdraw a guilty plea until the court pronounces a valid sentence, that that defendant maintained a right to withdraw his guilty plea as to that charge. *Polanco v. State*, S22A0174 (April 19, 2022) (Ellington, J., concurring). PAC released a newsletter on that decision which noted that the concurrence addressed an issue which was not briefed by the parties and were not necessarily the views of the Court as a whole. “Nevertheless,” PAC advised, “Justice Ellington’s concurrence should give prosecutors pause before recommending or agreeing to a split sentence on a murder conviction.”

Availability of Probation. Earlier this year, the Supreme Court of Georgia held that phrases like “‘shall be imprisoned’ and ‘shall be punished by imprisonment’...function as terms of art in Georgia sentencing law, and both serve to introduce the sentencing range of time in prison that a penal statute prescribes as punishment for a violation.” *Langley v. State*, 313 Ga. 141, 145 (2) (868 SE2d 759) (2022). These phrases do not in any way prohibit sentencing courts from exercising the authority they have to probate all or any part of a determinate sentence under OCGA § 17-10-1(a)(1)(A). That authority exists “unless such probation is expressly forbidden.” *Id.* at 145.

Examples of where probation is expressly forbidden include offense-specific statutes such as that for a fourth-time burglary, see, e.g., OCGA § 16-7-1 (d) (sentence for fourth or subsequent conviction for burglary in any degree “shall not be suspended, probated, deferred, or withheld”), and the mandatory minimum provisions for serious violent felonies and certain sexual offenses, see OCGA § 17-10-6.1 (b)(1) (“no portion of the mandatory minimum sentence imposed shall be suspended, stayed, probated, deferred, or withheld by the sentencing court”); OCGA § 17-10-6.2 (b) (“No portion of the mandatory minimum sentence imposed shall be suspended, stayed, probated, deferred, or withheld by the court”).

This decision reversed a Court of Appeals decision in which that Court had held a trial court lacked the authority to sentence part of a sentence for a felon-in-possession offense, *State v. Langley*, 358 Ga. App. 343, 345 (855 SE2d 376) (2021), and disproved of older Court of Appeals cases which had reached a similar conclusion as to other offenses.

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