

DA DISPATCH

FANI T. WILLIS, District Attorney



The Fulton County District Attorney's Office

Benefits Open Enrollments Ends Tomorrow



OPEN ENROLLMENT

2022

Enroll by October 15, 2021

see page 6 for more!

FCDA Office Award Nominations

Who are you going to vote for? (Supervisors cannot be nominated.) Nominations being accepted through Friday, October 22nd.

see page 18 for more!

Adult Diversion Program Launch



see page 13 for more!

FULTONCOUNTYDA

FULTONCOUNTYDA

FULTONCOUNTYDA

OFFICE OF THE FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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05

Starts
November
19th



10-week Investigator Training

08



Wellness "Tuesday" at the Gun Range

11



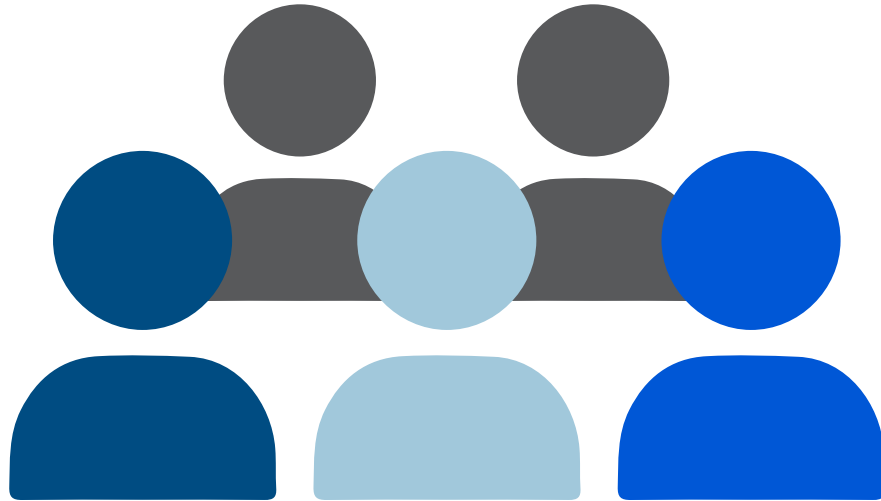
Community Leaders in support
of Hate Crime Solutions for the
LGBTQ+ Community

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OPEN **2022** ENROLLMENT






Enroll by October 15, 2021

Otherwise, you and your dependent will be enrolled automatically in the Kaiser HMO Plan for 2022; and you won't have dental or vision coverage.

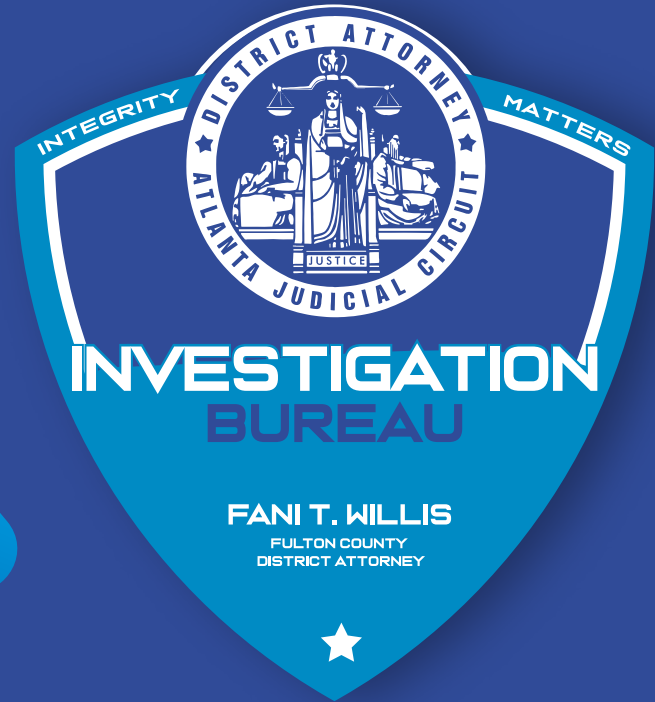
DON'T FORGET \$240 Annual Wellness Credit Available

All active permanent employees hired through September 15, 2021, who are enrolled in medical coverage are eligible to reduce their 2022 premium under any of the medical plans by \$20 each month. Just make an appointment to see your doctor and complete all the steps required with your medical plan provider by December 31, 2021.

Important Dates and Special Events

 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH  BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH  LGBT HISTORY MONTH						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
OCT 2021	11	12	13	14 10th annual Candelight Vigil for DV victim's	15 Deadline to Submit Votes for Award Nominees	16
17	18 New Class of Employees Grand Jury Inspection of the DA's Office	19	20	21 Women in Government Day at Georgia Supreme Court	22 Adult Diversion Attorney Training	23 National Paralegal Day
24	25	26 Office Wide Halloween Contest. 	27 Wellness Wednesday Annual APD Police Foundation Crime is Toast Breakfast.	28	29 Adult Diversion Attorney Training	30
31 Halloween 						

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
NOV 2021	1 New Class of Employees	2	3	4 Leadership Meeting	5 UDAC Meeting Macon, GA	6
7	8	9 RICO Training John Floyd BOC	10 Legal Assistant Master Class Graduation	11  Veterans Day	12	13
14	15 New Class of Employees	16	17 FCDA  Sweatshirts & Sweets	18	19 Sheriff Labat Swearing-In of FCDA Investigators Investigator 10-week Course Begins	20
21	22	23	24	25  Thanksgiving Holiday	26 Thanksgiving Holiday	27
28	29	30	1 Wellness Wednesday	2	3	4



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 1:

STARTS November 19th!

Orientation
Introductory Training

11am - 2pm

Contact

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

Week 2:

December 8th
9am - 12pm
Trial Preparation

Week 3:

How to Find Someone

Week 4:

SECURUS

Week 5:

Flying While Armed

Week 6:

Jail Process

Week 7:

Evidence

Week 8:

Electronic Evidence

Week 9:

Technical Investigations

Week 10:


Firearms Training

Week 11:


Health and Wellness

Staff & Stories

Employee of the Month



September
EMPLOYEE
OF THE MONTH



EDWINA SELLAN
LEGAL ASSISTANT
RECORDS UNIT

FANI T. WILLIS, District Attorney



Vanessa Condry
February 2021



Jinnique Roberts
March 2021



James Spear
April 2021



Barry Hunter
May 2021



Caitlin Bradley
June 2021



Jason Johnson
July 2021



Sau Chan
August 2021

OFFICE-WIDE

HALLOWEEN

COSTUME CONTEST

TUESDAY

OCT

26

CATEGORIES:

2-Comp Days / Best Individual

SCARIEST

SILLIEST

MOST CREATIVE

HANDMADE

3-Comp Days / Entire Unit

BEST COORDINATED UNIT



Staff & Stories

Wellness "Tuesday" at the Gun Range

On Tuesday, September 28, 2021, participants from the Fulton County District Attorney's Office practiced their shooting skills at a Fulton County firing range. They learned about range rules and safety instructions, and gun safety, and engaged in dry shooting, shooting different types of firearms and shooting at steel targets and paper targets. This was organized by Organized by Chief Capers Green, Deputy Chief Johnna Griffin, Investigator Keenan O'Neal, and Investigator Christy Manos.



Staff & Stories

Wellness "Tuesday" at the Gun Range



Staff & Stories

Wellness "Tuesday" at the Gun Range



Congratulations to our Case Intake Unit
on 2,017 indicted cases! 🎉

2017

Staff & Stories

Community Leaders in support of Hate Crime Solutions for the LGBTQ+ Community

On Friday, October 8, 2021, Madame DA hosted a meeting with community partners Josh Lesser, Rabbi Emeritus, Congregation Bet Haverim, and Leanne Rubenstein, Director of Compassionate Atlanta, to discuss education to expand the conversations around hate crimes affecting LGBTQIA victims. Also in attendance were Adam Abbate, Deputy Assistant District Attorney, Cold and Capital Case Unit; Kevin Armstrong, Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney, Training Unit; Michael Cuffee, Chief Programs Director; Jeremy Dailey, Senior Assistant District Attorney, Special Victims Unit; Ilona Rolack, Deputy Victim Witness Advocate, Major Crimes Division; and Michele Henry, Grants Division.



Staff & Stories

Adult Diversion Program Kick-Off

The launch of the Fulton County District Attorney's Office Adult Diversion Program occurred on Friday, October 1, 2021. This innovative Pre & Post Indictment Diversion Program is truly Criminal Justice Reform in Action & the fulfillment of Madam District Attorney Fani T. Willis's campaign promise.

The Adult Diversion Program will assist victims in obtaining better awareness and retribution in their cases, assist the District Attorney's Office in addressing cases faster and provide needed rehabilitative services to the program participants that will in turn, help to reduce recidivism rates.

All participants completing the Fulton County District Attorney's Office Adult Diversion Program will have their charges dismissed and a record restriction filed, creating opportunities for programs participants to accept responsibility for their actions while gaining a second chance at getting things right. We are creating safer communities & rehabilitated program participants with the Adult Diversion Program.



From Left to Right: Commissioner Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, Madam DA Fani T. Willis, Sheriff Patrick "Pat" Labat

Below, Left to Right: Monique S. Brown, Ed.D. – Dean of Adult Education; Atlanta Technical College; Epiffany Henry, M.A. – Deputy Chief of Staff | Adult Diversion Director



Staff & Stories

Adult Diversion Program Kick-Off



From Left to Right: David Windecher, JD - Rehabilitation Enables Dreams; Madam DA Fani T. Willis; Commissioner Khadijah Abdur-Rahman

Below, Left to Right: Epiffany Henry, M.A. - Deputy Chief of Staff | Adult Diversion Director; Ramona Toole, JD - Deputy District Attorney | Records Restriction and Adult Diversion Unit; Chandrika Derricho, LCSW - Victim-Witness Assistance Program Director



October is...

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

JOIN US FOR A WEEKLY WEB SERIES

during the month of October discussing domestic violence issues.



WEEK 2 | Panel Discussion: Survivors Speak Out!

1pm-2pm

Thursday, Oct 14, 2021

JOIN AT: <https://zoom.us/j/95017938587?pwd=eHZOR3NxS-G1MaWsrY1dBSjQrMIAwUT09>



WEEK 2 | PADV 10th Annual Candle Light Vigil

6pm-8pm

Thursday, Oct 14, 2021

LOCATION: The Intercontinental Buckhead - Garden

WEBSITE: <https://padv.org/events/candlelight-vigil/>



WEEK 3 | DV and the Pandemic

1pm-2pm

Thursday, Oct 21, 2021

REGISTER AT: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_07ZLW-7Z1TTu5COcLnWcOsw



WEEK 4 | DV Prevention Education: Engaging Men and Boys

1pm-2pm

Thursday, Oct 28, 2021

REGISTER AT: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TG9b-g4nVRQGpNxqvNtmANQ



Men Stopping Violence
Working together for a change.



Staff & Stories



Domestic Violence: Why it matters

Article by Simone Hylton | Deputy District Attorney, Domestic Violence Unit

Domestic Violence Awareness was started by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence and first observed in October 1981 as a National Day of Unity. The day grew into a month and was launched nationwide in October 1987. The purpose of the month is to connect and unite individuals and organizations working on domestic violence issues.

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence defines Domestic Violence as the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior as part of a systematic pattern of power and control perpetrated by one intimate partner against another. It includes physical violence, sexual violence, threats and emotional abuse.

Nationally, the statistics on domestic violence is troubling. The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence reports that on average, **nearly 20** people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States. **1 in 4 women** and **1 in 9 men** experience severe intimate partner physical violence, intimate partner sexual violence, and/or intimate partner stalking with impacts such as injury, fearfulness, post-traumatic stress disorder, use of victim services, contraction of sexually transmitted diseases, etc. **1 in 4 women** and **1 in 7 men** have been victims of severe physical violence (e.g. beating, burning, strangling) by an intimate partner in their lifetime. Additionally, **1 in 15** children are exposed to intimate partner violence each year; women between the ages of **18-24** are most commonly abused by an intimate partner and the presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide by **500%**.

In Georgia, the Georgia Coalition on Domestic Violence reports that **37.4%** of Georgia women and **30.4%** of Georgia men experience intimate partner physical violence, sexual violence and/or stalking in their lifetimes. In 2017, there were **149** domestic violence-related fatalities. **70%** of those involved firearms. Last, but certainly not least, in 2017, Georgia had the **10th-highest rate** in the U.S. of women murdered by men.

Our current pandemic did not make this any better. The COVID-19 pandemic, the lockdowns and social distancing have increased the cases of domestic violence. Historically, domestic violence has increased during pandemics and economic crises. This happens because the usual escapes for survivors to include shelters, obtaining temporary protective orders, reaching out to friends and family are not as easily accessible.

These statistics alone tell you why it is so important to have a unit dedicated to the prosecution of domestic violence cases. This is why the Brenda Baham Domestic Violence Unit was formed. Oftentimes, when there is not a dedicated specialized unit handling domestic violence cases, these cases do not get the attention that is needed. These cases on its surface can be challenging to prosecute, but when we do not prosecute these cases properly, the impact is far too great. Research has shown that having specialized domestic violence units have several advantages, including allowing prosecutors to develop expertise and knowledge in the dynamics of domestic violence, prompting regular review of policies and practices to ensure they protect victims and hold offenders accountable, facilitating more aggressive prosecution, providing for earlier intervention aimed at curbing the escalation of violence and leading to more efficient coordination by the prosecution unit with members of the community.

As a community, domestic violence impacts us all. You never know if a family member, friend or co-worker is being impacted by abuse at home. We must all stay vigilant to fight and protect those who are caught in the cycle of violence. Fighting for the victim is determining the best resolution and resources for survivors that will make them whole. As a community, we can all do our part to help in the eradication of domestic violence.

WARNING SIGNS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Telling a partner you don't anything right
- Insulting, demeaning, or shaming a partner, especially in front of other people
- Preventing a partner from making his/her own decisions, including working or attending school
- Controlling finances in the household without discussion, including taking a partner's money or refusing to provide money for necessary expenses
- Pressuring a partner to have sex or perform sexual acts a partner is not comfortable with
- Pressuring a partner to use drugs or alcohol
- Intimidating a partner through threatening looks or actions
- Insulting a partner's parenting or threatening to harm or take away children or pets
- Intimidating a partner with weapons
- Destroying a partner's belongings or the home

RESOURCES

Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence | Statewide Hotline 1-800-334-2836, <https://gcadv.org/>

Partnership Against Domestic Violence | Crisis Line 404-873-1766, <https://padv.org/>

Atlanta Legal Aid | 404-524-5811, for Spanish Speaking Applicants 404-377-5381, <https://atlantalegalaid.org/>

Georgia Legal Services Program | 1-800-498-9469, <https://www.glsp.org/family-law/> (also provides several services unrelated to DV)

Safe Families Office | Crisis Line 404-873-1766, Main Office 404-612-4324, <https://www.safefamiliesoffice.org/>

Tapestri | 404-299-2185, <https://tapestri.org>

2021

FCDA OFFICE AWARD NOMINATIONS

DEADLINE TO VOTE: OCTOBER 22ND

SUPERVISORS' NAMES CANNOT BE SUBMITTED FOR ANY AWARD CATEGORY

Which non-supervisor are you going to vote for?

Stay tuned for email instructions on how and where to vote.

GENERAL AWARD

Volunteer of the Year Award
Leigh DuPre (Kindest Heart Award)
Justice Award – Top Trial Lawyer Office Wide
FCDA STAR Investigator – Office Wide
FCDA STAR Legal Assistant – Office Wide
FCDA STAR VWAP – Office Wide

TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES

MCD – Most Dedicated
SVD – Most Dedicated
Trial – Most Dedicated

SPECIAL VICTIMS DIVISION AWARDS

The Eagle Award – Top Attorney in SVD
The Phoenix Award – Top Employee (*Any non-attorney*)

CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN UNIT AWARDS

Terrell Williams Award – Top Attorney of the Year
Phoenix Award – Top Employee (*Any non-attorney*)
CAC Rising Star Attorney
CAC Rising Star Investigator
CAC Rising Star Legal Assistant

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT AWARDS

Brenda Baham Award – Top Attorney of the Year
Phoenix Award – Top Employee (*Any non-attorney*)
DV Rising Star Attorney
DV Rising Star Investigator
DV Rising Star Legal Assistant

SEXUAL ASSAULT UNIT AWARDS

Sexual Assault Unit Attorney of Year
The Phoenix Award – Top Employee (*Any non-attorney*)
SAU – Rising Star Attorney of the Year
SAU – Rising Star Investigator of the Year
SAU – Rising Star Legal Assistant of the Year

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND CHILD EXPLOITATION

HTCE – Super Star (*1 employee within unit*)
HTCE – Rising Star (*1 employee within unit*)

SAKI

SAKI – Super Star (*1 employee within unit*)
SAKI – Rising Star (*1 employee within unit*)

CONVICTION INTEGRITY

CI – Super Star (*1 employee within unit*)
CI – Rising Star (*1 employee within unit*)

SB440

SB440 – Super Star (*1 employee within unit*)
SB440 – Rising Star (*1 employee within unit*)

ELDER ABUSE AND ANIMAL CRUELTY

EAAC – Super Star (*1 employee within unit*)

JUVENILE COURT

Juvenile Court Lawyer of the Year
Phoenix Award – Top Employee (*Any non-attorney*)
Juvenile Rising Star Attorney
Juvenile Rising Star Investigator
Juvenile Rising Star Legal Assistant

MAJOR CRIMES DIVISION

Major Crimes People's Champ Award – Top Attorney in MCD
The Phoenix Award – Top Employee (*Any non-attorney*)

COLD CAPITAL CASE

CCC Employee of the Year

CIVIL FORFEITURE UNIT

CFU Employee of the Year

2021

FCDA OFFICE AWARD NOMINATIONS

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Which non-supervisor are you going to vote for?

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MAJOR CASE UNIT

Al Dixon Award – Top Lawyer Award
Phoenix Award – Top Employee (*Any non-attorney*)
MC Rising Star Attorney
MC Rising Star Investigator
MC Rising Star Legal Assistant

GANG UNIT

Gang Unit Lawyer of the Year
Phoenix Award – Top Employee (*Any non-attorney*)
Gang Rising Star Attorney
Gang Rising Star Investigator
Gang Rising Star Legal Assistant

APPEALS UNIT

Appeals Lawyer of the Year
Appeals Rising Star Lawyer of the Year

WHITE COLLAR UNIT

White Collar Crime Lawyer of the Year
White Collar Crime Rising Star Lawyer of the Year

TRIAL DIVISION

The Eagle Award – Top Attorney in Trial Division
The Phoenix Award – Top Employee (*Any non- attorney*)

CASE INTAKE

Case Intake Lawyer of the Year
Phoenix Award – Top Employee (*Any non-attorney*)
Case Intake Rising Star Attorney
Case Intake Star Investigator
Case Intake Star Legal Assistant

COMPLEX

Complex Lawyer of the Year
Phoenix Award – Top Employee (*Any non-attorney*)
Complex Rising Star Attorney
Complex Star Investigator
Complex Star Legal Assistant

NON-COMPLEX

Non-Complex Lawyer of the Year
Phoenix Award – Top Employee (*Any non-attorney*)
Non-Complex Rising Star Attorney
Non-Complex Star Investigator
Non-Complex Star Legal Assistant

OPERATIONS

Operations Super Star of the Year
Operations Rising Star of the Year

PROGRAMS

Programs Super Star of the Year
Programs Rising Star of the Year

RECORDS

Records Super Star of the Year
Record Rising Star of the Year

ANTI-CORRUPTION

The Eagle Award – Top Attorney in Anti-Corruption
The Phoenix Award – Top Employee (*Any non-attorney*)

INVESTIGATIONS

Investigations Super Star of the Year
Investigations Rising Star of the Year

DIGNITARY TEAM

Most Reliable

VICTIM WITNESS ADVOCATE

VWA Super Star of the Year
VWA Rising Star of the Year



skip the line

VOTE EARLY

The early voting period for the
November 2, 2021
Municipal General/Special Election
began on
Tuesday, October 12th.



FULTON VOTES

Fulton County has 24 polling sites
available during this 18-day period.



Need Extra \$\$ Money?



By: Jessica Brown, 11-Alive
August 27, 2021

FULTON COUNTY, Ga. — Fulton County is hiring poll workers for the November 2, 2021 General Municipal and Special Election.

The Board of Elections estimates it will need 2,052 poll workers for its local government and school board elections. The county said it will need between 300 to 400 poll workers to work at its 259 polling locations on Election Day.

Here are the qualifications to be a poll worker:

- You must be at least 16 years of age and older
- Be willing to serve and work from 5 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Election Day (until 9:30 p.m. in the City of Atlanta)
- Be able to read and write English
- Must have reliable transportation
- You must fill out an online application.
- Depending on the position, poll workers will receive the following rate plus an additional \$30 to attend training.

Dual Managers - \$275
 Chief Managers - \$250
 Assistant Managers - \$200
 Clerks - \$175



Make Up Class is Available

Week 3: Odyssey

Location: 3rd Floor Grand Jury Room

10/21 | 2-4pm

The Fani T. Willis School of Integrity

Legal Assistant

Master

Training Class Program

Week 7

Lesson 6:
Discovery and Trial Preparation

Date: October 20th

Time: 2pm-4pm

Location: TBD

Week 8

Lesson 7: GCIC & Major Crimes Preparation

Week 9

Lesson 8: Accountability Court & Graphics

Week 10

Graduation - November 10th

2pm-3:30pm

BOC Room

All are invited to celebrate!

For the first time, the Fulton County District Attorney's Office is implementing a voluntary training program for legal assistants in this office. The program is covering everything legal assistants need to know to be more knowledgeable, successful and confident doing their job. While the program is voluntary, all paralegals have been encouraged to attend. The 10-week program began September 8 and occurs every Wednesday from 2-4 p.m.

RSVP your intentions to attend to:

Lora.Andrews@fultoncountyga.gov

Whitney.Meyer@fultoncountyga.gov

Quinasha.Pritchett@fultoncountyga.gov



FOR NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY - OCTOBER 11, 2021

COMING OUT STORIES



By: Kevin Armstrong

I was visiting my parents. It was late morning. The three of us were in the backyard. Our plans were to go to lunch, then see some old family friends. I prefaced it with a reminder about how they're always begging my brother and me to tell them more things about ourselves. (This got one of them super excited.)

"Well. I'm gay."

One of them had an emotional reaction. I gave that one a few minutes, then called it to close.

"So are we going? We're meeting the Wenzkas at 1, and I'm hungry."

That one paused, sighed, then said: "Yeah, let's go."

And that was that.

Later that day, I bet my parents money that the first words my brother would have would be "And?" I lost that bet. I informed him obliquely by text that I had informed the parents I was gay. His response: "That so?"

The next day, as he was cooking, my father gleefully announced he'd discovered a silver lining in the situation. My mother just asked me to promise not to march down the street in a thong. (Agreed.)

The next Sunday came and went without a call from my father, which was unusual for him. When we spoke a few days later he said: "I thought about calling on Sunday, but...I didn't want to interrupt an orgy!" (I heard my mother was furious with him for that, but I thought it was delightful.)

I sent close friends a friendship amendment notice in the style of a credit card terms update. In response, one of them sent flowers.

FOR NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY - OCTOBER 11, 2021

COMING OUT STORIES



By: Jeremy Dailey

I went to my first Atlanta Pride in October 2018. I had already told my family, close friends, and some co-workers that I was gay about six months prior, but I otherwise wasn't living openly before that day and frankly had gotten tired of having to tell people. It's a misconception that LGBTQ people only come out once. On the contrary, we have to come out to new people all the time. To solve this problem, I'd had written a "coming out Facebook post" early on with the intention of telling as many people as possible in one fell swoop. But I hadn't gotten the nerve to post it.

That changed after participating in Atlanta Pride and seeing all the love and support from the thousands of people who watched and participated. I knew then it was time to live my truth. So I went home, opened Facebook, clicked post, and went to bed. I woke up that next morning to dozens of messages from people across all corners of my life letting me know that they loved me. And now, three years later, I have a partner with whom I share my life (plus a mortgage and a dog), and I've never looked back.

To anyone who is struggling with coming out, it admittedly was the hardest thing I've ever had to do. But then it gets easier. And then it gets better. And when you do take that plunge, there will be a whole group, a whole community of people, there to support you.

Happy Pride!



FOR NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY - OCTOBER 11, 2021

COMING OUT STORIES



By: Ron Coloma

As a Hispanic male, I always found it difficult to express my true feelings as a child because of a culture entrenched in “machismo.” I would often think I was confused or merely think of these feelings as a fad that would eventually pass. Over time, those feelings continued, and I would find it necessary to suppress them by dating women and telling stories around my friends that would reinforce everyone’s perception that I was straight. It was particularly difficult when I started my law-enforcement career in Miami in the late 2000s, when there was still an extreme hesitancy to come out.

Everything changed for me when I relocated in 2008 to Atlanta, a vibrant city with a thriving gay culture. I finally felt comfortable enough to accept that I was gay. It made it so much easier that I left behind my family and their influence over me. It still took me several years before I began to date men. In 2016, I was involved in my first-ever gay relationship. I summoned the courage to finally come out to family and when I made the phone call, it’s as if they knew already. They told me that they loved me unconditionally. I was overwhelmed with joy. I introduced my boyfriend during a family trip a few weeks later and the topic of my coming out was never brought up. I was overthinking the coming out process all along!

This relationship wouldn’t last, but I met the love of my life a couple of years later and we wed in Savannah during a beach ceremony in 2020. The man upstairs definitely put this man in my life on purpose. He is everything to me. He completes the part of me that was so empty before. He is my soulmate with whom I plan on growing tired and old. But it took a journey to finally get to this point. It was a long journey worth every trial and tribulation, but in the end, it was worth every minute. To conclude, I am so fortunate to be working in a job that embraces diversity and seeks people’s stories like mine, which makes me feel a part of something special. This is a work family where everybody’s differences collectively make up this very special team. Thank you.

The Fab Four Spotlight



Erica McCray
Open Records Supervisor

Originally from Thomasville, Georgia, Erica McCray graduated from Thomasville High School in 2002 before attending Albany State University, where she received her Bachelor's degree in Management. She worked as a Substance Abuse Counselor at a prison camp and discovered that she wanted to learn more about the criminal justice system. After completing her Master's degree in Criminal Justice in 2013, she relocated to Atlanta, where she began working as an administrative assistant in the Fulton County District Attorney's Office for three years. She later worked at the Morehouse School of Medicine as a discharge planner for the Fulton County Jail, assisting those with mental health issues with placement in the community. For the first time in her career, Erica knew that she made a difference after successfully placing people safely back into the community. She then returned to the Fulton County District Attorney's Office, where she is currently the Open Records Manager. Throughout her career, Erica has focused on business administration, project management, customer relations and making a difference in the community. Her goal is to broaden her focus and to continue to make an impact.

A few fun facts: Erica loves group fitness and teaching indoor Hip-Hop and R&B spin classes. When she is not teaching (two Saturdays out of the month), you can find her and a group of her friends riding bikes along popular bike trails. The fact that she can push people to do things that they never thought they were capable of brings her so much joy. She also loves to go hiking in Georgia, which has some of the most beautiful parks filled with waterfalls, rivers, trails and amazing scenery. Traveling is another one of her favorite pastimes. She would have to say that Montego Bay, Jamaica, is the most beautiful place that she has seen thus far.

The Fab Four Spotlight



Natalie Zellner

Manager

Grants, Community Partnerships, & Government Relations

Assistant District Attorney Natalie Zellner manages grants, community partnerships, and government relations. At the Fulton County District Attorney's Office, she oversees the preparation of complex and varied grants from government agencies and private foundations, develops strategic partnerships with businesses and civic organizations, and executes a proactive government affairs strategy that advances the mission of the office to pursue justice.

With more than 20 years of experience in government, nonprofits, and the private sector, Natalie has experience that includes writing legislation and regulations, developing diverse and sustainable funding streams for programs, and building successful community collaborations that yield support for community initiatives. She served as a Chief of Staff for Georgia Lieutenant Governor Mark Taylor and Public Affairs Director for Georgia Attorney General Thurbert Baker. She also served as Director of Fund Development and Outreach for Emory University's Brain Health Center, focusing on initiatives to fight Alzheimer's disease, and worked with the Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership and the Wesley Woods Center of Emory Healthcare.

Natalie also practiced law with a major national law firm. Her work has won multi-million dollar grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Departments of the Treasury, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, as well as from major nonprofit foundations. Natalie also worked with the U.S. Congress and the Georgia General Assembly to pass multi-million dollar appropriations to support pilot programs in healthcare and housing.

Personal Facts: Natalie lives in Sandy Springs with her 17-year-old son who attends North Springs High School. Originally from New Orleans, she remains a Saints Fan but can understand pain of the Falcons. She and her son have a rescue miniature dachshund named Lulu.

Fun Facts: She has jumped off one of the highest bungee jumps in the world in Zimbabwe over the Zambezi River; she has raided the fridge at the White House; and she argued the status of absentee ballots during the 2000 Florida Recount. She has worked on four presidential campaigns and at the Democratic National Committee and the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.

The Fab Four Spotlight



Matthew Plott Assistant District Attorney Appeals Unit

Mathew Plott grew up in Young Harris, Georgia, before moving to Chattanooga, Tennessee, for high school and college. At the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga, he earned his Bachelor's of Science degree in Political Science in 2015. Mathew subsequently attended Emory University School of Law as a Woodruff Fellow, receiving a scholarship covering all tuition and mandatory fees for the three years of study toward a juris doctor.

Mathew spent both summers during law school working in the Fulton County District Attorney's Office Appeals Unit. During that time, he developed a passion for legal writing and research. After graduating from law school and passing the Georgia Bar Exam, Mathew took a year off to travel the world: spending time in Indonesia, Spain, the Netherlands, and Germany. In September 2019, Mathew returned to the Fulton County District Attorney's Office as an Assistant District Attorney in the Appeals Unit.

Mathew continues to travel whenever he has the opportunity. This summer, he and his husband flew to Peru, where they visited Lima, Cusco, Rainbow Mountain, the Sacred Valley, and Machu Picchu. Later this year, they hope to spend the holidays in Europe. When they are in Atlanta, Mathew and his husband love to go to the movie theater. Whether it's the latest blockbuster or an obscure art film, if it's being shown in Atlanta, they plan to see it.

The Fab Four Spotlight



Michele Henry

Grant Writer

Grants, Community Partnerships, & Government Relations

Michele Henry was born in Atlanta. Her father was born in Jamaica and her mother in Nebraska, a reason why she says she doesn't have a southern accent. She graduated from Emory and went to graduate school at Baruch in New York City as a National Urban Fellow. She served in the Peace Corps in Botswana in southern Africa and learned a cool word for hangover, which is *babelas* (ba bay las). As a Peace Corps English teacher, she created lessons relevant to life in the village, borrowed equipment to coach softball for boys and girls and created a separate Girls Club, all so that the students would have more opportunities to practice English together.

Interested in solving problems, Michele has continued to think outside of the box while working for non-profits with missions she believes in, including as a grant writer with Hospice Atlanta, an organization that works with those who are terminally ill, and as an executive director at Literacy Volunteers, which provides free one-to-one tutoring for adults who read below a 5th grade level. While working with orphaned children, she made coalition-building trips to India. As a result, she increased the India adoption program by 60 percent and was invited as a speaker at an Indian government-sponsored conference in Delhi. Currently, Michele works in the Grants Division of the Fulton County District Attorney's office, which has a mission she believes in. The grants she has written, researched or supported has raised money for programs to support victims of crime, like SAKI.

She and her husband have two children and she loves to watch movies and play traditional Jamaican dominos, trash talk and all. Contact her if you ever have a question about grants.

Newsroom

Click story for more information

In a courtroom near you

Trial - Complex

Shakeria King and
Tyreese Brown

#20SC175642

Courtroom: Edwards
10/14/2021

9:30am

Status

Crimes Against Children

Shevohn Barr

#19SC1711594

Courtroom: Leftridge
10/15/2021

9:30am

Motions

Joboren Burke

#21SC178777

Courtroom: Dunaway
10/18/2021

9:30am

Plea and Arraignment

Domestic Violence

Fortune Spencer

Courtroom: Cox

10/21/2021

10:00am

Motions Calendar

Anti-Corruption

Garrett Eastridge
(Officer)

#21SC178942

Courtroom: Richardson
10/20/2021

9:30 am

Plea and Arraignment



FANI T. WILLIS
District Attorney

DADISPATCH
The Fulton County District Attorney's Office