

DA DISPATCH

FANI T. WILLIS, District Attorney



Ruth Bader Ginsburg was sworn in as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court on August 10, 1993. From left to right are: President Bill Clinton, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, her husband Martin Ginsburg, and Chief Justice William Rehnquist.

Women's History Month Ruth Bader Ginsburg pg. 21

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, an advocate of women's rights and gender discrimination, was the second woman and first Jewish woman to sit on the high court.



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 OFFICE OF THE
FULTON COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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congrats!

DISTRICT ATTORNEY FANI T. WILLIS DAY



In commemoration of Women's History Month, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognized District Attorney Fani T. Willis for her stellar career and trailblazing achievement as the first female district attorney in Fulton County, Georgia.

March 2, 2022

Fulton County Sheriff's Office

Women's History Month Breakfast

March 15, 2022



Important Dates and Special Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
MAR 2022	21	22	23	24 Diversion Participants Orientation Attorney Training Legal Asst. Training Wellness - Trinidad Toby	25 \$\$\$ Fulton County PayDay	26
27	28 Celebrate Women's History Month Office Photo	29 Wellness - Trinidad Toby	30 Investigator Training	31 Attorney Training Legal Asst. Training Wellness - Trinidad Toby	1	2

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
APR 2022					1 Spring 2022 Intern Information Session	2
3	4 Adult Diversion Orientation	5 Wellness - Trinidad Toby	6 Investigator Training VWAP Training FulCo Lab	7 Attorney Training Legal Asst. Training Wellness - Trinidad Toby	8 \$\$\$ Fulton County PayDay	9
10	11	12 Wellness - Trinidad Toby	13 Chat & Chew Case Intake, Trial, Investigations, Operations, Programs & Records	14 Legal Asst. Training Wellness - Trinidad Toby	15 Chat & Chew Major, SVD, Anti-Corruption & Civil Rights	16
17	18	19 Wellness - Trinidad Toby	20 Attorney Training VWAP Training FulCo Lab	21 Legal Asst. Training Wellness - Trinidad Toby	22 LAW DAY! Family Feud Competition \$\$\$ Fulton County PayDay	23
24	25 Adult Diversion Orientation Monday Matinee Movie Day!!	26 Wellness - Trinidad Toby	27 Investigator Training VWAP Training FulCo Lab	28 Legal Asst. Training Wellness - Trinidad Toby	29	30

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
MAY 2022	2 Adult Diversion Orientation	3	4 VWAP Training FulCo Lab	5 Legal Asst. Training Cinco de Mayo Spring Report Celebration	6	7
8	9	10	11 VWAP Training FulCo Lab	12 Legal Asst. Training	13	14

CONTINUING 10-WEEK COURSE (through April 2022)

INVESTIGATOR TRAINING

Contact
MICHAEL GREEN
Deputy Chief of Investigations
404.613.2400
michael.green@fultoncountyga.gov



WEEK 8:
Technical Investigations
March 30, 2022

Week 9:
Firearms Training
April 6, 2022

Week 10:
Health and Wellness
April 27, 2022

CONTINUING 11-WEEK COURSE (through April 2022)

ATTORNEY TRAINING

Contact
KEVIN ARMSTRONG
Chief Senior ADA / Training
404.358.7599
kevin.armstrong@fultoncountyga.gov



WEEK 7:
Arraignments, Pleas, and Sentencing
March 24, 2022

Week 8 | 3/31 *Discovery—Both Statutory and Constitutional*
Week 9 | 4/7 *Jury Selection Issues*
Week 10 | 4/13 *Identification and Confrontation*
Probation Revocation
Week 11 | 4/20 *Ethics and Professionalism*

NEW! 11-WEEK COURSE (through May 2022)

VWAP TRAINING

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



WEEK 4:
April 6, 2022 | BOC Room
Customer Service/
Client- Centered Care

Week 5 | 4/13/2022 | FulCo Lab
Working with Special Victims
Week 6 | 4/20/2022 | BOC Assembly Hall
DV and Strangulation/ Danger Assessment and Safety Planning
Week 7 | 4/27/2022 | BOC Assembly Hall
Maximizing Odyssey and Tracker

NEW! 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 2:
March 24, 2022
BOC Room

Class 3 | March 31, 2022
Class 4 | April 7, 2022
Class 5 | April 14, 2022
Class 6 | April 21, 2022
Class 7 | April 28, 2022
Class 8 | May 5, 2022
Class 9 | May 12, 2022
GRADUATION | May 19, 2022

April
2022

Chat & CHEW



April 13th

Case Intake
Trial
Investigations
Operations
Programs
Records

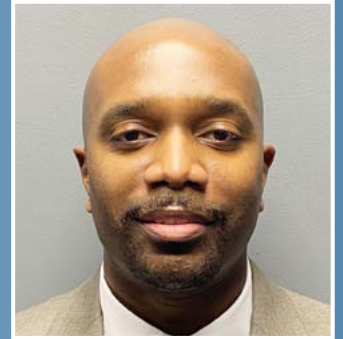
April 15th

Major Crimes
SVD
Anti-Corruption
Civil Rights

Welcome New Hires



ROBERT BROWN
Investigator
Dignitary Protection



PAUL WASHINGTON
Investigator
Trial Division



MICHELLE ANDREWS
Legal Assistant
Case Intake Division



ROBERT GORDON
Records Clerk
Diversion / Records /
Record Restriction Division



RHONDA HECKARD
Executive Assistant



JASMINNE WHITE
Legal Assistant - Open Records

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.

Employee of the Month



I would like to recommend Nicole Santos for the recommendation for the month of February. Nicole Santos is the D.V. advocate and she was a complete ROCKSTAR with our last case of State v. Malik Grant. This case was an EGREGIOUS case and Nicole not only conducted her role with the family, but she stayed late every night with the team to make sure that the team was good. When I say late, there were a few nights that we were here until 1:00 a.m. and she stayed with us the entire time. She assisted us with contacting witnesses to make sure that they were here on time. She got up early with Inv. Shae Corso to get the family from the hotels in the morning. Also, she served as a 13th juror, letting the attorneys know what was going on in the courtroom while we were focused on litigating the case. She went above and beyond and I think she is an amazing advocate! (I'm scared to say this because someone may try to steal her, but I will fight. LOL!)

Thank you,

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

Februray 2022

TOP 3

Accepted ADA Referrals



FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
ADULT DIVERSION



Jennifer Banks-Browne



Je'Leah Wiggins



Timothy Pennington

Thank you to every ADA who has referred a case. Remember keep them coming, **our goal is 500 Cases in year one!**

Congratulations

ON THE RECENT

OFFICE PROMOTION



BOB APPELL

has been promoted to serve as our new
Deputy Chief - Trial Division



ROBERT TURNER

has been promoted to serve as our new
Assistant Chief - Case Intake Division

Gun Safety Awareness Event

Hosted by City of South Fulton Police, FCDA & Packing Pretty Firearms, LLC.

On Friday, March 11, 2022, the Fulton County District Attorney's Office, along with the South Fulton Police Department and Packing Pretty Firearms, LLC, hosted a gun-safety awareness event in South Fulton. Justice Liaison Will McCombs and Chief Senior ADA Tom Wight attended the event.





SUMMER 2022
FULTON COUNTY DA
Intern Informational
10AM | FRIDAY | APRIL 1

Looking for courtroom experience at the largest DA's office in the State of Georgia? Look no Further!

Our intern program is designed to give students a first-hand view of what it's like to work at the Fulton County District Attorney's Office.

Interns may conduct research on areas of law, investigate evidence in pending cases, and prepare cases for trial. All interns are invited to observe court hearings including motions, hearings, and trials.

Opportunities to work with Assistant District Attorneys in one or more of the following divisions: Major Crimes, Special Victims, Civil Rights, Trial, and much more.

All interested candidates should submit their resume and cover letter at the Summer Intern Informational Meeting held by District Attorney Fani T. Willis on April 1st, 2022.

Light Refreshments to be Served.

RSVP by MARCH 28

Jazmin.Dilligard@fultoncountyga.gov



FANI T. WILLIS,
FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

141 PRYOR STREET SW ATLANTA, GA 30303
FULTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER,
ASSEMBLY HALL



Fulton County District Attorney's

SHINING *stars*



TOM WILLIAMS

Assistant District Attorney
Major Case Unit



CHRIS SPERRY

Assistant District Attorney
Major Case Unit

Madam DA Willis,

I want to send out a big congratulations to Tom Williams on his guilty verdict before Judge Edwards in State v. Michael Williams (charged with murder). His trial started last week and took many twists and turns but ended up vanquishing all doubt.

I also want to recognize and congratulate Chris Sperry on a job well done before Judge Krause in State v. Jonathan Bautista. He started trial last week and was facing a few self-defense issues. Ultimately the defense waived the white flag and too a negotiated plea to 40 years to serve.

Thank you both for representing our victims and the office well. Congratulations!

Pat Dutcher
Chief Deputy District Attorney
Major Crimes Division



TESSA GIBSON

Network Specialist - IT Department

DA Family,

Thank you, to the Information Technology Team for acting expeditiously on our behalf in Juvenile! Tessa responded to our requests and made it happen. She got the attorney set up as well as gave tutorial and answered her questions. We know that you all are pulled in many directions, but the attention that you give to the individual person is impeccable. Great service, great team!

Yolanda M Shorthouse
Records & Documents Supervisor,
Juvenile Division



WHITNEY MYER

Deputy Legal Assistant - Trial Division

DA Family,

I want to take a moment to publicly commend Whitney Meyer for her outstanding service to the office.

Thank you for exemplifying leadership. I hope those that serve under you take the time to learn to operate in excellence as you do every day.

- Madam DA Willis



JOHN WEITNAUER

Senior Assistant District Attorney
Sexual Assault Unit
Special Victims Division



ADA Melissa Roth



Inv. Michelle Lam



VWA LaTeeka
Montgomery



Legal Assistant
Alicia Scurry

DA Family,

A big, BIG congratulations to ADA John Weitnauer from Sex Crimes Unit & his trial team on their 45 minute guilty verdict in the State vs. Cody Klinepeter trial!

Lauren McAuley
Deputy District Attorney
Crimes Against Children Unit - Special Victims Division



JASON ADAMS

Assistant District Attorney - Trial Division

DA Family,

Congratulations to Jason on being Trial Division's **MOST PRODUCTIVE ADA!!**

-Madam DA Willis

Fulton County District Attorney's

SHINING stars



FAYE ROSENBAUM

Deputy District Attorney
Case Intake Division



ADA Maria Hunter



DDA Jill Hollander



Inv. Fred Glenn



Inv. Ken Rucker



VWA Dilma Dos Reis



VWA Nicole Santos

DA Family,

Congrats to this hybrid case intake division and trial division team on their victory in the State vs. Jermaine Hewitt.

Thank you Deputy Faye Rosenbaum, Chief Senior ADA Maria Hunter, Deputy District Attorney Jill Hollander, Director of Graphics Mike Makins, Graphic Designer Reta Keppler, Deputy Chief Investigator Fred Glenn, Investigator Ken Rucker, Deputy Victim Witness Advocate Dilma Dos Rios, and Victim Witness Advocate Nicole Santos.

Thank you for a hard work and hard fought victory. Guilty on robbery. I will take that. Today we removed a recidivist from our community. Hooray! - Madam DA Willis



ASIA BAYSAH

Senior Assistant District Attorney
Domestic Violence Unit -
Special Victims Division



ADA Elyce
Loutzenhiser



Inv. Marcus Gerald



VWA Caitlin Bradley



Legal Assistant
Daniel Pinilla

DA Family,

Please send a congratulations to Sr. ADA Asia Baysah, ADA Elyce Loutzenhiser, Inv. Marcus Gerald, V.A. Caitlin Bradley, L.A. Daniel Pinilla and Graphic Designer Reta Keppler on their victory in State v. Bennie Harris III. This is one of those cases where we had to dig deeper! We had a victim who was still being abused by the defendant. A defendant that had MULTIPLE DV cases against different women, many of them, the mothers of his children and all of those cases were all dismissed or he was acquitted.

Well not today! Today he was held accountable for his actions! Kudos to the team!

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



JAMELL HAMM

Assitant District Attorney
Major Case Unit -
Major Crimes Division



ADA Tom Williams



Inv. Wesley Smith



Inv. Sammy John



VWA Dericka Mitchell



Paralegal Sherry Cousin

DA Family,

Congratulations to Jamell Hamm, Tom Williams, Investigators Wesley Smith and Sammy John, Advocate Dericka Mitchell and Paralegal Sherry Cousin on their guilty verdict before Judge Cox in State v. Anthony Hammond. They all did outstanding work in honor of the victim, 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 the victim. I am very proud of the work, determination, and joint effort by all to get it done!

Adam R. Abbate
Deputy District Attorney
Major Case Unit - Major Crimes Division

Legal Assistant Master Training Program & Next Level Mentorship Program

Welcome Class of 2022. On March 10, 2022, legal-assistant leaders held the first of nine classes in the Legal Assistant Master Training Program with 22 participants seeking knowledge and training to further their careers. Additionally, 19 legal assistants enrolled in the inaugural NXT LVL (Next Level) Mentorship Program, which provides group and individual mentoring. Thank you to all participants. See you in class March 24th.



Pre-Indictment Adult Diversion Program

The Fulton County District Attorney's Office on October 1, 2021, launched the Pre-Indictment Adult Diversion Program. Participants enrolled have the benefits of connection to community resources, assistance with job and educational referrals, access to free behavioral modification courses, the ability to make amends with victims in the form of restitution, and guidance from staff to ensure they have the tools to curb recidivism.

Currently, the program provides behavioral modification courses on topics including Fraud, Substance Abuse, Anger Management, Parenting and Behavioral Change. To date, more than 300 referral requests for entry into this program have been reviewed and more than \$1,500.00 has been recovered in restitution.

All participants give back to the community in the form of community service. Upon completion of the program, the Fulton County District Attorney's Office agrees to dismiss/nolle prosequi their charges and to restrict the arrest and charge records of the participants.

Diversion / Records / Record Restriction Spotlight



RAMONA TOOLE
Deputy DA of Diversion /
Records / Record Restriction

Deputy District Attorney (Pre-Indictment Diversion) Ramona Toole has spent the last 18 years zealously protecting the rights of the most vulnerable and making the community safer. Beyond the stellar resume and professional experience, Ramona is a Mississippi girl at heart even though she was born and grew up in Birmingham, Alabama. The oldest of three siblings, Ramona had the distinction of attending college at the same time as her mother, who went on to become an occupational therapist.

Growing up, Ramona has fond memories of playing kick ball with her cousins in front of grandma's house, making up their own rules and using garbage can lids and whatever else they could find as bases. With her posse of cousins, she says "we were always getting in trouble going places we had no business going to." And because of her "smart mouth," Ramona considers herself lucky because her cousins always had her back when things got physical. Before becoming a legal eagle, Ramona recalls at least one attempt at entrepreneurship as a kid: making "Kool cups," (freezing Kool-Aid in Styrofoam cups); however, that endeavor always ended in a bust because "we always ate our profits," according to Ramona.

Outside of Birmingham, Ramona's heart has always been in Mississippi – more precisely, the tiny hamlet of Stonewall, where "there was only one traffic light, people got their gas and fried chicken at the same place and there were only three channels on the TV." Each year, Ramona would go to Stonewall in July for a few weeks for vacation Bible school and Revival. Stonewall was where her great-grandmother was from. It was home to "Uncle Baby" and other family. It was where Ramona learned to shuck peas, to make jams and jellies, and to cook (she considers herself a master at macaroni and cheese but is disappointed that her cornbread never settles) amid playing with her cousins during the day and having to attend Revival in the evenings.

After her great-grandmother passed during her second year of law school at the Mississippi College School of Law, Ramona eventually made her way to Atlanta, where she and her girlfriends lived their own version of "Sex and the City," with Ramona being "Miranda," of course. Prior to COVID, Ramona regularly hosted card parties at her home: the adults would play spades and enjoy ribs and macaroni and cheese upstairs, while the kids had a big TV, games and their own food, such as pizza, downstairs.

If you can't tell by now, Ramona cherishes her family: she's a mom to an outgoing teen daughter and stepmom to a phenomenal pharmacist in Mississippi. Ramona is also a great auntie to Kris, whom she calls Number One Nephew; niece Lauryn, AKA Miss. Sunshine; and youngest nephew Jathan, known as J-Wiggles. "I try to give them a little bit of what I have by having family fun field day at my house in July. We all get together and play field games in my backyard for a real trophy."



Diversion / Records / Record Restriction Spotlight



EPIFFANY HENRY
Deputy Chief of Staff and
Director of Adult Diversion

Alabama-native Epiffany Henry is the Deputy Chief of Staff and Director of Adult Diversion for the Fulton County District Attorney's Office, where she brings more than 15 years of experience providing exceptional case management services and knowledge in the criminal-justice field. Hidden behind this quiet professional aura is a determined athlete who proved her doctors wrong when they said she would never walk or run again in the aftermath of a serious car accident.

Epiffany always enjoyed athletics growing up in the city of Anniston, Alabama. From grades 9-12, she participated in track and field and threw shot put and discus. She also took part in danceline in the high school band before she went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology from Auburn University, which is known for its "war eagle" battle cry. In college, Epiffany was a peer-mentor for fellow athletes.

In 2008, Epiffany moved to Georgia to start her public service career. In 2014, an auto accident limited her mobility and steroids helped jack her weight up to 258 pounds. Determined to turn herself around, Epiffany donned her headphones and headed back into the gym; she has lost 85 pounds naturally since 2018. She loves working out – she does cardio and strength training seven days a week.

When the athlete is at rest, Epiffany loves delving into personality assessments, such as the Myers-Briggs test, and reading personality/development books and memoirs. She comes from a military family; her father served 34 years with the National Guard. She has an older sister and a younger sister and brother. Her 12-year-old daughter, Chloe, is an athlete like her mother as well as a budding artist; she plays volleyball and loves to paint and read books. Mom and Chloe like to cook together and enjoy movies for their girls' night out.

Prior to serving under the administration of Fulton County District Attorney Fani T. Willis, Epiffany joined the United States' first entirely African American woman-led court team by serving as Director of Pre-Trial Diversion for the City of South Fulton's Municipal Court in 2018. She has a Master of Arts in Forensic Psychology from Argosy University in Dunwoody, Georgia, and holds a POST certification from the Georgia Corrections Academy Tift College. Epiffany also has been a proud member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. since 2004.



Diversions / Records / Record Restriction Spotlight



DEONTÈ POLLARD
Operations Manager -
Diversion Unit

Deontè Pollard is more than just the Operations Manager for the Diversion Unit. He's an expert at communications, a deeply appreciative dad of a soon-to-be 4-year-old daughter, a diehard Falcons and Celtics fan (his favorite color is green). Before joining the Fulton County District Attorney's Office, Deonte was the creative director at Atlanta-based Street Execs, known for managing the careers of rappers such as 2 Chainz, and ran internal and external communications for the City of Atlanta Department of Watershed Management.

A Grady baby, Deonte is loyal to Atlanta, where he graduated from Georgia State University with a Bachelor of Science in Public Policy/Economic Development. At Watershed Management, he managed and tracked the agency's communications with the public through social media. At Street Execs, he got the business tuned into the latest social media (which was Snapchat at the time) and brought forward initiatives such as the Dab incentive ugly Xmas sweater in 2016 that netted \$3 million in revenue.

Outside of work, he's the proud father of Madison, who may one day Bend It Like Beckham as she makes her mark in a toddler soccer team. Deonte takes his role as a sports dad very seriously; he's in it to win it, but he also appreciates the lessons that can be learned from losing. In his spare time, Deonte enjoys sports, reading, exercise, and traveling. Although his heart will always be in Atlanta, he's not averse to venturing to other places to visit his buddies, including New York City, Nashville, Greensboro (North Carolina) and Los Angeles. His international bucket list includes experiencing a rainforest, visiting Bora Bora (in the South Pacific), seeing the pyramids of Egypt, going to Africa, Jamaica, and London.



Diversions / Records / Record Restriction Spotlight



KEEHLAN HAYGOOD

Deputy Legal Assistant -
Records Division

Atlanta native Keehlan Haygood, the Deputy Legal Assistant over the Records Division, had an early introduction to the Fulton County District Attorney's Office. His mother worked in different divisions within the office for 22 years before retiring as the Trial Division's Administrative Coordinator. Keehlan remembers sleeping under desks in the office on the days he didn't attend summer camp at the Warren Memorial Boys and Girls Club, where he played sports such as judo, basketball, football, track, soccer and tennis from age 6 - 14.

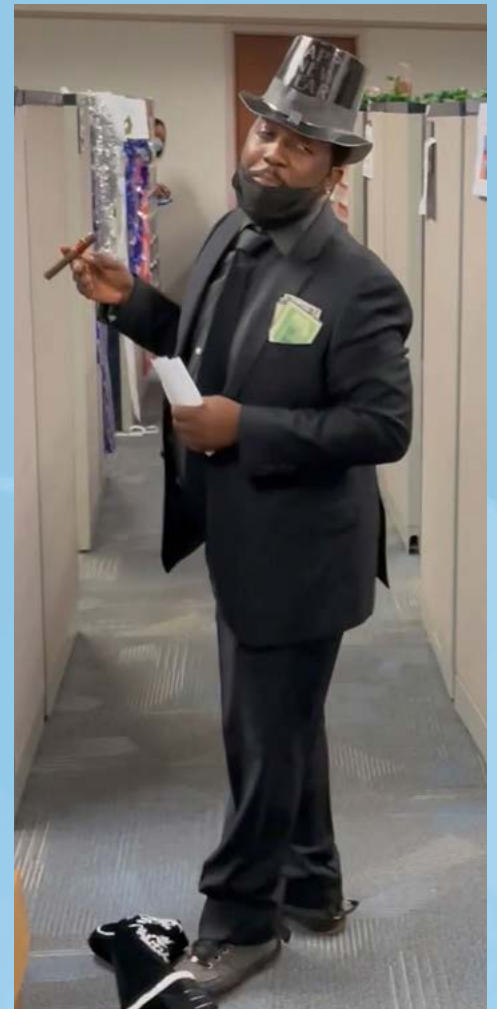
After high school, he left for Daytona Beach, Florida, where he had a partial band scholarship at Bethune-Cookman University and was a member of the Marching Wildcats. During his four years at Bethune-Cookman, he joined organizations, including the Alpha Phi Sigma Criminal Justice Honor Society and the Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity International. There, he

created initiatives to sign up students and community residents to vote and to welcome back students to school. In spring 2012, he became a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.

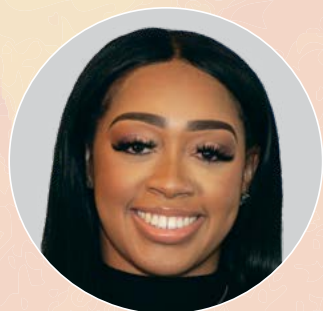
After college, Keehlan worked for a telecommunications company that provided VOIP services to multiple companies worldwide and became the Lead Customer Service Rep in 2015. He then followed in his mother's footsteps and applied for a position at the Fulton County District Attorney's Office, where he now has five years of experience with the Records Room. Although the experiences of some co-workers derailed Keehlan's plans to go to law school, he says becoming a lawyer still remains a possibility.

Keehlan's support of women is no secret – he's popular among the ladies he supervises. Outside the office, he has been an Ombudsman in the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. (NANBPWC) for more than 10 years.

Keehlan was fortunate enough to travel the world at an early age with his family. He has been to six islands and a handful of states. Besides traveling, he enjoys trying different foods, playing sports and listening to music. Keehlan says he's thankful for all the things that have happened with his life - good and bad. He believes hard work, patience, and staying focused allows anyone to achieve anything. His parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins have all had a big influence on his life. He proudly boasts that he is an example of the proverb: "It takes a village to raise a child."



Diversion / Records / Record Restriction Spotlight



VALENCIA YOUNGER

Chief Legal Assistant -
Record Restriction

As a native of Decatur, Valencia Younger has spent the majority of her life in Georgia. After graduating high school, she began her journey into the legal field in 2007. She attended Clayton State University, where she obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Legal Studies with a Paralegal Certificate. Valencia has been with the Fulton County District Attorney's office for four years, showcasing her talents in different departments ranging from Trial Division to Record Restriction. During that time, she knew that working in the justice system was where she wanted to be.

Outside the office, Valencia has many other passions, including real estate and aesthetics. She takes pride in learning about different cultures, with one of her favorites being that of Ethiopia. As part of getting to know other cultures, Valencia enjoys trying new foods from all walks of life. Her favorite dish is Red Snapper.

During quarantine, Valencia decided to become more active in Younger Sports Management, a family business her father started for her and her brother. After losing 30 pounds through hard work and dedication, Valencia has made a complete lifestyle change, which has brought her clarity in her life and sparked an interest in learning how to heal through holistic medicine.

Among her many accomplishments so far, Valencia considers her biggest accomplishment to be living. When she was 6, she missed most of first grade school year due to her having a brain aneurysm. She remembers some things during that time but not too many details. It's why she aspires to travel more internationally and to be with friends and family to make lasting memories.



RENNIE LOVE

Records Clerk

Although Rennie Love was born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama, she spent her summers and holidays in Atlanta because it was home to oldest sister (20 years her senior). So Ren – as her friends know her – considers Atlanta her second home. She officially moved to Atlanta in 2003 and has worked for the Fulton County District Attorney's Office for 19 years.

She worked in the Crimes Against Women & Children Division before joining the Records Division. She's had several careers, working at a hosiery mill, in retail sales, and as a unit secretary. She enjoys working for the people of Fulton County and every day brings an interesting development.

When not at work, she enjoys spending time with family (she has a husband, son and grandson), reading and watching HGTV. Property Brothers is one of her favorite shows and she's fascinated by DIY. If she had her choice, she would have another career in interior decorating. She's a big Charlie Brown fan and loves all things Snoopy: T-shirts, stuffed animals, etc. Although she's the youngest sibling, she and her oldest brother shared the same birth date: February 12.

Diversion / Records / Record Restriction

Spotlight



EDWINA SELLAN

Records Clerk /
Legal Assistant

For those who don't know the Edwina Sellan who secretes herself behind a transparent curtained-cubicle, she's a world-class traveler who has lived in Italy and Japan, as well as a professional voice-over talent and radio host.

After her first marriage ended, Ms. Edwina packed up her daughter and moved to Rome to learn Italian and to immerse herself in the culture. While there, she remarried and became an Italian citizen. She spent a solid two years in Rome before returning to the U.S., where she attended Montclair State University's Department of Justice, Paralegal Studies Certificate Program for post-baccalaureate students. Montclair State is the first state college/university in New Jersey to receive American Bar Association approval for their program.

After Montclair State, Ms. Edwina spent 20-plus years as a Wall Street investment banking paralegal. Her first job was on the 102nd floor at 2 World Trade Center. She worked in NYC during both World Trade Center bombings (February 26, 1993, and September 11, 2001).

A year after 9/11, Edwina did not want to follow her job to Canada, so she stayed in NYC and enrolled in Cambridge University's NYC International English language program. There, she received certification to teach English as a foreign language and then taught English as a second language in various NYC-based private foreign-language academies. She was invited to teach in Japan, where she spent two years teaching English in various Japanese corporations to upper management and to attorneys and doctors.

Ms. Edwina returned to NYC as a corporate paralegal before relocating to Atlanta, where she has spent 10-plus years as a Legal Assistant at the Fulton County District Attorney's Office. In Atlanta, she surrounds herself with a circle of "NYC State of Mind" friends. In her spare time, she volunteers at various Atlanta based non-profits, including donating her voice to an Atlanta non-profit's annual fundraising gala. She is a radio host of a show that serves as a vehicle for advocacy, protecting civil rights, addressing social concerns affecting the blind and visually impaired, and provides news about products and technology used by the blind and visually impaired. She is also the voice of spoken versions of audiobooks. Last, but not least, she has a BA from Rutgers University with a double major in Fine Arts and History.



Robert Gordon

Records Clerk

Born in Decatur and raised in Douglasville, Robert Gordon is a Legal assistant in Records. He's a graduate / returning student at Atlanta Technical College and working toward a diploma in Design and Media for film post-production. He originally attended college for animation but has grown to enjoy editing even more. He enjoys practicing editing videos, drawing, and studying films. He likes to design and write characters for possible future personal projects and is a big nerd for fictional content.

Diversion / Records / Record Restriction

Spotlight



**STACIE
ROBINSON**
Records Clerk

Stacie L. Robinson is a 25-year veteran of the Fulton County District Attorney's office. The Atlanta native currently works as a Legal Assistant in the new and improved Records Division, where her supervisor thinks she's Awesome Sauce. Stacie did not follow in the career footsteps of her father who worked for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. According to family lore, he had the dubious distinction of putting out Gladys Knight's mother!

Being the youngest sibling of three and the only girl in the family allowed Stacie to be spoiled. But sometimes it was lonely because her brother Bill was 10 years older and her brother Victor was 5 years older. Bill, who lives in Detroit, is a retired engineer for Chrysler, and Victor, who lives in Mableton, is a supervisor for road and sewer works in Fulton County.

She went to Atlanta Metropolitan College (formerly known as Atlanta Junior College), where she received an Associate Degree in Social Work. However, her visit to a facility for troubled juveniles when she was in college changed Stacie's plans to become a social worker. Before joining the Fulton County District Attorney's Office in 1996, Stacie worked for the Fulton County Library and at Wal-Mart in the towels and sheets department.

Some of Stacie's favorite past times are traveling, shopping and meeting new people. She tries to be a positive thinker and has an upbeat personality. Her favorite color is purple and her favorite food is a cheeseburger. Even though she doesn't have a pet right now, she loves dogs. Her last dog was Petey, a dachshund and Chihuahua mix who was with Stacie for 17 years. She has fond memories of Petey, who would take his empty bowl and drop it on floor in front of her mother when it was meal time.

She is the treasurer for the Stewardess board at her church and the secretary for another church board. She is the proud auntie of three nieces and two nephews, and she has five great-nieces and nephews. Stacie likes to bake. She makes a mean brownie, and her red velvet cake is popular with her brother Victor.



LINDA LONG
Records Clerk

Born and raised in Atlanta, Linda Long joined the Records Room/Records Restriction Team in September as a three-month temp. She is now a permanent and valued member of what she calls the best team in the office (AKA Awesome Sauce) led by one of the best Deputy Legal Assistants. Previously, she worked in the commercial insurance business for "umpteen" years.

She has two adult daughters. One works in Fulton County. The other works with the Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee (CJCC) for the state of Georgia.

Linda calls herself a foodie and loves to eat and explore different kinds of foods. She has traveled to Maui, Mexico, the Bahamas, and a plethora of domestic locations. The beach is her idea of paradise.

Since 2010, she has participated in the Atlanta Track Club's annual Peachtree Road Race and she has the T-shirts to prove it. She recently started learning how to knit. Although she doesn't think she's very good, she likes it. She believes her life is not complete - there are a lot more things to accomplish!

A JOURNEY

Through the Records Room

The Records Room is the beginning and end for all indicted and accused cases. Once a case is true billed or accused, the file moves to the Records Room for processing. Each file is reviewed and updated in the system with other necessary information. Once the completed file is created with all required entries, each case is separated by judge and inter-office division and placed in specified areas for pick up by the respective legal assistants from different divisions.

Some files require Grand Jury warrants once indicted. The Records Room unit is responsible for addressing those warrants in a timely manner, paving the way for defendants to be arrested. Once drafted, the warrants are taken to the assigned or presiding judge for signature. The warrants are then uploaded in our internal system for the Sheriff's Department to receive.

Once a case has been resolved, the file returns to the Records Room and prepared to be held in house for two years before being transported to Archives Warehouse for storage. This preparation consists of going through a process of editing, updating, scanning and being deposited in a container. Before arriving at the Archives Warehouse, the file is provided a location number, allowing the Records Room to order the file when needed. All closed cases within the last two years are kept in house for immediate access. In only one year, the new and improved Records Room has sent more than 50,000 closed cases to Archive Warehouse.

The Records Room also handles walk-in clients, phone calls for researching new and old cases, and instructions on where clients need to go for various request within the building. The Records Room provides Not Presented to Grand Jury (NPGJ) disposition letters for clients when requested and researched. The Records Room also provides information and instruction on applying for Record Restriction. The Records Room's goal is to provide the most accurate information regarding open and closed cases.

WHY SHOULD SOMEONE Seek Record Restriction?

Having a criminal record can be tough for someone to find a job, go to college, carry a gun and borrow money. Record restriction, also known as expungement, is a process that shields eligible criminal charges on a criminal history report from public view and allows only law enforcement, prosecuting offices and the federal government to view them for criminal justice purposes. Certain criminal history records can be restricted for non-criminal justice purposes, including applying for employment or getting a license.

The Record Restriction Unit at the Fulton County District Attorney's Office is dedicated to providing second chances to those eligible to have their criminal records restricted. This process is governed by O.C.G.A. §35-3-37, which provides for the restriction of certain criminal history records for non-criminal justice purposes when approved by the prosecuting attorney. Those factors include having the offense not referred for prosecution; having the charge dismissed without an indictment or accusation; or allowing the individual to take a plea pursuant the First Offender Act or participating in a diversion program.

Those who successfully have their records restricted are more likely to gain meaningful employment, better housing, educational opportunities and to have the ability to legally own and carry a firearm. This unit was developed to ensure everyone receives fair treatment as they navigate the criminal justice system and have a second chance at a more fulfilling life.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Former Supreme Court Justice



Ginsburg's legal career started with serving as a law clerk to U.S. District Court Judge Edmund L. Palmieri of the Southern District of New York from 1959–1961. She then became a research associate and research director of the Columbia Law School Project on International Procedure. The position gave Ginsburg the opportunity to continue her research in Sweden, where she penned a book on Swedish Civil Procedure practices. When she returned to the U.S. in 1963, she became a professor at Rutgers University School of Law. She then taught at Columbia Law School, where she became the first woman to be a tenured professor.

In 1971, she co-founded the Women's Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union. Ginsburg appeared before the Supreme Court six times as an attorney, arguing landmark cases against gender discrimination. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter appointed her to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Five cases resulted in victory. President Bill Clinton nominated her as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, and she took her seat in August 1993. In 2013, after striking down two laws that attempted to block same-sex marriage, Ginsburg became the first Supreme Court justice to officiate a same sex marriage. She died September 18, 2020, after a battle with pancreatic cancer.

Sources:

<https://www.supremecourt.gov/about/biographyginsburg.aspx>

https://www.oyez.org/justices/ruth_bader_ginsburg

Born Joan Ruth Bader on March 15, 1933, in Brooklyn, New York. After high school, she went to Cornell University, where she graduated at the top of her class before attending Harvard Law School and becoming the first woman to serve on the Harvard Law Review.

During her first year of law school, her husband was diagnosed with testicular cancer, but the diagnosis did not hinder the couple. She juggled raising their daughter and tending to husband's medical needs even with a rigorous academic schedule. Her husband recovered and landed a job at a law firm in New York City. The couple relocated and Ginsburg finished law school at Columbia University. She was the first person to serve on both Columbia and Harvard Law Review.





Maria Hunter

Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney - Trial Division

Born and raised in Columbus, Georgia, Maria E. Hunter graduated from Hardaway High School and earned an academic and tennis scholarship to Alabama State University in Montgomery, her grandmother's alma mater. Maria became a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. while majoring in biology and playing women's tennis for the ASU Hornets in the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC). During her junior year, Maria realized that her course lay in a different direction than medicine. She followed her father and sister into a career in law and attended the University of Tennessee College of Law (Go VOLS)!

This is Maria's second stint at the Fulton County District Attorney's Office. After law school, she started her career at a family law firm in Clarksville, Tennessee. Seeking more experience and challenge, she sat for the Georgia Bar and worked at King & Spalding, LLP. Hungry to be inside the courtroom, Maria became an Assistant Public Defender in Columbus, Georgia. Being home and honing her trial skills fulfilled her goals, but she couldn't ignore the yearning to return to Atlanta, so Maria became a Staff Attorney for the City of Atlanta Municipal Court Judges, where she became the Deputy Court Administrator. She seized the opportunity to be in the courtroom again and joined the Fulton County District Attorney's Office, where she worked in the Complaint Room, and Non-Complex and Complex Trial divisions.

Maria has little time to spare these days as she plans her wedding for June 12 in Mexico! What little time she does have, she enjoys laughing and traveling with her fiancé. She loves to read novels about intrigue and crime and to watch Dateline and 20/20 every Friday night. She enjoys jogging, biking, attending sorority events, spending time with her family (Proud Aunt) and her beloved pups Mamba (Poodle) and Man Boy (French bulldog). And every fall (win or lose), she cheers for the Tennessee VOLS and the New Orleans Saints . . . WHO DAT!!!!





Ana-Helena Allen

Assitant District Attorney - Case Intake Division

Born in Puerto Rico, Ana-Helena Allen moved with her family to Raleigh, North Carolina, where she spent her formative years. From an early age, Ana had a strong sense of right and wrong and enjoyed arguing. In addition to developing into a social justice warrior, Ana was a performer. She sang in every school choir and played many parts in musical theater productions. Ana studied classical ballet and attended the NC School of the Arts.

At the University of North Carolina-Asheville, Ana she majored in Sociology and Women Studies. She worked as a pre-school teacher for six years before beginning a path into social work. It was while working as the manager of a residential group home for self-destructive teenage girls (her spirit animals), Ana realized she needed more education and credibility in order to advocate better for this vulnerable population.

Ana and her husband, Joel, subsequently relocated to Saint Paul, Minnesota, so that she could attend Hamline University School of Law. She focused on Alternative Dispute and advocating for women and children. She also had the amazing opportunity to do an in-depth study of the history of American Slavery and the Law. Ana and her husband returned to the South, where she worked at the Fulton County District Attorney's office from 2010-2014.

In 2012, her son Micah was born. In 2014, seeking a better work-life balance and having the opportunity to specialize in prosecuting felony domestic violence and cruelty to children cases, Ana moved her family to Savannah. She took part in the formation of a Family Justice center for the support of victims of domestic violence and their children as well as initiating an early outreach and support process on domestic violence cases as they came into the DA's office.

In 2017, Ana had twin girls, Rose and Ruby, and life got crazier but also more fun. In 2021, Ana and Joel returned to Atlanta, where she rejoined the Fulton County District Attorney's Office. Ana enjoys traveling, cooking, gardening, reading and drinking good beer.





Abigail “Abby” Potter

Assistant District Attorney - Trial Division

Abigail “Abby” Potter was born on a horse farm in Cincinnati, Ohio, and moved to Atlanta when she was 7. She attended Woodward Academy and Holy Innocents Episcopal School for grade school before boarding for four years of high school at the Baylor School in Chattanooga, Tennessee. At Baylor, she enjoyed playing soccer and rowing on the crew team. Abby also enjoyed studying abroad in Europe and Central America while studying at Baylor.

She attended the American University in Washington, D.C. where she received undergraduate and graduate degrees in Justice and Public Policy. She also studied Criminal Justice in Ireland and England. After graduation, Abby returned to Atlanta to start a legal career. She worked as a paralegal with the Fulton County District Attorney’s Office, where she was part of the first trial team to successfully prosecute a gang in Fulton County.

After the DA’s office, Abby worked as a paralegal for law firms specializing in Intellectual Property and Medical Malpractice. She went to Emory Law School, where she enjoyed participating in Moot Court competitions and practicing law as a 3L Student Attorney with the Juvenile Defender Clinic. After graduating, Abby returned to the Fulton County District Attorney’s Office, working in Community Prosecution, Juvenile Court, and Trial Division.

Abby is a big believer in giving back through volunteer work. She has volunteered at Grady Hospital with the Junior League of Atlanta and gone on medical missions to Honduras with her church, Peachtree Road United Methodist Church. Abby has also participated in helping children gain motor skills through equine therapy at Chastain Horse Park.

When not working, she is either playing Mah Jong or teaching her Shih-Tzu, Missy, new tricks. Abby is also an avid gardener and loves spending time by the pool.





Azilee Williams

Legal Assistant - Trial Division

Before joining the Fulton County District Attorney's Office, Azilee Williams worked in the corporate office for a hospitality company. While working, she obtained her Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Herzing University in August 2021. She made the Dean's List three times.

As an adopted child who experienced foster care, Azilee has a mission to bring more awareness to the foster care community and to make sure that no child is abused in the foster care system. She also wants to work with victims of sexual abuse because she feels passionate about victims getting justice. She finds working for this office exciting and a learning experience.





CaseLaw

By: Chief Senior ADA - Training
Kevin Armstrong

Kevin Armstrong, Chief Senior ADA – Training, is a product of both the public schools of Glynn County and the University of Georgia (BA 2002, JD 2008). He has been a member of the Fulton County District Attorney’s Office since August 2015. Before that, he was an appellate public defender (and sometimes-trial attorney) for six and a half years in “the Good Life City” of Albany, Georgia. He has personally handled approximately 200 appeals, including many of the most significant appeals from this circuit, and provided oral arguments more than a dozen times. He is a member of both the Atlanta and Stonewall Bar Associations and has served five years on the board of the Atlanta Bar’s Criminal Law Section. In eight of the past 11 years, he has coached high school mock trial teams (most recently Northview HS in John’s Creek). He lives with a 10-year-old American Staffordshire.

The purpose of the case law update is to highlight new developments in the law. Last week in an appeal from a murder conviction, the Supreme Court of Georgia addressed for the first time a statute specific to juvenile statements.

CUSTODIAL STATEMENTS—JUVENILE.

Daniels v. State, ___ Ga. ___ (Case S21A1268, Mar. 8, 2022).

Daniels was a juvenile at the time he committed murder and other offenses. After his arrest, law enforcement transported Daniels to the police station, where he was interviewed for approximately five and a half hours and ultimately made incriminating statements. Daniels was tried as an adult and a jury convicted him. On appeal, Daniels attacked the use of his in-custody statements. Because Daniels had not raised the issue at trial, the Supreme Court reviewed for plain error.

Daniels argued his statements were invalid because law enforcement took him to the police station, where he was interviewed, instead of taking him directly to juvenile court personnel as required by the following part of the Juvenile Code:

A person taking an alleged delinquent child into custody, with all reasonable speed and without first taking such child elsewhere, shall . . . [b]ring such child immediately before the juvenile court or promptly contact a juvenile court intake officer.

OCGA § 15-11-502 (a)(3).

However, there is an explicit exception to this requirement:

[A] law enforcement officer may detain an alleged delinquent child for a reasonable period of time sufficient to conduct interrogations and perform routine law enforcement procedures including but not limited to fingerprinting, photographing, and the preparation of any necessary records.

OCGA § 15-11-502 (b).

In a case of first impression, the Supreme Court rejected Daniels arguments, holding that:

[S]ubsection (b) plainly authorized the police to detain and interrogate Daniels for a reasonable period of time after his arrest. And we cannot say that a period of roughly five and a half to six hours was an obviously unreasonable time for interrogation in this case, particularly given the range and number of incidents about which Daniels was questioned by the police.

Daniels, supra, slip op. at 11 (2)(a).

It is important to be aware that there is a requirement to take a juvenile to juvenile court personnel without taking them anywhere else first, but it is just as important to know of the exception that permits law enforcement to take a juvenile to the station for an interview, because there are defense attorneys who will absolutely cite to the one but fail to mention the other. Moreover, you now have an established example on hand of what a “reasonable period of time” could be.

Daniels also argued that his in-custody statements were involuntarily made under an application of the Riley factors for determining the voluntariness of a statement made by a juvenile. (As recently discussed as part of the General Course, the Supreme Court established this nine-factor test in *Riley v. State*, 237 Ga. 124 (226 SE2d 922) (1976), and continues to refer to them as “the Riley factors” today.) Although the Riley factors clearly are not new law, I note this to remind you that the voluntariness of a juvenile’s in-custody statements is subject to a different set of considerations than for adults. If you are unfamiliar with juvenile statements and need to familiarize yourself with this area of law, Daniels might be a good place to start as it is the most recent application of the Riley factors.

Newsroom

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March 15, 2022
Miami Herald
By: Vandana Ravikumar



One year after Georgia spa shootings, anti-Asian violence is still rising, study finds



FANI T. WILLIS
District Attorney

DADISPATCH
The Fulton County District Attorney's Office