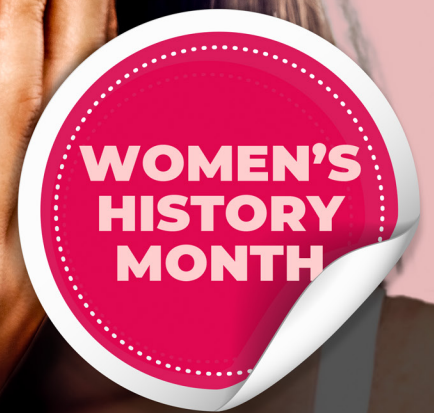




FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

DA DISPATCH





I'm a **Women**
phenomenally.

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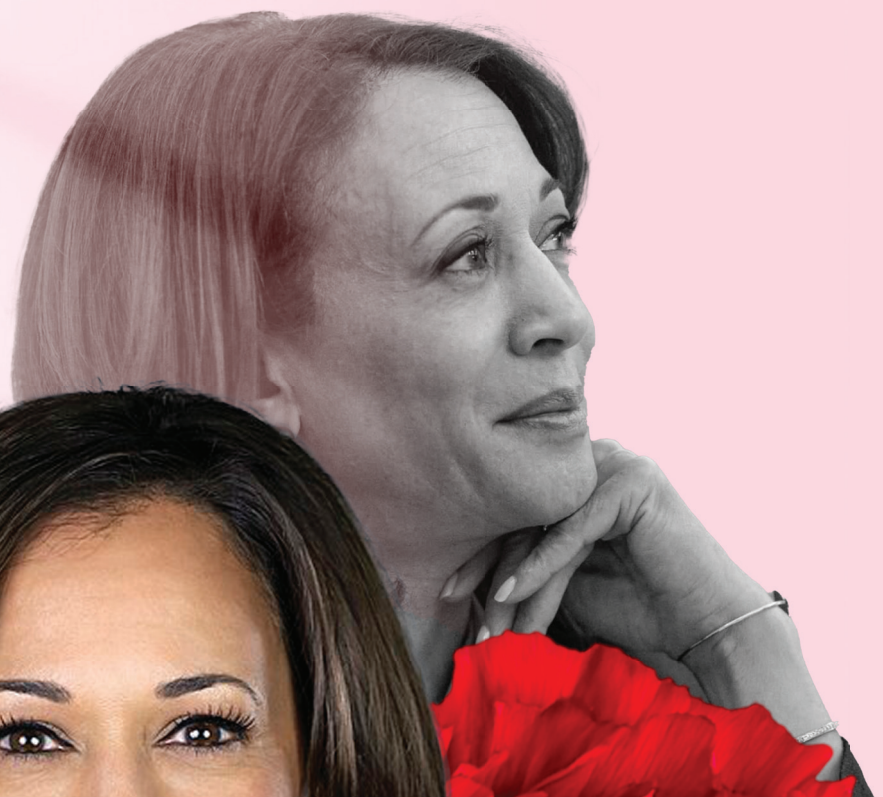
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APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
			Diversion Training		Pay Day	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<i>National Crimes Victims' Rights Week</i>			Ramadan Ends	Eid-al-Fitr Ends		Self Care Fair Passover Beings
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		Tax Day			Pay Day	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Passover Ends Easter			<i>Yom Hashoah</i>			
27	28	29	30	31		
		Lailatul Qadr				



FIRST FEMALE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES



**KAMALA
HARRIS**

LOOKING *Back* TO MOVE *Forward*



On February 28, 2025, the Gate City Bar Association and the Black Law Students Association hosted an inspiring event, “Looking Back to Move Forward,” designed to equip aspiring law students with insights from prominent legal professionals about the evolving landscape of the legal field. Attendees had the unique opportunity to hear from local attorneys and judges, engage in one-on-one conversations, and even apply for internships tailored to their career aspirations. The event provided invaluable networking and mentorship experiences, helping students take their first steps toward successful legal careers. Esteemed speakers included:

- Christopher Bruce, Esq. – President, Gate City Bar Association
- Judge Shermela J. Williams – Fulton County Superior Court
- Judge Pierce Seitz – Atlanta Municipal Court
- Kendra Robinson, Esq. – Criminal & Real Estate Attorney
- Madam DA Fani T. Willis – Fulton County District Attorney

By connecting past experiences with future ambitions, this event continues to foster a strong pipeline of diverse legal talent, ensuring the next generation of lawyers is well-equipped to lead and serve their communities.



BOOKS & BADGES



DEPUTY CHIEF INVESTIGATOR SAUL ALTER
BARACK & MICHELLE OBAMA ACADEMY

On March 6, 2025, Deputy Chief Investigator Saul Alter had the honor of reading to two Kindergarten classes at Barack and Michelle Obama Academy in Atlanta, GA, as part of the Books and Badges law enforcement literacy initiative. This impactful program fosters positive connections between law enforcement and young students while promoting the importance of reading and education.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH PIONEERING LEADER



**BISHOP
MARIANN
EDGAR
BUDDE**

BRENDA BAHAM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DIVISION



Bringing you the latest updates from the Domestic Violence Division, highlighting their ongoing initiatives, critical alerts, and upcoming events. Stay informed and engaged as we work together to support survivors and promote awareness within our community. Your involvement matters!

Empowering and Educating Youth: Domestic Violence Division in Action

On Saturday, February 22nd, the Domestic Violence Division participated in the Girls of Excellence & Power of Girls Wellness Day, a transformative event focused on empowerment, self-care, and wellness. The girls engaged in meaningful discussions and activities, equipping them with the tools and confidence needed to navigate life with strength and resilience.

On March 18, 2025, the Domestic Violence Division visited North Atlanta High School to present its Teen Dating Violence Prevention curriculum. The interactive session covered critical topics such as recognizing the Cycle of Violence and identifying signs of abuse in relationships. To reinforce these lessons, students participated in engaging skits, using real-life scenarios to educate their peers on the importance of recognizing and addressing abuse.



Through outreach and education, the Domestic Violence Division continues to empower young individuals with the knowledge and resources needed to foster healthy relationships and safe communities.



ROMAN CATHOLIC NUN & MISSIONARY



**MOTHER
TERESA**

MENTAL HEALTH CORNER

Ilona Rolack | Deputy Victim Witness Advocate, Major Crimes Division



Honoring Women's History Month: The Trauma and Triumph of Trailblazers

As we celebrate Women's History Month, it is essential to reflect not only on the achievements of women throughout history but also on the trauma many endured in their fight for rights and recognition. Currently, I am watching the Netflix series "Cable Girls," which chronicles the lives of four women in early 20th-century Spain who bravely challenge societal norms to pursue their right to work. Their stories are filled with resilience, yet they also reveal the harsh realities and traumas these women faced as they navigated a world that often sought to oppress them.

The struggles depicted in "Cable Girls" are a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by women in their quest for independence. The characters endure emotional and physical challenges, from familial opposition to workplace discrimination, reflecting the broader societal constraints imposed on women during that era. Watching their journey, I am in awe of how these women's valiant efforts not only paved the way for our generation but also highlighted the trauma that often accompanies the fight for equality. Their battles were not merely against external forces but also against deeply ingrained societal expectations and personal sacrifices.

People close to me think that I am always dealing with trauma in one way or the other. It is somewhat true. The theme of trauma resonates profoundly with my recent reading of "The Women" by Kristin Hannah, which offers a heart-wrenching portrayal of female soldiers during the Vietnam war who challenged traditional gender norms. Their experiences of loss, fear, and the psychological scars of war is essential for understanding the historical context of women's contributions to society. Hannah's work sheds light on the emotional toll of their service and the long-lasting impact of their sacrifices.

The experiences of these trailblazing women laid the groundwork for significant movements, including the fight against domestic violence. Today, many of us still silently suffer from violence in our homes, discrimination, and marginalization, oftentimes in our workplaces and communities. So, we must remember that we have resources and support systems available to us. If you or someone you know is experiencing any form of violence, please reach out and ask for help. Fulton County offers us effective therapy sessions through the Employee Assistance Program. We no longer need to suffer in silence.

As we honor Women's History Month, it is vital to acknowledge the trailblazer in our midst; the first female District Attorney of Fulton County, Georgia, the one and only Fani T. Willis. As we remember the pain and suffering that many women have faced in their quest for justice and equality, let us also recognize those who are making strides along with us. All their stories remind us that the road to progress is often fraught with challenges, yet it is paved by the courage and determination of those who came before us. This month, and beyond, let us honor their legacies by advocating for a future where every woman can thrive, free from the shadows of oppression and trauma. Together, we can ensure that no one suffers in silence.



Reach

Professional Basketball & College Exploration

A Slam Dunk Experience

February was an exciting month for Reach mentors and participants! On February 12, 2025, mentors took students from Banneker and Tri-Cities High School to a Skyhawks Basketball game at the Gateway Center Arena. Students got an exclusive look into the NBA G League's business operations, professional career pathways, vendor opportunities, and live sports broadcasting. Some students even got the chance to step onto the court during halftime and after the game to practice their free throws! Meanwhile, Reach students from McNair Middle School attended the Hawks vs. Orlando Magic game, where they cheered on their favorite players and joined in the arena's wave activity, making it a night to remember!

Reach Takes on Tennessee

On February 18, 2025, Reach mentors and 90 students embarked on an enriching trip to Tennessee State University. TSU staff and students provided valuable insights into the college admissions process, financial aid, and campus life, followed by an engaging campus tour.

The group also visited The National Museum of African American Music, the only museum dedicated to preserving and celebrating Black musical heritage. Students explored interactive, technology-driven exhibits that highlighted the profound impact of African Americans on various music genres across generations. This unforgettable experience deepened their appreciation for history, culture, and creativity.

Reach continues to provide inspiring and educational opportunities, empowering students to explore their futures both on and off the court!



I'm a **woman**
phenomally.



In honor of Women's History Month, our office hosted a hip-hop yoga and meditation session to celebrate the incredible women of the DA's Office. This event focused on relaxation, self-care, and rejuvenation, providing a space for mindfulness and appreciation. Attendees left feeling refreshed and empowered, with a selection of delicious food from Jersey Mike's, token gifts from Madam DA, and Erica Willingham won a year-round gift card to Chicken Salad Chick!



CHIEF EXECUTIVE

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**DAYSHA
YOUNG**

Congratulations to Daysha Young on her well-deserved promotion to Chief Executive District Attorney! In honor of Women's History Month and Mrs. Young's incredible achievement, Nadia Kendall, Editor-in-Chief of the DA Dispatch, sat down with her for an exclusive interview. Together, they explored her inspiring career journey and the path that shaped her into the attorney she is today.

1. Can you share with us what inspired you to pursue a career in law, and specifically to serve as a District Attorney?

I was inspired to pursue a career in law because I was driven by a desire to seek justice for others within the judicial system. I decided to become a District Attorney, because I believed this position would allow me to implement meaningful change within the legal system.

2. What was your first role in the legal field, and how did that experience shape the way you approach your work today?

My first role in the legal field was as an Assistant Public Defender with the Fulton County Public Defender's Office. I believe starting as a public defender has helped me take a more balanced and empathetic approach in my role as a prosecutor. It allowed me a better understanding of the challenges faced by defendants, their families, and community. It fosters empathy and a commitment to ensuring that the rights of the accused are protected, even while serving as a prosecutor.

3. Were there any pivotal moments or turning points in your career that led you to where you are now?

My first case involving a child that had been abused by a family member was a pivotal moment and turning point that significantly influenced my career path. It helped redefine for whom and how I would approach upholding justice.

4. As we celebrate Women's History Month, what does being a woman in leadership mean to you, especially in the field of law and justice?

Being a woman in leadership within the field of law and justice signifies not only personal achievement but also a broader commitment to advancing equality, challenging systemic biases, and inspiring future generations to pursue careers in this vital profession.

5. How do you envision your role in shaping the culture and mission of the District Attorney's Office?

I envision my role giving me the opportunity to shape an office that embodies justice, equity, and community engagement. By focusing on mission clarity, positive culture, diversity, community involvement, and staff well-being, my role will focus on ensuring that our office not only enforces the law but also serves as a pillar of integrity and public trust.

6. How do you balance the demands of public service with maintaining personal well-being?

I attempt to establish distinct lines between work and personal life, this is crucial to prevent burnout. You must carve out time for yourself in order to be able to help others, so I try to make time for personal activities with family and friends.

7. What advice would you give to young women or individuals from underrepresented communities who aspire to leadership roles in law?

I would advise any young woman to make sure they have a mentor/s. Connecting with mentors who have navigated similar paths can provide invaluable guidance. Engaging in mentorship programs, such as those offered by organizations that help bridge diversity gaps and promote inclusion in the legal profession.

8. Looking back over your career, is there anything you wish you had known when you were just starting out?

I wish I would have known that being more open to unconventional routes can lead to fulfilling opportunities.

9. Who were some of your mentors or role models, and how did they influence your path?

Throughout my career, I've been fortunate to have mentors and role models who have significantly influenced my path. My first introduction to the legal profession was through my aunt, Gwen Turner. She was the case manager for the honorable Judge Thelma Wyatt Cumming Moore. As a young college student, I got the opportunity to sit in court proceeding and chambers with Judge Moore and those moments further solidified my desires to work in the legal profession. My mentors and role models have shaped my approach to leadership, emphasizing integrity, resilience, and a commitment to justice.

10. How do you stay motivated and committed to justice, especially when facing difficult cases or decisions?

Always remembering the reasons I went into this profession is what keeps me motivated and committed when faced with the difficult cases. The continued desire to ensure fairness and empathy is a part of the criminal justice system is my motivation.



PHONE-A-VICTIM POTLUCK MARATHON

In preparation for National Crime Victims' Rights Week (April 6-12), the Victim-Witness Assistance Program (VWAP) hosted an inspiring "Phone-a-Victim Potluck Marathon", bringing together advocates to personally invite victims in Fulton County to participate in upcoming events. The atmosphere was filled with compassion, dedication, and a shared commitment to uplifting and supporting victims.

Throughout the event, advocates connected with victims, reinforcing the importance of community in the healing process. Dianelly Rivera-Gow led the charge with the highest number of calls made, while Natalie Wright, Dorsey Jones, and Carla Martinez stood out for their ability to build meaningful connections, demonstrating the power of empathy in advocacy. The potluck not only served as a space for engagement but also strengthened the bonds between those committed to serving victims.

The week's events will include a Kinship Circle on April 7th, providing co-victims of homicide with a safe, supportive space to honor their loved ones. The week will conclude with the Annual Fani T. Willis Self-Care Fair on April 12th, offering massages, sound therapy, dental services, free haircuts, and more to promote healing and well-being.

We encourage FCDAA staff to invite community members to join in this meaningful initiative, exemplifying our office's unwavering commitment to empowering victims, reminding them they are not alone, and ensuring they have the resources they need on their journey to recovery.



MAKING ROOM FOR HER

To close out Women's History Month, Fulton County hosted the "Making Room for Her" Women's History Month Conference—an empowering event dedicated to celebrating the achievements and contributions of women across various fields.

The conference featured a dynamic roundtable discussion moderated by Fulton County's Deputy CIO, Errin Baugh, with esteemed panelists including Shaunya Chavis-Rucker, FGTV & Fulton Films Divisions Manager; Lateef Ashekun, Deputy CIO of Fulton County; Dr. Felicia Phillips, CEO of One Million Dreamers Foundation; Marcelle English, Fulton County Digital Media Manager; and Catherine Bowen, Account Manager for Presidio.

Our very own Madam DA served as one of the keynote speakers, delivering an inspiring address on the power of resilience in leadership and life. Commissioner Dana Barrett also took the stage to discuss resilience in government, emphasizing the importance of perseverance in public service.

The conference concluded with a networking lunch and an interactive engagement activity, providing attendees with an opportunity to connect and collaborate. Thanks to Fulton County, Women's History Month ended on a high note—filled with meaningful discussions, leadership insights, and a shared commitment to uplifting and empowering women!



Mike

CARLSON

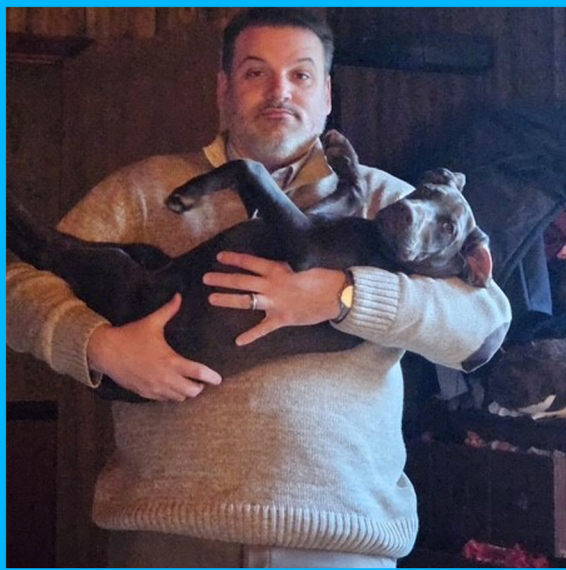
Congratulations & Happy Retirement

THE INDIAN NATION CONGRESS' FIRST FEMALE PRESIDENT



**SAROJINI
NAIDU**

Fantastic Four

LANCE PATRICK

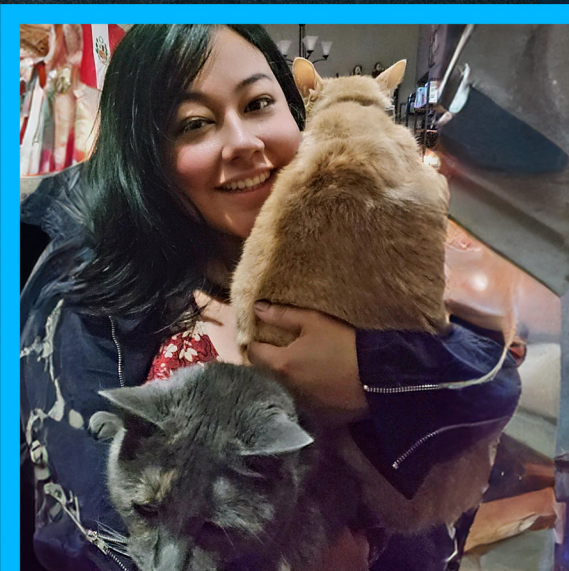
Lance Patrick is a North Georgia native who still lives—and yes, drives every day—from his home in Ellijay. A graduate of Emory Law, Lance transitioned to prosecution after a stint in corporate and insurance defense. The desire to help people, without the burden of billable hours, continues to motivate him. In his off time, he enjoys the outdoors: hunting, fishing, and camping. From August to January, he bleeds red and black (everybody bleeds red, but you get it) as a devoted fan of Georgia Bulldogs football. He is married to his wife, Brandy, and has a sixth-grade daughter, Katy.

He currently prosecutes felony domestic violence cases and, now in his early 40s, is starting to accept that he will never be the opening day pitcher for the Braves. Lance has devoted his career to prosecution to do what is right, only because it is right.



AMARI WOODS

Amari Woods is a double HBCU graduate of Bethune-Cookman University and Florida A&M University College of Law (FAMU COL). A history enthusiast, she and her husband spent their honeymoon exploring Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Botswana for two weeks. This experience inspired her to pursue licensure to practice law in Zambia, a country she grew attached to because of its wildlife and culture. Amari is also an animal lover, having owned three goldfish, a guinea pig, and now a toy poodle. She has watched numerous episodes of Animal Cops and even aspired to be an animal rights attorney. Her passion for nature has led her to set a future goal of becoming a farmer and starting a farm for her beloved animals.



CINTHYA ALVAREZ

I'm excited to share a little bit about myself with you! I joined law enforcement as soon as I obtained my citizenship; it was always a goal of mine to help the community. As a bilingual female in law enforcement, fluent in Spanish and English, I was born and raised in Peru, the land of the Incas. If you love potatoes in any shape or form, what can I say except you're welcome! All potatoes originate from Peru. Yes, I've been to Cuzco, and it will literally take your breath away! No, I don't know how to cook guinea pigs, though that's part of my culture; I do make a mean ceviche (raw fish cooked with lime) and cow heart kebabs.

When I'm not working, you'll likely find me indulging in fancy restaurants or at the range. I got a perfect score on qualification last year, and I've been trying to do it one more time! The rest of my time is spent with my newest furry project, a 7-month-old puppy who is currently being trained by my two judgmental cats, who are beating the dog out of her (figuratively speaking, though sometimes literally).


Personally, I would like to work in the SV Division because, due to life experiences and interactions with oppressed and abused women, I have a strong desire to represent them.



MARQUEZ JONES

Marquez Jones, a proud native of Atlanta, Georgia—specifically East Atlanta (Zone 6)—earned his Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication and Media Studies from Clayton State University. After graduating, Marquez worked in the film and television industry for over seven years. As a talent agent, he has cast dancers and actors for major productions, including Coming to America 2, Black Panther, Pitch Perfect, Get on Up (the James Brown story), and Little. He has also had the pleasure of serving as a tour manager.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Marquez pledged Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity after graduating from Clayton State. In his free time, he enjoys fine arts such as step and dancing, live theater (including productions like The Lion King), and HBCU marching bands. On Sundays, you can catch him cheering for his favorite football team, the Atlanta Falcons. Marquez lives by the motto, "Never let the sorrow of today affect the joy of tomorrow."



We know you're a powerhouse in the courtroom, but how well do you remember the basics from the classroom? It's time to put your knowledge to the test with "Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?" Think you have what it takes? **Let's find out!**

What is the largest Continent on Earth?

True or False: Crawfish are Fish.

What type of animal can live on both land and water?

1. Asia 2. False (Crustaceans) 3. Amphibians



VIRTUAL DIVERSION TRAINING

WEDNESDAY
APRIL 2, 2025
2PM-4PM

JOIN US ON ZOOM

MEETING ID: 938 4201 6288
PASSCODE: 369013

IF YOU WERE HIRED BEFORE JANUARY 2024,
IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU ATTEND THIS TRAINING.

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK
A P R I L 6 - 1 2 2 0 2 5

KINSHIP CONNECTING & HEALING

FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

FANI T. WILLIS, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

PRESENTS

MON 4/7/25

6-7:30PM

Homicide Support Group/ Juvenile Court
395 Pryor St SW Atlanta 30312/ Room 2024
Parking Available

Join our homicide support group to honor your loved ones through personalized caricature portraits, created by talented artists. These custom family portraits, featuring your beloved one, will be shared in our virtual memorial throughout the week. This meaningful tribute offers a space for healing, remembrance, and community support

Hosted by Deputy Victim Witness Advocate **Ilona Rolack**
ilona.rolack@fultoncountyga.gov to RSVP for Kinship Circle

KINSHIP CIRCLE

3RD ANNUAL



SAT 4/12/25

10AM-1PM

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
731 Peachtree St NE Atlanta, GA 30308
Parking Available

Join us for an afternoon of self-care services while connecting with organizations that support victims of crime. This event is designed to promote healing and offer resources to those in need. Come together for a day of restorative activities, empowerment, and community support.

Hosted by Deputy Victim Witness Advocate **Misty Botu**
misty.botu@fultoncountyga.gov to Become a Vendor

"This project is supported by a National Crime Victims' Rights Week Community Awareness Project subgrant awarded by the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators through grant number 15POVC-24- GK-01921-NONF awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice."

CONVICTION ALERTS



State vs. Caprie Paige

Congratulations to the HP+ Unit! In the case of State vs. Caprie Paige, the Defendant was found guilty on all counts including Felony Murder, Murder, and Aggravated Assault. Judge Melynee Leftridge sentenced the Defendant to Life without Parole +5 Years.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Adriane Love
Deputy District Attorney Vincent Faucette
Lieutenant Investigator Juli Lansiquot
Legal Assistant Edwina Sellan
Legal Assistant Saquez King
Deputy Victim Witness Advocate Ilona Rolack
Victim Witness Advocate Katrina Gill



State vs. Fortune Spencer

Congratulations to the Domestic Violence Trial Team! In the case of State vs. Fortune Spencer, the Defendant was found guilty on all counts including Felony Murder, Murder, and Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon. Judge Thomas Cox sentenced the Defendant to Life without the Possibility of Parole +145 Years.

Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Maria Washington
Deputy District Attorney Asia Baysah
Senior Investigator Ronald Coloma
Investigator Kenneth Rucker
Legal Assistant Michael Tanks
Victim Witness Advocate Sandra Jean-Louis



State vs. Anthony Harrison

Congratulations to the HP+ Unit! In the case of State vs. Anthony Harrison, the Defendant pled guilty on all counts including Felony Murder, Murder, and Aggravated Assault. Judge David Emerson sentenced the Defendant to 25 Years with 20 Years to Serve followed by 5 Years on Probation.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Adriane Love
Chief Deputy District Attorney Adam Abate
Lieutenant Investigator Juli Lansiquot
Lieutenant Investigator Rasheed Hamilton
Deputy Legal Assistant Lora Andrews
Legal Assistant Edwina Sellan
Victim Witness Advocate Katrina Gill



State vs. Richard Parham

Congratulations to the Trial Division! In the case of State vs. Richard Parham, the Defendant was found guilty on all counts including Criminal Attempt to Commit, Aggravated Battery, and Aggravated Assault. Judge Rachelle Carnesale sentenced the Defendant to 40 Years to Serve.

Deputy District Attorney Gautam Rao
Assistant District Attorney Michelle Andrews
Investigator Reginald Dilligard
Legal Assistant Lakisha Fonville
Victim Witness Advocate Dorsey Jones



State vs. Keith Walker

Congratulations to the Trial Division! In the case of State vs. Keith Walker, the Defendant was found guilty on all counts including Aggravated Battery, and Aggravated Assault. Judge Jane Barwick sentenced the Defendant to 15 Years to Serve 7.

Deputy District Attorney Caitlin McGillicuddy
Assistant District Attorney Michelle Williams
Senior Investigator Aminah Dickerson
Legal Assistant Gabrielle Waterman
Victim Witness Advocate Dorsey Jones



State vs. Maxwell Lartery

Congratulations to the Domestic Violence Trial Team! In the case of State vs. Maxwell Lartery, the Defendant was found guilty on all counts including Murder, Felony Murder, and Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon. Judge David Emerson sentenced the Defendant to Life +5 Years to Serve Consecutive.

Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Christina Robinson
Assistant District Attorney Kassie Hall
Lieutenant Investigator Partrena Baker
Legal Assistant Tiffany Horton
Victim Witness Advocate Sandra Jean-Louis

FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

NEWS CORNER

<https://outlook.office365.com/mail/id/AAQkAGIwN-jFjMzdILWQxZWYtNGU0ZC1hYWMwLTfkmThhZGN-IYtg0MgAQAFRyIQm2dUYnvl%2FIcfSb6O8%3D/sxs/AAMkAGIwNjFjMzdILWQxZWYtNGU0ZC1hYW->



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