

# DA DISPATCH / FANI T. WILLIS, District Attorney



The Fulton County District Attorney's Office

## Introducing Robin's Right-Hand Woman



### Hi Everybody!

My name is Reta Keppler, and I am the Graphic Designer for everyone at the FCDA's office. My director Mike Makins and I are here to assist the whole office in creating some impactful graphics for the various audiences we encounter, both in the community and in the courthouse. Get on my schedule, I am excited to help!

A bit about myself. I graduated from Florida State University, and studied Studio Art with an emphasis in Graphic Design. Outside of my graphics work I am an artist who enjoys throwing pottery, sculpting, painting, pastels/charcoal work, diamond paintings, crocheting, and anything else artsy that comes to mind. If you stop by my office you can see some of my pieces! I aspire to get my own studio, one day.

When I am not elbow-high in clay or paint, I enjoy spending the majority of my time with my dogs. Dog parks, hikes, festivals are some routine places you may find me and my pups outside of the office. I have a 13, almost 14-year-old, boxer/lab mix as well as a 3.5-year-old "Heinz 57" mix of Staffordshire Terrier, Lab, and Jindo - she is crazy, absolutely crazy but I still adore her. My roommate on the other hand...adoring her is a bit of a stretch, lol!

I am a transplant from Pennsylvania and moved to Atlanta in 2015 as a freelance graphic designer. Signs Now, the University of South Florida, and Georgia Tech are just a few of the clients I have had the pleasure to collaborate with. I enjoy growing and learning in my career so bring some of your cases my way...I am up for the challenge!

*ttfn, Reta Keppler*



# Content

## Editor-In-Chief

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**News Editor** *a.k.a. The reason your  
Google Alerts keep going off*

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# 4<sup>th</sup> of July

## Independence Day

Independence Day (unofficially known as the Fourth of July or July 4th) is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the Declaration of Independence of the United States, on July 4, 1776. The Continental Congress declared that the thirteen American colonies were no longer subject to the monarch of Britain, King George III, and were now united, free, and independent states.

The Congress had voted in favor of Independence from Great Britain on July 2nd but didn't actually complete the process of revising the Declaration of Independence originally drafted by Thomas Jefferson in consultation with fellow committee members John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, and William Livingston, until two days later. The celebration was initially modeled on that of the king's birthday, which had been marked annually by bell ringing, bonfires, solemn processions, and oratory. With the rise of leisure, the Fourth of July emerged as a major midsummer holiday, usually celebrated with the setting off of fireworks.


**This year July 4th is on a Sunday and will be observed on Monday July 5, 2021.**

# Staff & Stories

## Welcome - FCDA Law School Interns




**Jordan Barry**  
Law School Intern - 1L  
Southern University Law  
Special Victims Division



**Harrison Hanks**  
Law School Intern - 3L  
Mercer School of Law  
White Collar



**Zalithia Harris-Morris**  
Law School Intern - 3L  
John Marshall Law  
Trial Division



**Holley Howell**  
Law School Intern - 2L  
Emory School of Law  
White Collar



**Marquez Jones**  
Law School Intern - 1L  
John Marshall Law  
Special Victims Division



**Anthony Nguyen**  
Law School Intern - 3L  
GA State School of Law  
Major Case



**Clarke Powell**  
Law School Intern - 2L  
GA State School of Law  
Non-Complex



**Jordan Robinson**  
Law School Intern - 2L  
Emory School of Law  
White Collar



**Amari Roberts**  
Law School Intern - 2L  
FAMU Law  
Non-Complex



**Lauren Spencer**  
Law School Intern - 2L  
John Marshall Law  
Civil Forfeiture

# Staff & Stories

## Welcome - FCDA College Interns

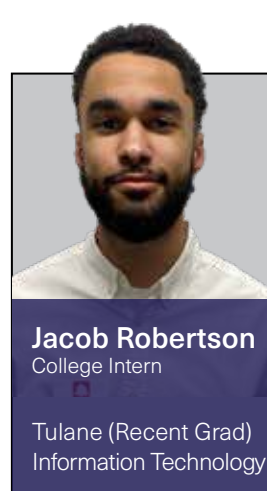
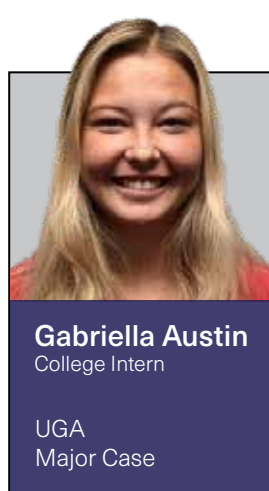
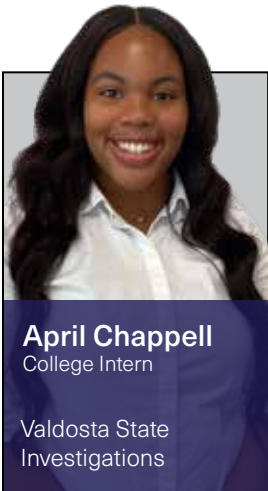


### Meet Analla Reid - College Intern

Analla Reid is a rising senior at the University of Georgia, studying Criminal Justice with a minor in Sociology. She is from Atlanta and grew up in Fulton County. She volunteers heavily in the Athens community, such as being the Committee Chair of Blood Services at the University of Georgia Red Cross Club and by being a shift leader for Campus Kitchen dedicated to delivering food to the elderly each week. She enjoys backpacking and camping. She hopes to go hiking in every state in the United States.

An interesting fact: She was a Girl Scout for twelve years and received the Gold Award, the highest award a scout could achieve, for teaching mindfulness to kids with autism to reduce anxiety.

She is very excited to gain hands-on experience from some of you while interning here..."the wisest people." Please make sure you introduce yourself to Analla when you see her throughout the office.



# Staff & Stories

## Intern Orientation and Welcome Program

On Monday, June 14, 2021, we hosted our first Law and General Student Intern Orientation and Welcome Program. Students will intern this summer in various divisions, gaining valuable hands-on multifaceted legal experience. Our office is currently accepting applications for the Fall semester.



# Staff & Stories

## High School Interns Tour of Fulton County

On June 16th the operations division took the high school interns on a tour of Fulton County. The interns had the opportunity to visit the following Fulton County Divisions:

1. Office of Strategy and Performance Management
2. Information Technology Data Center and Help Desk
3. Fulton County Sheriff's Office
4. Fulton County Solicitors Office
5. Fulton County District Attorney Major Crimes Division
6. Fulton County District Attorney Special Victims Division
7. Fulton County Board of Commissioners Meeting



# Staff & Stories

## Queens Youth Conference

On Saturday, June 12, 2021, Families First invited Madam District Attorney Fani T. Willis to be the Keynote Speaker at their annual Queens Youth Conference. Madam District Attorney's message centered on women's empowerment and resiliency. She reminded the young women ranging from 13 to 21 of the importance of believing in themselves no matter what may come their way. Madam District Attorney reminded them that it's okay to be fierce, ambitious, and confident. She also spoke on the importance of each attendee lifting other women around them up and always hold their heads high, and proudly wear their crowns. Madam District Attorney went to inspire, but these beautiful young women left her inspired and uplifted because she knows that these future leaders will serve our communities well.



## Grant Rood Civil Forfeiture Seizures

### FIRST CASE:

Defendant was arrested and charged criminally for possession of 70 methamphetamine pills, less than one ounce of marijuana, and multiple empty baggies. He had \$4,371.30 on his person. Defendant had already pleaded guilty to the criminal possession underlying this civil forfeiture action and had been convicted numerous times before for felony drug possession. Date of the trial: January 22, 2021. At trial the State won and \$4,371.30 was seized.

### SECOND CASE:

Defendant was arrested and charged criminally for Trafficking in Heroin and various other felony drug charges. Defendant ran from officers while they were trying to detain him. During the chase he threw to the ground a bag containing 4.434 grams of heroin, 26 grams of suspected powder cocaine, 23 grams of suspected crack cocaine, 35 grams of suspected MDMA, and 37 grams of suspected Xanax. Officers also located and seized a Taurus .357 firearm from Glass's person. Officers searched the 2007 Honda Accord he had been sitting in and located a bag containing 87 grams of suspected marijuana, 1.5 grams of suspected methamphetamine, and numerous empty baggies. Officers also located and seized a total of \$1,953.00 from the Defendant and the bag he threw down. Date of the trial: June 4, 2021. At trial the State won and the Defendant's property was seized. The total value of the items seized was \$5,553.00.



# Staff & Stories

## Basic Training Prosecuting Attorney's Council

This week-long course is an intensive, hands-on training session for new prosecutors throughout the state of Georgia. The goals of this nationally recognized course are to prepare the new prosecutor for all phases of trial and equip them with the tools they need to confidently enter the courtroom. Students will have the opportunity to participate in all phases of a mock trial and will be critiqued by seasoned members of the prosecutorial community. This course includes multiple presentations from experienced speakers in addition to practical workshops and team building. Basic Litigation Course Mission: To develop aggressive, professional and effective trial prosecutors who will persuade by establishing credibility and trust.

*Left to right.... Abigail Potter, Peter Faile, Nakeyah Martin, Kenneth Hutcherson- Faculty, Seth Brown, Sonya Allen , Kara Roberts, Travis Thomas.*



## White Collar Crime Unit Meets with Home Depot

On June 17th, the White Collar Crime Unit was excited to meet with The Home Depot as they continue to build relationships with retail partners to curb organized retail theft and fraud schemes. These retail theft schemes are so often connected to larger organized crime enterprises, and they intend to dismantle them one piece at a time.



# Staff & Stories

## Operation Not Forgotten 2021

Operation Not Forgotten 2021 was an endeavor sponsored by the U.S. Marshals Service's Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force (a group of highly dedicated professionals) with the assistance of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the help of law enforcement agencies and prosecutors' offices from various jurisdictions in GA. The focus of the operation was to locate and retrieve missing children and children who were being sexually exploited within GA. From May 17, 2021, through May 28, 2021, through Madam DA Willis' commitment to our office working as a team with our local, state, and federal justice system partners, and under the supervision of Chief District Attorney Earnelle Winfrey and Deputy Chief of Investigations Johnna Griffin, the FCDA's Office assisted in the success of Operation Not Forgotten 2021. As a result of Operation Not Forgotten 2021, (21) children were recovered, with (16) of them being suspected of being children who were being sexually exploited. Also as a result of Operation Not Forgotten 2021, (12) new criminal investigations into Human Trafficking were initiated with approximately seven (7) of them being in Fulton County, GA.



This photograph depicts some of the staff from our office who participated, but not everyone. Below is the list of everyone that participated from our office.

Daysha Young	Simone Hylton	Quintin Lewis	Gerald Walsh	Brian Salters
Earnelle Winfrey	Lauren McAuley	Kara Roberts	Nakeya Martin	Travis Thomas
Jill Hartsfield	Jill Hollander	Furhawn Shah	Amanda Green	Alicia Taylor
Raeisha Oliphant	Yolanda Mack	Elyce Loutzenhiser	Marshal Hodge	Elizabeth Tarver
Brandee Bolton	Jawara Mars	Jason Johnson	Richard Stein	Keenan O'Neal
Tawanna Flint	Juliana Peterson	Paula Duprey	Johanne Welch	Glenn Cross
Donald Moore	Will Wooten	Donald Hannah	Obed Ford	John Weitnauer

# Staff & Stories

## Leadership Command Training Summit

On June 11, 2021, Madam DA, William McCombs, and Kevin Armstrong attended the 2nd quarter Leadership Command Training Summit. The Atlanta Police Training Academy developed a Leadership Summit of distinguished private/public leaders to discuss pressing issues within the Atlanta Region and present attendees with collaborative strategies to address them through a moderated discussion. On the panel along with Madam DA was JC “Chris” Hacker (FBI Director, Atlanta), Chief Judge Chris Brasher (Fulton County Superior Court), Vic Reynolds (Director Georgia Bureau of investigations), Sherriff Patrick “Pat” Labat (28th Sheriff of Fulton County), Richard Barron (Fulton County Director Registration and Elections), and Dr. Larry Stewart (Atlanta Metropolitan State College Associate Professor).

On another panel, there was Commissioner Tyrone Oliver (GA Dept. Juvenile Justice), Ronald Applin (Atlanta Public Schools Chief of Police), Dr. Ken Newby (Morehouse College, Speech and Debate Director), Judge Renata Turner (Fulton County Juvenile Court), and Director Tom Rawlings (GA Dept. Family and Children Services).

This training allowed commanders to engage in dialogue and the attendees were able to ask questions with the panelists regarding critical topics that impact the City of Atlanta and the criminal justice system.



# Staff & Stories

## Special Victim Lunch - Our Winners of Family Feud

On June 22, 2021, we celebrated our Family Feud Champions, Juvenile Unit, a unit in our Special Victims Division. Madam DA treated the whole Special Victims Division with a luncheon from Maggiano's to celebrate their victory with our very own FCDA Family Feud 2021 Law Day Competition. Congratulations Juvenile Unit and to the whole Special Victim Division.



# The Fab Four Spotlight



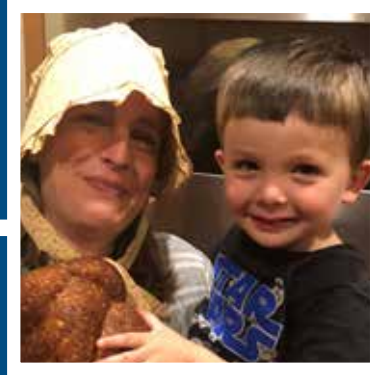
## Jill Hartsfield

Assistant District Attorney  
S.A.K.I. Unit

Jill Hartsfield is a Senior Assistant District Attorney assigned to the Human Trafficking and Internet Child Exploitation Unit. She spent her first 3 months in Fulton assisting in multiple courtrooms on the complex line. Prior to Fulton, Jill kicked off her prosecution career in the Clayton County District Attorney's Office working on cases ranging from drug possession to murder.

Outside of work, you can typically find Jill Hartsfield at her local gym, rock climbing, or binge-watching Netflix at Olympic levels. She also has a 3-year-old dog who drags her on many runs. Jill looks forward to spending the summer on the lake and bouldering trips throughout the Southeast.

# The Fab Four Spotlight



## Jill Hollander

Deputy District Attorney  
Elder Abuse & Animal Cruelty

Jill Hollander is the Deputy of Elder Abuse and Animal Cruelty in the Special Victims Unit. She grew up on Long Island, New York, and went to Tufts University in Boston, graduating in 1999 with a double major in psychology and comparative religions (with an “unofficial” minor in computer science). She came to Georgia to go to Emory Law school.

Jill started in the Fulton County District Attorney’s office in 2002. She took over the animal cases in 2010. Since then she has spoken extensively on animal cruelty prosecutions at several national level conferences. Elder abuse is new to her, but she is seeing a significant link between elder and animal abuse.

Jill played soccer through college. She even was a certified USSF referee. She endeavors to leave the continent at least once per year. Once upon a time, she has sung barbershop at Disney world and Mozart in Carnegie Hall. During Covid, she made homemade sourdough and has baked through 250 pounds of flour since March of 2020. Not all was sourdough, quite a bit was challah and babka. She makes butter, pickles (from cucumbers she grows in her backyard), and jams from her very own blackberries. She brews beer and has now branched out into wine. She is growing fruit in her backyard to one day make wine.

She is unapologetic a JETS fan (originally being from Long Island.) However, she will claim the Falcons when convenient or necessary.

Last but not least...what’s even more interesting is that she has a 104-year-old grandmother.

# The Fab Four Spotlight



## Kevin Armstrong

Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney  
Training

Kevin Armstrong is the Chief Senior ADA who is now in charge of training. Previously he was a member of the Appeals Unit. In that capacity and his prior job as an Assistant Public Defender in Albany, Georgia, Kevin has handled several hundred motions for new trial and appeals, many from convictions for murder. As part of the Appeals Unit, Kevin was also the primary appellate attorney handling pretrial capital cases and assumed temporary supervisory duties when necessary.

Kevin can claim: to have been to Wakanda; to have intentionally set part of a house on fire; to have had a rabies scare; to have driven a modified stick shift around a foreign country with only the skills necessary to drive an automatic; to have participated in a game of laser tag which precipitated a SWAT team response that got called off by the bike cop who got there first, and to had the unique experience of being responsible for an appellate case which (theoretically) could have reversed every felony conviction obtained in the entire State of Georgia for five years. He is perhaps the only person in Glynco shooting range history to have hit the same target twice in such quick succession that he was able to murder a fluorescent light for which he did not have a line of sight.

Prior to moving to Atlanta, Kevin performed in approximately 50 plays and musicals. He has coached high school mock trials in 8 of the past 10 years. He spends much of his free time near his 9-year-old American Staffordshire and caters (as best he can) to her love of sunshine, fear of thunder, and seething hatred of drones. He makes beignets.

# The Fab Four Spotlight



## Stacey Johnstone

Deputy Legal Assistant

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Stacey Johnstone is a Deputy Legal Assistant. She earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Sociology from Georgia State University, and is a graduate of John Marshal Law School. She brings more than 20 years of experience to the Office. Stacey has a wealth of knowledge and comprehension of the Grand Jury process, Pre-Indictment process, and the Non-Complex trial process.

Stacey is a transplant from Detroit, Michigan but has lived in the Metro area for over 30 years. She is a twin and her children are identical twins. She is a do-it-yourselfer. She has installed ceiling fans, recessed lighting, and faucets. She has also replaced a refrigerator motor, an oven heating element, and quarter-round trim molding. She hopes to soon remodel her half bath. She enjoys listening to audiobooks and took the quarantine months to listen to a wealth of them. One of the most recent books that she enjoyed is "Dread Nation" by Justine Ireland.



# Awards

## Juvenile Gang Position Awarded



Brett Pinion



Michele Henry



Natalie Zellner



Yolanda Shorthouse



Kyra Banks

Shout out and a special thank you to Brett Pinion, Natalie Zellner, Michele Henry, Yolanda Shorthouse, and Kyra Banks. We were awarded a state juvenile position on June 10th, 2021!

Madam DA was told we would never get a juvenile state position because this office had tried many times. Madam instructed them to apply because she believed we would with the correct presentation. The boss was right. She could not be more proud or elated. In her own words,

“My team is the best.

Today we were awarded a state juvenile position!

I am so excited.”

## Employee of the Quarter

### Tywanna Settles-Isby

Was awarded an Employee of the Quarter for her outstanding achievement of disposing over 3,826 files within 3 months.



# Important Dates and Special Events


SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>JULY 2021</b>		<b>29   June</b> Swearing In for Lawyers, Investigators & 3rd year Law School Students	<b>30   June</b> Wellness Wednesday Yoga	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Office Closed for Fumigation	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> Happy 4th of July 🇺🇸	<b>5</b> Office Closed for 4th of July Holiday	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Junior DA Program Starts	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> T-Shirts & Treats (wear your FCDA gear) 🍦	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> District Attorney's Meeting - Jekyll Island
<b>18</b>		<b>19</b>		<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
Procecuting Attorneys Council Summer Conference Jekyll Island						
<b>25</b> High School Interns Commencement	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Wellness Wednesday Yoga	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Junior DA Mock Trials & Graduation	<b>31</b>
<b>AUG 2021</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> FCDA Leadership Meeting	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>

## FCDA Employee Yoga

# OFFICE WIDE YOGA DAY

**JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup> | LOCATION TBA | 12PM-1PM**

Are you stressed? Is work causing you to grow premature gray hairs? Madam DA is inviting the office to participate in Wellness Wednesday, an office-wide yoga session, to help with decompressing during our stressful days. This is a recurring event, happening on the last Wednesday of each month.



# Newsroom

Click story for more information

Fulton probes gang ties in deaths of children



Law enforcement investigating whether gangs were involved in killings of 2 little girls



Metro Atlanta leaders to use federal money to address crime.



Court upholds RICO conviction in Atlanta schools test-cheating case



## In a courtroom near you

### Domestic Violence

Carlo McDay  
#17SC155810  
Courtroom: Barwick  
6/22/21  
10:00 am  
Inquiry Calendar

Laura Bozeman  
#18SC160224  
Courtroom: Carnasale  
6/24/21  
9:30am  
Status Update

### Major Case

Julian Conley  
#20CP192840  
Magistrate  
6/22/2021  
9:00 am  
Preliminary Hearing

### Crimes Against Children

Ethan Gathright  
#20SC176857  
Courtroom: Edwards  
6/28/2021  
9:30 am  
Case Management

### Anti-Corruption

Christopher McLean  
#17-OIS-0357  
Grand Jury  
6/25/2021  
8:30 am  
Grand Jury Proceedings

### Juvenile

LaSean Johnson & Aynahis Baldwin  
Courtroom: Miller  
9:00am  
Low...Lennox Square robbery

### Trial - Complex

Jermaine Hewitt  
#19SC172581 & #19SC172584  
Courtroom: Carnasale  
6/29/2021  
9:30am  
Plea and Arraignment

### Gangs

Rayshawn Bennett  
#21SC177808  
Courtroom: Cox  
7/1/2021  
9:30am  
Bond Motion

### Human Trafficking

Earnest Mack  
#21DA04341  
Courtroom: Newkirk  
6/22/2021  
9:00am  
Bond



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

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