

# DA DISPATCH

FANI T. WILLIS, District Attorney



There are more than 650 streets named after Martin Luther King Jr. in America. MLK Jr. Drive in King's hometown of Atlanta borders the Atlanta University Center, where his alma mater Morehouse College is located.

## The real people behind Atlanta's street names pg. 16



Atlanta streets are paved with the legacies of many heroic activist and civil-rights leaders. Preserving their memories through street names insures they will never be forgotten.

Some of these names are well known, such as John Lewis Freedom Parkway or Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, but there are others also responsible for shaping the city we know and love today.

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 OFFICE OF THE  
FULTON COUNTY  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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Robin Bryant

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**Managing Editor** *a.k.a. Robin's Left-Hand Man*

Jeremy Murray

**Graphic Designer** *a.k.a. Robin's Right-Hand Lady*

Reta Keppler

**Media/Graphics Editor**

Michael Makins

**Copy Editor** *a.k.a. Grammar Guru*

Sau Chan

Fani T. Willis, District Attorney  
Fulton County District Attorney's Office  
136 Pryor Street | 3rd Floor  
Atlanta, GA 30303

DA Main Line: 404-612-4820

[fultoncountyga.gov/districtattorney](http://fultoncountyga.gov/districtattorney)

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# PRESIDENTS' DAY

February 21, 2022

Celebrated each year on the third Monday of February, Presidents' Day is February 21 this year. While the holiday puts some in a shopping mood, there should be some reflection as to its history. Each president has played a role in shaping history. While nothing is perfect, it's important to hold onto the ideals that this country stands for and that "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" is meant for everyone.

In 1799, after the death of George Washington, his birthday (February 22) was unofficially celebrated as a day of remembrance called Washington Day. In the late 1870s, Senator Steven Wallace Dorsey of Arkansas proposed that Washington Day should become a national federal holiday. President Rutherford B. Hayes signed the measure into law in 1879, adding Washington Day to four other federal bank holidays: Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Fourth of July and Thanksgiving.

Because of Abraham Lincoln's legacy and the proximity of his birthday (February 12), it was proposed that Washington Day should become Presidents' Day to celebrate both men. However, Washington Day didn't become Presidents' Day until the late 1960s, when Congress proposed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act to move key bank holidays to Mondays to increase the number of three-day weekends. Some believed that people needed a break in February to refresh their lost stamina after the restorative effects of the winter holidays had faded.

In 1971, Richard M. Nixon made the executive order to pass the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which shifted Washington Day, Columbus Day, Memorial Day, and Veterans' Day to Monday. The measure also changed Washington Day to Presidents' Day.

## The following are some little-known facts:

- There are three universities named after George Washington.
- There are five national parks named after Theodore Roosevelt.
- Abraham Lincoln was 6'4, making him the tallest president.
- Four U.S. presidents have February birthdays.
- William Henry Harrison was in office only 32 days before he passed away.
- James Madison was 5'4, making him the shortest president.
- Theodore Roosevelt was 42 when he took office, making him the youngest.
- Three presidents have won the Grammy for Best Spoken Word Album: Jimmy Carter, Barack Obama and Bill Clinton.
- John Adams and Thomas Jefferson died on July 4, 1826, the 50th anniversary of the approval of the Declaration of Independence.
- George Washington was the only president to be unanimously elected by all of the state representatives.
- The "S" in Harry S. Truman doesn't actually stand for anything.
- Merchants see a 1.2% weekly boost in sales on average in the week of Presidents' Day.

# Important Dates and Special Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>FEB</b> <b>2022</b>				<b>17</b> Wellness - Trinidad Toby 	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  President's Day	<b>22</b> Wellness - Trinidad Toby 	<b>23</b>  Attorney Training TBA   ADA Diversion Programs Training	<b>24</b> Leadership Meeting  Wellness - Trinidad Toby 	<b>25</b>  Attorney Training TBA  \$\$ Fulton County PayDay	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  Evaluations Due	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>MAR</b> <b>2022</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1</b> Wellness - Trinidad Toby 	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>  Attorney Training  Wellness - Trinidad Toby 	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  Diversion Participants Orientation	<b>8</b> Wellness - Trinidad Toby 	<b>9</b>  Investigator Training  NEW! VWAP Training BOC Assembly Hall	<b>10</b>  Attorney Training  Wellness - Trinidad Toby 	<b>11</b> \$\$ Fulton County PayDay	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Wellness - Trinidad Toby 	<b>16</b>  VWAP Training FulCo Lab	<b>17</b>  Attorney Training  Wellness - Trinidad Toby 	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Wellness - Trinidad Toby 	<b>23</b>  Investigator Training   VWAP Training BOC Assembly Hall	<b>24</b>  Attorney Training Diversion Participants Orientation  Wellness - Trinidad Toby 	<b>25</b> \$\$ Fulton County PayDay	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Wellness - Trinidad Toby 	<b>30</b>  Investigator Training	<b>31</b>  Attorney Training  Wellness - Trinidad Toby 	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

CONTINUING 10-WEEK COURSE (through April 2022)

Contact

# INVESTIGATOR TRAINING

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



## WEEK 6:

Jail Call Process

**MARCH 9, 2022**

Week 7:

Evidence /  
Electronic  
Evidence

March 23<sup>rd</sup>

Week 8:

Technical  
Investigations

March 30<sup>th</sup>

Week 9:

Firearms  
Training

April 6<sup>th</sup>

Week 10:

Health and  
Wellness

April 27<sup>th</sup>

CONTINUING 11-WEEK COURSE (through April 2022)

Contact

# ATTORNEY TRAINING

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



## WEEK 3:

Motions to Suppress Evidence

**February 23<sup>rd</sup> OR 25<sup>th</sup>** (day TBD)

### MARCH CLASSES

Week 4 | 3/3 *Defendants' Rights*

Week 5 | 3/10 *Pre-Indictment Matters*

Week 6 | 3/17 *Indictments and Charging Discretion*

Week 7 | 3/24 *Arraignments, Pleas, and Sentencing*

Week 8 | 3/31 *Discovery—Both Statutory and Constitutional*

**NEW!** 11-WEEK COURSE (through May 2022)

Contact

# VWAP TRAINING

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



## WEEK 1:

Case Intake Process and  
Case Disposition

**March 9, 2022**  
BOC Assembly Room

### MARCH CLASSES

Week 2 | 3/16/2022 | FulCo Lab  
*Organizational Skills and Case Management*

Week 3 | 3/23/2022 | BOC Assembly Hall  
*Restitution/Victim's Compensation Overview*

# Welcome **Spring Interns**



**ALEX CLARK**

University of Georgia School of Law  
Special Victims Division -  
Conviction Integrity Unit



**ALEXANDRIA ROSE**

Clark Atlanta University  
Case Intake Division



**AMANDA BANKS**

Clark Atlanta University  
Trial Division - Complex Unit



**ANITRES WALLS**

Georgia State University  
Programs Division



**BERNELL ALEXANDER**

Atlanta's John Marshall Law School  
Major Crimes Division -  
Cold & Capital Cases Unit



**CATARINA CENTEIO**

Georgia State University  
Programs Division - WWAP



**CHRISLYNN WILLIAMS**

Kennesaw State University  
Special Victims Division -  
Domestic Violence Unit



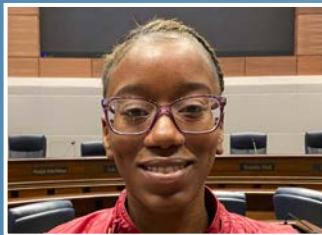
**DASJAE BARBER**

Clark Atlanta University  
Major Crimes Division -  
Civil Forfeiture Unit



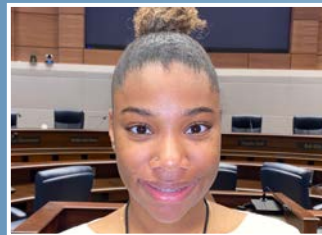
**ISATU BAH**

Georgia State University  
Media Division



**JADA RILEY**

Clark Atlanta University  
Programs Division - WWAP



**JHANE ALLEN**

Georgia State College of Law  
Major Crimes Division - White Collar



**JOAN SMOOT**

Atlanta's John Marshall Law School  
Major Crimes Division - Major Case



**NAVIER WARE**

Clark Atlanta University



**RAVEN MOORE**

Spelman College  
Special Victims Division - S.A.K.I Unit



**RENYATA FINNEY**

Atlanta's John Marshall Law School  
Trial Division - Complex Unit



**SANGHUN KIM**

Atlanta's John Marshall Law School  
Investigations Division



**ZALITHIA  
HARRIS-MOORE**

Atlanta's John Marshall Law School  
Major Crimes Division - Gangs Unit



**ZAQUEYSHA PIERCE**

Clark Atlanta University  
Special Victims Division - Sex Crimes

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



*Nikia Smith-Sellers, please!*

*She is always extremely helpful, and this month, while transitioning to a new Competency Court program, she also switched Non-Complex courtrooms to help an understaffed team (which meant taking on a brand-new caseload with a new judge). She never uttered a single complaint, and she has been a really consistent source of support to all her newer colleagues. She has the best attitude whenever we have tricky situations to deal with!*

*Thank you,*

*Pareesa Amjadi  
Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney  
Trial Division, Non-Complex Unit*

## FCDA Jill Hollandar Presents in Baton Rouge, LA

DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY, ELDER ABUSE AND ANIMAL CRUELTY UNIT

From December 1 – 3, 2021, Jill Hollandar, Deputy District Attorney with the Elder Abuse and Animal Cruelty Unit, presented at the Association of Prosecuting Attorney's 10th Annual National Animal Cruelty Conference at Louisiana State University's School of Veterinary Medicine in Baton Rouge. The conference brings together professionals from disciplines including Law Enforcement, Veterinarians, Rescue Groups, and Prosecutors to teach best practices and novel issues in crimes against animals. Jill has served since 2014 as Faculty for the Animal Cruelty Advisory Council, the multi-disciplinary body that plans the conference.

On Wednesday, December 8, 2021, Madam DA and the Elder Abuse and Animal Cruelty Unit participated in the first "College Park Senior Summit." The Unit educated senior citizens about the perils that they may face, including financial crimes, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and domestic violence; the goal was to encourage the public to be proactive rather than responsive and to get across the message that PREVENTING elder abuse is preferable to PROSECUTING it. The summit, which was held in partnership with College Park Mayor Bianca Motley Broom, Fulton County Commissioner Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, and Fulton County Superior Court Judge Kevin Farmer, was a huge success, attracting more than 100 senior citizens.





## REMINDER FROM CHANDRIKA DERRICHO

Victim-Witness Assistance Program Director

*Because the work that we do can be extremely stressful, I wanted to share information about the Fulton County Employee Assistance Program. It is free and provides confidential counseling with as many as 8 free sessions. Please see information below.*

# EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Regardless of the medical plan option you choose — or even if you don't choose Fulton County's medical plan coverage — you and eligible family members have access to the EAP program administered by BlueCross BlueShield of Georgia. EAP provides free, confidential, short-term assistance and counseling designed to help individuals resolve a variety of personal concerns. There are no costs, fees or copays for EAP, which provides:

- Toll-free telephone consultation, coaching and crisis stabilization with a licensed mental-health professional.
- As many as 8 free face-to-face counseling visits, available at convenient locations, to address personal and/or work-related problems including, but not limited to: stress, depression, anxiety, health and wellness.
- Legal services, which include a 30-minute consultation with an attorney (phone-based or face-to-face) at no charge, as well as a 25% discount off normal attorney fees if additional services are required.
- Financial services, which include a 30-minute consultation with a Certified Public Accountant or Certified Financial Planner (phone-based or face-to-face) at no charge, as well as a 25% discount off normal attorney's fees if additional services are required. Customized resources, referrals and information for childcare and parenting, senior and dependent adult care, education selection and preparation, health and wellness and customer education.
- Access to the Anthem BlueCross BlueShield website offering self-assessments and a library of valuable articles on mental health, stress management, work/life balance, relationships, substance abuse, emotional well-being, and legal and financial resources. EAP services can be accessed 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling (800) 999-7222 or visiting [www.AnthemEAP.com](http://www.AnthemEAP.com) (password: Fulton).





**TRINIDAD TOBY**  
TRAIN. TEACH. TRANSFORM.

FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

# CONTINUING WELLNESS SERIES



**AFTERNOON**  
**CLASS ADDED!!!**  
**3:30 - 4:30PM**

Your time at class is considered part of working hours.

Limited slots available.  
Please sign up today.

You are encouraged to bring a mat and 5lb weights.

Government Center 4th Floor  
141 Pryor Street | Atlanta, GA

**Upstairs at Fitness Center**

**FEBRUARY 17, 22, 24**  
**MARCH** (ENTIRE MONTH)

Every Tuesday and Thursday in February

**First Class:\***

7:45 am - 8:45 am

**Second Class:\***

8:45 am - 9:45 am

**Third Class:\***

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

\*Must Show Up on Time

# Letter from the DA:

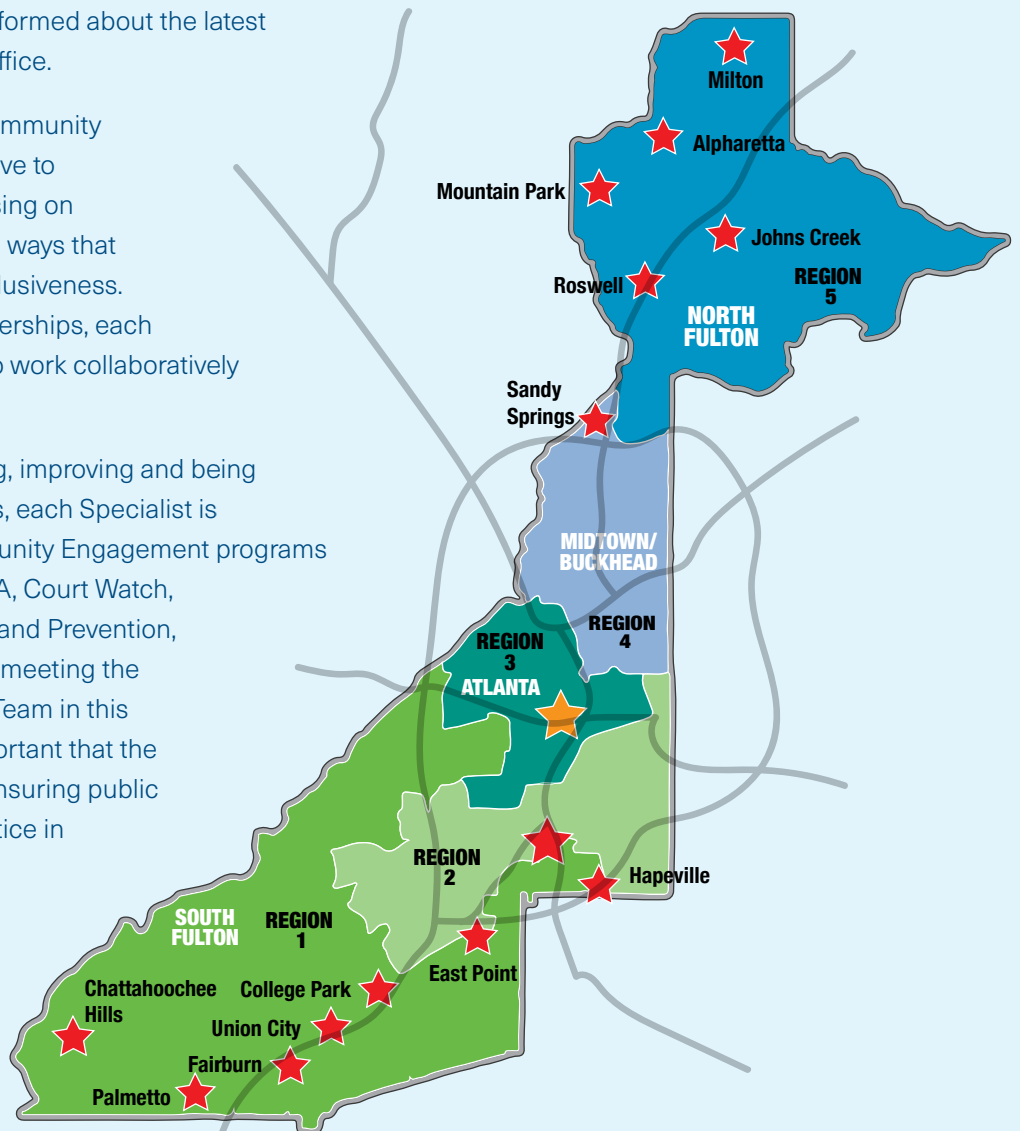
To my Staff, Justice Partners and Citizens of Fulton County:

As you know, I made a commitment to the citizens of Fulton County that I would foster relationships with the community to create a new vision for the Fulton County District Attorney's Office. I promised that I would restore integrity and hire staff who would contribute their expertise, commitment, and energy to make Fulton County safer. I also pledged to be open and honest by having an open door and developing innovative programs and strategic partnerships that align with our guiding principles to ensure accessibility to all Fulton County citizens.

To this end, we have hired five Community Resource Specialists to bridge any gaps between our office and the community. Each Specialist is responsible for a specific part of Fulton County, from Milton to Palmetto. It is a priority that our office is proactive and strategic. Each Specialist will attend and participate regularly in meetings with the Board of Commissioners, City Council, community board meetings, NPU meetings and Civic associations to ensure everyone is informed about the latest developments associated with this Office.

Each Specialist will be attentive to community conversations in order to be responsive to the needs of our community by focusing on developing long-term relationships in ways that prioritize integrity, innovation and inclusiveness. By cultivating relationships and partnerships, each Specialist represents a direct effort to work collaboratively to make Fulton County safe.

Along with a commitment to fostering, improving and being responsive to the community's needs, each Specialist is responsible for managing our Community Engagement programs such as our Intern Program, Junior DA, Court Watch, Internal Programs, Gang Awareness and Prevention, and other special initiatives aimed at meeting the community's needs. I know that our Team in this Office is doing great work, and it important that the community is aware of how we are ensuring public safety. We are the gatekeepers to justice in Fulton County.



# Community Resource Specialist Spotlight



## FELESHIA ALI

Region 1

East Point

Hapeville

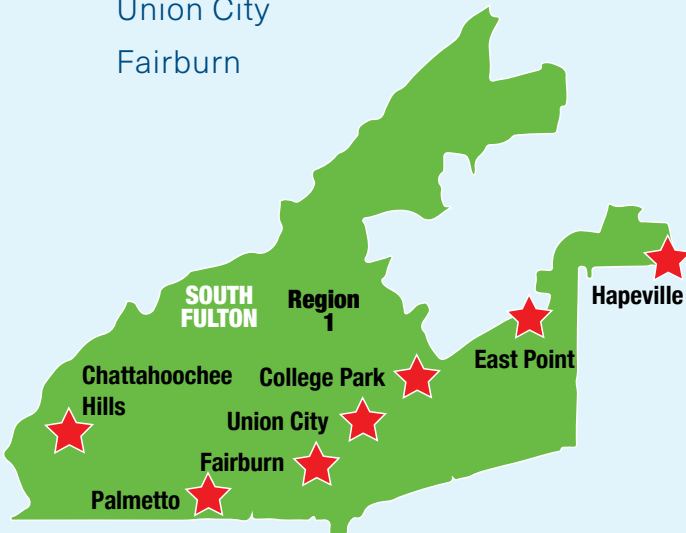
Palmetto

City of Chattahoochee Hills

College Park

Union City

Fairburn



Feleshia Ali is the Community Resource Specialist for Region 1, which covers the South Fulton area, including Chattahoochee Hills, College Park, East Point, Fairburn, Palmetto, Union City and Hapeville. Feleshia will oversee and facilitate the Junior DA program, whose primary goal is to enhance students' understanding of the legal system and create an atmosphere of positivity about the legal system. Feleshia will collaborate with school systems, community leaders, families and other community partners to enhance the importance of the program and to encourage open communication among schools, city leaders, youth and families. The program also will be geared toward the importance of how learning about the law at an early age can make an impact in the future and enrich the legal system with the community.

A native of Evergreen, Alabama, Feleshia has lived in Georgia for about 20 years. She has a Bachelor's in Social Work, a Master's in Education, and a Doctorate in Instructional Leadership. Feleshia began devoting her time to serving the community in the mental-health field after working 3 years in corrections.

She started working with adults in a day program as Assistant Director. She has worked in mental-health agencies for adults and youth in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia. She has held positions such as a Wraparound Supervisor / Administrator, School Crisis Counselor, School Behavior Counselor, Care Coordinator, Casemanager, Intensive Casemanager, Team Lead for ICM (Intensive Case Management), and Drug and Alcohol Facilitator. Feleshia has worked effectively and successfully with community providers, state and federal agencies in developing, building and continuing support for successful programs.

In her free time, Feleshia enjoys spending time with family, reading and traveling. Her favorite color is red. She enjoys trying new food and working with others to achieve a success story.

# Community Resource Specialist Spotlight



## LaRHONDA MAITEN

Region 2

City of South Fulton  
Southwest ATL (SWATS)

LaRhonda S. Maiten is the Community Resource Specialist for Region 2, which serves the city of South Fulton and Southwest Atlanta (SWATS). She will be responsible for running Fulton County District Attorney's Office's internal programs, including those dealing with domestic violence, elder abuse and sexual abuse, LGBTQ, etc. She will collaborate with ADA's and partners in the community to establish much-needed outreach for efficient and effective engagement. A key component for internal programs is educational programming to effect change in order to leave a positive mark in communities.

Born an Army brat in Fort Stewart, Georgia, and raised in Jacksonville, Florida, LaRhonda has a Bachelor's in Psychology and Criminal Justice. She considers herself a lifelong student as well as a mental-health advocate, blogger, and self-published author. While attending Florida State College of Jacksonville and University of North Florida, she became a member of the National Honor Society and Delta Kappa Phi.

LaRhonda has spent the past decade as a paralegal, discovering her analytical and leadership skills. In 2016, she decided to utilize her legal skills in the non-profit sector and worked for United Way and Hubbard House (a domestic-violence shelter). In the non-profit sector, she developed a greater passion to serve others while providing solutions to their crises.

While working with sexual-abuse victims, she started to share her story about childhood sexual abuse; as a result, she has been on several panels and podcasts to encourage others to speak out. After publishing her first book in 2019, LaRhonda received her seminary certification because she hopes someday to have a faith-based non-profit agency of her own to serve abused victims.

In November 2020, LaRhonda moved to Atlanta for better opportunities. While working at the Fulton County District Attorney Office, LaRhonda is pursuing NYU certification in television/films because she believes as a writer (artist) drawing awareness is limitless. LaRhonda's mantra is: "I always trust the next chapter because I know the author of my story."

LaRhonda is a mother to a beautiful teenage daughter and a basset hound. Both keep her very busy. Her favorite color is purple. She is a huge Whitney Houston fan! She's obsessed with candles and music. She's a great chess player and she loves Thai food.



# Community Resource Specialist Spotlight



## GREGORY WARE

Region 3

City of Atlanta



Gregory J. Ware is the Community Resource Specialist for Region 3, which comprises the city of Atlanta, excluding Midtown and Buckhead. He will be responsible for the Fulton County District Attorney's Office's Youth Anti-Gang Initiatives and will work closely with Deputy DA Cara Convery and the Gang Unit and Chief Deputy DA Brett Pinion and the Juvenile Court Unit to mobilize the community to develop collaborative solutions and foster social interventions to curb gang violence. Utilizing the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Comprehensive Anti-Gang model, Gregory will work with local communities to develop an internal resource guide to aid citizens in connecting with services and organizations that can comprehensively address their needs.

Born and raised in a city known as the nexus of the Voting Rights Movement (Selma, Alabama), Gregory calls himself a "true southern gentleman." He was raised by faith-driven parents who valued civic engagement, public service, integrity, and contributing to the common good. After high school, Gregory had hoped to become a cardiovascular surgeon – but that didn't pan out. He ended up at the University of Montevallo (Alabama's only public liberal arts university), where he realized that he wanted to make a difference in society in addition to helping those most vulnerable and negatively disproportionately affected.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Social Work, Gregory worked at Birmingham AIDS Outreach, Alabama's First AIDS Service Organization. There, he learned how biased policies and procedures can lead to detrimental outcomes and how grant funding can provide critical solutions. While working as a Severe Child Abuse and Neglect Investigator for the state of Alabama, Gregory learned the importance of government agencies and their role in protecting and advocating for the most vulnerable.

Gregory went on to pursue a Master of Science in Social Work with an emphasis in Social Administration at the University of New England in Biddeford, Maine. During graduate school, he interned with Collaborative Solutions, a Birmingham, Alabama-based non-profit that helps vulnerable populations receive adequate housing and support services. Gregory provided technical assistance to grantees, involved himself in all phases of the grant process, and lobbied for agencies receiving funds from HUD's Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Program. Gregory lobbied Congress to pass the Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act (HOTMA), Public Law 114-201, which was passed in July 2016. HOTMA included provisions to modernize the HOPWA formula along with provisions related to other HUD programs to better reflect current HIV epidemic trends.

In 2016, Gregory became a Fulton County Social Services Coordinator at Juvenile Court, where he worked with Juvenile Mental Health and Drug Court. He then left to become a Specialty Court Coordinator for the 36th District Court in Detroit, managing the day-to-day operations of Michigan's largest Drug Court as well as Veterans, DUI and Mental Health Court. Gregory is trained in multiple evidenced-based treatment modalities that provides services to juvenile and adult offenders, those with severe mental-health diagnosis, and those who have experienced severe trauma.

An avid researcher, Gregory enjoys learning about various subject matters. Interesting facts about Gregory: he spent years working in the funeral service Industry and went to mortuary school before graduating from college. He considers himself a "Master" Juicer and has managed production for an organic juice company whose goods are sold in Whole Foods.

# Community Resource Specialist Spotlight



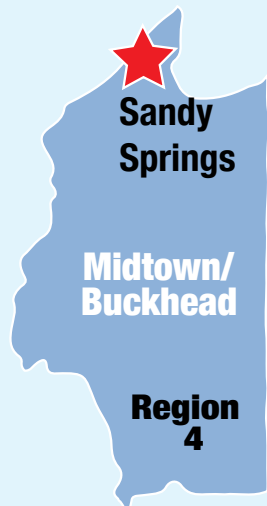
## ALVIN STALEY

Region 4

Sandy Springs

Midtown

Buckhead



Alvin Staley II is the Community Resource Specialist for Region 4, which covers Atlanta Midtown, Buckhead, and Sandy Springs. He will manage the Fulton County District Attorney's Office's Internship Program, which entails sourcing, recruiting, screening, and placing more than 35 interns each semester. Alvin will collaborate with more than 10 universities to recruit the brightest, in addition to partnering with each unit or division in the office for the onboarding. He will bring best practices to the program, including exploring a virtual program to allow students to work with the office throughout the country any time of the year.

Alvin is a Georgia native who spent 10 years in Washington D.C. working for the federal government, including the Pentagon, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the State Department, mostly under President Barack Obama. Staley graduated in 2012 from Howard University, where he received a Bachelor's in Legal Communications. He subsequently received a Master's in Business Administration from George Washington University.

A member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Alvin served as Junior Vice-Polemarch (Regional VP) during the fraternity's centennial year in 2011. He is also a proud member of Alpha Kappa Psi International Business Fraternity, Inc., and owner of Staley Operations & Solutions, LLC, an operations consulting firm. In his spare time, he enjoys playing music, watching movies, exercising and meditating.

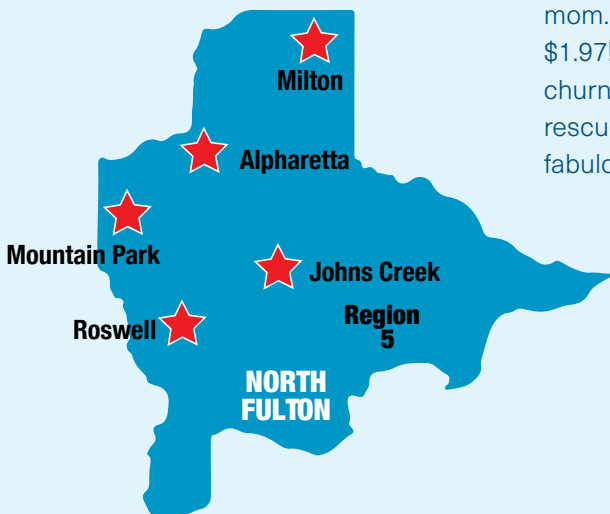
# Community Resource Specialist Spotlight



## LISA HOLLAND

Region 5

City of Mountain Park  
Milton  
Johns Creek,  
Roswell  
Alpharetta



Lisa Holland serves as the Community Resource Specialist for Region 5, which comprises north Fulton County, including the cities of Alpharetta, Johns Creek, Mountain Park, Milton and Roswell. Lisa will manage volunteers for the Judicial Transparency Team (also known as Court Watch), which is designed to allow citizens to understand the workings of Fulton County’s courts to determine if justice is being pursued fairly and efficiently. Volunteers will be trained by an exceptional team of ADAs and investigators about the criminal justice system. Afterwards, the volunteers will be released to closely monitor cases with a specific emphasis on repeat offenders. The new program will launch in April.

Lisa grew up in the northern-Atlanta suburb of Dunwoody. She was always interested in law and government. When she was younger, she loved watching cop shows like “Cagney & Lacey.”

After high school, she heard from a neighbor that a police department was hiring dispatchers. So Lisa joined and immediately felt at home. She admired the camaraderie the officers shared and loved the excitement of the job. Lisa has more than three decades of law enforcement experience, including working as a jail officer, patrol officer, training officer, and an investigator.

Before joining the Fulton County District Attorney’s Office, Lisa served as a police officer for the Roswell Police Department. She then became the media spokesperson. As the Public Information Officer, she provided constant communication to citizens through national and local news and social media platforms. Lisa remained in this position for 10 years before retiring in 2019.

Lisa and her husband of 24 years, Bernie, have a son, Dawson, who attends college while working full time. On weekends, Lisa enjoys thrifting with her 83-year-old mom. On one excursion, Lisa stumbled upon a beautiful antique ukulele for only \$1.97! Determined to learn to play the instrument, she turned to YouTube. Lisa now churns out tunes for her favorite audience member, Chichi, a Chihuahua-mix puppy rescued from a shelter last summer. Only Chichi appreciates her human mom’s fabulous ukulele serenades.

# The Black History Behind Some of Atlanta's Street Names



## JOHN WESLEY **DOBBS**

John Wesley Dobbs, the unofficial “Mayor of Auburn Avenue,” was a much-beloved figure within Atlanta’s African-American community. He was very active in Atlanta politics when the black community was searching for unity, according to Paul Crater, vice president of research services at the Atlanta History Center. Dobbs helped form the Atlanta Negro Voter’s League and was a heavy promoter of Auburn Avenue businesses. Dobbs also was the grandfather of Maynard Jackson, the first Black mayor of Atlanta.



## JOSEPH E. **BOONE**

Joseph E. Boone was a key civil-rights organizer who marched with Martin Luther King Jr. and was a central organizer of the Atlanta civil-rights movement during the early 1960s. In addition to King, Boone worked with Ralph David Abernathy, John Lewis and Andrew Young. In 2003, he was awarded the Civil Rights Legend Award. In 2006, he was bestowed the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame Award.



## JESSE **HILL, Jr.**

Jesse Hill Jr. is a former CEO of the Atlanta Life Insurance Company. He also served as the first African-American president of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce and he was appointed chair of the Minority Business Resource Center by then-President Jimmy Carter. He was involved with the Atlanta Student Movement in 1960. As an activist, he was instrumental in boycotts of stores such as Woolworth, Rich’s and Kress. In 2008, he was inducted into the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame. In 2009, he was a recipient of the Ivan Allen Jr. Prize for Social Courage.

## Georgia’s First Black Judge: **Austin "A.T." Walden**



Austin T. Walden, a renowned attorney and civil-rights leader, was Georgia’s first Black judge. As an attorney, he litigated cases to attain equal pay for Black educators and filed lawsuits to help desegregate the Atlanta Public Schools system and the University of Georgia. In 1963, he was appointed by Atlanta Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr., as a Municipal Judge, a position he held until his death two years later at the age of 80.

Known for his political savvy, Walden sought to increase the rate of black voters in Atlanta, where he was appointed to the Atlanta City Executive Committee in 1953. He was one of the first of two African Americans to serve on the Democratic Executive Committee from the fifth congressional district of Georgia despite beginning his political life as a Republican. In 1964, he was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention – the first time African Americans were included in Georgia’s delegation.

Walden was born on April 12, 1885, to former slaves Jennie Tomlin and Jeff Walden in the central Georgia city of Fort Valley, where he attended Fort Valley High School (now Fort Valley State University) and was the sole graduate of the class of 1902. He earned his bachelor’s degree in 1907 from Atlanta University (now Clark Atlanta University) and received an L.L.B. Degree from the University of Michigan’s Law School in 1911. He began practicing civil rights law in Macon the following year.

In 1917, he joined the U.S. Army and served as a captain and assistant judge advocate before receiving an honorable discharge and founding the Gate City Bar Association for Black lawyers in Atlanta. He served as legal counsel for Citizens Trust Company, Mutual Federal Savings and Loan, and the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A. Walden chaired several organizations within Atlanta, including the Butler Street YMCA, the Atlanta University Alumni Association, and the Atlanta Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

He married Mary Ellen Denney of Baltimore on May 18, 1918, and had two daughters, Jenelsie and Austella.

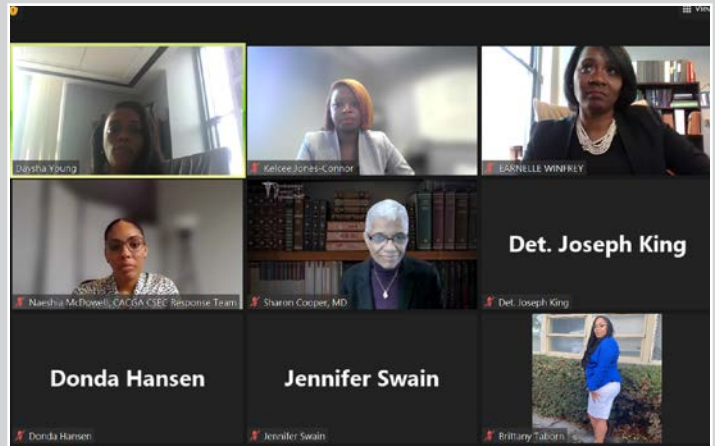


# "Hidden in Plain Sight: Human Trafficking Awareness Forum"



On Monday, January 31, 2022, the Human Trafficking and Internet Child Exploitation Unit of the Special Victim's Division hosted "Hidden in Plain Sight: Human Trafficking Awareness Forum." January was Human Trafficking Awareness Month and this event was offered as part of the commitment by the Fulton County District Attorney's Office to provide not only prevention education to the public, but also awareness training to law enforcement and community partners.

The forum featured victims as well as experts in human trafficking and child exploitation, and a lead detective experienced in investigating these types of cases. Of the 452 registrants, there were 283 participants who viewed the training. They ranged from law-enforcement and child advocacy personnel to attorneys, doctors and community leaders. While this year's event was conducted on the Zoom platform due to COVID concerns, the Office looks forward to holding this event next year in-person.



## Human Trafficking Training



On Thursday, January 14, 2022, the Human Trafficking & Internet Child Exploitation Unit, along with Special Victims Division investigators, attended the Georgia Child Exploitation and Internet Crimes against Children (ICAC) training at the Prosecuting Attorney Council of Georgia. The training was taught by Special Agents from the Georgia Bureau of Investigations and was held in Morrow, Georgia. The training covered a range of topics including, but not limited to, how exploiters are using online applications to target and exploit children, the use of cyber tips to catch online predators, and how to investigate and prosecute internet crimes against children.

**From left to right:** Sr. Investigator Raeisha Oliphant, HTICE Unit; Sr. Investigator Gerald Walsh, Digital Forensics Unit; Sr. Investigator Nathalie Brunner, Crimes Against Children Unit; Sr. Investigator Winston Benjamin, Sexual Assault Unit; Deputy District Attorney Earnelle P. Winfrey, HTICE Unit, Sr. Investigator Damian Smith, HTICE Unit, Chief Legal Assistant, Tawanna Flint, HTICE Unit; Sr. Assistant District Attorney Kelcee Jones-Connor, HTICE Unit

# Ribbon Cutting

## Unity Place Recruit Housing for Atlanta Police Recruits

On Wednesday, February 2, 2022, Fulton County District Attorney Fani T. Willis joined Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens, Atlanta Police Chief Rodney Bryant, Atlanta Police Foundation CEO Dave Wilkinson and Councilmember Byron Amos for the ribbon cutting and tour of Unity Place Recruit Housing for Atlanta police recruits.



# Implicit Bias Training

On Saturday, February 5, 2022, Dr. Bryant T. Marks, a Morehouse College psychology professor and founder and chief equity officer for the National Training Institute on Race & Equity, provided implicit bias training to attorneys, investigators, victim-witness advocates and other employees of the Fulton County District Attorney's Office. During the six-hour training held in the BOC, attendees learned from Dr. Marks that over-exposure to certain types of people can lead to bias or prejudice toward an entire group of people. Dr. Marks, who holds a B.A. in psychology and a minor in economics from Morehouse College as well as an M.A. and Ph.D. in social psychology from the University of Michigan, has provided implicit bias training to law enforcement, educators and those who work in the fields of philanthropy and non-profits.



## FCDA March BASKETBALL Madness BRACKET CHALLENGE

Is your Bracket ready? Join the FCDA March Madness Bracket Challenge. The winning Unit/ Division holds the bragging rights in the office.

Each unit or division selects 5 employees (starting 5) to represent their team. Each employee gets points for predicting results correctly. Select from 64 teams playing 32 games, with participants picking the winners all the way to the end.

### SCORING SYSTEM

- First Round = 1 point
- Second Round = 2 Points
- Third Round = 3 Points
- Fourth Round = 4 Points
- Fifth Round = 6 Points
- Sixth Round = 10 Points

### COUNT UP POINTS EVERY ROUND

Round-by-round updates will be provided to see who is winning as it progresses.

So draft your starting 5 employees and name your team! The more creative the better! At the end, we announce the winner of bragging rights and trophy they will love to display.

Turn your brackets into Jeremy Murray at [jeremy.murray@fultoncountygga.gov](mailto:jeremy.murray@fultoncountygga.gov) by COB 3/14/2022.

# FCDAO Valentine's Celebration

"All we need is LOVE... and a party!"

On Tuesday, February 8, 2022, Madam DA threw an "All we need is LOVE...And a Party"...Event for the office.



Fulton County District Attorney's

# SHINING stars

## ELYCE LOUTZENHISER

2021 Most Productive Trial Division ADA. Ms. Loutzenhiser has been a dedicated and committed employee. She is a star that does what is needed to get the job done. In 2021 she brought more cases to closure than any other ADA that served in our largest division. We are blessed to have someone with her work ethic among us.

Fani T. Willis



## NAPORSHA VALENTINE

One to watch. Ms. Valentine is new to the office and a member of the Non-Complex team. She has jumped right in, taken charge and already started to shine brightly.

Fani T. Willis



### Fun Facts about Naporsha:

- 1: Was in healthcare prior to practicing law.
- 2: In 1996, her cousin, along with his roommate and roommate's girlfriend, were all murdered – execution style in their college park apartment. This office handled that case and justice was served. Each defendant was found guilty and handed a life sentence. Now, she is here. The duty and passion that she feels serving this community is indescribable. In her words, "It is truly my honor."

## FCDA Employee Service Awards



**Ebony Davis**

**15**

Years of Service



**Vanessa Condry**

**20**

Years of Service



**Dianne Haywood**

**20**

Years of Service



**Navarro Russell**

**20**

Years of Service



**Stacie Robinson**

**20**

Years of Service



## Laura Janssen

Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney - Juvenile Unit

Laura Janssen was born and raised in Kansas City, less than a mile from the Kansas-Missouri state line. She's a true Midwesterner: her grandmother was named Dorothy from The Wizard of Oz and her mother was named Judy, the first name of the famous actress who played Dorothy. And not a day goes without someone telling Laura: "you're not in Kansas anymore."

Laura spent most of her childhood trying to become left-handed just to be different. She danced as a "Chiefette" for the Kansas City Chiefs at Arrowhead Stadium. Before law school, she studied broadcast and print journalism in graduate school and worked as a news reporter in Washington, D.C.

She graduated from Florida State University Law School. After law school, she moved to Atlanta during the Olympics. She is in her 25th year as a prosecutor and happily ignores those who tell her to get a better work/life balance. She is currently a Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney for the Special Victims' Division of Juvenile Court.

Laura hasn't eaten meat in 36 years. She has always been a runner, but recently became obsessed with yoga after years of making fun of her friends who practiced the art. Along with three cats, she has two dogs, one of which is a 75-pound puppy who recently reached the age of 1 and eats dry wall, furniture, and every leash Laura has bought him. She loves to travel with her 85-year-old mother and to spend time with her friends.





## Brenda A. Sharpe

Legal Assistant - Complex Unit

Brenda A. Sharpe is a native AtlAlien - for all of you who know that song. For everyone else, she is a natural-born Georgia Peach. She attended Georgia Military College, receiving a liberal arts degree with a concentration in Criminal Psychology. She also received Bachelor's degrees in Criminal Justice and Sociology from Saint Leo University. Brenda has worked as a legal assistant for more than 25 years in different areas of law: family, entertainment, medical malpractice and insurance defense.

Brenda has a wonderful daughter and a precocious 6-year-old granddaughter. Brenda was a teen mother who worked during the day and finished college courses at night at Fort McPherson in order to take care of her daughter, who is now 37. Brenda will be attending her 35th high school reunion this summer.

Brenda loves to read and has an extensive comic book collection (Archie). Since she was a child, she has loved crime dramas (Murder She Wrote, Ironside, all the NCIS's and the FBI's). Her all-time favorite show is Scandal. Brenda also is a fan of Wild 'N Out. When not at work, Brenda is either reading or spending time with her family and letting them drive her crazy -LOL!





## Stephan Whitworth

Senior Investigator - Complex Unit

Steve Whitworth was adopted from Vietnam when he was 1 day old and moved to Georgia when he was 4. He grew up in the Ansley Park section of Buckhead. He attended Garden Hills Elementary School, middle school at The Galloway School, and went to boarding school for high school at Tallulah Falls School. He briefly attended Young Harris College.

Steve started his law enforcement career in 1998 with the City of East Point, where he was promoted to Detective in 2001 and served in the Burglary, General Crimes and Auto Theft units. Steve was attached to the Fulton County Multi-Jurisdictional Burglary Task Force in 2009 as the representative from East Point.

In 2009, Steve left East Point and became an Internal Affairs investigator with the Department of Juvenile Justice. Steve then accepted a lateral position with the police force in his home city: the Atlanta Police Department. Steve started in Zone 3 and went on to work in the APEX, ACE, HITT and AIU units.

Last September, Steve joined the Fulton County District Attorney's office. He is an avid golf and poker player and has an 8-year-old son.







## William Ward

Investigator - Juvenile Unit

William Ward joined the Fulton County District Attorney's Office last May as an investigator. He started with the Fulton County Conflict Public Defender in 2005, making a 16-year run as a state employee, with stints at the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice, the Clarkston Police Department and the Fulton County Sheriff's Office. William began his career in the private sector, where he worked as a licensed security professional, firearms instructor and a private investigator.

William is not a Grady baby. He was born at Georgia Baptist Hospital, now called Wellstar Atlanta Medical Center. He is the oldest child of retired U.S. Marine Corps Major William Ward Sr. and Esther Ward. William has four other living siblings after his youngest brother passed at the age of 27 in 2020.

A Georgia High School Association-certified coach, William has been a strength and conditioning coach at Atlanta area high schools and has coached recreational football and track. He has trained athletes for more than 20 years. Besides being an athletic trainer, William is a gearhead. Tinkering with cars has been a hobby. He also has a sense of humor, according to those who know him well.

William is a single father who raised two boys, Montavious and Shane, who are now grown. He likes to watch movies, listen to music ranging from gospel, country, hip hop and R&B. He also considers himself a pretty good spades player like his mother. He hopes one day to own a fitness gym to train kids after he has given Fulton County at least 10 years of crime-fighting. A fan of the Georgia Bulldogs, he loves to watch college football on Saturdays. William also loves spending time with his family and close friends.



# Newsroom

Click or scan story for more information

# High profile cases in a courtroom near you

## Major Case

**Raji Williams**

#21SC178480  
Courtroom: Cox  
2/17/2022  
10:00am

Case Management

## Demarcus Brinkley

#21SC179635  
Courtroom: Cox  
2/25/2022  
10:00am

Case Management

## Trial - Complex

**David Berry  
"Icebox"**

#19SC169282  
Courtroom: Edwards  
2/17/2022  
9:30am

Case Management

**Michael Phillip  
Roberts**

#21SC180036  
Courtroom: Ellerbe  
2/18/2022  
9:30am

Guilty Plea

**Tremaine Denson  
& Demario Franklin**

#19SC173696  
Courtroom: Adams  
2/25/2022  
9:30am

Trial

## Capital Case & Cold Case

**James Coates**

#21SC180082  
Courtroom: Barwick  
2/24/2022  
9:30 am

Plea and Arraignment

## Domestic Violence

**Patricia Durden**

#20SC177183  
Courtroom: Krause  
2/22/2022  
9:30am

Final Plea

## S.A.K.I

**Keion McGhee**

#22SC180407  
Courtroom: Adams  
2/25/2022  
9:30am

Plea and Arraignment

## Civil Rights

**Tanaka Pettis**

#21SC178422  
Courtroom: Glanville  
2/22/2022  
9:00am

Plea & Arraignment

## Crimes Against Children

**Robert Vandell**

#21SC179190  
Courtroom: Ellerbe  
2/25/2022  
9:30am

Final Plea

## Sex Crimes

**Richard Gooddine**

#19SC173474  
Courtroom: Ingram  
2/23/2022  
9:30am

Trial





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

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