



DECEMBER 2022

WINTER *Report*

Fani T. Willis

FANI T. WILLIS

Fulton County District Attorney



CONTENTS

- 04 - District Attorney Fani T. Willis
- 06 - The Office of the Fulton County
District Attorney Gives Back: Bookbag Drive
- 08 - Major Crimes Division
- 14 - The Office of the Fulton County
District Attorney Gives Back: Coat Drive
- 16 - Special Victims Division
- 20 - The Office of the Fulton County District Attorney
Gives Back: REACH Program
- 32 - Trial Division
- 34 - The Office of the Fulton County District Attorney Gives
Back: Fulton Leadership Academy: Which Road
- 36 - Anti-Corruption Division
- 38 - Victim Witness Advocate Program
- 39 - Pre-Indictment Diversion, Records, and
Records Restriction Division
- 40 - The Office of the Fulton County District Attorney
Gives Back: Junior DA Program
- 42 - The Office of the Fulton County District Attorney
Gives Back: LGBTQ+ Community
- 44 - Fulton County District Attorney
Employees Shine
- 46 - Index



MADAM DISTRICT ATTORNEY FANI T. WILLIS

To my fellow citizens:

It is my honor to serve you as the Fulton County District Attorney. My team and I know that the work we do each day is critical to making our county a safer, more just place for all who live, work, and visit here.

When my administration took office in 2021, we went right to work to tackle the unprecedented crisis in Fulton County's criminal justice system. Due to the judicial system shutdown during the pandemic and the historic mismanagement of this office, there was institutional disarray and a backlog of more than 15,000 cases awaiting investigation and indictment. Furthermore, 50,000-plus cases previously resolved had not been properly recorded in judicial records. A major undertaking by our Records Unit resulted in these 50,000-plus cases being properly recorded.

We set up a new Case Intake Division led by Executive Deputy District Attorney Kenneth Hutcherson, who along with several senior team members with decades of prosecutorial experience, are working with law enforcement agencies to build strong cases from the start. This preparation ensures that we only seek indictments when the evidence justifies it, resulting in trial-ready cases that allow us to win convictions and achieve justice for victims and the community.

The more-than-15,000-case backlog has been reduced to fewer than 1,500, as we kept pace with new incoming cases. With continued hard work and support from our partners in the justice system and the community, we will have this backlog eliminated as we continue evolving into the most innovative, effective prosecutor's office in the nation.

As trials have resumed in earnest, we have won important convictions to make Fulton County safer. Homicide convictions via trial or plea in 111 cases brought closure and justice to victims' friends and families. In 2021, while dealing with the backlog, we indicted 199 homicide cases involving 272 defendants. In 2022 so far, we have indicted 168 homicide cases involving 203 defendants. These homicide cases include winning a murder conviction and life sentence in the tragic shooting of 7-year-old Kennedy Maxie just a few days before Christmas 2020.

With tackling gang violence being a priority, our Gang Unit has won several convictions this year, taking some of Fulton County's most dangerous defendants off the streets. To date in 2022, our Major Crimes Division has achieved a trial conviction rate of 93%, while our Special Victims Division has achieved a trial conviction rate of 88%.

We are also working with community partners to bring alternatives to prosecution and incarceration. My office has created the county's first pre-indictment diversion program, which allows us show at-risk adults a way out of the criminal justice system without marking them with the "scarlet letter" of a felony indictment. We have community partners working with us to provide life skills, training, and job opportunities to those who, when given a real opportunity, can be productive members of our community.

We created innovative programs for at-risk youth. We had the honor of collaborating with Fulton County Schools Superintendent Mike Looney to create the REACH program, the only program in the United States where a prosecutor's office is teaching a yearlong class to deter at-risk youth from a life of crime and to open their eyes to fulfilling opportunities and careers, while helping them build self-esteem. We have greatly expanded and improved our Junior DA summer camps to reach more youth with better programs to help them learn the skills needed to stay out of trouble. You can learn more about these efforts in this report.

We have made real progress, but we still have work to do. I appreciate the support my staff and I have received from elected officials, the business community, religious and community leaders, as well as the people of Fulton County.

We need to ask you to do more, however. If you or someone you know is willing and able to provide internship opportunities, mentoring or other assistance to those at risk of being caught up in our criminal justice system, please let us know. We have so many challenges, but also so many opportunities, to make Fulton County a safer, more just place for everyone.

Yours in service,

Fani T. Willis
District Attorney



FALL 2022 FULTON COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE LEADERSHIP TEAM



Fani Willis

FANI T. WILLIS

District Attorney
Atlanta Judicial Circuit

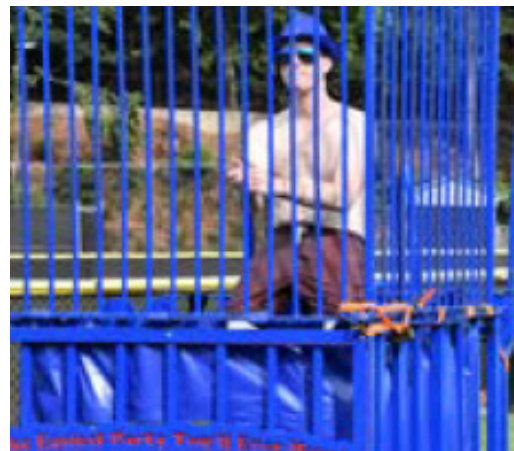


MADAM DISTRICT ATTORNEY FANI T. WILLIS AND
THE OFFICE OF THE FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
GIVE BACK:
BACK-TO-SCHOOL BOOKBAG EXTRAVAGANZA



Fulton County Commissioner Marvin Arrington, Jr. comes to support Bookbag Extravaganza at South Fulton location.

MADAM DISTRICT ATTORNEY FANI T. WILLIS AND
THE OFFICE OF THE FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
GIVE BACK:
BACK-TO-SCHOOL BOOKBAG EXTRAVAGANZA



On July 9, 2022, District Attorney Fani Willis and her staff hosted a bookbag giveaway at four locations across Fulton County. In Union City, South Fulton, Atlanta, and Sandy Springs, the District Attorney and her staff provided more than 1,000 bookbags donated by office employees to families preparing to send their children back to school.



MAJOR CRIMES DIVISION TEAM LEADERS

FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



Standing:

Deputy Legal Assistant Felicia Dickens, Deputy Legal Assistant Keehlan Haygood, Deputy Victim Witness Advocate Ilona Rolack, Assistant Chief Investigator DaShawn Raymond, Deputy Legal Assistant Lora Andrews, Chief Legal Assistant Helen Bastien

Seated:

Deputy District Attorney Adriane Love (Cold and Capital Case Unit), Deputy District Attorney Adam Abbate (Major Case Unit), Deputy District Attorney Kevin Armstrong (Appeals Unit), Deputy District Attorney Will Wooten (White Collar Crime Unit), Executive District Attorney Michael S. Carlson (Major Crimes Division), Chief Deputy District Attorney Pat Dutcher (Major Crimes Division), Deputy District Attorney Christopher Sperry (Gang Unit), Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Grant Rood (Civil Forfeiture Unit), Deputy District Attorney Stephany Luttrell (Civil Forfeiture Unit)

MAJOR CRIMES DIVISION

The Major Crimes Division is tasked with investigating and prosecuting the most serious crimes committed in Fulton County. The Division includes: the Major Case Unit, which is responsible for most of the homicide prosecutions handled by the office; the Gang Unit, which prosecutes some of the most dangerous defendants involved in criminal street gangs; the Cold and Capital Case Unit, which handles homicide cases indicted from years ago, bringing long-delayed justice to victims; the White Collar Unit, which handles fraud and other financial crimes; the Appeals Unit, which handles cases and issues in state appellate courts; and the Civil Forfeiture Unit, which takes the proceeds of criminal activity and makes the funds available to our law enforcement partners for enhanced equipment and training.

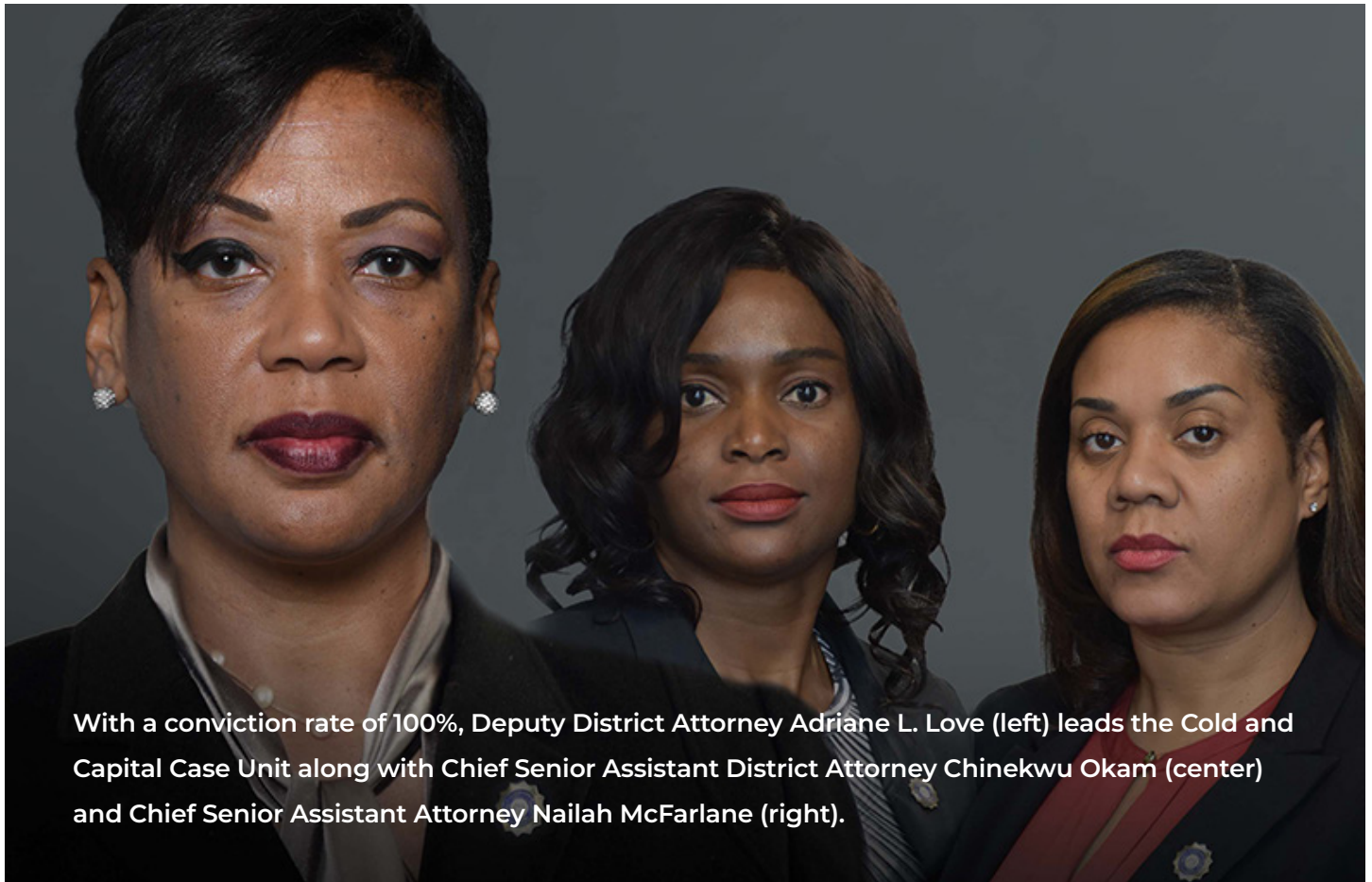
CONVICTION RATES BY UNIT:

Major Case Unit - 92%
Cold Case Unit - 100%
Gangs Unit - 75%
Civil Forfeiture - 100%

Major Crimes Division
Conviction Rate

93%





With a conviction rate of 100%, Deputy District Attorney Adriane L. Love (left) leads the Cold and Capital Case Unit along with Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Chinekwu Okam (center) and Chief Senior Assistant Attorney Nailah McFarlane (right).



CAPITAL CASE/COLD CASE UNIT

- 01 Developed multi-agency cold-case squad to dedicate inter-jurisdictional law enforcement resources to investigating and prosecuting unsolved homicide cases.
- 02 Successfully prosecuted 15-year-old murder of 24-year-old father-to-be, whose then-unborn son gave a powerful victim impact statement after the jury returned a verdict of guilty on all counts.
- 03 Successfully secured Emmett Till Civil Rights Grant of \$500,000 for the prosecution of Cold Case homicides involving civil-rights violations.



Deputy District Attorney
Adriane Love



Deputy District Attorney
Adam Abbate

Deputy District Attorney Adriane Love of the Capital and Cold Case Unit and Deputy District Attorney Adam Abbate of the Major Case Unit combined forces to prosecute the 2015 murder of Fulton County Police Officer Terrance Green, resulting in a sentence of Life + 375 years for the defendant.

<https://www.11alive.com/article/news/crime/amanuel-menghesha-terence-avery-green-south-fulton-375-life-prison-death-penalty-30-march-2015-murder/85-47d0ce67-8aa8-4c73-9d0a-4d06d2c5f6c2>





GANG UNIT

04

Fulton County District Attorney's Office created a gang unit best practices and procedures protocol that addresses gang prosecution from investigation through the appellate process.

05

In August of 2022, the Fulton County District Attorney's Office indicted 26 defendants with alleged ties to the "Drug Rich" gang on racketeering charges for multiple home invasions and burglaries in Sandy Springs and Atlanta. The suspects allegedly targeted people they found on social media, including professional athletes and entertainers. The indictment and arrests played a major role in reducing property crimes in the area.

06

Deputy District Attorney Christopher Sperry trained 157 officers from the Atlanta Police Department and Atlanta Public Schools on how to properly charge under the Gang Act, resulting in a 300% increase in gang warrants sought by the Atlanta Police Department.

07

Deputy District Attorney Christopher Sperry and Lieutenants Justin French and Marissa Viverito shared with middle-school students the real-life perils of becoming involved in a gang.

08

On June 15, 2022, Deputy District Attorneys Chris Sperry and RuShondra Davenport, Senior Investigator James "JP" Miller and Lieutenant Marissa Viverito gave a presentation at the Full Force Fulton Law Enforcement & Elected Officials Collaboration Summit to educate our partners on trends we are seeing within the county related to gang violence.



Senior Investigator James "JP" Miller and Assistant Chief Investigator DaShawn Raymond gave a presentation on gang-prevention education during a community outreach event at Friendship Baptist Church on April 16, 2022. They covered topics including gang crimes, the law, definitions, problem areas, youth recruitment, and what our office is doing to combat criminal street gangs (such as best practices for prosecution and diversion programs for at-risk youth). Assistant Chief Raymond and Senior Investigator Miller lectured for two hours before engaging with the community on questions regarding gang violence, education for adults on identifiers to look for regarding criminal street gangs. They also encouraged the community to get involved early with children to prevent them from falling prey to criminal street gangs.

Gang Unit Deputy District Attorney Chris Sperry and Senior Investigator James P. Miller instructed law enforcement officers across the state on best gang practices at the Georgia Gang Investigator's Basic Certification course.



Senior Investigator
James P. Miller



Deputy District Attorney
Christopher Sperry



CIVIL FORFEITURE UNIT

09

Collaborated with police departments in Fulton County, including those in South Fulton, Roswell, Alpharetta, Milton, and Johns Creek, to educate and develop best practices when forfeiting criminal proceeds. About 90% of proceeds are returned to law enforcement agencies to assist these agencies to obtain resources to combat crime.

10

Worked in conjunction with the Fulton County District Attorney's Office's Human Trafficking Unit to seize the home of a sexual predator and human trafficker, providing law enforcement with \$105,000 to combat crime.

11

In 2022, the Civil Forfeiture Unit seized \$1,326,753.68 on behalf of our law-enforcement partners.

12

The Fulton County District Attorney's Civil Forfeiture Unit is collaborating with the City of Atlanta to address "problem apartments" to improve safety in our communities.



(Back row) Atlanta City Council Members Jason Winston, Liliana Bakhtiari, Byron Amos, Matt Westmoreland, Dustin Hillis, Andrea Boone, Marci Overstreet, Atlanta City Council President Doug Shipman, and Atlanta City Council Members Jason Dozier, Keisha Waites, and Antonio Lewis. (Front row) Atlanta City Assistant Solicitor Erika Smith, Madam District Attorney Fani T. Willis, Atlanta Chief Solicitor Raines Carter, and Senior Advisor to Mayor Andre Dickens Courtney English

<https://www.ajc.com/news/fulton-da-plans-crackdown-on-dangerous-apartment-complexes/WDLMLSECDJAPFBGB6UIZJHXTUE/>



MAJOR CASE UNIT

13

More than 130 homicide cases resolved in 2022, bringing justice and closure to victims' families.

14

Indicted 168 murder cases involving 206 defendants.



WHITE COLLAR CRIME UNIT

15

The White Collar Crime Unit has been participating in a multi-jurisdictional cyber fraud task force with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia; the Georgia Attorney General's Office; the District Attorneys' Offices for Fulton, Gwinnett, Cobb, Clayton, and DeKalb counties; the FBI Atlanta Field Office; the U.S. Secret Service, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation; and local law enforcement agencies.



APPEALS UNIT

- 16 Achieved a 96.3% success rate.
- 17 Deputy District Attorney Kevin Armstrong created the Appeals on-call attorney program, which provides legal expertise to other Fulton County District Attorney prosecutors during their trials and motions hearings.
- 18 Senior Assistant District Attorney Ruth Pawlak successfully defended the State’s murder prosecution of a former police officer who attacked his indictment based on his exclusion from grand jury proceedings. Burns v. State, 313 Ga. 368 (2022).

On March 8, 2022, the Georgia Supreme Court issued an opinion holding that the State followed the proper procedure for indicting a former police officer for murder which occurred while he was on duty. The officer argued that the indictment should be dismissed because, at the time that the crime occurred, Georgia law allowed a police officer charged with a crime occurring during the performance of his official duties to make a statement to the grand jury without being subject to questioning. However, the Georgia Supreme Court found that the State followed the correct indictment procedure because, at the time that evidence on the former police officer’s case was presented to the grand jury, Georgia law had changed so that the officer could testify as a witness but was subject to questioning like any other witness.



During Mr. Getachew-Smith’s induction into the Gate City Bar Association Hall of Fame, he thanked lawyers who have been influential in his life including Madam District Attorney Fani T. Willis, **“Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis daily provides me with a glimpse of the future by her reinvention of the role of the prosecutor in an era that demands responsible criminal justice reform.”** Mr. Getachew-Smith is a native Atlantan and product of the Atlanta Public Schools System. He attended Yale University’s London School of Economics, and Harvard Law. He has been practicing law for 42 years and has served in a variety of legal positions including serving as Georgia-Pacific’s first African American staff attorney, Associate Judge for Fulton County Juvenile Court, Legal Producer for The Judge Hatchett Show, and Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney at the Fulton County District Attorney’s Office, where has worked as an appellate supervisor for two decades.

- 19 Senior Assistant District Attorney Virginia Davis provided the Non-Complex Unit with research on first appearance law to better prepare the attorneys in that unit to confront improper procedures occurring at first appearance.



MADAM DISTRICT ATTORNEY FANI T. WILLIS AND THE OFFICE OF THE FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY **GIVE BACK: COAT DRIVE**

On November 20, 2022, District Attorney Fani Willis and her staff gave away winter coats donated by staff members. Over 600 families were provided with free winter coats at the event, which was held at the Habitat for Humanity Restore in the City of South Fulton. Fulton County District Attorney's Office ensures warmth with coat giveaway. (atlantanewsfirst.com)



State Representative Debra Bazemore, City of South Fulton Councilwoman Natasha Williams, Fulton County District Attorney Fani T. Willis, City of South Fulton Councilwoman Carmalitha L. Gumbs, and Community Activist Daphne Jordan collaborated to bring warmth to citizens.



MADAM DISTRICT ATTORNEY FANI T. WILLIS AND THE OFFICE OF THE FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY **GIVE BACK: COAT DRIVE**



City of South Fulton Councilman Corey Reeves, State Representative Debra Bazemore, Madam District Attorney Fani T. Willis, State Representative Roger Bruce, City of South Fulton Councilwoman Natasha Williams collaborated to bring warmth to citizens.



SPECIAL VICTIMS DIVISION



Standing:

Director of Youth Services Aakeem Woodard, Chief Legal Assistant Tammy McClendon, Chief Legal Assistant Yolanda Shorthouse, Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Marci Goldman (Juvenile Court Unit), Senior Assistant District Attorney Peter Faile (Truancy Court Unit), Deputy Victim Witness Advocate Dilma Dos Reis, Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Jawara Mars (Juvenile Court Unit), Deputy Legal Assistant Shaun Pritchett, Deputy District Attorney Earnelle Winfrey (Human Trafficking Unit), Deputy District Attorney Julianna Peterson (S.A.K.I Unit), Deputy District Attorney Yolanda Mack (Sexual Assault Unit), Assistant Chief Investigator Paula Duprey, Social Services Coordinator Kelly Greenberg, Dependency and Diversion Coordinator Bryant Brinson, Chief Legal Assistant Daniel Pinilla.

Seated:

Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Aimee Maxwell (Conviction Integrity Unit), Deputy District Attorney Jill Hollander (Elder Abuse Unit), Deputy District Attorney Simone Hylton (Domestic Violence Unit), Chief Deputy District Attorney Brett Pinion (Special Victims Division), Executive District Attorney Daysha Young (Special Victims Division), Deputy Chief Johnna Griffin, Deputy District Attorney Lauren McAuley (Crimes Against Children Unit), Deputy District Attorney Shannon Trotty (SB440 Unit).

SPECIAL VICTIMS DIVISION

The Special Victims Division investigates and prosecutes offenders who target the most vulnerable members of our community. The Crimes Against Children Unit prosecutes child-victim cases, including homicides, sexual and physical abuse. The Human Trafficking and Exploitation Unit seeks justice for human-trafficking victims. The Sexual Assault Unit prosecutes those who commit sex crimes against adult victims. The Domestic Violence Unit prosecutes cases involving violence against family members.

The Special Victims Division includes prosecutors and investigators who work in the S.A.K.I. Unit, Juvenile Court Unit and the SB440 Unit, which handles cases involving juveniles charged with crimes that require prosecution as an adult. The Conviction Integrity Unit reviews old convictions and sentences for fairness and equity.

- **Crimes Against Children** 100%
- **Domestic Violence** 86%
- **S.A.K.I** 100%

**SPECIAL VICTIMS DIVISION
CONVICTION RATE**

88%

AWARD WINNING EXECUTIVE DISTRICT ATTORNEY DAYSHA YOUNG

Executive District Attorney Daysha D. Young is a lifelong Georgia resident who received her Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from The College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts, and her Juris Doctor from Mercer University's Walter F. George School of Law in Macon, Georgia.

Ms. Young is a coveted speaker and award-winning prosecutor. She has been practicing law for 24 years, 21 of which have been as a prosecutor. She has served as a Deputy District Attorney in cases involving children and victims of sexual and physical assault in DeKalb and Fulton counties.

Ms. Young rejoined the Fulton County District Attorney's Office as the Executive District Attorney of the Special Victims Division. She is a member of several committees and organizations, including the Child Abuse Protocol, Sexual Assault Response Team, U.S. Attorney's Firearm Project, and SART State Expert. She is a member of the State Bar of Georgia, Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys (GABWA), National Black Prosecutors Association (NBPA), and the Greater Atlanta Black Prosecutor Association (GABPA).





“Thank you” will never say enough. It will never encompass the immense amount of gratitude and appreciation I hold for this office; and the brilliant, hardworking, empathetic, and incredible people that make up the team that worked tirelessly and diligently for my daughter.

- Mariah Maxie (Kennedy's Mama)

MAN CONVICTED OF MURDERING 7-YEAR OLD KENNEDY MAXIE SENTENCED TO LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE.



This August, Daysha Young, the Executive District Attorney who leads the Special Victims Division, and Pat Dutcher, the Chief Deputy District Attorney in the Major Crimes Division, headed the prosecution of Daquan Reed, who was convicted in the death of 7-year-old Kennedy Maxie. Four days before Christmas in 2020, Kennedy was with her mother and aunt on a Christmas shopping trip when she was shot by Reed, who was firing a gun out of anger against others.

“While we cannot bring Kennedy back, we hope our efforts brought comfort to her family and reassurance to a community hurt by Reed’s senseless act of gun violence. We were honored to receive such as thoughtful and moving note from Kennedy’s mother after the jury’s guilty verdict. We ask everyone who has a gun to think before firing it because one thoughtless act can take an innocent life.”

- Madam District Attorney Fani T. Willis

MADAM DISTRICT ATTORNEY FANI T. WILLIS AND THE OFFICE OF THE FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY **GIVE BACK: REACH PROGRAM**

"I am so proud of the work of Aakeem Woodard, our Director of Youth Services, and every staff member who serves our community through our new, innovative Reach Program. It is among our most-important endeavors. If we can help young people stay in school, steer clear of gangs, and take advantage of positive opportunities, we have succeeded. Every time a young person is helped onto the right track, that saves us from having victims and it saves us from losing young people to the criminal justice system."

- Madam District Attorney Fani T. Willis

REACH

District Attorney Fani Willis and Fulton County Schools Superintendent Dr. Mike Looney teamed up to create the Reach Program, an ongoing program in Fulton County's schools where the District Attorney and members of her staff teach classes and interact with students. Led by Aakeem Woodard, the District Attorney's Director of Youth Services, the program focuses on life skills, self-esteem and constructive problem-solving.

"We have been thrilled with the response from students and parents. We've made real progress in touching some of the most difficult to reach young people. We have even more parents now asking to get their children included, and we are working to increase the number of participants we can include in coming years." - Director of Youth Services Aakeem Woodard



Dr. Mike Looney
*Superintendent of the
Fulton County Schools*

Dr. Mike Looney has served as Superintendent of the Fulton County Schools since 2019. He assumed leadership at a turbulent time, with the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath presenting new challenges. He and the District Attorney created a partnership to address violence and truancy in the schools that led to the Reach Program and a new anti-truancy program. Together, they are working to make Fulton County schools safer and more effective learning environments.

MADAM DISTRICT ATTORNEY FANI T. WILLIS AND
THE OFFICE OF THE FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
GIVE BACK: REACH PROGRAM



Prosecutors, investigators, legal assistants and staff have volunteered to serve as Reach Program mentors who work with students during in-school sessions and are available outside school hours. Many have begun interacting with students at sports events, helping them with homework, and counseling them on how to navigate life's challenges in a positive way.

Starting this fall, 200 students chosen by 8 Fulton County schools attend regular programming offered by the District Attorney's office. The students are paired with one of 40 mentors from the District Attorney's staff, including prosecutors, investigators and legal assistants. The program focuses on showing the children the life possibilities open to them if they avoid crime, life skills, self esteem and constructive problem solving.

- 20** Started a Juvenile Diversion Program utilizing the Atlanta Police Department's At-Promise Youth Center to give children a safe area to spend time and have access to tutors.
- 21** Implemented grant funds to pair youth with mentors/positive role models through the Credible Messenger Program.
- 22** In each case where a child was in custody for allegedly committing a delinquent act, the unit successfully charged the case within 3 days and had the trial date set within 10 days to ensure the child was not unnecessarily detained.
- 23** Used File Tracker to track each juvenile's file so no case languished and no child went without needed services.
- 24** District Attorney Fani T. Willis partnered with Fulton County Schools to win a \$2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to support proven, effective programs for at-risk youth. The grant bolsters programs at Credible Messengers, Chris 180, the Atlanta Police Foundation's At-Promise Youth Center, and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. The grant also makes possible the District Attorney's Reach and Junior DA programs.



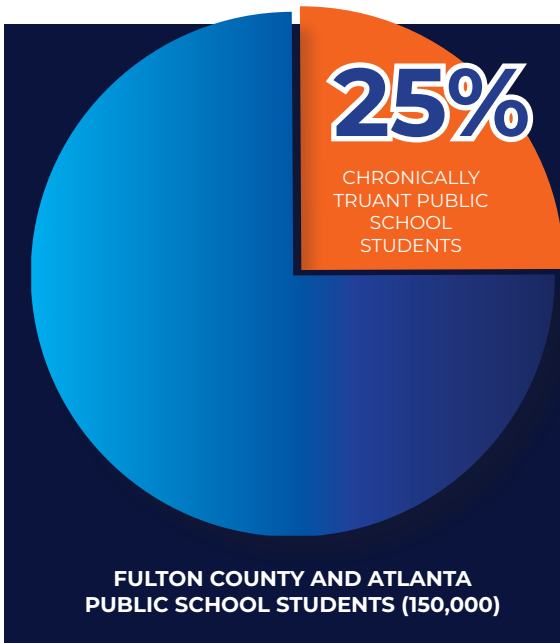
Award Winning Chief Deputy District Attorney Brett Pinion

Congratulations to Chief Deputy District Attorney Brett Pinion for winning recognition at this year's presentation of the U.S. Attorney's Awards. The award recognizes truly exceptional contributions by federal, state, and local law-enforcement personnel to cases, matters, and initiatives handled by the U.S. Attorney's Office.

The award recipients have in some way surpassed already-high expectations and lead others in the law-enforcement community by their example, diligence, effectiveness, and adherence to the highest professional ethics. The Fulton County District Attorney's Office is proud of Chief Deputy District Attorney Brett Pinion and congratulates him on this well-deserved honor for his spearheading of this office's Credible Messenger Program.



TRUANCY



For the first time, the Fulton County District Attorney’s Office has attorneys working with Atlanta Public Schools and Fulton County Public Schools to get children to attend school and to address issues preventing their attendance.



Senior Assistant District Attorney Peter Faile
Truancy Court Unit

Sadly, like many communities across the nation, Fulton County has seen a substantial number of school-age children missing from classrooms. What was already a problem evolved into a crisis as a result of the pandemic-related shutdown of in-person schools. Solving this crisis requires help from people and institutions across society. In this spirit, District Attorney Fani Willis created the office’s first effort to reduce school truancy by appointing Senior Assistant District Attorney Peter Faile to address the issue of truancy. Working in the Truancy Court Unit, Senior Assistant District Attorney Faile oversees a system that allows social workers in Fulton County and Atlanta Public Schools to report when a child is chronically absent. The office has trained more than 130 social workers on how to use the system. When the office is given notice, we investigate and determine whether action is appropriate. If so, we file in Truancy Court Unit to achieve a solution that seeks to get assistance to the child and family to ensure that the child returns to school.



CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN UNIT

- 25** Completed round tables and trainings with the Atlanta Police Department, the Johns Creek Police Department and Sandy Springs Police Department on issues involving best practices when crimes involve the most precious victims: children.
- 26** The Crimes Against Children Unit wrote and implemented an updated and improved Child Fatality and Abuse Protocol with Fulton County police agencies, child advocacy centers, medical providers, and child welfare advocates. The protocol is a compact between agencies and organizations to ensure that cases involving child fatalities and allegations of abuse are properly investigated and prosecuted, while minimizing trauma to child victims and witnesses.
- 27** Won the Family-Based Alternative Sentencing Grant, which will allow the Crimes Against Children (CAC) Unit to hire a case manager to provide services to parents to keep families together while protecting the children.



Bryant Brinson serves as the District Attorney's Dependency Diversion Coordinator for the Crimes Against Children Unit, a first in Georgia. Mr. Brinson works with participants in diversion, their families, court staff, mental-health providers, developmental specialists, educational institutions, and Georgia's Division of Family & Children Services (DFCS) to ensure participants and families have necessary resources. Part of Mr. Brinson's job is helping to keep families together or reuniting them as quickly as possible.



CONVICTION INTEGRITY UNIT

- 28** In an effort to correct past wrongs, the Fani T. Willis Conviction Integrity Unit has restored justice and freedom by exonerating 4 innocent people who were convicted of crimes they did not commit.
- 29** In a further effort to ensure justice in Fulton County, the Conviction Integrity Unit has modified sentences for 38 men and women who were given unjust sentences.

- 30** The Conviction Integrity Unit has received a \$550,000 grant from Department of Justice to review post-conviction innocence claims involving DNA cases.
- 31** For the first time in Georgia, the Conviction Integrity Unit and the Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence will review the cases of women in prison to determine if they were victims of domestic violence and whether their victimization contributed to their convictions and incarceration.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING & INTERNET CHILD EXPLOITATION UNIT

- 32** Indicted more than 35 defendants on charges of Human Trafficking or Internet Child Exploitation; nine of those defendants have been indicted under Georgia's Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations statute.
- 33** For first time in this Unit's history, it is prosecuting two cases involving defendants charged with both criminal street gang activity and human trafficking.
- 34** The District Attorney's Human Trafficking Unit met with Atlanta area business leaders at the Midtown Rotary Club to educate them on Georgia's human trafficking crisis and how they and their organizations can help in the fight against human trafficking.
- 35** Conducted new officer training at the Fulton County Police Department, focusing on criminal procedure and courtroom demeanor using human trafficking cases to ensure that the State is successful in holding traffickers accountable. To successfully prosecute human trafficking cases, it is important for officers not only to know how to investigate this crime, but also to understand essential courtroom terminology, their pre-trial responsibilities, and effective techniques for providing courtroom testimony while maintaining proper demeanor.
- 36** Collaborated with the Georgia State Patrol (GSP) and conducted training on identifying human trafficking. An essential role of GSP is to patrol highways and roads to enforce traffic and criminal laws. Due to the transient nature of human trafficking, it is vital that GSP officers are trained to identify signs of human trafficking in traffic stops. Identifying traffickers in these encounters could assist in the recovery of victims.

37 Conducted inter-office training on human trafficking and its intersection with gangs at the office Chat & Chew. Gangs are engaging in commercial sexual exploitation to make money and increase their reach and reputation in the community. In fact, many gangs find it is more profitable to traffic young girls for sex than trafficking narcotics. Consequently, inter-office human trafficking training is essential to prosecuting gangs that engage in human trafficking.

38 Created the first Human Trafficking Survivors' Resource Guide to connect human-trafficking victims with support and resources to assist with their recovery and reintegration into society.
See QR CODE below for Human Trafficking Resource Guide.

39 Assisted in the successful recovery of a child after the mother made an outcry at a human trafficking awareness event at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, where Fulton County District Attorney Fani T. Willis was presenting.



Deputy District Attorney Earnelle P. Winfrey

Special Victims Division | Human Trafficking & Internet Child Exploitation Unit

Deputy District Attorney Earnelle P. Winfrey supervises the Human Trafficking & Internet Child Exploitation Unit. Upon joining Madam District Attorney Fani T. Willis' administration, she expanded the Human Trafficking Unit to include cases involving online sexual exploitation of children due the proliferation of internet and mobile devices usage, which facilitate child sex-trafficking and other forms of child exploitation. During the first year of Madam District Attorney's term, she and her team successfully prosecuted a child sex trafficker who was found guilty on all counts and sentenced to life without the possibility of parole. Ms. Winfrey is known for being passionate about prosecuting human traffickers and individuals who sexually exploit children; protecting and supporting victims of human trafficking and child exploitation; and providing prevention education to raise awareness that will aid in the reduction of human trafficking and child exploitation. Due to Ms. Winfrey's victim-centered approach to the prosecution of human-trafficking cases, she supervised the creation and implementation of the Office's first HTICE Survivor's Resource Guide, which offers a comprehensive of list of providers that support and provide recovery resources to human-trafficking victims.

See QR CODE below for Human Trafficking Resource Guide.



Senior Assistant District Attorney Dane J. Uhelski

Major Crimes Division | Appeals Unit

Senior Assistant District Attorney Dane Uhelski provided the Human Trafficking Unit with a memorandum on best practices for protecting the privacy of trafficking victims during the discovery process and trial preparation. Maintaining the privacy of human trafficking victims is essential to their safety. They can become targets for intimidation and retaliation if their personal information becomes available. Limiting the release of such information protects victims and encourages them to come forward without fear of exposure.



SB440: 9 BIOPSYCHOSOCIAL HISTORY REPORTS COMPLETED BY KELLY GREENBERG

Under Senate Bill 440, juveniles in the State of Georgia were being strictly charged as adults for one of the seven deadly sins UNTIL NOW!!! Madam District Attorney Fani T. Willis had the forethought and courage to do something different with juveniles who are charged with serious violent felonies. Currently, the SB440 Unit is tasked to handle the cases where juveniles are charged with Armed Robbery with a firearm, Rape, Aggravated Child Molestation, Aggravated Sexual Battery, and Aggravated Sodomy.

Madam District Attorney put together a dynamic team to include two senior attorneys, a social worker, and two senior level investigators to work up and prosecute these cases. The team brings a unique perspective to these cases. Deputy District Attorney Shannon Trotty and Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Kim Carey bring perspectives from both the defense and prosecution side while the investigators allow the unit to see the cases from a law enforcement perspective. Lastly, Social Worker Kelly Greenberg completes a biopsychosocial report (BPS) on each juvenile and family members, which enables the team to look at these juveniles as someone other than mere perpetrators. The SB440 Unit is designed to take a

look at these cases in a more holistic manner and then present these cases along with their recommendations to Madam District Attorney Fani Willis so she can make an appropriate charging decision. The BPS incorporates the facts and evidence of the crime, input from the victims regarding prosecution and an extensive background of the juvenile, which includes, but is not limited to the juvenile's legal history, mental health, school records, Division of Family & Children Services history, and risks-and-needs assessments and other relevant information. Moreover, the SB440 Unit is provided the rare opportunity of interviewing the juvenile and their family members for a more comprehensive background.

Biopsychosocial reports help facilitate the prosecuting attorney's understanding between the biological and psychosocial components of a juvenile's life. These components help determine if a juvenile should be tried in Superior Court as an adult or transferred to Juvenile Court where rehabilitation resources and services can be incorporated into a suitable, punitive sentence to ensure growth and accountability for the juvenile.



Social Services Coordinator Kelly Greenberg

Special Victims Division, SB440 Unit

Kelly Greenberg is originally from Baltimore, Maryland, where she obtained her Bachelor's Degree at the University of Baltimore in Police Science and Forensic Studies in 2010 and continued her education to obtain her Master of Social Work from Catholic University of America in 2017. Ms. Greenberg has been serving as a Criminal Justice Social Worker for over 15 years, dedicating her life's mission to a more just system.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT

- 40** The Domestic Violence Unit has a conviction rate of 86%.
- 41** The Fulton County District Attorney's Domestic Violence Unit conducted training with the Atlanta Police Department's new Domestic Violence Unit investigators, zone sergeants and lieutenants to ensure the best results for victims.
- 42** The Domestic Violence Unit went to the Atlanta Police Department's training academy to provide instruction to APD's Field Training Officers (FTO) on how to effectively investigate domestic violence cases. This training allows the FTO's to train their fellow officers on best practices in domestic violence investigations.
- 43** The Fulton County District Attorney's Domestic Violence Unit advocates conducted their first listening session among Fulton County law enforcement agencies, prosecutor offices and non-profit victim organizations to learn how domestic violence victims get lost in the criminal justice system.



Deputy District Attorney Simone Hylton

Special Victims Division, Domestic Violence Unit

Simone N. Hylton is a Deputy District Attorney with the Fulton County District Attorney's Office under the leadership of District Attorney Fani T. Willis. Ms. Hylton heads the Brenda Baham Domestic Violence Unit. This unit is responsible for the prosecution of intimate partner cases to include battery, aggravated assaults and homicides. Prior to rejoining the Fulton County District Attorney's Office, she served as a Senior Assistant

District Attorney in the DeKalb County District Attorney's Office in the Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Unit and the Sexual Exploitation and Crimes Against Children Unit.

Prosecution is Ms. Hylton's passion, she has received several awards to include Rising Star, Trial Unit Attorney of the Year and Major Case Rookie of the Year. In addition to what she does in the office, she currently serves as the Vice President of Programs for the National Black Prosecutors Association and past President of the Greater Atlanta Black Prosecutors Association. She serves as an Adjunct Professor at Emory University School of Law.

Originally born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Ms. Hylton received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Legal Communications from Howard University in 2004 and her Juris Doctor from North Carolina Central University in 2008.





Madam District Attorney Fani T. Willis created the office's first ever dedicated Brenda Baham Domestic Violence Unit

Domestic violence in Fulton County and across the nation is rising. Our specialized Domestic Violence Unit has nine prosecutors, seven indictment writers and nine investigators, all of whom have advanced training in handling these difficult cases. Their training equips them to effectively investigate and prosecute domestic violence crimes, including murder, assaults and batteries.

To date, the Domestic Violence Unit has attended specialized trainings regarding strangulation, domestic violence within the LGBTQ+ community, The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Conference, Violence Against Indigenous Boys and Men, Missing vs. Runaway Children/Human Trafficking, and DNA Basics Training.

Domestic violence cases are difficult to try for a variety of reasons. One of the most important reasons is that we are dealing with an intimate partner connection that is stronger than the criminal justice system. In that respect, the abuser is exhibiting some level of power and control over the victim which can cause the victim not want to participate in the criminal justice process. Unfortunately though, we have seen an increase in domestic violence cases in our community, specifically, domestic violence homicides. Because of this increase, we have made it a priority to not only indict these cases, but to make sure that we're giving victims the resources that they need to make decisions about their lives.



Deputy District Attorney Jill Hollander, Madam District Attorney Fani Willis, Commissioner Khadijah Abdur-Rahman and Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Matthew Holmes

Deputy District Attorney Jill Hollander and Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Matthew Holmes of the District Attorney's Elder Abuse Unit have developed a training to bring awareness to Fulton County's seniors, elected officials, clergy, and community organizations about the national crime epidemic targeting the elderly. They train seniors on how to lessen their chance of becoming a victim, and clergy and community leaders on how to identify when an elderly person may be a victim. They also train law enforcement officers about crime trends targeting seniors and how to build cases to hold such criminals accountable.



ELDER ABUSE UNIT

- 44** Forged a partnership with Fulton County Commissioner Khadijah Abdur-Rahman of the 6th District, assisting in her senior summit. The Fulton County District Attorney's Office educated senior citizens on scams that target elder victims.
- 45** Fulton County District Attorney's Elder Abuse Unit received a Proclamation from Fulton County Commissioner Khadijah Abdur-Rahman recognizing World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.
- 46** Actively collaborating with the North Georgia Elder Abuse Task-force, the U.S. Attorney's Office, and other federal partners to target national and international elder abuse.
- 47** Held multiple outreach events in both large and small settings to speak to senior citizens about common schemes, scams, and ways to protect themselves. In 2022, more than 3,000 senior citizens have received direct outreach from this office.
- 48** The Elder Abuse Unit partnered with the Capital and Cold Case Unit to solicit information from senior citizens regarding unsolved cases.



ANIMAL ABUSE UNIT

49

Indicted Fulton County’s first use of the “Torture” subsection of the animal cruelty statute.

50

Canine Cellmates is an out-of-custody diversion program designed for men who have had repeated contacts with the criminal justice system. Individuals are partnered with shelter dogs, and for over a year, they work to reframe their worlds. By using positive reinforcement, the program aims to set both the men and the dogs on a path to productive lives.



SEXUAL ASSAULT KIT INITIATIVE UNIT

51

SAKI Victim Witness Advocate Leenessa Landor started “Purses with Purpose.” This program donates purses with necessary day-to-day items and resource information for SAKI victims.

52

Entered over 20 cases into the Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (ViCAP), the nationwide federal database for stranger and serial homicides, rapes, and kidnappings. The Fulton County District Attorney’s Office is now second only to the United States Army in the State of Georgia for the number of entries in the ViCAP database due to the number of Fulton SAKI entries. Entering cases into the ViCAP database results in searchable cases for law enforcement agencies across the nation.



Deputy District Attorney Julianna Peterson - Special Victims Division | S.A.K.I.

Senior Assistant District Attorney Christina Robinson - Special Victims Division | S.A.K.I.

SERIAL RAPIST LINKED TO RAPE KIT THAT WAS UNTOUCHED FOR 15+ YEARS

In May, our Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Unit – known as “SAKI” – won justice for a woman who was kidnapped and raped. As a result of the prosecution led by Deputy District Attorney Julianna Peterson, serial sex offender Cleophus Ward was convicted, taking him off the streets and bringing justice to the victim and the community. The victim told Channel 2’s Mark Winne that the successful prosecution made her feel like she herself had been “let out of prison.” Atlanta rape victim gets justice after 22 years.

[‘I felt like I got let out of prison:’ Atlanta rape victim gets justice after 22 years – WSB-TV Channel 2 - Atlanta \(wsbtv.com\)](https://www.wsbtv.com/story/news/crime/2021/05/11/atlanta-rape-victim-justice-22-years/7111111002/)



SEXUAL ASSAULT UNIT

53

Participated in Georgia Tech’s Sexual Assault Awareness Program for survivors of sexual assault.



Standing:

Assistant Chief Bernice Higgins, Chief Legal Assistant Tawanna Flint, Deputy Chief Investigator Robert Appell, Deputy Legal Assistant Whitney Meyer, Chief Legal Assistant Merrial Stokes

Seated:

Deputy District Attorney Tom Wight (Non-Complex Unit), Deputy District Attorney Rewa Collier (Accountability and Competency Court Unit), Executive District Attorney George Jenkins (Trial Division), Deputy District Attorney RuShondra Davenport (Complex Unit), Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Brad Malkin (Complex Unit)

TRIAL DIVISION

The prosecutors, investigators, legal assistants and victim-witness advocates of the Trial Division handle over 65% of the cases in the office. They work with police to win justice for victims. They also work with our diversion and alternative justice programs to find ways to ensure that defendants have the opportunity to get their lives back on track.



TRIAL DIVISION

- 54** Resolved in excess of 1,500 cases bringing closure to victims in our community.
- 55** As the training ground for new prosecutors and investigators, the Trial Division has developed extensive training programs to improve litigation and courtroom skills.
- 56** Every prosecutor and investigator in the Trial Division has been assigned an experienced mentor.



ACCOUNTABILITY & COMPETENCY COURT UNIT

- 57** The Fulton County Accountability Court had a 150% graduation rate increase in 2022 from the prior year. The Accountability Court is saving lives and taxpayers money by putting nonviolent felony offenders back into the community, equipped with the necessary tools of intensive substance abuse and mental health treatment, employment assistance, and health/social service assistance, while reducing recidivism. The impact is seen daily by the citizens of Fulton County.
- 58** Under the leadership of Madam District Attorney Fani T. Willis, the Fulton Court District Attorney's Office began a new era in Accountability Court. A Pre-Indictment Track was added to allow a defendant to enter Accountability Court before a case is indicted and to have the case dismissed upon the defendant's successful completion of the 12-24 month Accountability Court Program. The Fulton County Accountability Court is a significant Criminal Justice Reform initiative established to provide effective alternatives to sentencing and reduce recidivism. The natural process of the program operates in a reactive mode, providing substance abuse and mental health treatment to nonviolent Felony Offenders in Fulton County.
- 59** In April 2022, a Competency Court Unit was created to serve those with forensic mental health and competency issues.
- 60** The Competency Court Unit has hosted informational sessions providing training to all attorneys in the District Attorney's office to educate staff on competency to stand trial matters so that we are humanely treating defendants with mental health issues.

MADAM DISTRICT ATTORNEY FANI T. WILLIS AND
THE OFFICE OF THE FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
**GIVE BACK: FULTON LEADERSHIP ACADEMY
WHICH ROAD**



In an effort to achieve the same goal, the Accountability Court Unit provided education about the criminal justice system to young men at Fulton Leadership Academy (FLA), Georgia's first single-gender charter school for young men grades 6-12. Deputy District Attorney Rewa Collier, Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Nikia Sellers, Executive District Attorney George Jenkins, Deputy District Attorney Shannon Trotty, Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Kimberly Carey, Director of Youth Services Aakeem Woodard, and Senior Investigator Julisha Lansiquot hosted a presentation, "Which Road," on May 10, 2022, at FLA. The District Attorney's office provided the students options for success through a panel discussion that included alumni of FLA.



Deputy District Attorney Rewa Collier

Trial Division | Accountability & Competency Court Unit

Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Nikia S. Sellers

Trial Division | Accountability & Competency Court Unit

Deputy District Attorney Rewa Collier has 23 years of prosecutorial experience. Madam District Attorney Fani T. Willis appointed her to lead accountability court in 2021 and the newly created Competency Court Unit in 2022. Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Nikia Smith Sellers leads the Competency Court Unit. Joining the office in December 2013, she previously handled the specialty courts: Drug Court, Behavioral Health Treatment Court (formerly Mental Health Court), and Veterans Court. She also served as an instructor facilitating a mental health and the law workshop during Crisis Intervention Training.



CASE INTAKE DIVISION

- 61 Charged in excess of 5,500 cases this calendar year.
- 62 Made charging decisions on over 10,000 cases this calendar year.
- 63 99.55% indictment rate.
- 64 Indicted more than 195 defendants this year.
- 65 The Fulton County District Attorney's Office Repeat Offender Tracking Unit reviewed 12,688 cases ranging ranges from 2017-2022 to determine repeat offender status. Of the cases reviewed, 16% were in fact repeat offenders. Those cases were identified for the District Attorney so that those defendants could be tracked by Court Watch and receive proper sentencing.
- 66 Fani T. Willis spent most of her career as a homicide prosecutor, taking more than 100 cases to verdict. She is dedicated to ensuring that her team has the tools needed to successfully prosecute dangerous murder defendants. She has invested in new tools that help her prosecutors and investigators work with law enforcement agencies on local, state, and federal levels to solve cases and prepare them effectively for trial. The office will have indicted more than 400 defendants for murder in Fani T. Willis' first two years as District Attorney.
- 67 The District Attorney joined Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens, Solicitor General Keith Gammage, Fulton County Sheriff Patrick "Pat" Labat, then-Atlanta Police Chief Rodney Bryant, and the Atlanta Police Foundation's President Dave Wilkinson to announce the creation of the Repeat Offender Tracking Unit. The unit identifies repeat offenders who are back in the criminal justice system after being accused of new offenses. The unit ensures that prosecutors, police and judges have information about repeat offenders when considering bond, plea offers and sentencing to ensure that the community is protected from people who choose to victimize others repeatedly.

[‘A life of crime’: Fulton officials create Repeat Offender Tracking Unit \(ajc.com\)](https://www.ajc.com)



COMMUNITY LIAISONS

- 68 Created the first Faith Based Summit to educate faith leaders on human trafficking, gangs, and elder abuse to strategize on how they can use their houses of worship to support members of their congregation who may be the victim of crime.

ANTI-CORRUPTION DIVISION



Standing:

Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Donald Wakeford, Deputy Legal Assistant Felicia Dickens, Deputy Chief Investigator Raymond Baez-Nieves

Seated:

Chief Legal Assistant Tywana Settles-Isby, Deputy District Attorney Sonya Allen, Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Sau Chan



ANTI-CORRUPTION DIVISION

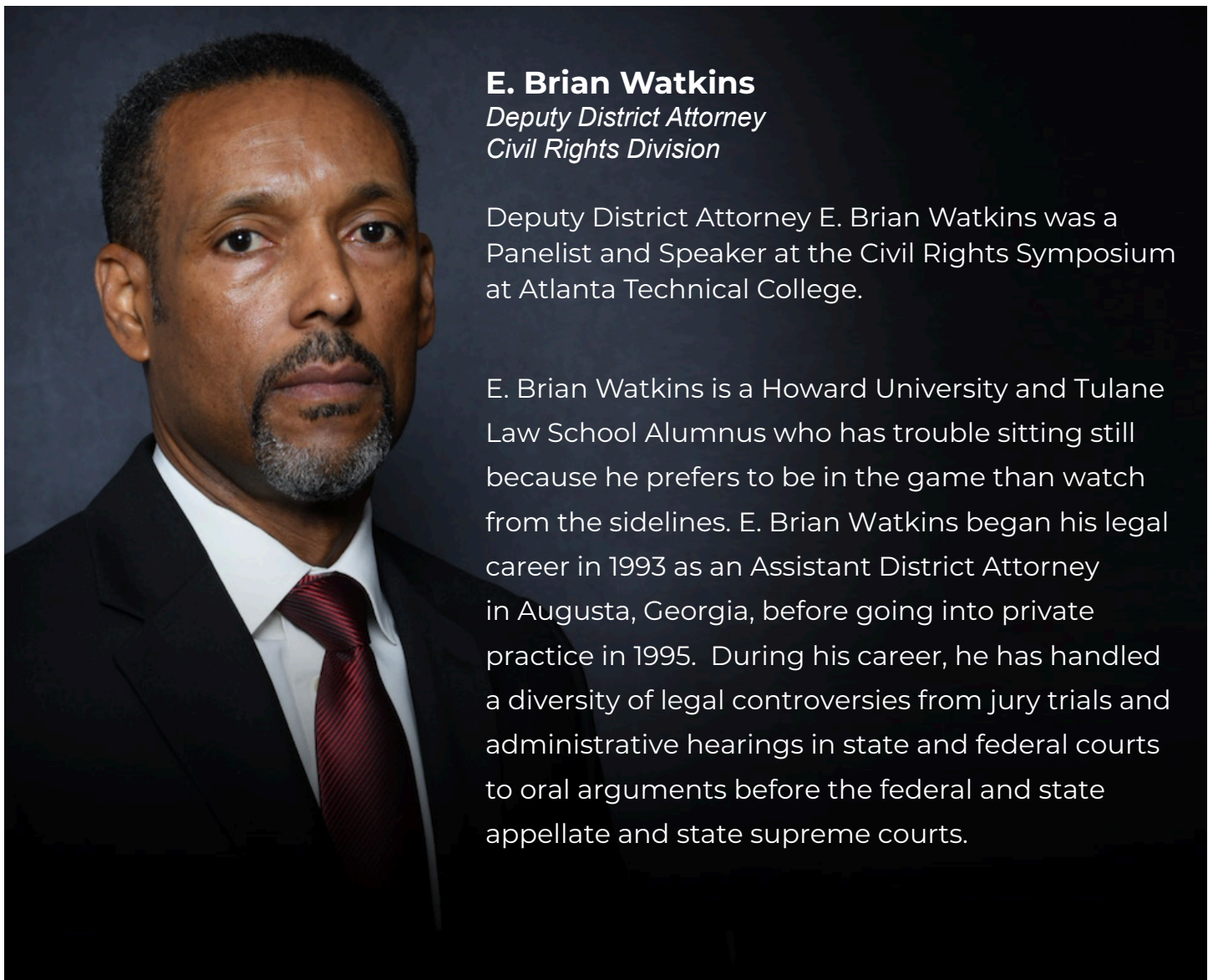
- 69** The Anti-Corruption Division has eliminated the backlog inherited from the prior administration. All 2016-2020 cases have been reviewed and charging decisions have been made. These cases involve elected officials and law enforcement officers.
- 70** All members of the Anti-Corruption Division have attended a total of 516 hours of specialized training.
- 71** The Anti-Corruption Division met with Atlanta Police Chief Darin Schierbaum and collaborated on developing best practices and training protocol for the agency on gun safety, gun handling, including transportation of weapons, storage of weapons and firing in defensive situations.



CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

- 72** The Civil Rights Division has eliminated the backlog inherited from the prior administration. All 2009-2020 cases have been reviewed and charging decisions have been made. These cases involve alleged physical abuse by law enforcement officers.
- 73** Collaborated with Georgia State Patrol to formulate a policy on investigation of law enforcement agency vehicular pursuits.

- 74** The Civil Rights Division collaborated with the Atlanta Police Department and the Atlanta Fire Rescue Department on best practices for documenting incidents in official records.
- 75** The District Attorney met with the Atlanta Police Department's Fugitive Squad to discuss appropriate procedures when pursuing fugitives. She appointed Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Sau Chan as a liaison to the APD Fugitive Squad, available at all times to consult with officers regarding legal concerns when working to apprehend fugitives.
- 76** Collaborated with the Chiefs of Police of Johns Creek and Sandy Springs to collaborate and formulate plans for officer training.
- 77** The District Attorney and the Civil Rights Division met with Atlanta Police Chief Darin Schierbaum and APD command staff to discuss training for officers and cooperation between the APD and the Civil Rights Division on investigations of officers' use of force.



E. Brian Watkins
Deputy District Attorney
Civil Rights Division

Deputy District Attorney E. Brian Watkins was a Panelist and Speaker at the Civil Rights Symposium at Atlanta Technical College.

E. Brian Watkins is a Howard University and Tulane Law School Alumnus who has trouble sitting still because he prefers to be in the game than watch from the sidelines. E. Brian Watkins began his legal career in 1993 as an Assistant District Attorney in Augusta, Georgia, before going into private practice in 1995. During his career, he has handled a diversity of legal controversies from jury trials and administrative hearings in state and federal courts to oral arguments before the federal and state appellate and state supreme courts.

VICTIM WITNESS ADVOCATE PROGRAM



Standing:

Deputy Victim Witness Advocate Ilona Rolack (Major Crimes Division)
Deputy Victim Witness Advocate Dilma Dos Reis (Special Victims Division)

Seated:

Director of the Victim Witness Advocate Program Chandrika Derricho,
Deputy District Attorney Natalie Zellner, Grant Director Michele Henry



VICTIM WITNESS ADVOCATE PROGRAM

78

Held the first ever Fulton County Victim Impact Session Day on September 29, 2022, hosting the Georgia State Board of Pardons and Paroles to meet with Fulton County victims and openly discuss sentences.

79

Fulton County District Attorney's Office advocates held trainings for community partners to educate them on the role of an advocate and services the office provides the community.

80

The Victim Witness Advocate Program started a "Mental Health Corner" to provide mental health information and training to equip employees to better interact with victims and witnesses who may be facing mental health challenges.

81

Created a Victim Advocate Master Training Class to educate advocates on best practices so they can offer premier services to victims.

82

Provided services to more than 3,000 victims.

PRE-INDICTMENT DIVERSION, RECORDS, AND RECORDS RESTRICTION DIVISION



Standing:
Record Supervisor Edwina Sellan, Record Supervisor Stacie Robinson

Seated:
Adult Diversion Director Epiffany Henry, Deputy District Attorney Ramona Toole,
Pre-Indictment Diversion Operations Manager Deonte Pollard



PRE-INDICTMENT DIVERSION, RECORDS, AND RECORDS RESTRICTION DIVISION

- 83** Hosted 4 Record Restriction events, including one during Mother's Day weekend at Ebenezer Baptist Church – serving in excess of 200 people.
- 84** The Pre-Indictment Diversion Division actively enrolled more than 300 participants.
- 85** The Pre-Indictment Diversion Division graduated more than 39 participants.
- 86** The Pre-Indictment Diversion Division has successfully provided rehabilitative treatment in our Behavioral Modification Courses over 135 times.
- 87** Through the Pre-Indictment Diversion Division we have returned over \$20,942 back to victims via restitution collection.
- 88** Fulton County citizens, taxpayers and the state prison system saved \$863,500 by participants completing the Pre-Indictment Diversion Program.

MADAM DISTRICT ATTORNEY FANI T. WILLIS AND
THE OFFICE OF THE FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

GIVE BACK: Junior DA



The reimagined Junior DA Summer Youth Program educated 106 middle schoolers about the criminal justice system, the difference between adult and juvenile court, how gangs recruit and how to respond to recruitment tactics.



INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

- 89 Established 4 emergency relocations partners to assist our victims and witnesses.
- 90 Investigators in the Fulton County District Attorney's Office have served in excess of 15,000 victims and witnesses this year, leading to successful prosecutions.



EVIDENCE UNIT

- 91 The Evidence Unit has been completely overhauled and updated. The District Attorney now has a dedicated, off-site, secure evidence facility for the first time. In-house technology has been added to ensure evidence is correctly stored and tracked. New technology now allows us to access and transfer electronic evidence in house.



HIGH PROFILE CASES AND DIFFICULT WITNESS LOCATION TASK FORCE UNIT

The HP+ Unit is an elite team of investigators assigned to handle witnesses in high-profile cases and track down those who are difficult to locate. The HP+ Unit works with law enforcement partners to locate and make contact with difficult witnesses to ensure that they comply with court orders to appear.

92

In collaboration with Fulton County Sheriff Patrick “Pat” Labat, members of our HP+ Unit have gone into the Fulton County Jail on a regular basis, securing all forms of contraband.



Richard L. Randolph

Executive Deputy Chief Investigator

Executive Deputy Chief Randolph leads the High Profile Cases and Difficult Witness Location Task Force Unit (HP+). Randolph is a product of Morris Brown College and Strayer University. He has been a law enforcement officer for over two decades.



TECHNOLOGY UNIT

93

The Technology Unit officially became Task Force Officers with the United States Secret Service.

94

The Technology Unit has been able to cut the wait time for a forensic phone dump by approximately 96%.

95

At approximately 0200 hours on 8/25/2022, the Technology Unit was notified of an active threat of targeted violence that involved Midtown High School here in Atlanta. The Technology Unit tracked down the suspect using state-of-the-art technology. The Technology Unit was praised by the law enforcement community for its quick response.



Assistant Chief Investigator Loran F. Crabtree assisted Atlanta Public Schools Police with social media threats to students.

MADAM DISTRICT ATTORNEY FANI T. WILLIS AND THE OFFICE OF THE FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY **GIVE BACK: LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY**



Members of the Fulton County District Attorney's Office participate in the Atlanta Pride Parade in support of the LGBTQ+ community.



Atlanta Chief of Police Darin Schierbaum, Director of Mayor's Division of LGBTQ Affairs Malik Brown, Mayor Andre Dickens, Dr. Alie Redd, Co-chair of Mayor Dickens' LGBTQ Advisory Board, Madam District Attorney Fani T. Willis

Madam District Attorney speaks at Mayor Andre Dickens' LGBTQ+ Advisory Board Kick-Off Event.

MADAM DISTRICT ATTORNEY FANI T. WILLIS AND
THE OFFICE OF THE FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
GIVE BACK: LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee & Hate Crimes Grant

The Fulton County District Attorney's Office LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee is the first of its kind in the South. The committee, made up of members from within the District Attorney's office and local community activists, advises the District Attorney on issues affecting LGBTQ+ individuals within the criminal justice system and works to rebuild trust between law enforcement and the LGBTQ+ community. The Committee regularly seeks input from the local LGBTQ+ community and participates in events. The committee coordinates with other LGBTQ+ organizations to better serve Fulton County constituents and hosts its own events to train District Attorney staff and to educate the community at large on important LGBTQ+ issues. The Fulton County District Attorney's Office won the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Grant, making our office the only District Attorney's office within the country to be awarded this honor. Under Deputy District Attorney Will Wooten's leadership, the District Attorney's Office hosted its first ever LGBTQ+ Crime Victims Vigil to remember gay, transgender, and other queer victims of violent crime.



Will Wooten serves as the Deputy District Attorney of the Fulton County District Attorney's Office's White Collar Crime Unit and as Founder and Co-Chair of the District Attorney's LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee. He attended the University of Miami and Emory University School of Law. Prior to working as a prosecutor, he served as an assistant public defender in East Tennessee for four years. While working in a deeply conservative district, he felt compelled to remain in the closet while at work, fearing being fired for his sexuality. Upon joining District Attorney Willis' administration, he found that not only was his sexuality not a problem, but it was celebrated.



Jeremy Murray serves as an Executive Administrative Assistant to District Attorney Fani T. Willis and as the Executive Coordinator for the District Attorney's LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee. Jeremy attended Northeast State and East Tennessee State University where he majored in Sociology and Biology. After a career in healthcare, he shifted his focus to government and politics where he assisted with campaign management and fundraising for over 100 campaigns including Congressional, Senate, and Presidential races. Jeremy is proud to work for a District Attorney and an office that celebrates diversity, inclusion, and makes sure all employees feel welcome.

MADAM DISTRICT ATTORNEY FANI T. WILLIS AND THE OFFICE OF THE FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY SHINE



Pictured: Assistant Chief Investigator Loran Crabtree, Senior Investigator DaJuan Walker, Commissioner Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, Madam District Attorney Fani T. Willis, Commissioner Natalie Hall, Commissioner Bob Ellis, Assistant Chief Thomas Ricks, Commissioner Marvin Arrington, Jr. and Senior Investigator James P. Miller

PROCLAMATION WARRANTED INDEED!

Fulton County Commissioner Natalie Hall honors Assistant Chief Investigator Loran Crabtree, Senior Investigator DaJuan Walker, Assistant Chief Thomas Ricks, and Senior Investigator James P. Miller for their bravery.

A man accused of attacking a woman in a bathroom at the Fulton County Courthouse was arrested after Fulton County District Attorney's Office Investigators spotted and pursued him. Commissioner Natalie Hall sponsored a proclamation recognizing the four gentlemen for their courage and hard work in keeping our community safe.

FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOCUS AWARD WINNERS!



1ST QUARTER:
Safety is Our Business

Senior Investigator Keenan O'Neal,
Deputy Chief Johnna Griffin, Chief Capers Green,
Assistant Chief Thomas Ricks



2ND QUARTER:
Efficiency and Above and Beyond Workers

Legal Assistant Jayson Chavis
Deputy Legal Assistant Shaun Pritchett



3RD QUARTER:
Impact

Senior Assistant District Attorney Jazmin Willingham
pictured with County Manager Dick Anderson



4TH QUARTER:
Safety is Our Business and Above and Beyond Workers

Assistant Chief Robert Turner, Deputy District Attorney Lauren McAuley,
Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Kimberly Carey,
Senior Investigator Allonya Ragland,
Senior Investigator Christopher Davidson

MADAM DISTRICT ATTORNEY FANI T. WILLIS AND THE OFFICE OF THE FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY SHINE



Dilma Dos Reis | Deputy Victim Witness Advocate *Special Victims Division*

The heroes who work for the District Attorney are often called upon to go above and beyond their everyday work. There is no better example of that ethic and willingness to help than Deputy Victim Witness Advocate Dilma Dos Reis.

On June 30, 2022, she received a frantic call for assistance. A trans woman experiencing a personal crisis was on the roof of the Fulton County Courthouse, threatening to commit suicide. Deputy Victim Witness Advocate Dos Reis speaks several languages, including Portuguese, which was the language of the woman in crisis. She went with sheriff's deputies to the roof, where she approached the woman and engaged with her for more than an hour, convincing the woman not to harm herself. On December 8, 2022, she was recognized by Fulton County for being Hero of the Year.



Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Aimee Maxwell, Deputy District Attorney Lauren McAuley, Madam District Attorney Fani Willis, Deputy District Attorney Sonya Allen, Executive District Attorney Daysha Young

The District Attorney and four senior leaders in the office were recognized by Women Looking Ahead Magazine as 2022 winners of its Law and Justice Awards. The District Attorney was recognized for her work in rebuilding the office and re-establishing trust with the community. Executive District Attorney Daysha Young was recognized for her work leading the Special Victims Division, including her work prosecuting difficult cases such as the murder of Kennedy Maxie. Deputy District Attorney Lauren McAuley was recognized for her dedication in the Crimes Against Children Unit, including her work prosecuting child homicides. Deputy District Attorney Sonya Allen was recognized for her work leading the Anti-Corruption Division, including clearing the backlog of cases left by the prior administration. Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Aimee Maxwell was recognized for her work leading the Conviction Integrity Unit.

INDEX



CASE INTAKE DIVISION

Kenneth Hutcherson
Executive District Attorney
kenneth.hutcherson@fultoncountyga.gov



TRIAL DIVISION

George Jenkins
Executive District Attorney
george.jenkins@fultoncountyga.gov



SPECIAL VICTIMS DIVISION

Daysha Young
Executive District Attorney
daysha.young@fultoncountyga.gov



MAJOR CRIMES DIVISION

Michael S. Carlson
Executive District Attorney
mike.carlson@fultoncountyga.gov



VICTIM WITNESS ADVOCATES PROGRAM

Chandrika Derricho
Director of the Victim Witness Advocate Program
chandrika.derricho@fultoncountyga.gov



PRE-INDICTMENT DIVERSION, RECORDS, AND RECORDS RESTRICTION DIVISION

Ramona Toole
Deputy District Attorney
ramona.toole@fultoncountyga.gov

We hope you enjoyed this publication made possible by:



**Madam District Attorney
Fani T. Willis**
Atlanta Judicial Circuit



Jeff DiSantis
Deputy District Attorney
Media Relations Division



Sau Chan
Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney
Anti-Corruption Division



Michael Makins
Director of Graphics
Operations Division - Graphics Unit



Ashley C. Johnson
Executive Staff - Graphic Designer
Executive Division



Jeremy Murray
Executive Assistant to Madam District Attorney
Executive Division

