

FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

DA DISPO[♥]TCH

APRIL - MAY 2024



**FANI
CORES
4 FULTON**

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

SELF CARE FAIR

FANI WELLS
SELF CARE FAIR



**FULTON
COUNTY**

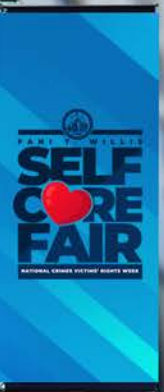


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MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Law Day	2 Elder Abuse Scamming Prevention Event	3 Pay Day	4
5	6	7	8 Reach Graduation	9	10 All Mom's Day	11
12 Mother's Day	13	14	15	16	17 Pay Day	18 Peace & Prevention Event
19	20 Movie Matinee Monday	21 Primary Election Day	22	23 UGA CMP Graduation	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30	31 Credible Messenger Youth Summit Pay Day	

JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Pay Day	15
16 Father's Day	17	18	19 Juneteenth	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 Pay Day	29
30						



MOREHOUSE

COLLEGE HEALTH FAIR



On Saturday, April 6, 2024, Fulton County Commissioner Natalie Hall invited the Fulton County District Attorney's Office to participate in the Morehouse School of Medicine - Master of Public Health Program's Community Health and Wellness Fair at the West End Mall. The event provided health education, relaxation techniques, and dance class demonstrations by the Kendrick Love Dance Company, all free of charge to the public. Tamanila Oda also offered chair massage therapy. Our office's booth informed the public about Domestic Violence and our Victim Witness Advocate Program.



SOUTH FULTON COPS & KIDS UNITY DAY



The DA's office was given a certificate of thanks for the generous donations made to South Fulton's Cops and Kids Unity Day! The residents and children of South Fulton had a wonderful time. Thank you to all of our colleagues who donated to make the day a huge success!

Thank you!

I STAND WITH THE VICTIMS



Denim Day is a day in April encouraging people to wear jeans to raise awareness of rape and sexual assault. In the 1990s, an Italian court overturned a ruling that dismissed an incident as not sexual assault because the victim wore tight jeans. This implied that the victim would have had to help the perpetrator remove the jeans and was therefore consensual. Enraged by the verdict, women in the Italian Parliament wore jeans in protest on the steps of the Supreme Court. This gained international attention and inspired the California Senate and Assembly to do the same. In 1999, Patti Occhiuzzo Giggans, Executive Director of Peace Over Violence, created the first Denim Day event in LA to shatter myths about why women and girls are raped.

On Wednesday, April 24, 2024, the Fulton County District Attorney's Office wore denim to stand in solidarity with all survivors.

Embracing the Opportunity: Conquering Anxiety Surrounding Performance Reviews

Performance reviews are an integral part of professional growth and development. However, for many individuals, the mere thought of a performance review can trigger anxiety and stress. The fear of judgment, uncertainty about feedback, and the pressure to meet expectations can be overwhelming. But it's important to recognize that a performance review is not meant to be a daunting experience. Instead, it presents a unique opportunity for self-reflection, growth, and ultimately, a chance to showcase your talents and progress. In this article, we will explore practical strategies to help you conquer anxiety surrounding performance reviews and make the most of this valuable process.

First and foremost, it's essential to understand the purpose of performance reviews. They are designed to provide constructive feedback and guidance to help you improve and succeed in your role. Rather than viewing it as a judgmental evaluation, consider it as a supportive tool for personal and professional development. Embracing this perspective can help alleviate anxiety and shift your focus towards learning and growth.

One of the most effective ways to manage anxiety surrounding performance reviews is through proper preparation. Start by reviewing your job description and aligning it with your accomplishments and challenges. Identify areas where you have excelled and areas that could use improvement. Set specific goals for yourself, focusing on areas that will enhance your performance and contribute to the overall success of the team. By setting achievable goals, you will not only demonstrate your commitment but also gain confidence in your ability to overcome challenges.

Feedback is a powerful tool for growth, and performance reviews provide an ideal platform to receive constructive criticism. Instead of fearing criticism, embrace it as an opportunity to learn and improve. Actively seek feedback from your colleagues and supervisors throughout the year, so there are no surprises during the review.

Approach your performance review with a positive mindset. Instead of dwelling on potential negative outcomes, focus on the positive aspects of your work and the progress you have made. Recognize that everyone has areas for improvement, and a performance review is simply a chance to address them constructively. Remind yourself of your strengths and achievements, and use them as a foundation for growth and development.

A performance review is not the end of the journey but rather a stepping stone towards growth and advancement. Use the feedback received during the review as a roadmap for your professional development. Seek out training programs, mentorship opportunities, or additional responsibilities that align with your goals.

While anxiety surrounding performance reviews is common, it's important to remember that they are meant to be a positive and constructive experience. By understanding their purpose, preparing diligently, seeking feedback, maintaining a positive mindset, and embracing growth opportunities, you can conquer anxiety and make the most of your performance review. Embrace this opportunity for self-reflection, growth, and development, and watch as it propels you towards greater success in your professional journey. So, take a deep breath, believe in yourself, and step into your performance review with confidence!



Ilona Rolack
Deputy Victim Witness Advocate

LAW CORNER

Guilty Plea Requirements

The process for which prosecutor and the courts take to proceed with a Defendant's guilty plea may seem cumbersome but they exist for the benefit of all parties. The colloquy exists to ensure that the Defendant is "knowingly and voluntarily" entering into a guilty plea, be it a negotiated or non-negotiated one. *Boykin v. Alabama*, 395 U.S. 238 (1965). These requirements are also codified in the Georgia Uniform Superior Court Rules, specifically Rules 33.7 through 33.9. The trial court presiding over the guilty plea is required to make a determination that the plea is voluntary upon inquiry through colloquy administered by the prosecutor or the court itself, that the Defendant is aware of the sentence range and sentence recommendations, the latter of which is not binding on the court. The Court must determine if the Defendant was given a promise or subjected to coercion or threat of force in entering the guilty plea. The Prosecutor and the Court must also ensure that the Defendant is aware of the rights they are giving up in accepting a plea of guilty, as underlined in Rule 33.8, such are the presumption of innocence and a right to a jury trial. The prosecutor specifically is required to provide the trial court of the factual basis for the charges the Defendant is pleading guilty to so that the Defendant is aware of the evidence. As long as these requirements are met, the Defendant is not entitled to withdraw their plea subsequently after entering into it.



Gautam Rao
Deputy District Attorney, Training

BREAK THE SILENCE



District Attorney Fani Willis and members of the Animal Cruelty and Elder Abuse Unit visited senior centers in Fulton County, including Jewish Towers on March 28th, Dogwood Senior Center on April 9th, and Helene S. Mill Multipurpose Senior Center on April 10th.

Deputy DA Jill Hollander led discussions on risks, scams, and abuse affecting seniors in Fulton County, sharing preventive measures to stay safe. Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions and address concerns.

2024 SENIOR SUMMIT

LUNCH & LEARN SEMINAR



The 3rd Annual Senior Summit brought seniors from all over Fulton County together, to receive information regarding wills and estate planning, home safety, elder abuse awareness, and more. It was a day full of education, empowerment, and recognizing the unique challenges faced by individuals aged 65 and older. The summit was presented by Fulton County Vice-Chair Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis, Chief Probate Judge Kenya Johnson, and Clerk of Superior & Magistrate Courts, Che Alexander. Jill Hollander delivered an enlightening presentation to seniors, guiding them on safeguarding themselves against elder abuse. We are committed to helping seniors age with dignity and independence by providing information that promotes health & wellness, wellbeing, safety, social connections, and civic engagement. Learn more: <https://fultoncountyga.gov/seniors>



On Wednesday May 8, 2023, the REACH graduation was held at Westlake High School. REACH is a transformational youth mentoring and coaching program that is student-focused ran by the Fulton County District Attorney's office under the leadership of District Attorney Fani T. Willis.

This year the students worked on a project called "Bridge Building", where they had to build a bridge that could hold two bricks. "Shedding the Noise" was also a program favorite because the kids not only were allowed to talk about their mental pain, but were also taught healthy ways to cope with their feelings. The students even got the chance to travel to Florida State and FAMU to broaden their horizons on opportunities for college.

Many students spoke about how REACH transformed them in more ways than imagined. "The REACH program has made my decision-making a bit more efficient and has made me more disciplined than I have ever been. Regarding to school and my daily life activities, such as fighting or even the stock market, they have helped me a lot with my decision making", says Westlake High School student.

345 students graduated from the program and 200 attended the event on Wednesday. The North Fulton County schools will be honored soon. REACH has now made several partnerships with companies that have already hired students to work for them.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL'S *Day*



In celebration of Administrative Professionals Day, Major Case Unit Leadership hosted a luncheon for all legal assistants and administrators in the office.



Special Victims Division also hosted a breakfast in appreciation of their team. Thank you to all of our administrators for the hard work you do to make the office great! You are relied on heavily, and your work does not go unnoticed!

Georgia Tech

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT



On Monday, April 15th, Georgia Tech hosted its annual Take Back the Night (TBTN) event at Harrison Square. TBTN traces its roots back to the 1970s when women across the country protested against sexual violence and demanded safer environments. Today, TBTN serves as a platform for survivors of all genders and backgrounds to come together and support each other's voices.



Q&A
WITH
Fani & Ché



“On Friday morning, May 3, 2023, DA Fani Willis joined the Fulton County Clerk of Courts, Ché Alexander, for an intimate question-and-answer discussion at K & K Soul Food. Constituents were able to ask them questions and gain insight into the services and programs offered by both offices while enjoying breakfast.”



GRANTS CORNER

Grant applications are written to solve a problem. Madam DA Fani Willis does not back-down from a problem. Under the leadership of DA Willis , grant funding assists victims of crime, builds programs to encourage juveniles from continuing the trajectory to arrest and confinement, improves justice systems to reduce domestic and family violence and builds partnerships between non-profits, law-enforcement and the community. When hired to work on a grant, your job has a goal and your work is to remove barriers and accomplish objectives defined by the project. Victims of crime face many barriers and so working on a grant is not easy and is not for those who are not committed to solving the problem.

Do not apply if you have nothing else to do, only interested in the salary or think your job will be easier than what you are doing now. In addition to doing your job, on a grant you have to evaluate a change, provide reports to measure success and failure and monitor if your own actions are causing harm or creating help. If you want to make a change like your hair is on fire, then see steps below.

GRANT FUNDED HIRING STEPS:

1. Every grant funded position will be posted giving internal and external candidates a chance to apply.
2. A Fulton County Application must be completed with experience that matches the job description. Not one question on application should be answered with "see resume"
3. When the County HR Team sends the applications that qualified, those candidates are reviewed by Grant Project Manager or ADA leading the unit who sends selected candidates to FCDA HR for screening & scheduling of interviews.
4. Grant Project Manager will organize committee who will interview candidates. Each candidate will be asked the same questions and then given a score.
5. After interview, strong candidates can be sent for fingerprinting knowing that it is a part of the process and does not guarantee they are going to be offered the job.
6. Some candidates could be required for a second interview.
7. Grant Project manager will let FCDA HR Team know the best candidates as decided by committee for HR processing and if background check is clear, then offer letters are sent.

Michele Henry
Grants Director



FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK



Our National Crime Victims' Week kicked off with "Meditation Monday". Hosted by Jennifer "Jaki" Johnson, Founder of WellMiss, victims were able to receive trauma assessments.



On April 23rd, the week continued with "Self-Defense Tuesday". Instructor Steel Hameed hosted "Your Right to Self-Protection", empowering attendees with simple, practical ways to prevent victimization and methods of fighting back ferociously.



Instructor Steel Hameed continued NCVRW with Firearm Safety Thursday. Attendees had the opportunity to train in the proper use and storage of firearms and ammunition.



FANI T. WILLIS SELF CORE FAIR

HOSTED BY
FANI T. WILLIS & ANDREA BOONE



Options, services and hope for crime survivors.
HOW WOULD YOU HELP?
National Crime Victims' Rights Week
April 21-27, 2024



Fulton County Fani Willis teamed up with Atlanta City Councilwoman Andrea Boone to co-host the second annual Self Care Fair. The event is held each year in honor of Crime Victims' Rights Week.

Everyone who attended received free financial counseling, neck and back massages and had the opportunity to meet their local officials.

"We're here to celebrate our victims, to let them know how much they are cared for," Willis said. "This is the second year that we've done it and this always the conclusion. So we're excited to be here today."

Willis says the event allows the city's leaders to personally interact with the very residents they're working to protect.

"What we find is because they see us at the bookbag drive, because they see us Victims' Rights Week, because they see us in their community doing things to help their children, they trust this office. As a result of them trusting this office, they participate with us and as a result of that, we have a 95% conviction rate and crime is down 21%," Willis claimed.

FOX 5 NEWS

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS & VOLUNTEERS



CONVICTION ALERTS



STATE VS. WILLIE LEWIS BURNS III

Congratulations to the Major Case Unit! In the case of State vs. Willie Lewis Burns III, the Defendant was found guilty of all counts including Murder, Felony Murder, and Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon. Judge Thomas Cox sentenced the Defendant to Life without the Possibility of Parole.

Assistant District Attorney Jamell Hamm
Assistant District Attorney Christinia Clark
Investigator Nathan Shoate
Victim Witness Advocate Christian Williams
Legal Assistant Rishia Lee



STATE VS. PARIS HOLLAND AND JAYSON HARRIS

Congratulations to the Major Case Unit! In the case of State vs. Paris Holland and Jayson Harris, the Defendants were found guilty of all counts including Murder, Home Invasion in the First Degree, and Armed Robbery. Judge Melynee Leftridge sentenced both Defendants to Life without the Possibility of Parole.

Assistant District Attorney Shaniqua Christian
Assistant District Attorney Christina Robinson
Assistant District Attorney Jacelynn Porter
Investigator Felipe Brown
Victim Witness Advocate Katrina Gill
Legal Assistant Andre Moorer

CONVICTION ALERTS



STATE VS. ANTAVIOUS JACKSON

Congratulations to the Major Case Unit! In the case of State vs. Antavious Jackson, the Defendant was found guilty of all counts including Murder, Felony Murder, and Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon. Judge Kimberly Adams sentenced the Defendant to Life plus 5 years.

Deputy District Attorney Aisha Broderick
Assistant District Attorney Jeff Hawkins
Investigator JP Miller
Victim Witness Advocate Cherrilie Looby-Tonge
Legal Assistant Brenda Sharpe



STATE VS. VARQUIS WILLIAMS

Congratulations to the Domestic Violence Trial Team! In the case of State vs. Varquis Williams, the Defendant was found guilty on all counts including Felony Murder, Aggravated Assault, and Aggravated Assault with Intent to Murder. Judge David Emerson sentenced the Defendant to Life in Prison without Parole + 30 years.

Assistant District Attorney Donita Morris
Assistant District Attorney Kassie Hall
Investigator Ranetta Cruise
Victim Witness Advocate Sandra Jean-Louis
Legal Assistant Cassie Lundy

CONVICTION ALERTS



STATE VS. ALICE BLACKWELL

Congratulations to the Major Case Unit Trial! In the case of State vs. Alice Blackwell, the Defendant was found guilty on all counts including Murder, Felony Murder, and Arson in the First Degree. Judge Paige Whitaker sentenced the Defendant to Life in Prison without the Possibility of Parole.

Assistant District Attorney Jeff Hawkins
Assistant District Attorney Celeste Patten
Investigator JP Miller
Victim Witness Advocate Christian Williams
Deputy Legal Assistant Felicia Dickens



STATE VS. MAXX PRITCHETT AND TYRONE ROBINSON

Congratulations to the Gang Unit! In the case of State vs. Maxx Pritchett and Tyrone Robinson, the Defendants were found guilty on 16 counts including Armed Robbery, Home Invasion, and Aggravated Assault. The Defendants will be sentenced by Judge Robert McBurney on Thursday.

Senior Assistant District Attorney Rives Hiles
Senior Assistant District Attorney Amanda Green
Senior Investigator Harold Milanes
Deputy Victim Witness Advocate Ilona Rollack
Victim Witness Advocates Katrina Gill
Deputy Legal Assistant Keehlan Haygood
Legal Assistant Cherrille Tonge

CONVICTION ALERTS



STATE VS. BENJAMIN GUNBY

Congratulations to the Domestic Violence Trial Team! In the case of State vs. Benjamin Gunby, the Defendant was found guilty on all counts including Murder, Felony Murder, and Aggravated Assault. Judge Eric Dunaway sentenced the Defendant to Life to Serve.

Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Donita Morris
Senior Assistant District Attorney Nalda "Kay" Charles
Senior Investigator Ranetta Cruise
Victim Witness Advocate Sandra Jean-Louis
Victim Witness Advocate Dilma Dos Reis
Legal Assistant Cassie Lundy



STATE VS. CHARLIE OLIVER

Congratulations to the Major Case Unit Trial Team! In the case of State vs. Charlie Oliver, the Defendant was found guilty on all counts including Murder, Felony Murder, and Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon. Judge Kimberly Adams sentenced the Defendant to Life without the Possibility of Parole

Assistant District Attorney Jeff Hawkins
Assistant District Attorney Paul Barnhill
Investigator JP Miller
Victim Witness Advocate Cherrillie Looby-Tonge
Legal Assistant Brenda Sharpe

CONVICTION ALERTS



STATE VS. ALICIA KIRK

Congratulations to the Complex TD Team! In the case of State vs. Alicia Kirk, the Defendant was found guilty on all counts including Aggravated battery, Aggravated Assault, and Firearm during the Commission of a Felony. Judge Alice Benton sentenced the Defendant to 25 years to serve.

Deputy District Attorney Gautam Rao
Deputy District Attorney George Jenkins
Assistant District Attorney Audrey Simmons
Investigator Marcus D. Gerald
Deputy Victim Witness Advocate Misty Botu
Deputy Legal Assistant Whitney Meyer



STATE VS. DEMARCUS BUSSEY AND VALENCIA WILSON

Congratulations to the Gang Unit! In the case of State vs. Demarcus Bussey and Valencia Wilson, the Defendants were found guilty on all counts including Malice Murder, Felony Murder, and Aggravated Battery. Sentencing is set to take place within 30 days. Due to a prior serious violent felony, the Court will have no discretion but to sentence Demarcus Bussey to Life without Parole.

Deputy District Attorney Chris Sperry
Assistant District Attorney Amanda Green
Investigator Kevin Lewis
Investigator Harold Milanes
Victim Witness Advocate Katrina Gill
Deputy Legal Assistant Keehlan Haygood
Legal Assistant Corinne Collins

Proclamation Day



On Wednesday, May 17, 2023, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners celebrated the eighth Fulton County Certified Public Managers (CPM) graduating class. The 2024 CPM class completed 300 hours of coursework in nine months, dedicating three full consecutive days per month to attending classes, completing out-of-class homework and academic studies, and giving back to the community with their time, talents, and intellectual capital.

CPM class cohort "O" pinpointed a need in the Atlanta community to support people experiencing homelessness, therefore donating 100 toiletry bags to the unhoused community in Woodruff Park. CPM class cohort "P" sponsored a "Gift of Love and Joy" donation drive for the boys and girls of Youth Villages, a residential treatment facility in Douglasville. They collected 732 articles of clothing and art supplies for 128 boys and girls ages 6 to 17, gave handwritten Valentine cards to all 128 children, and led a vision board activity.

Congratulations to our very own Deputy District Attorney Christopher Sperry, Deputy District Attorney Vincent Faucette, Deputy Victim Witness Advocate Misty Botu, and Chief Deputy District Attorney Rushondra Davenport for completing the course!

FEATURED FIVE

OPERATIONS EDITION

EVA RETANA



Eva Retana is a Gwinnett County native, having graduated from Brookwood High School and Maxwell High School of Technology, where she studied Criminal Justice. She then attained her AS in Criminal Justice from Gwinnett Technical College. Immediately upon graduation, she began her career with the Gwinnett County State Court, later transferring to the Superior Court in Gwinnett, working in the District Attorney's Office. Eva spends a great deal of her time improving herself professionally, philanthropically, and personally. She is a Certified Public Manager® from the University of Georgia, serves as Board Chair for Impact46, a Lawrenceville non-profit, is a Board member for BHS Fencing League, and is a member of the Junior League of North Fulton and Gwinnett, as well as the Georgia Council for Court Administrators and Council for Public Administrators. She volunteers for GAWL-Gwinnett, Habitat for Humanity Gwinnett, and more.

In this season of her life, she is an active volunteer for all of her daughter's passion projects and activities, including soccer, fencing, Girl Scouts of Atlanta, swim, and marching band! Eva is married to her high school sweetheart, and they are just a few months shy of their 20th anniversary. They love spending time with their two daughters, their pets, and enjoy traveling and experiencing the world together.

KYRA BANKS



Kyra D. Banks, a proud native of Atlanta, Georgia, is a double graduate of Howard University, affectionately known as the "Double Bison." With a background in classical acting and experience in the media and entertainment industry, Kyra has previously worked as a talent agent in Los Angeles and served as an ambassador to Fukuoka, Japan. Throughout her life, she has been a passionate cheerleader, both figuratively and literally, supporting those around her as a wife, mother, daughter, sister, and newly minted auntie. Kyra's interests include acting, musical theater, exploring new restaurants, especially those serving Indian and Thai cuisine, and enjoying field trips with her toddler. Her bucket list includes dreams of becoming an NFL cheerleader, embarking on a nine-month cruise around the world, landing a role in a major motion picture, and trying her hand at stand-up comedy. However, her favorite part of her job is helping people whenever she can and lending an empathetic ear to those in need.



TYCHAUNE DOUGLAS

Tychaune Douglas, a proud native of Hempstead, Long Island, New York, made the significant move to Atlanta in 1996, where he continued his artistic journey following in his father's footsteps. Graduating from Stephenson High School and then pursuing graphic design at the Art Institute showcases his dedication to honing his creative skills. His proudest achievement, being a father to his two-year-old, undoubtedly highlights the depth of his personal fulfillment. Beyond his creative pursuits, Tychaune finds joy in playing cooking, travel, and painting, which enrich his life with diverse experiences and inspiration. And of course, he proudly represents his New York teams, the Knicks and the Yankees, showing unwavering loyalty to his roots.

GREGORY WARE



Gregory is a native Alabamian, who is proud to be from the Queen City of the Black Belt, Selma. Gregory joined the Fulton County District Attorney's Office in 2021. Gregory first gained his exposure to the justice system as Child Abuse and Neglect Investigator. Throughout his professional journey Gregory has managed a variety of national court-based and community programs.

Gregory earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Social Work from the University of Montevallo and a Master of Science in Social Work with a focus in Administration and Management from the University of New England. Gregory is currently a student at the University of Georgia Terry College of Business completing his MBA. Fun Fact: Gregory has worked in the Funeral Service Industry.

When Mr. Ware is not working, he enjoys going on excursions with his family, performing various research, watching true crime shows and reality television, listening to HBCU Marching Bands, and reading his bible! One of Mr. Ware's favorite bible scriptures is Isaiah 1:17, "Learn to do right! Seek justice, relieve the oppressed, and correct the oppressor. Defend the fatherless, plead for the widow".

DEXTER BOND



Dexter Q. Bond, Jr. is a distinguished government attorney with a robust background spanning local, state, federal, and international affairs. He graduated with honors from Morehouse College with a BA in English and Sociology before excelling at the University of Georgia School of Law. Dexter's Capitol Hill experiences include litigating for a top civil firm, serving as a legislative aide, and being appointed to Obama's Victory Council. He furthered his education at American University's Washington College of Law, earning an LL.M in Law and Government, specializing in Constitutional Law and Civil Rights. Dexter's career reflects a commitment to legal excellence, trial advocacy, and social justice reform.

G-Unit

HOW TO SUBMIT A GRAPHICS REQUEST



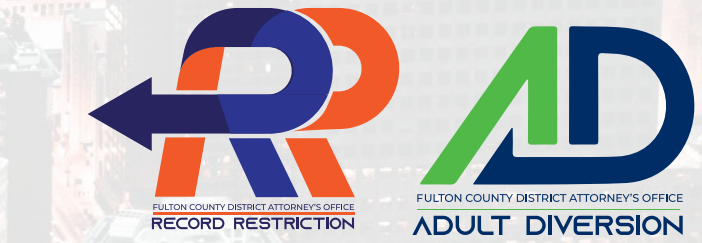
OUR SERVICES

Trial Graphics • Event Graphics & Photography • PowerPoint • Audio & Video Production • Animation • Booklets • Brochures • Logo Design • T-Shirt Design • **And MUCH MORE**



SECOND CHANCE MONTH

Resource Fair and Cookout



On Thursday April 25th, The Record Restriction and Pre-Indictment Diversion Unit attended the Second Chance Month Resource Fair and Cookout hosted by the Reentry Services Division of the Georgia Department of Community Supervision (DCS). Governor Brian P. Kemp's proclamation declared April as "Second Chance Month" in the State of Georgia. The goal of the Second Chance Month Resource Fair and Cookout, was to highlight collaborations as government agencies and community partners bridge the gap for justice-involved individuals. These events offer the opportunity for members of the community to attend local events and learn more about efforts made by Reentry Services in local communities.

Congratulations



ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY JOYA RUTLAND & LEGAL ASSISTANT DANIELLE HERCULES

Congratulations on passing the Georgia Bar Exam! It's a remarkable achievement that reflects your dedication and hard work. Wishing you success as you embark on your legal career!



CHAMPION of Advocacy

DERICKA MITCHELL

On Thursday, April 25, 2024, Senior Victim Witness Advocate, Dericka Mitchell attended the Community in Action Advocacy Conference at the Iconium Baptist Church. This networking event served as a platform for community agencies, leaders, and passionate advocates to come together for meaningful discussions, collaboration, and strategic planning. Those in attendance were the Fulton County Superior Court Clerk's Office, Crime Victims Compensation, Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation, and Georgia Office of Victims Services just to name a few. At this event she was awarded the Champion in Advocacy Award for her efforts in advocating for victims & families in Fulton County.



During her appearance on the Kelly Clarkson Show, Tessa Gibson bravely opened up about her painful journey of survival, detailing the trauma of domestic violence and the formidable challenges she faced in breaking free from its grip. She also highlighted the vital work of the Boyce L. Ansley School, a beacon of hope for families grappling with adversity, including domestic violence, homelessness, and child abuse, offering them support and resources. With unwavering resolve, she concluded the interview by urging others touched by similar hardships to break their silence and share their narratives, emphasizing that in solidarity, nobody needs to endure their struggles alone. Tessa's empowering message underscored the transformative power of storytelling, affirming that by speaking out, individuals not only empower themselves but also offer solace and inspiration to others on their own journeys of healing and resilience.

NEWS CORNER



<https://www.11alive.com/article/news/crime/babysitter-boyfriend-plead-guilty-murder-2-year-old-fallon-fridley/85-873a45a2-5963-4418-8a96-1e0df6c6863e>



<https://www.wsbtv.com/news/local/2-men-sentenced-life-without-parole-2018-union-city-murder-officials-say/FJLARKEZT5CQDADDJVMFJKV2RM/>



<https://www.fox5atlanta.com/news/two-gang-members-sentenced-2020-murder-vietnam-veteran-goodwill>



<https://www.fox5atlanta.com/news/fani-willis-co-hosts-annual-self-care-fair-in-atlanta>



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<https://www.wsbtv.com/news/local/atlanta/men-sentenced-after-violent-2019-home-invasion-robbery-southeast-atlanta-airbnb/BTWCJBPRZNCFBBDUOETQ22GCTM/>