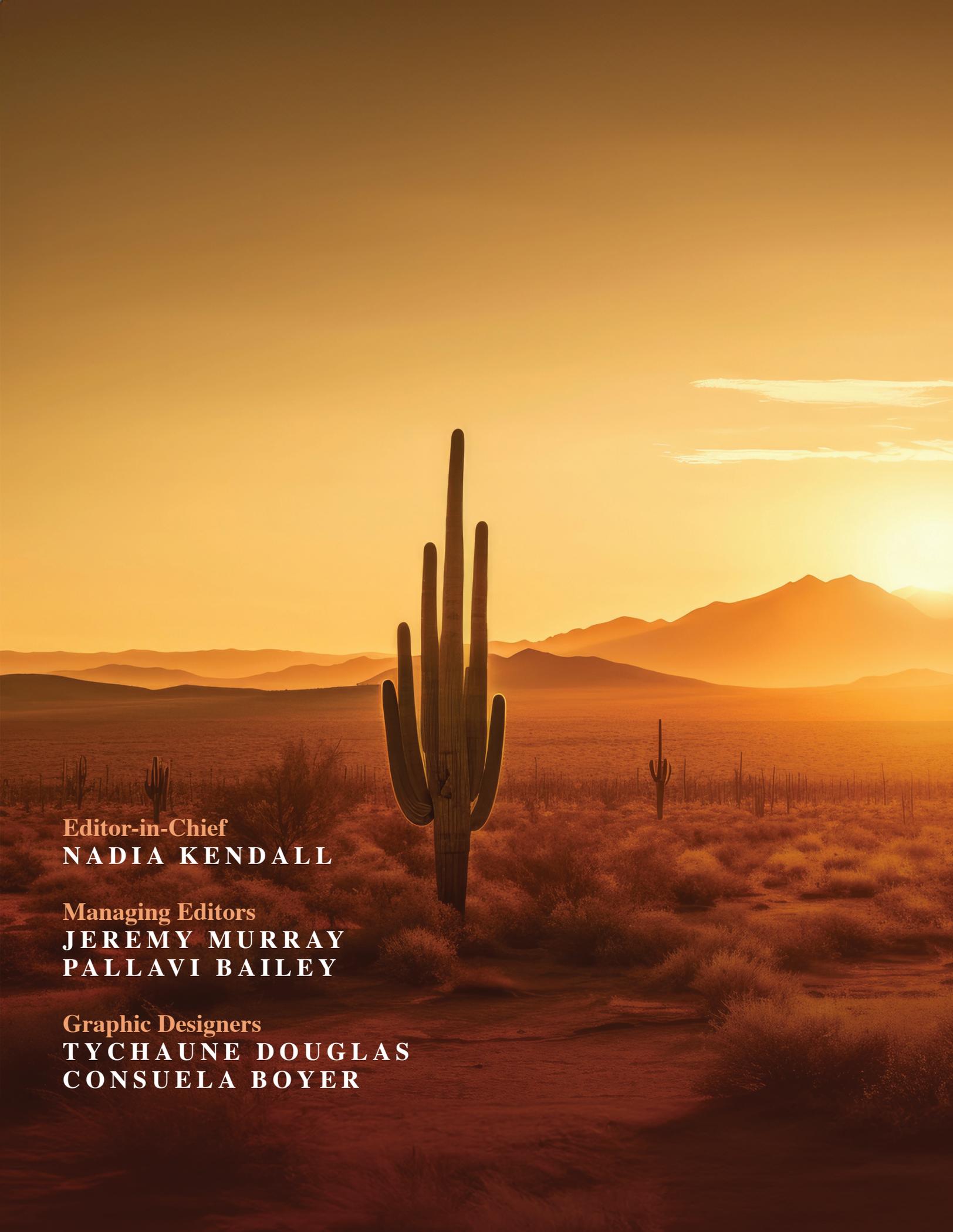


FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

DA DISPATCH

DECEMBER 2025



A desert landscape at sunset. The sky is a warm, golden-orange color with a few wispy clouds. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a long shadow of a large saguaro cactus in the foreground. The cactus has three arms. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under the same warm light. The ground is covered in dry, scrubby vegetation.

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TYCHAUNE DOUGLAS
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A desert landscape at sunset. The sky is a warm, golden-orange color with some light clouds. In the background, there are dark, silhouetted mountains. In the foreground, there is a dirt road winding through a desert with various cacti and shrubs. The overall scene is bathed in the warm light of the setting sun.

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JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 PAY DAY	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 MLK DAY	20 <i>FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER MEETING</i>	21	22	23 PAY DAY	24 RECORD RESTRICTION EVENT
25	26	27 COAT DRIVE	28	29	30	31

Special Victims Division Press Conference

Madam District Attorney Willis and the Special Victims Division joined the Atlanta Police Department for a press conference recognizing the powerful partnership between them. Through the leadership of Chief Darin Schierbaum and the tireless work of Atlanta Police Department detectives and partnering law enforcement agencies, the Special Victims Division has achieved an 100% conviction rate. Cases such as serial rapist Christopher Harley underscore the unwavering commitment of our prosecutors, investigators, and law enforcement partners to holding offenders accountable and protecting the safety and dignity of our Fulton County community. Congratulations to Executive District Attorney Julianna Peterson and the entire Special Victims Division on a job well done!





25



Happy Holidays



TRIAL DIVISION



JOYA
RUTLAND

1ST PLACE



SOWMYA
MANDAVA

2ND PLACE

DOOR CONTEST



**MICHAEL
WILSON**

3RD PLACE



**IVORY
GOUDY**

HONORABLE
MENTION

MENTAL HEALTH CORNER



“We Are Family...”

By Ilona Rolack, M.Sc.

The holidays can be a mixed bag of emotions—a time for joy, reflection, and sometimes, a bit of heartache. For many of us, the significance of family comes into sharp focus during this season. Family isn’t just about blood relatives; it extends to those bonds we create through shared experiences, love, and support. This year, the importance of these connections was beautifully illustrated through the Finding Hope Homicide Support Group’s holiday party at the Darwin Hotel.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to Siri Patel and her family for opening their doors and providing a warm, festive atmosphere that truly embodied the spirit of the season. The venue was decorated with care, creating a space that felt both welcoming and celebratory. The group members shared that being surrounded by people who understand and share their same life experiences was incredibly comforting, especially during the holidays when feelings of loss or grief can be particularly poignant. The event offered more than just a chance to enjoy good food and company; it also served as a reminder of the families we create beyond our biological ties. In the same way, many of us have found our “work families”, in our respective teams like the dedicated advocates from the DA’s Office. Their participation in an escape room challenge added an element of fun and teamwork to the day. These types of activities highlight how essential it is to cultivate connections with those we spend so much time with, turning colleagues into friends and creating bonds that can feel just as strong as those with family.

In times of adversity, these connections become crucial. They provide a support system, a shoulder to lean on, and a network of individuals who can help us navigate through our struggles. The holidays can amplify feelings of loneliness, but gatherings like the one at the Darwin Hotel and the Escape Room are a reminder that we are not alone. We can lean on our chosen families to lift us up and help us find joy amidst the struggle.

The sense of belonging that arises from these connections is transformative. Whether it’s sharing laughter over a meal, joining in and singing “Tomorrow, tomorrow...” with a coworker (you know who was going around singing that), engaging in team-building activities, or simply being present for one another, these moments create memories that sustain us throughout the year. Let’s remember to cherish not only our biological ties but also the relationships we build intentionally. They can be just as profound and fulfilling.

So, as we move into this new year, let’s embrace the idea that family comes in many forms. Reach out, strengthen those bonds, and allow the connections we’ve created—both at home and in our work lives—to support us through whatever comes next. Here’s to family, in all its beautiful forms, and the hope it brings during the holidays and beyond.



*We
are family*

Ugly Sweater Contest WINNERS

2ND PLACE
JASMYN
DRUMMOND

1ST PLACE
PRISCILLA
ALLMOND

3RD PLACE
SAUL
ALTER

CONGRATULATIONS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Quinasha
PRITCHETT



Tia
GREEN



20
Years of Service



Marlene
CALDWELL

20
25



FULTON COUNTY CUP

End of Year F.O.C.U.S. Awards



The "Fulton Cup" soccer-themed F.O.C.U.S. Awards ceremony took place on Thursday, December 11, at the Emma Darnell Aviation Museum and Conference Center, celebrating excellence, teamwork, and outstanding public service across Fulton County.

F.O.C.U.S., recognizes employees who go above and beyond to improve the lives of our residents and support their colleagues each day. The ceremony highlighted inspiring stories of dedication, innovation, and exceptional service that earned this year's honorees their well-deserved awards.



Our office proudly celebrated seven team members who were nominated for a F.O.C.U.S. Award this year. Congratulations to our very own, Rushondra Davenport and Brodrich Jackson, for winning the F.O.C.U.S award in the categories "Leadership and "Safety is our Business".

Pictured is Quinasha Pritchett accepting on Rushondra's behalf.



LAW CORNER

When a Trial Court Cannot Deviate from a Negotiated Sentence Christopher Sperry

While a trial court has broad discretion over what sentence to impose, that discretion is not unlimited. One situation where the court is limited is when there is an agreement between the parties to deviate below a mandatory minimum under OCGA § 17-10-6.1 (e). As an initial matter, the trial court does not have unilateral authority to deviate below a mandatory minimum without the express consent of the State. *State v. Hillsman*, 368 Ga. App. 873 (2023). When there is an agreement to deviate below the mandatory minimum, the trial court is prohibited from further deviating beyond the negotiated terms. Such a situation arose *State v. Dixon* 370 Ga. App. 211 (2023). In that case, there was an agreement to sentence a juvenile to armed robbery with a sentence of 20 to serve 6 and the trial court then elected to impose a sentence of 20 to serve 5. While the State did not expressly object, it also did not expressly consent and because the State did not expressly consent to the deviated sentence, the sentence was reversed.

A second situation where a trial court does not have discretion to deviate from a negotiated sentence is when the State agrees to reduce a charge to a lesser included as part of a negotiated plea. In *State v. Kelley* 298 Ga. 527 (2016), the State agreed to reduce murder to manslaughter in exchange for a twenty year prison sentence. The trial court then imposed a 10 to serve 5 sentence, and the State expressly objected. The State filed a motion to set aside judgement, the trial court agreed with the State and the Defendant appealed. The Georgia Supreme Court held that a trial court cannot impose a sentence outside the scope of the negotiated terms on a lesser included when the State expressly objects. The objection be unambiguous as a similar situation arose in *State v. Scott* 370 Ga. App. 40 (2023). There, during a plea to the lesser included offense of involuntary manslaughter and other offenses with a negotiated sentence of 40 to serve 25, the trial court imposed a sentence of 20 to serve 15 and the State immediately requested the court impose the negotiated sentence which the trial court declined to do. Later that same day, the parties met and the State expressly sought to withdraw the plea. The trial court viewed the State initial requesting the court to honor the negotiated sentence as not an express objection and the decision was affirmed in a divided opinion by the Court of Appeals. Therefore, it when a court deviates from a negotiated plea on a lesser included, the State must make a timely, unambiguous objection and withdrawal or else as of now, the split opinion of Scott by the Court of Appeals is controlling.

THE 4TH ANNUAL

Grammy

ROCK
ROY



L FANI T. WILLIS

Awards

DECEMBER
AWARDS







The Fulton County District Attorney's Office closed out the year in style at our Annual Awards Ceremony. Hosted by the phenomenal Tammy McClendon and Quinasha Pritchett, the celebration honored our exceptional employees and valued community partners who help advance our mission every day.



This year's Rodeo Royale themed Grammy Awards brought a perfect blend of glamour and Western flair, with attendees stepping out in their finest country and rodeo-inspired attire. The creativity did not disappoint, and several guests even took home prizes for their standout looks.

Congratulations to all of our award recipients. Your dedication, professionalism, and commitment to excellence inspire us daily. Here's to another year of service, impact, and making a meaningful difference in our community.





4th Quarter with Jill

Deputy District Attorney Jill Hollander had a full and impactful final quarter of 2025. On October 18th, she was honored as Pet Protector of the Year at the Animal Protection and Wellness (APAW) Expo 2025, a two-day event dedicated to educating animal law professionals and welfare advocates on their critical roles in protecting both animals and people.

On October 26th, Deputy District Attorney Hollander attended the American College of Veterinary Pathologists Conference, where she presented alongside Dorris Miller of the University of Georgia. Their session focused on case studies in successful prosecutions and demystifying the collaborative roles of multidisciplinary partners.

She concluded the quarter by presenting at the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys' 14th National Animal Cruelty Prosecution Conference. During her session, Deputy District Attorney Hollander addressed common forms of digital evidence, including jail calls, videos, text messages, social media records, and forensic cell phone data. She also discussed evidentiary standards for warrants, best practices for usage, and common pitfalls to avoid in animal cruelty prosecutions.



Professional Law Panel

On Thursday, December 11, 2025, Deputy District Attorney Asia Baysah, Deputy District Attorney Marshal Hodge, Chief Senior District Attorney Maria Washington and Chief Senior District Attorney Travis Thomas participated in a "Professional Law Panel" at Benjamin E. Mays High school. The panel was organized by Mays High School REACH (Reentry Education, Advocacy and Community Healing) Program. Along with other panel members, they shared their insight, experience, commitment and journey in the legal field.

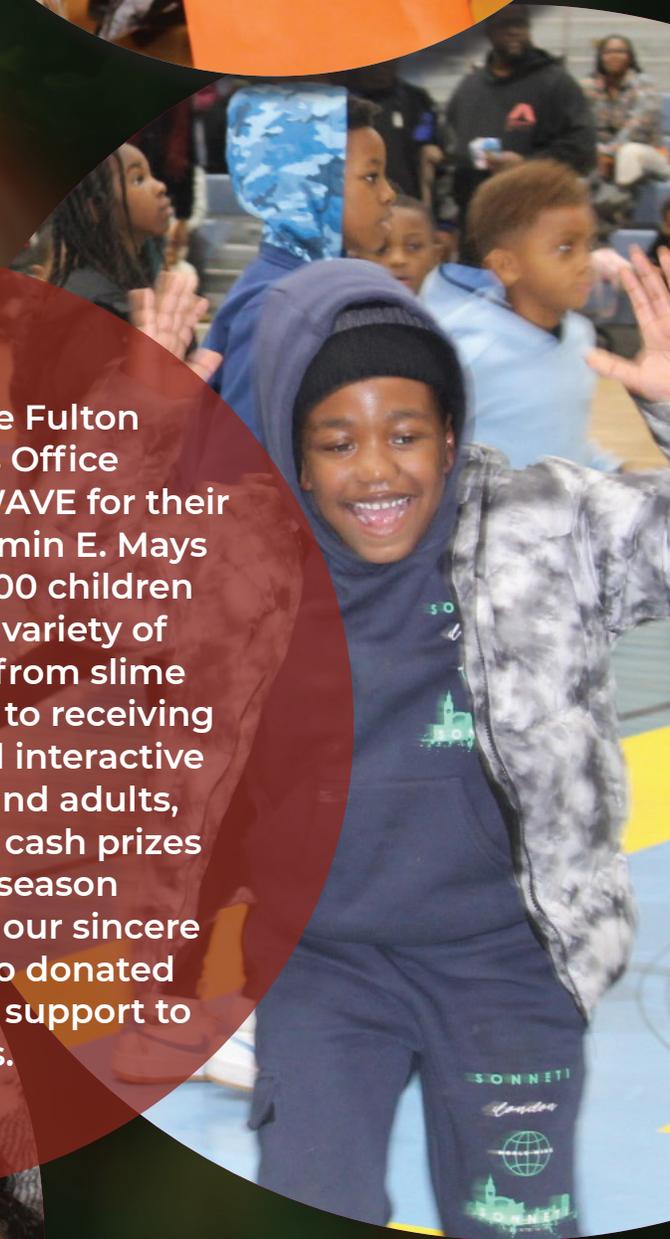
FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT

TTC DRI



T ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

JOY LIVE



On December 19, 2025, the Fulton County District Attorney's Office proudly partnered with WAVE for their annual Toy Drive at Benjamin E. Mays High School. More than 400 children were blessed with a wide variety of gifts for all ages, ranging from slime to electronics. In addition to receiving presents, families enjoyed interactive games for both children and adults, with opportunities to win cash prizes to help make the holiday season even brighter. We extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who donated their time, resources, and support to make this event a success.





Holiday Celebrations



CONVICTION ALERTS



State vs. Jamir Walker

Congratulations to the Major Case Unit Trial Team! In the case of State vs. Jamir Walker, the Defendant was found guilty on all counts including Malice Murder, Felony Murder, and Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon. Judge David Emerson sentenced the Defendant to Life without the Possibility of Parole +55 Years to Serve.

Deputy District Attorney Marshal Hodge
Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Kassie Hall
Lieutenant Investigator Kevin Lewis
Director of Victim Witness Advocacy Ilona Rolack
Legal Assistant Rishia Lee



State vs. Joseph Davenport

Congratulations to the Trial Division! In the case of State vs. Joseph Davenport, the Defendant was found guilty on all counts including Armed Robbery, Aggravated Assault, and Possession of a Firearm during the Commission of a Felony. Judge Melynee Leftridge sentenced the Defendant to 20 Years to Serve 10 years with the Balance Probated under Indictment Number 19SC168604 and 25 Years with the First 10 years to be Served in Confinement, 10 years Suspended and the Remainder of 5 Years to be Served on Probation under Indictment Number 19SC164355.

Assistant District Attorney Tangelita Bush
Assistant District Attorney Marquez Jones
Assistant District Attorney Danielle Hercules
Assistant Chief Investigator Trina Swanson-Lucas
Victim Witness Advocate Raven Coston



State vs. Christopher Harley

Congratulations to the Sexual Assault Unit! In the case of State vs. Christopher Harley, the Defendant was found guilty on all counts including Rape, Aggravated Sodomy, and False Imprisonment. Judge Rachel Krause sentenced the Defendant to 4 Consecutive Life sentences +20 Years.

Deputy District Attorney Siri Patel
Senior Assistant District Attorney JaCelynn Porter
Assistant District Attorney Joya Rutland
Assistant Chief Investigator Brian Salters
Senior Investigator William Ward
Victim Witness Advocate Carla Martinez
Legal Assistant Daniel Pinilla



State vs. Quinterus Phillips

Congratulations to the Major Case Trial Team! In the case of State vs. Quinterus Phillips, the Defendant was found guilty on all counts including Felony Murder, Armed Robbery, and Aggravated Assault. The Judge will sentence the Defendant at a later date.

Chief Senior District Attorney Maria Washington
Assistant District Attorney Jeffrey Hawkins
Assistant District Attorney Averiel Jackson
Senior Investigator Darnell Kennedy
Victim Witness Advocate Katrina Gill



State vs. Master Perry

Congratulations to the Trial Division! In the case of State vs. Master Perry, the Defendant was found guilty on all counts including Armed Robbery, Aggravated Assault, and Criminal Attempt to Commit Robbery. Judge David Emerson sentenced the Defendant 12 Years to Serve 10 Years in Custody.

Assistant District Attorney Celeste Patten
Assistant District Attorney Marquez Jones
Investigator Jeremy Gray
Deputy Victim Witness Advocate Misty Botu
Legal Assistant Kudonna Porter



YOUTH WINTER DRIVE



27
JANUARY



1 - 3
P.M. - P.M.

DROP-OFF IN
Multipurpose Room

WISH LIST:

Gently used (NO stains) or new youth coats for students.
New hats and gloves are welcome!

PREK - 5TH GRADE:

sizes 2T - 5T, kids sizes 4-7, and youth sizes XS - 8 to 16

ZELLE: (404) 375-5434

VENMO: @KSWatkins9

We are partnering with Love Beyond Walls to support its Zion's Closet initiative at four APS Title I schools. Zion's Closets are fully stocked resource centers inside Title I schools that are designed to support students and families experiencing poverty or housing insecurity. These spaces are intentionally designed to provide essential items such as uniforms, shoes, school supplies, hygiene kits, food, and clothing, while also creating a sense of dignity, care, and belonging.

QUESTIONS:

kendall.watkins@fultoncountyga.gov and angela.johnson@fultoncountyga.gov

FREE RESUME ASSISTANCE
HEADSHOTS
PARKING



FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
RECORD RESTRICTION

It's never too late
for a second

Chance



FANI T. WILLIS
Fulton County
District Attorney



RECORD CLEARING EVENT & JOB RESOURCE FAIR

Join us for a FREE event helping restrict and seal (expunge) eligible Fulton arrest history. The event will also connect jobseekers with employers and career development resources.



CHÉ ALEXANDER
Fulton County Clerk of
Superior and Magistrate Courts



ERIC DUNAWAY
Fulton County
Superior Court Judge

PARTNERING WITH

GEORGIA
JUSTICE
PROJECT

transforming
our community
for over 35 years



TRINITY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



**TRINITY
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

3003 Howell Mill Road NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30327



**SATURDAY
JAN 24TH**
10AM-12PM



**REGISTER
NOW**



Reach

Transformational Youth Mentoring

On December 12, 2025, students and staff, Reach team members, and mentors attended the College Park Skyhawks vs. Greensboro Swarm game and enjoyed an exciting night of basketball and camaraderie.





Family

JUSTICE CENTER

YOU ARE INVITED

Join us as we share plans for our Family Justice Center, explore opportunities to collaborate in supporting victims and survivors, and strengthen our community.

TUESDAY
JANUARY
20

PLEASE SEE SCHEDULE
Multipurpose Room · 141 Pryor Street | Atlanta, GA 30303

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Reception - Atrium · 141 Pryor Street | Atlanta, GA 30303

WEDNESDAY
JANUARY
21

8:30 AM - 3:30 PM
Strategic Planning Meeting
APS Student and Family Support Hub
601 Thomas Cole Jr. Way SW | Atlanta, GA 30314

THURSDAY
JANUARY
22

8:30 AM - 3:30 PM
Strategic Planning Meeting
APS Student and Family Support Hub
601 Thomas Cole Jr. Way SW | Atlanta, GA 30314



JUDICIARY
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

LAW ENFORCEMENT
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

HEALTHCARE
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

PROSECUTOR /VICTIM ADVOCATE
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

FAITH-BASED
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

SURVIVOR
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Please RSVP by **January 9th, 2026**. SCAN or CLICK HERE TO RSVP >>>

