DISPATCH FANI T. WILLIS, District Attorney



FCDA Grammy Awards A Blazer and Bling Affair

Daysha Young, Executive District Attorney with the Special Victims Division, won the Pinnacle Award – the highest honor.

See page 18 for more!



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Deck the Halls

24

16



1st Annual Heroes Behind the Mask Community Recognition Event

38



1st Annual Mix & Mingle

Staff & Stories	page 03
Important Dates	page 08
The Fab Four Spotlight	page 58
Newsroom	page 62
In a Courtroom Near You	page 63

Courtroom Demeanor/Testimony Training

On December 10, 2021, Deputy District Attorney Will Wooten along with Atlanta Police Detective Kevin Leonpacher taught Testimony and Courtroom Demeanor to police cadets at the Georgia Public Safety and Training Center in Athens, GA. The daylong course, part of the police academy-mandated curriculum, focused on phases of criminal trial with emphasis on direct examination and cross examination.





Madam DA testifying at the Georgia House of Representatives Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee meeting

On November 22, 2021, Madam DA testified before the Georgia State House Pubic Safety & Homeland Security Committee. To her right are Julianna Peterson, Deputy District Attorney – Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI Unit), and Mike Carlson, Executive District Attorney – Major Crimes Division.



Crime is Toast Breakfast

Madam DA appeared at the Crime is Toast Breakfast, December 9, 2021, at the Hilton Atlanta.











Deputy & Chief Legal Assistants Master Class Lunch

On December 4, 2021, Deputy Legal Assistants and Chief Legal Assistants went out for a well-deserved lunch at Maggiano's Little Italy to show appreciation for a job well done after an intense 10 weeks of Madam DA's School of Integrity. This was the first of many more hangouts. Pictured: Yolanda Shorthouse, Merrial Stokes, Lora Andrews, Stacey Johnstone, Felicia Dickens, Valencia Younger, Keehlan Haygood, Tawanna Flint, and Kyren McGary.



Legal Assistants Master Class Graduates Lunch

On November 16, 2021, Trial Division Legal Assistant graduates of Madam DA's School of Integrity luncheon at Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen with Lamar Rhodes, Deputy District Attorney – Complex & Non-Complex Units, Deputy Legal Assistant Whitney Meyer, and Chief Legal Assistant Merrial Stokes.



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

JANUARY 17, 2022

King Jr. Day.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, which occurs on January 17, 2022, is a federal holiday designated as a national day of service to encourage Americans to volunteer and to improve their communities. Legislation to recognize Martin Luther King Jr. Day was first introduced by Democratic Michigan Congressman John Conyers on April 8, 1968, four days after King's assassination. Despite limited congressional support, Convers continued to reintroduce the legislation every year with support from the Congressional Black Caucus, which Conyers helped found. It took 15 years of persistence by civil-rights activists for the holiday to be approved by the federal government and an additional 17 years for it to be recognized in all 50 states. On August 23, 1994, the King Holiday and Service Act – legislation proposed by then-Congressman John Lewis and former Senator Harris Wofford to encourage Americans to find common causes and methods of improving their communities was signed into law by then-President Bill Clinton. Despite federal recognition of the holiday, which takes place on the third Monday in January, statewide observance of Martin Luthor King Jr. Day is far from uniform. Some states, such as Arizona, New Hampshire, Alabama and Mississippi, include other holidays that are celebrated concurrently with Martin Luther





FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Continuing Wellness Series



We are an office that values physical, spiritual & mental well-being.

Classes will begin Tuesday, January 18th and conclude Thursday, March 10th.

Your time at class is considered part of working hours.

Limited slots available. Please sign up today.

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

Government Center 141 Pryor Street | Atlanta, GA Upstairs at Fitness Center

Starting January 18th

Every Tuesday and Thursday for 8 weeks

First Class:*

7:45 am - 8:45 am

Second Class:*

8:45 am - 9:45 am

*Must Show Up on Time

Important Dates and Special Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
DEC 2021	13	14	15	16	17	18 Holiday Toy Drive - WAVE
19	20	21	22	23 Office closed for extermination	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas
26 Kwanzaa Begins	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	New Year's Day Kwanzaa Ends

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
JAN 2022	3 Office Closed for New Year's Holiday	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day		National Human Trafficking Awareness Day	Investigator Training - BOC Assembly Hall			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Wellness - Trinidad Toby		Wellness - Trinidad Toby		
23	24	25	26 Investigator Training - BOC Assembly Hall	27	28	29
		Wellness - Trinidad Toby	Wellness Wednesday	Wellness - Trinidad Toby		
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

11-Week Investigator Training



FANI T. WILLIS

FULTON COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Objective

Prepare all FCDAO Investigators with the knowledge, skills and understanding of pertinent forms, documents, process, procedure and legal standard to accomplish the mission.

Mission

Committed to the protection of life and property, through excellence in the fields of prevention, enforcement and apprehension.

Guided by the principles of integrity, professionalism, cooperation and concern for human dignity.

Week 3:

January 12th
How to Find Someone

9am - 12pm

BOC Assembly Hall

Contact

Michael Green
Deputy Chief of Investigations
404.613.2400
michael.green@fultoncountyga.gov

Week 4: SECURUS

Week 5:

Flying While Armed

Week 6: Jail Process

Week 7: Evidence

Week 8:

Electronic Evidence

Week 9:

Technical Investigations

Week 10:

Firearms Training

Week 11:

Health and Wellness

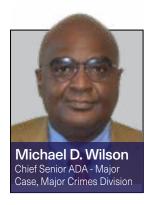
Welcome to our New Hires!

























A warm welcome and lots of great wishes for becoming part of our growing family. Your remarkable skills and talents will be a great addition to our office.

As quoted by Helen Keller:

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

Welcome to our New Hires!

























A warm welcome and lots of great wishes for becoming part of our growing family. Your remarkable skills and talents will be a great addition to our office.

As quoted by Helen Keller:

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

Sweets & Sweats on the Third Floor

On Wednesday, November 17th, the E-Team hosted Sweets & Sweats for the entire office. A relaxed day for everyone to rock their FCDA sweatshirt and enjoy some delicious Fall treats.









FCDA Swearing in of Investigators by Sheriff Labat

On November 19, 2021, Madam DA had members of the Investigations Division sworn in by Fulton County Sheriff Patrick "Pat" Labat.



1st Row: Capers Green, Tammy Berris-Mayo, Nicole Allen, Ranetta Cruse, Wesley Smith, Christy Manos, Michelle Lam, Stephen Whitworth, Allonya Ragland, Stephanie Samples, Thomas Ricks

2nd Row: Johnna Griffin, Sharon Pauls, Pat Ponder, Lisa Holland, Christopher Davidson, Timothy Effler, Tiffany Johnson, Ron Coloma, Michael Crabtree, Joseph Rickman, 3rd Row: Kathryn Taber, Richard Stein, Alford Martin, Joseph Rickman

4th Row: Joseph Rickman, Gregory Campbell, Bryan Shea, Justin French, Fred Glenn, James Spear, Kevin Lewis, James "JP" Miller, Jason George





WAVE Thanksgiving Food Donation - 302 Families Fed!!!

On November 19, 2021:

Winner: Trial Division - 121 Families Fed

Special Victims Division - 106 Families Fed

Records / Record Restriction / Ops / Diversion / Anti-Corruption / Civil Rights – 48 Families Fed

Major Crimes Division - 27 Families Fed









WAVE Thanksgiving Community Food Giveaway

On November 20, 2021, members of the Fulton County District Attorney's Office gathered to provide families in the community with provisions for Thanksgiving dinner.











1st annual Canvas & Cocoa 2021

On Wednesday, December 1st, the E-Team hosted Canvas & Cocoa for Wellness Wednesday. FCDA staff enjoyed a break from the hectic workday to paint Lady Justice and drink hot cocoa.











1st annual Canvas & Cocoa 2021



Appeals Assistant District Attorney Karen Bemis won 1st place.



Epiffany Henry, Deputy Chief of Staff-Pretrial Diversion, won 2nd place.



IT Director Tashekka Fleming won 3rd place.





Deck the Halls - Winner - Trial Division

On December 3, 2021, multiple divisions competed in a Deck the Halls competition by wearing costumes and decorating doors and office space.











Deck the Halls

Special Victims Division had a Candyland theme, which was very creative and the reason why the division took 2nd place in the Deck the Halls competition.









Deck the Halls

Diversion / Records / Records Restriction Division took home 3rd place with a spectacular rendition of the Night Before Christmas.











Deck the Halls

Here are some additional photos from Deck the Halls taken by our panel of judges (Reta Keppler, Jeff DiSantis, Tierani Jackson, and KaVon Arnold) as they toured the entire FCDA Office











FCDA Grammy Awards

On December 9, 2021, the Fulton County District Attorney's Office held its Grammy's Office Awards to honor all the hard work done by the dedicated staff – congratulations to all the winners.



















































































Community Recognition Event - Heroes behind the Mask

On December 10, 2021, the Fulton County District Attorney's Office hosted its first annual recognition event to honor and celebrate community leaders who have given so much. World-reknowned producer, director, actor, screenwriter and author Tyler Perry sponsored the event.





















































































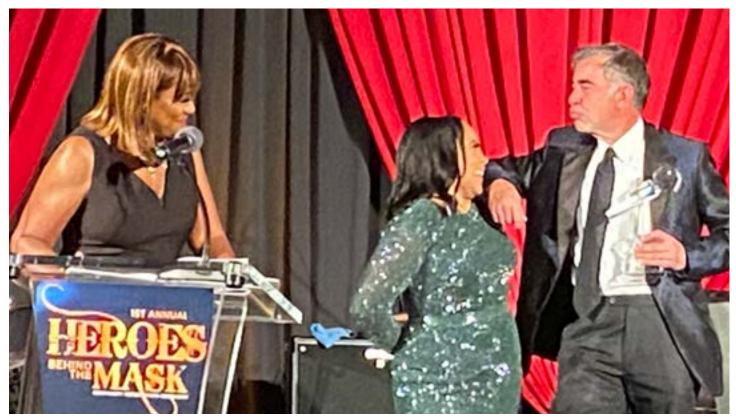










































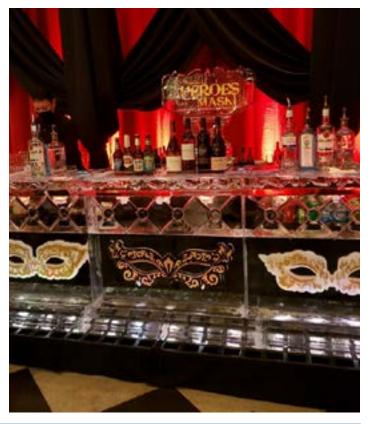












1st Annual FCDA Mix & Mingle - Toy Drive Contest

December 14, 2021

The Green Team, comprising the Special Victims Division, the Anti-Corruption Unit and the Civil Rights Unit, won with 1,000-plus toys donated.

The Red Team, comprising the Major Crimes Division, Records, Pre-Indictment Diversion and Record Restriction, won 2nd place with 500-plus toys donated.

The Silver Team, comprising Trial Division, Operations and Programs, won 3rd place with 500 toys donated.

The Gold Team, comprising Case Intake and Investigations, won 4th place with 100-plus toys donated.



















1st Annual FCDA Mix & Mingle

December 14, 2021 – Holiday Sweater Contest: The Most Creative Sweater award was won by the Silver Team for Robin Bryant's attire. The Funniest Sweater was won by Sammy John, who was part of the Gold Team. The Green Team took home the Prettiest Sweater award, while the Ugliest Sweater award was captured by the Silver Team for Lakisha Fonville's outfit. Peter Faille – a member of the Green Team – was as a runner-up for the Ugliest Sweater award.





























































Holiday's explained by those that celebrate!

Howkook by Faye Rosenbaum, Deputy District Attorney, Case-Intake Division



No, it's not 'Jewish Christmas'.

I remember the awkwardness every year in school when the holiday season came around, and always feeling 'other'—sure, Christmas carols are pretty, but they were about a Lord who was not mine, and I felt very ostracized when the teacher would announce 'OK, the Jewish kids (only a handful of us) can leave the room while the rest of us sing'. I didn't have my picture taken with Santa Claus or decorate a tree in my house like the rest of my classmates, and my holiday fell sometime between Thanksgiving and Christmas, depending on the Hebrew (lunar) calendar.

Later on, when my children were growing up, of course the prospect of 8 nights of gifts was all-consuming in their minds. I was determined that the true meaning of this holiday would not be lost amidst the greed, so each

year after the candles were lit—one on the first night, two on the second, and so on through eight consecutive sundowns--and the prayers said, they would have to take turns 'telling the story' before any presents were opened. Understandably, they resented it at the time, but have come to appreciate it now that they are adults and consciously embracing their heritage.

Historically, Hanukah (or Chanukah, if you can make that throat-clearing sound at the beginning) is a story of rebellion, restoration, faith and miracles. There's an old joke about the meaning of EVERY Jewish holiday: 'Someone tried to kill us, we survived, now let's eat!', and Hanukah is no exception. It commemorates the grossly-outnumbered Maccabean rebellion against seemingly unconquerable Roman oppression in Jerusalem, defying the dictates to abandon and forsake their religion. Although the Jews were ultimately victorious, the casualties included desecration of the Holy Temple, which had to be restored and sanctified. In order to do so, they needed oil to fuel the Eternal Light (Ner Tamid) that shines above the ark holding the Torah—a scrolled parchment containing the Five Books of Moses, the holiest of holies to Jews. In fact, the word Hanukah means 'dedication', or more accurately in this situation, re-dedication.

The legend goes that there was only enough oil for a single day, and the closest place to get more was a four-days' journey each way. But miraculously, the oil that was supposed to only last one day kept the Ner Tamid blazing until the new supply of oil arrived eight days later. That is the basis for lighting candles. It's also the reason Jews eat latkes, potato pancakes fried in oil, and/or donuts (again, fried in oil). We play 'dreidel', a spinning four-sided top with a Hebrew letter on each side: a 'noon', a 'gimmel', a 'hay' and a 'shin'—this stands for 'Ness Gadol Haya Sham', which means 'A GREAT MIRACLE HAPPENED THERE!'

But the real meaning of Hanukah goes way beyond food, gifts and games. It's a time for reflection about community, what's worth fighting and dying for, survival and striving to enlighten the world for the benefit of all. It reinforces the ideal that might is not always right, and that the essence of the human spirit can't be extinguished, no matter what the odds. This theme has always resonated with me growing up as a child of Holocaust survivors, and I appreciate any opportunity to 'tell the story.' Happy Holidays everyone, whichever version you celebrate! Now let's eat:)

Holiday's explained by those that celebrate!

Christmos by Robin Bryant-Yeartie, Public Affairs Manager & Newsletter Editor-in-Chief

My love for Christmas started as a child. I had a very good childhood with my two siblings, so much so that I didn't realize how good I had it until I reached adulthood. I remember my parents decorating the outside of our home with lights and our getting a tree and decorating it. I remember making cookies and leaving them for Santa. I remember receiving gifts (as much as my parents could possibly afford), as well as giving gifts, which made me feel really good. Those gifts could have consisted of pie or cake that my mom made, a homemade present, or something bought.

There may be different interpretations about Christmas, and I won't wade too deep into the religious aspects. My reason for celebrating Christmas is the birth of Jesus. Whether he was born December 25th (the day it is observed) or not, in my eyes and heart - Jesus was born.

For me personally, I love Christmas because of the traditions, festivities, and most of all, decorating the tree and my home (as you see from the tree in our lobby on the 3rd floor). I absolutely have a passion for Christmas decorations and how they make me feel. My absolute favorite music is Christmas music. I can listen to it all year. Moreover, Christmas is love in action. It is a celebration of love and sharing. Imbued with Christmas spirit, people are more generous and compassionate this time of year. It is a time for giving and forgiving.

During some years, I feed the homeless on Christmas. Every year, I give to a foundation, usually Nicholas House, which provides housing to homeless families regardless of family makeup, as well as charity events held by friends. In past years, my church participated in Angel Tree, which provides clothing and toys for needy children. Along with donating to charities, I give to random families in need.

I believe the gift-giving part of Christmas comes from God's everlasting gift (his son). Although I think this part has gotten a bit too commercialized, I love gift giving. It brings the good out of most people, for whatever reason, and I am all for that. I read somewhere that Christmas is a time to reflect on the love of God for humanity and that is a great way of summing it up for me.

Kwanza

by Naporsha Valentine, Assistant District Attorney, Trial Division - Non-Complex



As a child, I did not celebrate Kwanzaa - not because there was an aversion to it, but likely because my family was so engulfed in Christmas celebrations. When I became aware of Kwanzaa, I always knew that I would make it a family tradition once I had children of my own. Kwanzaa is a non-religious holiday, created in 1966 by Dr. Karenga to celebrate the culture and foundations of African American and Pan African people.

Kwanzaa has seven core principles (unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith). I believe it is important to highlight these principles with my children. The lessons can be small discussions, books, videos or even art projects. It's just another way to ensure that they have a solid foundation and take time to reflect and be thankful for the blessings that have come before them.

While in college, I met a guy named Kykujichagulia - named after the second principle of Kwanza - Kujichagulia: Self Determination. We became family. Each year, on the final day of Kwanza, he and his family normally host a big celebration. Although the celebration last year was canceled because of Covid, we look forward to being back together again this year to celebrate, in unity - family, community and culture.

It is my hope that more families decide to celebrate Kwanzaa in the years to come. It is exciting and serves as a tool of reflection prior to the start of a new year. Kwanzaa aids in keeping us grounded as a family and connected as a people.





Naporsha Valentine

Senior Assistant District Attorney
Non-Complex Unit

Naporsha Valentine (formally Pleasant – as if the last name couldn't get any better), was born in the city of Pine Bluff, located in central Arkansas. There, she learned to make a good country meal, the value of a dollar and to respect her elders prior to moving to the big city of Little Rock amid the "Gang War: Banging in Little Rock" HBO documentary era. Spoiler alert: she survived! She completed her undergraduate degree in English and African American Studies in 2006 and law school in 2009.

While living her very best single life and working in private practice, she met on Facebook the man who would eventually change her last name after a very ordinary, but captivating exchange. Though he loved the laid back ways of Arkansas, he was a city slicker from Columbus, Ohio. He convinced the small-town girl to move with him to Atlanta after their wedding in September 2012. However, Naporsha refused to subject herself to another bar exam after surviving the grueling three days previously required by the Arkansas bar exam. Thankful for reciprocity, she decided to wait in order to waive into the Georgia Bar. So she completed her Bachelors of Science in Nursing and successfully passed the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX), becoming a licensed registered nurse. She was working as an operating room nurse and managing her private practice when she decided to trade one critical work environment for another by joining the Fulton County District Attorney's Office in October 2021 as a Senior Assistant District attorney in Non-Complex.

When not working hard in the office, Naporsha works hard at home as an executive assistant, chef and "do girl" extraordinaire to her three little ones. She enjoys traveling the world (only after serious prayer over the plane and pilot); trying new restaurants (not including the Uber Eats she orders for lunch daily); spending time with family (as a regular member, not employee); reading actual books (not just Audible like her husband); and listening to a variety of music (like gospel, trap, blues, neosoul and country).





Young Tae

Assistant District Attorney
Juvenile Unit

Born in Seoul, South Korea, Young Tae immigrated at the age of 8 with his family to Southern California. He grew up in Huntington Beach and went to college at the University of California–Irvine, where he received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. In 2002, he came east to attend law school at the University of Georgia in Athens and decided to stayed in the South.

After graduating from law school, he dabbled for some time outside the legal profession, including working at First Intercontinental Bank as an administrative officer and then with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) as a bank examiner, ensuring that banks were in compliance with consumer protection practices, such as Truth in Lending, etc. In 2009, he sat for the Georgia bar exam and then took a job examining banks that failed in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis. During this time, he did political work on the side for then-Georgia House of Representative member B.J. Pak and then-Congressman Rob Woodall.

In 2012, Young Tae got married and went to live for three years in Alabama, where he became a jack of all trades, doing a little bit of everything, including volunteer work, used car sales, IT tech, political campaigning and consulting. When he came back to Georgia, he went to work for the Department of Behavioral Health despite not having any experience with healthcare law. In March 2020, he joined the Fulton County District Attorney's Office, where is currently an Assistant District Attorney in Juvenile Court. He enjoys duking it out with other attorneys over misbehaving children in Juvenile Court.

Outside of work, Young Tae loves to read Korean history in the Korean language. He is particularly interested in studying the history and culture of Manchuria, which encompasses the northeastern part of China. He also likes to make and edit videos - commercial and political videos - for the enjoyment of his friends and family. In his spare time, he serves his church and spends time with his family making camp fires for a quiet evening of listening to the crackling of burning wood. He has three children: a boy and two girls. He regularly commutes to Montgomery, Alabama, where his parents now live after retiring. He has a younger brother who lives in the New Jersey-New York area.a





Nicole Santos

Victim Witness Advocate
Domestic Violence Unit

Nicole Santos joined the Fulton County District Attorney's Office in October as a Victims Advocate. She is from the small Georgia coastal town of Saint Marys, about a six-hour drive southeast of Atlanta and the first exit into Georgia from Florida. There are only two middle schools and one high school in Camden County, where Saint Marys is located, so everyone knew one another because they practically grew up together. Nicole always knew her plans were bigger than what Saint Marys could offer, so after she graduated high school, she attended Point University on a soccer scholarship. She met her lifelong friends there, and after three years, she graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. She then attended the University of West Georgia, where she earned a Master's degree in Criminology.

She came to Atlanta last year to fulfill her dream of living in the city and she has loved it here since. When she has down-time, she enjoys painting (oil painting to be specific). When she was little, her parents bought her a Bob Ross CD and he would teach people how to paint. After several frustrating attempts, she finally started to get the hang of it, and soon after, she started to learn more from the greatest teacher of all: YouTube. When she's not painting, she enjoy spending time with friends and family, trying new foods, and traveling.



Patrick Hall
Senior Assistant District Attorney
Case Intake Unit

Born and raised in a small North Carolina town outside Charlotte, Patrick Hall attended Appalachian State University, where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. He then worked as a Court Counselor for the North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice for a few years. In 2000, he moved to the Midwest to study at Michigan State University College of Law.

After law school, he returned to public service as an Assistant Public Defender in the 26th Judicial District in Charlotte. From that experience, he transitioned into private practice. In 2010, life changed for Patrick because he got married, moved to Houston, and waived into the Texas Bar. In 2018, Patrick and his family moved to the Hollywood of the East to be closer to family. Once settled in Atlanta, Patrick put out his law shingle until he found a home with Madam DA at the Fulton County District Attorney's Office in the Case Intake Division.

Patrick enjoys spending time with his family, which consists of his wife and their two children, traveling, and listening to Jazz and NPR in his free time.

Newsroom

Click story for more information

In a Courtroom near you...

Domestic Violence

Adonis Heard #20SC176859 Courtroom: McBurney 12/21/2021 9:30am

Bond Hearing



