

FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

DA DISPATCH

JANUARY 2025





TABLE *of* CONTENTS

Editor-in-Chief
NADIA KENDALL

Managing Editors
JEREMY MURRAY
PALLAVI BAILEY

Graphic Designers
TYCHAUNE DOUGLAS
CONSUELA BOYER

6 <i>Thank You Fulton</i>	24 <i>Record Restriction Event</i>
10 <i>Mental Health Corner</i>	26 <i>Conviction Alerts</i>
11 <i>Law Corner</i>	29 <i>Office Promotions</i>
12 <i>Hate Crime Unit</i>	
14 <i>DV Hub</i>	
16 <i>Goin' Hollywood</i>	
18 <i>Employee Highlights</i>	

FEBRUARY

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1

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

2 3 4 5 8 7 8

BIG GAME
Mardi Gras
Pay Day

9 10 11 12 13 14 15

Valentine's Day

16 17 18 19 20 21 22

President's Day

Pay Day

23 24 25 26 27 28



THANK YOU FULTON

Hello, Fulton County. As I begin my second term as your District Attorney, I want to take a moment to reflect on the past four years and share my excitement for the years ahead. I ran for DA in 2020 because I saw an opportunity to both protect our neighborhoods and reform our criminal justice system—making it fairer, more transparent and focused on reducing crime by changing lives rather than just seeking punishment. But, as with most things in life, it's been a challenging journey. I started my first term during the height of a global pandemic, which created significant hurdles in the justice system. Despite these challenges, the dedicated team in this office worked relentlessly to reduce a massive backlog, cutting down nine years' worth of unindicted cases from 2014 to 2022. This isn't just about numbers; it's about the almost 49,570 cases over a 9 year period where we've brought justice to victims, dismissed charges to help individuals move forward, and offered second chances through our pre-indictment diversion program, allowing defendants to avoid the lasting consequences of an indictment.

I campaigned for and delivered Georgia's first Pre-Indictment Diversion Program in Fulton County. This program helps eligible defendants avoid indictment through restitution, community service, and life skills classes. It also assists those with criminal records in getting their records restricted to improve access to employment and housing. Since October 2021, this program has enrolled 765 participants, saving taxpayers a whopping \$17.87 million. It has collected over \$235,000 in restitution, completed over 15,500 hours of community service and provided over 5,600 hours of behavioral therapy to reduce recidivism.

Our Reach mentorship program has grown to 20 middle and high schools across Fulton County, serving around 800 students with resources and training to help steer them away from crime. We've also signed a historic agreement with Atlanta Tech to expand opportunities for young people in Fulton. Through initiatives like backpack and toy drives, coat giveaways, and record restriction programs, we've taken a proactive approach to engage with the community, showing that the services we provide go so much beyond just trials and plea hearings.

This office has achieved significant success in the courtroom, securing justice for victims of the most heinous crimes. We've strengthened our team of prosecutors and investigators to target violent gang leaders and members, leading to multiple gang and RICO indictments and convictions for violent crimes across the county. We are also holding sexual predators accountable. Our Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Unit has secured convictions in cases from rape kits that sat in storage for decades. Our Special Victims Division, which handles felony cases involving women, children, and the elderly, boasts an impressive 90% conviction rate. The Major Crimes Division, responsible for handling most murder cases, has been achieving over a 90% conviction rate. Under my administration, the Conviction Integrity Unit has evolved; it no longer only examines the fairness of convictions but now also reviews sentences, recognizing that injustice can sometimes stem from unduly harsh penalties imposed on guilty defendants. We've made decisions—sometimes tough ones—on cases involving police conduct, all with the goal of building trust in policing by holding bad actors accountable. When I took office, there was a backlog of over 100 cases involving police conduct. By the end of 2023, we had resolved that backlog, making charging decisions on every single case. As a result, we charged more officers than almost any other DA's office in the nation. Ending this backlog brought dignity to both the civilians affected and the officers under investigation by ensuring their cases were no longer stuck in limbo.

While we're heading in the right direction, there's still so much more to accomplish. One of my top priorities is the creation of a Domestic Violence Resource Center—a one-stop shop for victims of domestic violence. This center would provide essentials like food and clothing, assistance with obtaining proper identification, and potentially even a dedicated domestic violence court with judges specifically trained to handle these sensitive cases. We're forming a Human Trafficking Task Force to centralize cases in Fulton County, streamline resources across jurisdictions, and train law enforcement to spot the signs of trafficking. We must expand our Reach mentorship programs to more schools, equipping our kids with the tools to succeed in the real world.

For all its challenges, being District Attorney of Fulton County, Georgia is an honor of a lifetime. I hope you have found this video informative, and I'm excited to work with you toward a Fulton County that is a safer, more just place for everyone.

Jan Welbo

District Attorney | Atlanta Judicial Circuit

Her STORY CONTINUES
2025

TASER

TRAINING

On Wednesday, January 15th, law enforcement personnel from various Fulton County agencies, attorneys and investigators from the FCDAO Civil Rights Division and Anit-Corruption Division, the Chief Counsel for the Fulton County Sheriff's Office, and personnel from the Atlanta Citizen Review participated in a specialized TASER training session.

This training provided valuable insight into how TASER devices function, the legal and operational considerations for their use, and best practices in risk management. Participants gained a deeper, hands-on understanding of TASER deployment, while law enforcement trainers and investigators received guidance on use-of-force policies, police practices, and civil rights considerations related to TASER use.

This session reinforced the importance of responsible TASER deployment, ensuring both legal compliance and public safety.



MLK DAY

A DREAM THAT STILL LIVES



Honoring Dr. King's Legacy Through Service

As we celebrate Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy, we are reminded that service is a powerful way to turn his vision of justice, equality, and unity into action. On January 20, 2025, FCDAO employees stepped up to serve their communities. At the "We Are One" MLK Day of Service, sponsored by the Southeast Metro Pearls of Purpose, volunteers donated essential items to students at McDonough Middle and High School.

At Love Beyond Walls, employees distributed food, hygiene products, blankets, shoes, and coats to those experiencing homelessness. Others extended support to LA fire victims by donating Judaica (Jewish ritual objects) items to help restore irreplaceable cultural and religious treasures. Dr. King's words remind us: "What are you doing for others?" We are proud to answer that call through service.

MENTAL HEALTH CORNER



Ilona Rolack | Deputy Victim Witness Advocate, Major Crimes Division

What to say when your Friend/Coworker is Grieving

People always say that death is a part of life. It is a very true statement with a very profound meaning but may be taken casually only when it does not pertain to you. In MCD we deal daily with tragic deaths and many times look at it in a very fragmented dissociated manner. But when death touches those close to us, it hits differently, whether that be for a friend or a coworker. As an advocate with more years of experience than I care to reveal, I feel I have all the words and expressions that professional training has instilled in me, however even someone like me can be ineffective when it comes to consoling a personal friend when death comes to their door. Additionally working in this field does not make us immune to tragedy. Some of us may be experiencing trauma at different levels and may share what you are going through with those close to you. I know I am not the only one, so in this article I'd like to talk about what are some of the things you can say when you are in a position that requires you to exercise sympathy and empathy. Here are some "dos" and "don'ts" for what to say:

1. First, it's important to approach the situation with sensitivity and compassion. Start with a simple expression of condolence, such as "I'm so sorry for your loss" or "My heart goes out to you during this difficult time."
2. Recognize the difficulty of the situation. You might say, "I can't imagine how hard this must be for you."
3. If you knew the deceased, sharing a fond memory can be comforting. For instance, "I remember when you and your dad did (something positive); they brought so much joy to those around them."
4. Let them know you are there for them. You can say, "If you need someone to talk to, I'm here for you," or "Please let me know if there's anything I can do to help."
5. Speak from the heart. Authenticity resonates more than rehearsed phrases. In the same way, be mindful of cliches. Steer clear of phrases that might seem dismissive, such as "They're in a better place" or "Everything happens for a reason."
6. After the initial conversation, check in on them later. A simple message or call can show that you care and are thinking of them.
7. Everyone grieves differently. Be understanding if they need space or don't want to talk. At the same time, know your friend and/or coworker and share with others who may not know what they are going through.
8. Finally, listen. Sometimes, the best support is simply being there to listen if they want to talk about their feelings or memories of the deceased. Remember, the goal is to offer comfort and support, so a kind and thoughtful approach will always be appreciated.

LAW CORNER



Guatam Rao | Deputy District Attorney, Training Division

Dealing with Motion to Bifurcate Trial and Sever Possession of Firearm by Convicted Felon Charges

In certain cases, the Defendant can file a motion to sever charges in the indictment that they deem to be too prejudicial to remain on the indictment in conjunction with the other enumerated offenses in said indictment. This is not uncommon in cases involving the charge of "Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon." The rationale here is that there is an inherent prejudicial effect in the charge since the allegation is that the Defendant is a convicted felon and thus, the jury may decisions based on his "bad character" as opposed to the evidence supporting the indictment in the case. This will obviously be a moot point if it is the only charge in the indictment against the Defendant, but it is a consideration the court may have to make if there are other counts alleging different offenses. In certain cases, the Court may be required to sever the charge from the remaining counts in the indictment and essentially hold a bifurcated trial. In those cases, the court will hold a trial on the other charges, a jury will render a verdict, and subsequent to that, evidence will be presented as to the defendant's convicted felon status so that the jury can decide if the defendant is guilty of being in possession of a firearm as a convicted felon.

In cases involving a possession of a firearm by convicted felon charge that also serves as the predicate offense for another charge, case law is abundantly clear that a motion to sever the charge and bifurcate the trial in such a case should be denied. *Cooks v. State*, 299 Ga. 787 (2016) (motion to bifurcate a possession of firearm by convicted felon charge where it serves as a predicate offense for Felony Murder should be denied); see also *Lang v. State*, 344 Ga. App. 623 (2018) (Trial court did not commit error by denying motion to bifurcate in gang case where the possession of a firearm by a convicted felon charge was material to the criminal gang activity count as it was the underlying felony for that count). However, if the Defendant's status as a convicted felon is not material or related to any other charge on the indictment save for the charge involving possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, the Georgia Supreme Court has held that a trial court shall bifurcate the trial so that the jury will hear the evidence on the more serious charges and render a verdict on those before commencing with the second phase of the trial and hearing evidence of the Defendant's status as a convicted felon. *Vann v. State*, 266 Ga. App. 238 (2004). An argument could be made if the Defendant's status as a convicted felon, albeit unrelated to other counts in the indictment, could be admissible in the State's case-in-chief if it is part of the proof required for Rule 404(b) evidence.

HATE CRIME UNIT



The Executive District Attorney, George Jenkins, oversees a dedicated team focused on identifying and prosecuting hate crimes, also known as bias crimes, which involve individuals targeting victims based on race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or disability. Directly supervising this initiative is Chief Deputy District Attorney RuShondra Davenport, alongside Assistant District Attorney Joya Rutland and Investigator Amina Dickerson. Supporting the team, Victim Witness Assistance Program (VWAP) Coordinator Dianelly Rivera-Gow works under the guidance of Deputy Victim Witness Advocate Misty Botu, ensuring comprehensive support for victims throughout the legal process.

THE CRIMINAL LAW SOCIETY OF AJMLS

In honor of LGBTQ+ History Month, Chief Deputy District Attorney RuShondra Davenport and Deputy District Attorney Kevin Armstrong spoke at Atlanta's John Marshall Law School to have a conversation surrounding Hate Crimes and how they are prosecuted in Fulton County.

2024 HATE CRIMES GRANTEE CONFERENCE

In September 2024, Chief Deputy District Attorney RuShondra Davenport, Deputy Victim Witness Advocate Misty Botu, and Legal Assistant SaQuez King attended the 2024 Hate Crimes Grantee Conference in Birmingham, Alabama. This multidisciplinary forum brought together award recipients from various Bureau of Justice Assistance programs, including the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Program, the Emmett Till Cold Case Investigations, and the Community-Based Approaches to Prevent and Address Hate Crimes. Our employees gained essential skills to be effective advocates by learning how to utilize available resources.

HATE CRIME LIVE CONFERENCE

On Friday, October 11th, District Attorney Fani Willis, Atlanta Police Department Chief Darin Schierbaum, City of Atlanta's Director of LGBTQ+ Affairs Malik Brown, and members of the District Attorney's LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee held a live press conference to discuss a recent hate crime investigation in Atlanta.

That morning, the Fulton County District Attorney's Office charged Ralph George Drabic with one count of criminal trespassing and one count of criminal damage to property in the second degree. The defendant allegedly vandalized property belonging to vendors and participants at the United States' first-ever pride event dedicated to Black LGBTQ+ individuals worldwide, the '2024 Global Black Pride Celebration.'

"If anything is done to violate the people who come here to celebrate rights, we are going to use the full extent of the law to prosecute them," said DA Fani T. Willis, as Atlanta Pride began that weekend. We are proud to support our community's vibrant LGBTQ+ members!



Legal Assistant Kudonna Porter, Investigator Aminah Dickerson, Chief Deputy District Attorney RuShondra Davenport, Executive District Attorney George Jenkins, Assistant District Attorney Joya Rutland, Deputy Victim Witness Advocate Misty Botu, Victim Witness Advocate Dianelly Rivera-Gow

NEWS ALERT

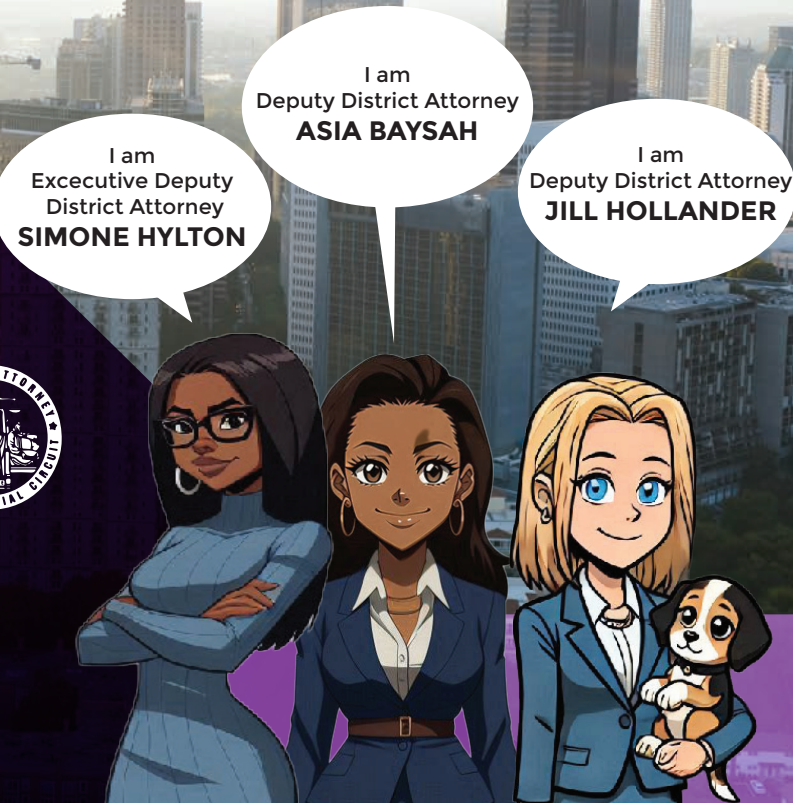
Fulton DA: Man accused of defecating on Pride flag indicted by grand jury. (SCAN QR CODE)



BRENDA BAHAM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT



Bringing you the latest updates from the Domestic Violence Unit, highlighting their ongoing initiatives, critical alerts, and upcoming events. Stay informed and engaged as we work together to support survivors and promote awareness within our community. Your involvement matters!



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH HIGHLIGHTS

October was Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and we marked the occasion with key events and initiatives. In this edition of the DA Dispatch, we recap our efforts to raise awareness and support

WEEK 1

On Thursday, October 3rd, the office kicked off Domestic Violence Awareness Month with a movie screening and discussion. FCD AO employees watched **It Ends With Us**, followed by a discussion led by Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Shaniqua Christian and Senior Assistant District Attorney, Jazmine Willingham focusing on the various elements of domestic violence portrayed in the film.

WEEK 2

On Thursday, October 10th, our office hosted a 'Domestic Violence Awareness Day' program. Various organizations came together to raise awareness, support survivors, and advocate for change. Victims, Ariel Lomax and Parrisha Dozier, shared personal stories of resilience and hope,

educational workshops were conducted, and resources were provided to those affected by domestic violence.

WEEK 4

The final week of Domestic Violence Awareness Month kicked off with not one, but two impactful events! On October 22nd, Julissa Melendez from Partnership Against Domestic Violence moderated a powerful panel discussion on uncommon but common forms of abuse. The panel featured Lieutenant Lascallas Simpson of the APD, Deputy Chief Investigator Paula Duprey, and Certified Transformational Life Coach Ursala Berger, each offering valuable insights.

On October 24th, John F. Wilkinson, Attorney Advisor from AEquitas, delivered a Domestic



Violence 101 training. His presentation covered key ethical considerations related to charging decisions, immunity, compelled victim testimony, the Crawford ruling, and the prosecutor's role in investigations.

TOILETRY DRIVE

The Brenda Baham Domestic Violence Unit placed collection boxes on the 3rd, 4th, and 7th floors of the office for employees to donate toiletries, gently used purses, and toiletry bags. The boxes

were collected on Friday, October 25, 2024, and delivered to donation sites on Monday, October 28, 2024.

Goin' **HOLLYWOOD**

3RD ANNUAL FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

GRAMMY AWARDS



The Fulton County District Attorney's Office closed out the year with flair at our Annual Awards Ceremony! Hosted by the amazing Christy Manos, Saul Alter, and Jacquelynn Jackson, the evening celebrated our outstanding employees and the incredible community partners who make our mission possible.

This year's Grammy-themed extravaganza brought Hollywood glamour to life with a dazzling "Goin' Hollywood" Costume Contest, where attendees channeled their favorite Hollywood legends. Some even took the stage to perform as their chosen icons, vying for a fun prize!

A huge congratulations to all awardees—you inspire us every day with your dedication and excellence.





Congratulations REWA COLLIER

The President's Lifetime Achievement Award is the highest honor given by the U.S. President to recognize individuals who have dedicated a significant portion of their lives to community service and volunteerism. It is part of the President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA) program, established in 2003 to inspire and recognize volunteer efforts across the nation.

To qualify for the Lifetime Achievement Award, recipients must have completed 4,000 or more hours of volunteer service over the course of their lifetime. Congratulations to our very own, Chief Deputy Rewa Collier, on her outstanding and well-earned achievement.



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1011

December 13, 2024

Mikeshaund Passmore
Office of the Fulton District Attorney
Fulton County Government Center
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mikeshaund,

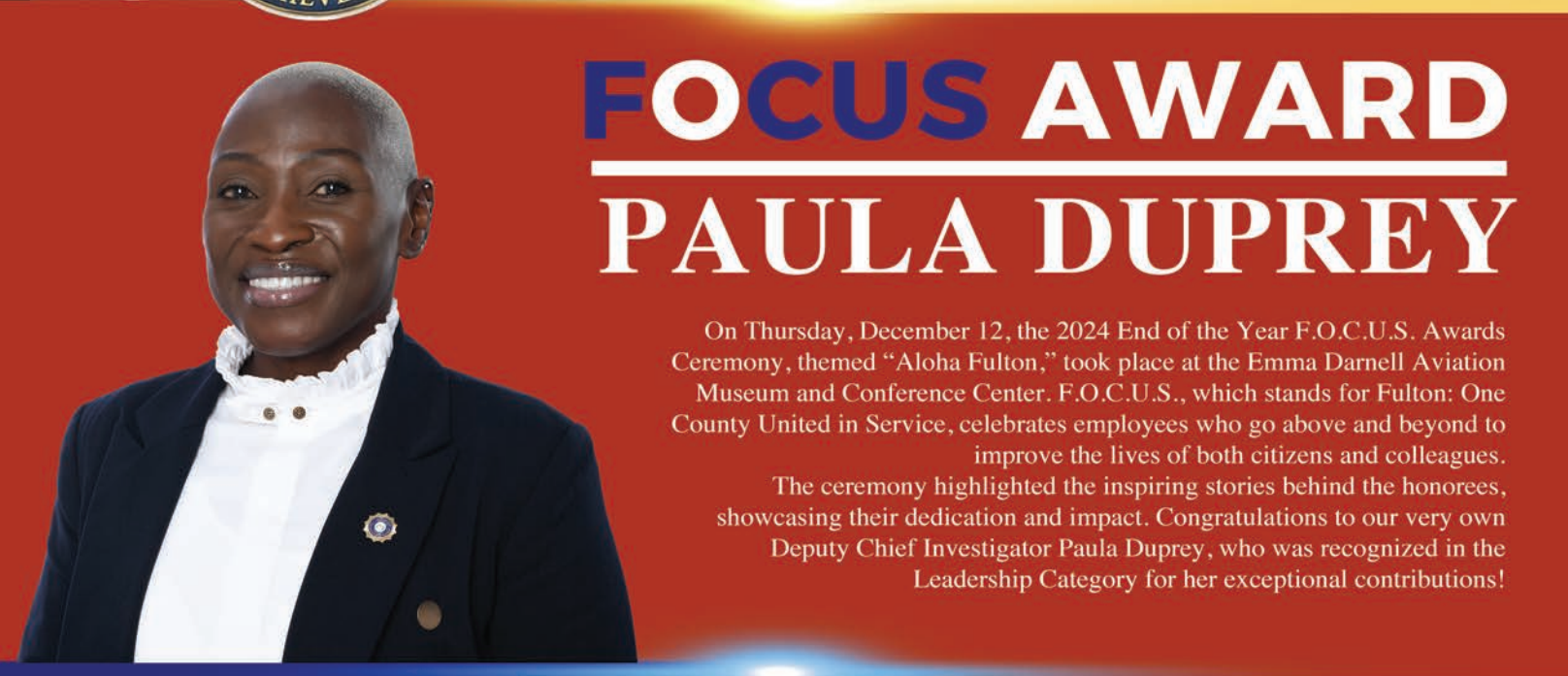
Congratulations on the success you and your team have had with the Adult Diversion Program. You have been recognized for your hard work and talent, and I want to extend my sincere best wishes.

Best of luck in your future endeavors. Please reach out to my office if there is anything I can do to be of assistance.



Sincerely,
Jon Ossoff
Jon Ossoff
United States Senator

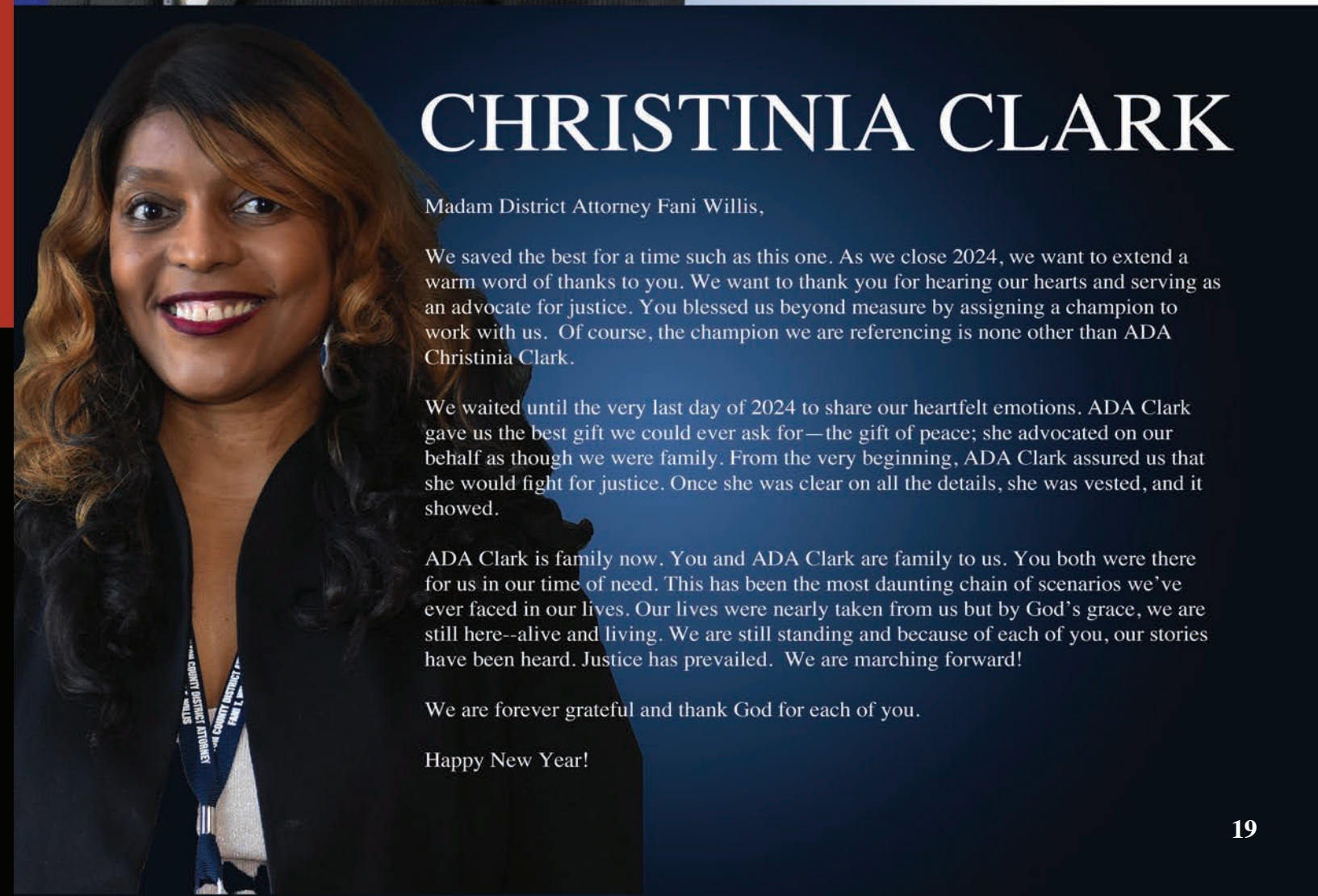
Congratulations to Mikeshaund Passmore on receiving recognition from United States Senator, Jon Ossoff, on his success in our Adult Diversion program.



FOCUS AWARD PAULA DUPREY

On Thursday, December 12, the 2024 End of the Year F.O.C.U.S. Awards Ceremony, themed "Aloha Fulton," took place at the Emma Darnell Aviation Museum and Conference Center. F.O.C.U.S., which stands for Fulton: One County United in Service, celebrates employees who go above and beyond to improve the lives of both citizens and colleagues.

The ceremony highlighted the inspiring stories behind the honorees, showcasing their dedication and impact. Congratulations to our very own Deputy Chief Investigator Paula Duprey, who was recognized in the Leadership Category for her exceptional contributions!



CHRISTINIA CLARK

Madam District Attorney Fani Willis,

We saved the best for a time such as this one. As we close 2024, we want to extend a warm word of thanks to you. We want to thank you for hearing our hearts and serving as an advocate for justice. You blessed us beyond measure by assigning a champion to work with us. Of course, the champion we are referencing is none other than ADA Christinia Clark.

We waited until the very last day of 2024 to share our heartfelt emotions. ADA Clark gave us the best gift we could ever ask for—the gift of peace; she advocated on our behalf as though we were family. From the very beginning, ADA Clark assured us that she would fight for justice. Once she was clear on all the details, she was vested, and it showed.

ADA Clark is family now. You and ADA Clark are family to us. You both were there for us in our time of need. This has been the most daunting chain of scenarios we've ever faced in our lives. Our lives were nearly taken from us but by God's grace, we are still here--alive and living. We are still standing and because of each of you, our stories have been heard. Justice has prevailed. We are marching forward!

We are forever grateful and thank God for each of you.

Happy New Year!



ELDER ABUSE... and THE LINK Prosecutors' Outreach Can Prevent Elder and Animal Abuse

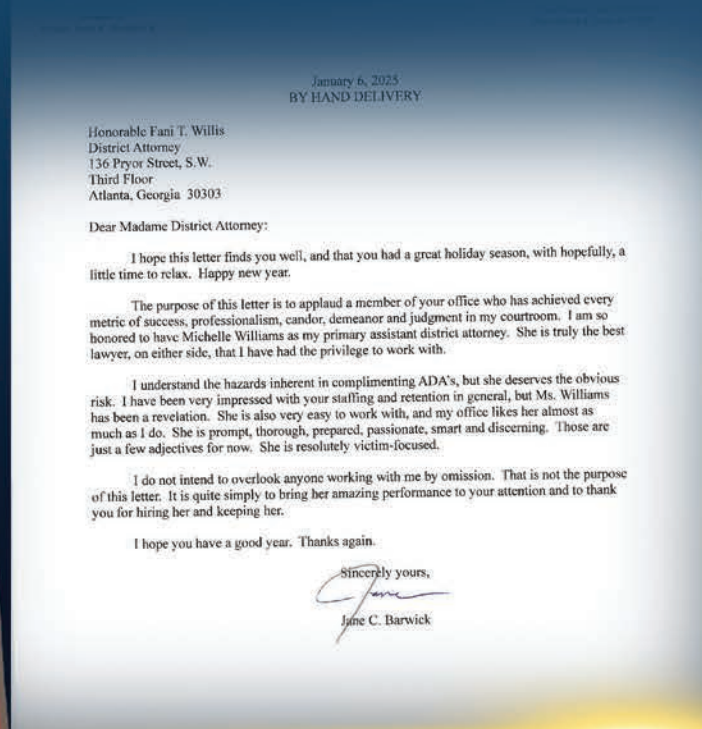
Prosecutors can play a significant role in conducting community outreach programs to educate the public on elder abuse and animal abuse. These programs can help create the best possible outcomes for victims of elder abuse and animal abuse. In districts like Fulton County, these programs are essential. These programs present a unique opportunity for prosecutors to engage with the community. In districts like Fulton County, these programs are essential. These programs present a unique opportunity for prosecutors to engage with the community. In districts like Fulton County, these programs are essential. These programs present a unique opportunity for prosecutors to engage with the community.

ACE UNIT JILL HOLLANDER

Congratulations to Deputy District Attorney Jill Hollander and the ACE Unit for being featured in January's edition of The Link! The article highlights their innovative work on how prosecutors' outreach can help prevent elder and animal abuse. Don't miss their insightful contribution.



MICHELLE WILLIAMS



GRANTS CORNER

Michele Henry | Grants Specialist

Under the leadership of DA Willis , VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) grant funding was awarded by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to hire a consultant to complete a feasibility study for a domestic violence court and family justice center. Neither of which does Fulton County have, but the crisis of domestic violence and sexual assault, including crimes of intimidation and control like aggravated stalking, continues to increase in Fulton County.

Consultant, Melissa Arthur has a lot to consider, like: DV Court Components, Mission, Goals, Objectives, Services Provided through the Domestic Violence Court and Family Justice Center; Flow of when a person walks in the door; Service Matrix- what services provided and the order; Technology needs; Personnel-In Kind/Total Contribution by Partners; Space Considerations and Needs for the Building. This month, our office to include : DA Willis, Daysha Young, Dericka Mitchell, Shaun Pritchett, Beverly Muhammad, Patrice Stewart, Michele Henry, and Tracey Stokes hosted a meeting of potential partners attended by Grady Trauma Center, Grady Rape Crisis Center, AVL/ PADV/ Safe Families Office, GA Center of Child Advocacy Center, GA Justice Project, Tahirih Justice Center, Atlanta Legal Aid, Raksha, Mayors Office of International and Immigrant Affairs, Ahisma House, Atlanta Mission, and Spelman (Title IX). The response to the meeting has been filled with enthusiasm. Melissa Arthur plans to carry this momentum into the new year.

Please send me an email michele.henry@fultoncountyga.gov if you would like to be involved with future plans for the Domestic Violence Court and Family Justice Center.



I don't know how to start this, so I shall just give thanks. The pain that haunts me from that time will haunt me forever, and when days feel extremely tough, I lean on the memories of the kindness that Mrs. Christina Clark, Tiffany Horton, LaTeeka Montgomery, and Mr. Kenneth Rucker showed me.

They are the only reason I didn't lose my mind. They were there for me the way I had dreamed someone would have been there for me my whole life. They showed me true kindness, love, friendship, and support without judgment. Even now, in the aftermath that is my life, some days I hold on simply because they didn't do all that work just for me not to go and make something of my life.

I can't bear the thought of letting them down. They were there for me day and night, no matter what I needed. They were patient with me and listened to me, even when I felt like I wasn't making any sense.

They did their best to even align me with later resources that I so desperately needed. They truly loved me and fought for me and were patient with me when I just wanted it all to go away. And when I thought of running away, Mrs. Clark put me on her lap and allowed me to weep and fall apart. I will never forget how safe I was in that very moment.

Before I spoke to this team, I had never even spoken of this event out loud, let alone to other people.

Speaking to them gave me the courage to show up, speak, cry, and start healing, where I just wanted to forget. I was broken in places I refused to acknowledge. They helped me take the first steps toward recognizing that this wasn't okay, and also that I wasn't okay. I wouldn't have made it through that without them—even Detective Maukis (I'm sorry for the misspelling).

I am sending this to let you know not only are these women extremely valuable as employees, but they are probably the reason why so many women are alive and trying to thrive. Whatever position they could be in to not only train people on how to deal with cases such as mine, they need to be in that seat before the year is up. Whatever position that would allow them to continue to positively affect women like me, they need to be in that seat. ***These people saved me, helped me, and also helped kick-start my healing process, and for that, I am forever grateful for them all.***

FCDAO'S MASS SWEARING-IN FOR ATTORNEYS & INVESTIGATORS

**SO HELP ME
GOD**

Judge Shermela Williams

On Monday, January 6, 2024, our dedicated team of Investigators and District Attorneys proudly took the oath of office under the leadership of Madam DA Fani Willis. We reaffirm our unwavering commitment to serve and protect the citizens of Fulton County and the State of Georgia. Regardless of race, color, or creed, we pledge to uphold the Constitutions and laws of the United States and Georgia with integrity, fairness, and excellence.



ADVOCATES GALA

On December 6, 2024, Georgia made history with the inaugural gala for victim advocates across the metro Atlanta area, hosted by ATIR (Advocate. Teach. Inspire. Reach). Held at the iconic Porsche Experience Center, this groundbreaking event created a unique space for advocates to connect, collaborate, and celebrate their essential work like never before. The evening was filled with joy, inspiration, and a strong sense of community, as attendees shared stories, experiences, and ideas to strengthen their shared mission of supporting victims of crime. Among the distinguished guests were victim advocates from the Fulton County District Attorney's Office, who proudly joined in celebrating Judge Dunaway's recognition for his unwavering dedication to justice and advocacy for victims.

This historic gathering highlighted the power of collaboration, as advocates exchanged insights and deepened connections that will fuel their work for years to come. The event stands as a powerful reminder of Georgia's commitment to honoring and uplifting those who tirelessly champion the rights and dignity of the vulnerable.



**G.A.A.A.A
WINTER CLE CONFERENCE
2025**

On January 24-25, the Georgia Alliance of African-American Attorneys hosted their Winter Conference at the Hyatt Perimeter Villa Christina. The event featured an impressive lineup of Continuing Legal Education (CLE) sessions addressing critical legal issues and strategies for thriving in an ever-evolving legal landscape.

Among the distinguished presenters was our very own Deputy District Attorney Ramona Toole from the Diversions, Records, and Records Restriction Unit. She delivered an insightful presentation on Restricting and Sealing Criminal Records, providing valuable expertise on this important topic.

The conference was also honored to have District Attorney Fani Willis as the keynote speaker. DA Willis shared her perspectives on the changing landscape of criminal justice and highlighted the legal profession's vital role in fostering equity and ensuring public safety amid legislative and societal shifts. It was an inspiring event, celebrating the dedication and leadership within the legal community!



WE WEAR BLUE



Human Trafficking Prevention Month is a dedicated time to raise awareness about the pervasive issue of human trafficking and promote efforts to prevent it. Established to educate communities, support survivors, and encourage action, this month highlights the critical need to address trafficking in all its forms, including labor and sex trafficking. On January 29, 2025, we wore blue to stand in solidarity with victims and survivors of human trafficking.



FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
RECORD RESTRICTION



RECORD RESTRICTION (EXPUNGEMENT), JOB AND RESOURCE FAIR

On Saturday, January 25, 2025, DA Fani T. Willis and the Fulton County District Attorney's Office Record Restriction Division hosted a highly successful Job and Resource Fair, bringing together community members, legal professionals, and employers to help individuals overcome legal barriers and secure meaningful employment.

We were honored to have Fulton County Superior Court Judge Eric Dunaway and Fulton County Clerk of Superior and Magistrate Courts Ché Alexander in attendance. Judge Dunaway expedited the record restriction process by signing orders on-site, while Madam Clerk Alexander and her team ensured seamless filing, allowing many attendees to leave with their legal matters already in motion. Their collaboration was instrumental in providing immediate, life-changing opportunities for participants.

The event opened with a record restriction session, where Fulton County Assistant District Attorneys provided critical guidance on sealing or expunging criminal records—an essential step toward fresh starts and expanded career opportunities. Thanks to our partners at The Georgia Justice Project, attendees received expert legal support, making the process even more accessible. Meanwhile, the Job Fair featured a diverse lineup of employers actively hiring for various roles. Attendees engaged directly with recruiters, submitted resumes, and even scheduled on-the-spot interviews, opening doors to new career paths.

This transformative event was made possible with the generous support of Trinity Presbyterian Church, whose partnership helped create a welcoming and dynamic experience for all involved. With 85 walk-ins and 16 pre-registered participants, the Record Restriction Job and Resource Fair was a resounding success—empowering individuals with real, tangible opportunities to move forward with confidence.

We look forward to continuing this vital work and hosting more events that uplift our community!



CONVICTION ALERTS



STATE VS. GREGORY PAINTER

Congratulations to the Domestic Violence Trial Team! In the case of State vs. Gregory Painter, the Defendant was found guilty on all counts including Felony Murder, Murder, and Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon. Judge David Emerson sentenced the Defendant to Life in Prison Without the Possibility of Parole + 5 Years.

Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Maria Washington
Deputy District Attorney Asia Baysah
Senior Assistant District Attorney Nikia Sellers
Senior Investigator Ronald Coloma
Legal Assistant Michael Tanks
Deputy Victim Witness Advocate Dilma Dos Reis



STATE VS. ANTWRN WHATLEY

Congratulations to the SAKI Trial Team! In the case of State vs. Antwrn Whatley, the Defendant was found guilty on all counts including Rape, Aggravated Sodomy, and Kidnapping. Judge Emily Richardson sentenced the to 3 Consecutive Life Sentences.

Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Alicia Taylor
Deputy District Attorney Julianna Peterson
Senior Investigator Shawn Albea
Legal Assistant Raymond Carpenter
Senior Victim Witness Advocate LaTeeka Montgomery
Victim Witness Advocate Natalie Wright



STATE VS. KELSEY CRAWFORD

Congratulations to the Major Case Unit Trial Team! In the case of State vs. Kelsey Crawford, the Defendants was found guilty on all counts including Felony Murder, Murder, and Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon. Judge Rachel Krause sentenced the Defendant to Life + 25 Years to Serve.

Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Tom Griner
Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Alicia Taylor
Lieutenant Investigator Rasheed Hamilton
Legal Assistant Quentin Wright
Victim Witness Advocate Katrina Gill

CONVICTION ALERTS



STATE VS. JA'KOLBY SMITH & POWERS LEAVELL

Congratulations to the Major Case Unit Trial Team! In the case of State vs. Ja'Kolby Smith & Powers Leavell, Leavell was found guilty on all counts including Felony Murder, Murder, and Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon. Smith was found guilty of Felony Murder and Attempt or Conspiracy to VGCSA. Judge Jerry Baxter sentenced both Defendants to Life with the Possibility of Parole +5 Years.

Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Jeffrey Hawkins
Senior Assistant District Attorney Seth Brown
Senior Investigator Jaysen Thomas
Legal Assistant Keira Jackson
Victim Witness Advocate Katrina Gill



STATE VS. GERALDO TERRANCE WILLIAMS

Congratulations to the Major Case Unit Trial Team! In the case of State vs. Geraldo Terrance Williams, the Defendant was found guilty on all counts including Felony Murder, Murder, and Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon. Judge Rachel Krause sentenced the Defendant to Life + 25 Years to Serve.

Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Tom Griner
Chief Senior District Attorney Sau Chan
Legal Assistant Quentin Wright
Victim Witness Advocate Cherrillie Looby-Tonge



STATE VS. DIANTE BARNHILL

Congratulations to the Major Case Unit Trial Team! In the case of State vs. Diante Barnhill, the Defendant was found guilty on all counts including Felony Murder, Possession of Firearm During the Commission of a Felony, and Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon. Judge Eric Dunaway sentenced the Defendant to Life with the Possibility of Parole.

Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Tom Griner
Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Alicia Taylor
Lieutenant Investigator Rasheed Hamilton
Legal Assistant Quentin Wright
Victim Witness Advocate Katrina Gill

CONVICTION ALERTS



STATE VS. LAMONTAE LEWIS

Congratulations to the Domestic Violence Trial Team! In the case of State vs. Lamontae Lewis, the Defendant was found guilty on all counts including Felony Murder, Possession of Firearm During the Commission of a Felony, and Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon. Judge Scott McAfee sentenced the Defendant to Life + 20 years to Serve + Followed by 10 Years Probation.

Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Maria Washington
Senior Assistant District Attorney N. Kay Charles
Senior Investigator Emma Mills
Legal Assistant Tiffany Horton
Victim Witness Advocate Beverly Muhammad



STATE VS. DELMONTE WIGGINS

Congratulations to the Major Case Unit Trial Team! In the case of State vs. Delmonte Wiggins, the Defendant was found guilty on all counts including Felony Murder, Murder, and Aggravated Assault. Judge Belinda Edwards will sentence the Defendant on February 4, 2025.

Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney John Weitnauer
Assistant District Attorney Averiel Jackson
Investigator Joseph King
Legal Assistant Brenda Sharp
Victim Witness Advocate Katrina Gill



STATE VS. DEQUON NORMAN

Congratulations to the SAKI Trial Team! In the case of State vs. Dequon Norman, the Defendant was found guilty on all counts Rape, Aggravated Sodomy, and Kidnapping. Judge Thomas Cox sentenced the Defendant to 3 Consecutive Life Sentences +65 Years.

Deputy District Attorney Julianna Peterson
Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Tarrance Miller
Senior Investigator Shawn Albea
Legal Assistant Raymond Carpenter
Victim Witness Advocate Natalie Wright

CONGRATULATIONS

OFFICE PROMOTIONS & POLICY ADVISORS

DEPUTY OF ANTICORRUPTION DIVISION – TONYA BOYKIN
DEPUTY OF CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN UNIT – MARSHAL HODGE
DEPUTY OF SEXUAL ASSAULT UNIT – SIRI PATEL
DEPUTY OF TRIAL DIVISION COMPLEX – GAUTAM RAO
DEPUTY OF TRIAL DIVISION COMPLEX – CATILIN MCGULICUDDY
NON-COMPLEX UNIT - GUIDED BY DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY BRAD MALKIN
NON-COMPLEX UNIT- GUIDED BY DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY FAYE ROSENBAUM
NON-COMPLEX -UNIT- GUIDED BY EXECUTIVE DISTRICT ATTORNEY GEORGE JENKINS
HP PLUS - DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY SHANIQUA CHRISTIAN
LIEUTENANT OF THE DIGNITARY TEAM - SENIOR INVESTIGATOR MARINO BROWN

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