

FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

DA DISPATCH

JUNE 2024



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JULY

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6
7	8 Medical Examiner's Visit (Interns)	9 Launch & Learn (Interns)	10 Coffee & Convos (Interns)	11 Superior Court Visit (Interns)	12 Medical Examiner's Visit (Interns) Pay Day	13
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28	29	30	31	MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION		

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 INTERN GRADUATION	3

Congratulations to our outstanding leaders!



Congratulations to our very own Deputy District Attorney Vincent Faucette, Chief Deputy District Attorney Rushondra Davenport, Deputy Victim Witness Advocate Misty Botu, and Deputy District Attorney Christopher Sperry for successfully completing the 9-month Certified Public Manager Program at the University of Georgia's

The UGA CPM program is renowned for its commitment to developing exceptional managers and enhancing the efficiency of government agencies. By dedicating their time and effort to this esteemed program, our leaders have acquired invaluable skills and knowledge that will undoubtedly elevate our office's performance.

We commend their unwavering dedication, perseverance, and hard work throughout this educational journey. Their accomplishment is a testament to their commitment to personal and professional growth. Their expertise and newfound skills will undoubtedly contribute to even greater success in our office, benefiting our team and the community we serve. Congratulations to our outstanding leaders!

Do Not Talk to me Until after I have had my Coffee!

We all have our morning rituals, and for many of us, a steaming cup of coffee is an essential part of kickstarting our day. But have you ever wondered why you feel the need to have that caffeine fix before engaging with your coworkers? The answer lies in the fascinating realm of psychology. In this article, we will delve into the psychological reasons behind why you find solace in that cup of coffee before interacting with your coworkers, unraveling the mysteries of this daily ritual.

Rituals provide a sense of comfort and familiarity. They create a psychological space that allows us to transition from one state of mind to another. Your morning coffee ritual serves as a bridge between your personal time and the professional world. By engaging in this ritual, you mentally prepare yourself for the day ahead and signal to your brain that it's time to shift gears and interact with your coworkers. Additionally, the act of sipping coffee can act as a buffer between you and the outside world, giving you a moment of solitude and calm before the hustle and bustle of work begins. It provides you with a brief respite, allowing you to collect your thoughts, center yourself, and mentally prepare for social interactions. This brief pause offers a psychological advantage, helping you feel more composed, focused, and ready to engage with your coworkers.

On another note, caffeine, the primary active ingredient in coffee, is a known stimulant that affects our brain chemistry and increases alertness and reduces feelings of fatigue. It helps you feel more awake and engaged, making it easier to navigate conversations with your coworkers. Over time, our brains form associations between certain activities and the emotions or experiences that accompany them. If you have had positive interactions or experiences with your coworkers while enjoying your morning coffee, your brain may have formed a positive association between the two. As a result, having coffee before talking to your coworkers triggers a sense of familiarity, comfort, and positive anticipation, making it easier for you to engage in conversations and foster positive relationships. The reverse is true if you have not had your coffee and a coworker cheerily asks for that report that is coming up on the deadline. Hence, we know that your morning coffee ritual before interacting with your coworkers is rooted in psychological principles that provide insights into your behavior.

From the power of rituals and the role of caffeine to the social aspect and psychological associations, there are various reasons why you rely on that cup of coffee to set the stage for your interactions. So, the next time you reach for your coffee mug, take a moment to appreciate the psychological support it provides and embrace the positive effects it has on your workplace interactions. Cheers to the power of coffee in creating harmonious connections with your coworkers!



Ilona Rolack
Deputy Victim Witness Advocate

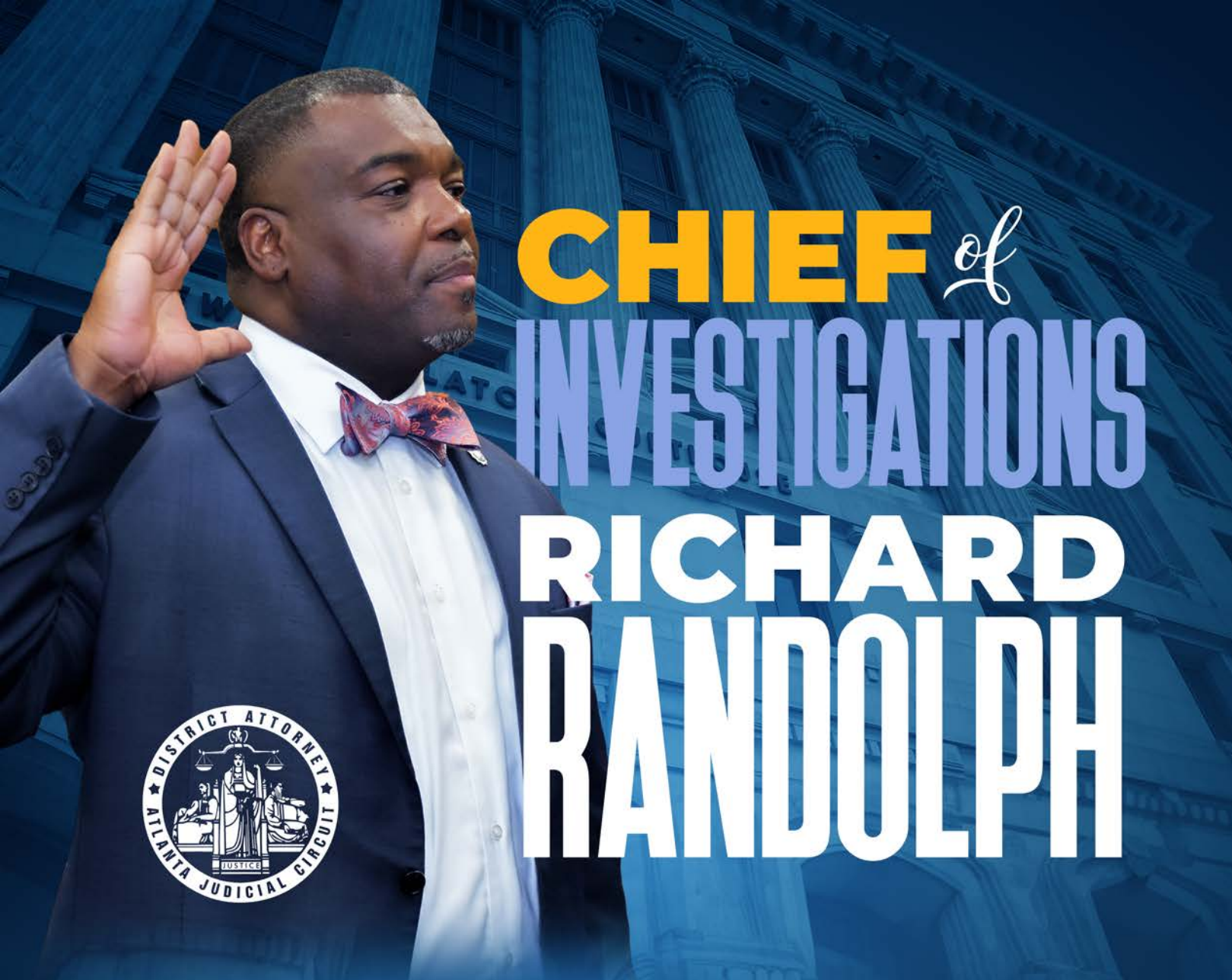
LAW CORNER

Constructive Possession of a Firearm

For those who are entrusted with firearm prosecutions, a defendant need not have actual possession of a firearm in order to be liable for possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony or possession of a firearm by a convicted felon charge. Constructive Possession applies when we can present direct or circumstantial evidence to support that the Defendant “knowingly has both the power and the intention at a given time to exercise dominion or control over a thing, and it must be based upon some connection between the defendant and the contraband other than spatial proximity.” *Murray v. State*, 309 Ga. App. 828, 830 (2011). This essentially means that we simply can’t say that the defendant was in the mere presence of a gun, but that they had the ability exercise control over it in some way shape or form. Additionally, if the Defendant is a party to a crime or co-conspirator to other individuals who are in possession of a firearm, then the fact that they are an active participant in effectuating the crime while not directly possessing a firearm (i.e. being the getaway driver or lookout) can make them liable for possession of a firearm related charges. See *Scoggins v. State*, 317 Ga. 832 (2023).



Gautam Rao
Deputy District Attorney, Training



CHIEF *of* INVESTIGATIONS RICHARD RANDOLPH

Richard Randolph has spent two decades as a law enforcement officer in metro Atlanta, yet is known as much for his varied volunteer efforts as his public-safety skills. He began as a morning-watch officer in the Fulton County Police Department and rose through the ranks to serve as Corporal in the HEAT Unit (Highway Enforcement of Aggressive Traffic). Randolph also gained experience in hostage negotiation and as a major-crimes detective, and he was the lead investigator on the first successfully prosecuted human trafficking case in Fulton County. Later, as Director of Gang/Drug Investigations in the Fulton District Attorney's Office, Randolph gained certifications and experience that allows him to testify as an expert in gangs as well as cell phone mapping and record interpretation, and he has been integral to solving homicide cases across jurisdictions. He's been recognized as Investigator of the Year by colleagues in two different agencies.

Randolph is currently the Executive Deputy Chief Investigator for the Fulton County District Attorney's Office serving Madam Fani T. Willis. Randolph handles the High Profile Case Difficult Witness Task Force and Technology Unit aka "HP Plus". He formerly served as Deputy Chief Investigator in the Cobb District Attorney's Office. He was also the Chief Investigator for the DeKalb Solicitor General. Randolph is a product of Morris Brown College and Strayer University. He is actively involved in Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and Kingdom of God Ministries in the City of South Fulton, and he gives lessons in trombone and baritone to Atlanta Public Schools students through the Gift of Music Foundation. Randolph is the current Vice President and Founding Member of The 100 Black Men of Douglasville.



EXECUTIVE CHIEF JOHNNA GRIFFIN

Johnna Griffin is a 22 year veteran of law enforcement and a graduate of Georgia State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Sociology (Criminology). She first served as an officer with the Fulton County Police Department and was promoted to Detective and later Sergeant in the units of Major Case, Homicide, Special Victims, Sex Crimes, Missing Persons, Domestic Violence, White Collar, Juvenile, Burglary, Field Training, and Agency Accreditation. Johnna is also a Georgia P.O.S.T. Certified Instructor, Hostage Negotiator, Crime Analyst, and Special Weapons and Tactics team member. She holds certifications in executive protection and supervisory management.

Johnna spent over a decade investigating numerous high profile cases that resulted in prosecutions and convictions with Fulton County Police and other federal agencies. She then joined the Fulton County District Attorney's Office in 2007. She has served as a senior investigator in every unit and as an Assistant Chief in Trial Division, Major Case, and Special Investigations. She was promoted to the Deputy Chief of Investigations while simultaneously supervising Major Crimes and conducting Death Penalty and Cold Case Investigations.

Johnna has been honored as Trial Investigator of the year, Special Investigator of the Year, and Supervisor of the Year. She has received many other awards and media commendations for her service and dedication to the victims and citizens of Fulton County. She has appeared in People Magazine, Oxygen, and the ID Channel for her investigative efforts on the road to justice. Johnna believes that good leadership, relentless teamwork, and caring for our victims and witnesses from pre-trial to post-trial is paramount.



COBB COUNTY
PROSECUTOR-ELECT
SONYA
ALLEN

Sonya Allen joins the team of the newly created Anti-Corruption Unit with the District Attorney's Office as Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney. As part of Madame District Attorney Fani Willis' promise to her constituents, this Unit's purpose is to evaluate issues of government corruption and law enforcement misconduct to include elected officials, election tampering, sheriff deputies, and police officers.

As a born public servant, Sonya Allen brings a wealth of knowledge to this Unit of the District Attorney's Office. She has had a vast legal career of over 29 years managing law enforcement officers from an agency with jurisdiction stretching across the great state of Georgia. She specializes in analyzing the merits of criminal cases and internal/external affairs assessments. Sonya's skill set attracted the attention of surrounding agencies who frequently requested her expertise in investigating high-profile criminal cases, interviewing the toughest witnesses, and evaluating evidence for prosecution. She most notably led the internal investigative team in the Brian Nichols attack, focusing on issues of agency policy violations as well as officer misconduct. Sonya's background is varied in that it encompasses a vast knowledge of developing litigation strategies for complex cases and ultimately led her to be appointed as the 2nd in command of a workforce of over 800 sworn and civilian employees with a budget of over \$100 million.

Sonya was legal counsel to the past Cobb County Sheriff where she handled all legal issues concerning his Office. She has been involved in the prosecution of hundreds of cases over the span of her legal career. Sonya is excited to put her experience to use here at the Fulton County District Attorney's Office.

She is a graduate of the University of West Georgia and John Marshal Law School. In 2020, she was the recipient of the Medal of Distinction for her lifetime of achievements throughout her career. Sonya enjoys volunteering and serving her community through nonprofits and her beloved sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated. When away from the office, she also enjoys coaching gymnastics and is an official Gymnastics' Judge for the Georgia High School Association-Varsity Sports. Her greatest joy, however, has been from raising her daughter.



COBB COUNTY
CHIEF
DESIGNEE
RAYMOND
BAEZ

Raymond X. Baez, Sr. is 35 years of age and originally from Puerto Rico. However, Georgia has been his home for the past 14 years. In his free time, Raymond enjoys playing basketball, paintball, traveling, and spending quality family time. Raymond also enjoys coaching his son's baseball and basketball teams and participating in their extracurricular activities.

Raymond has earned a B.S. in Criminal Justice with a minor in Forensic Science and has over 11 years of experience working in a law enforcement capacity. He has held the positions of State Felony Probation Officer, Atlanta Police Officer, EEO Investigator, and is currently the Assistant Chief Investigator of the Anti-Corruption Unit in the Fulton County District Attorney's Office (FCDA). Raymond's training and expertise include but are not limited to Title VI and Title VII investigations, complex criminal investigations, homicide investigations, and internal affairs investigations. He has been employed with the FCDA since February 2018 and has worked in The Major Case Unit and Public Integrity Unit. Raymond values integrity, hard work, commitment, humbleness, and believes everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect regardless of their status.



DEKALB STATE COURT

JUDGE YOLANDA MACK

Yolanda R. Mack is currently the Deputy District Attorney for the Sexual Assault Unit at the Fulton County District Attorney's Office. She is currently responsible for leading a team of Senior Assistant District Attorneys in prosecuting felony cases of sexual assault against adult victims. Her duties and responsibilities include supervision of Unit attorneys, evaluating and mentoring attorneys; conducting periodic unit meetings; reviewing and approving requested leave time; assisting in developing policies and procedures for the Unit; assisting in developing goals and objectives for the Unit; ensuring courtroom coverage for all court dates; liaison between department management and the Unit; reviewing and approving transfer cases; participating in related trainings and community outreach; reporting to the Director of the Special Victims Unit.

Prior to joining the Fulton County District Attorney's, she was the Deputy Chief District Attorney for the Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Unit in DeKalb County from 2017-2020. Her focus was prosecuting felony cases involving intimate partner domestic violence, adult sexual assault, and domestic violence homicides. Her duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to: prosecuting felony cases involving domestic violence, sexual assault, and domestic homicides; day-to-day supervision of Unit attorneys and trial assistants; coordinating Unit attorneys, Victim-Witness Advocates, and investigators; assisting with training, evaluating and mentoring attorneys; conducting periodic unit meetings; reviewing and approving requested leave time; assisting in developing policies and procedures for the Unit; assisting in developing goals and objectives for the Unit; ensuring courtroom coverage for all court dates; maintaining statistical data of domestic violence prosecutions; liaison between department management and the Unit; reviewing and approving transfer cases; participating in related trainings and community outreach; reporting to the Director of the Special Victims Unit, and other duties assigned. Under her leadership, she received the Unit of the Year in 2019.

From 2007-2017 she was employed with the Fulton County District Attorney's Office where she began as a Senior Assistant District Attorney where she quickly rose through the ranks to a Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney responsible for prosecuting sex crimes and domestic violence cases in the Crimes Against Women & Children's Unit where she received the Attorney of the Year Award (2010) and the Major Crimes Unit where she prosecuted homicides and high-profile cases. She also received Attorney of the Year in that unit in 2016.



**LEGAL COUNSEL
TO DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

ANDREA ALABI

Andrea Alabi began her legal career at the Georgia Department of Labor, handling employment disputes as an administrative hearing officer. Realizing her passion for litigation, she then worked as a criminal defense attorney. As lead attorney, she handled dozens of jury trials, bench trials, and countless motions and hearings.

Witnessing the impact of violent crime on the community and the disparities in the criminal system, Andrea dedicated her career to pursuing justice. She worked at the Gwinnett County District Attorney's Office as a managing assistant district attorney and Deputy Chief ADA. While with the Gwinnett County DA's Office, Andrea handled the most serious offenses, from homicide cases to cases involving vulnerable persons. She previously served as Chief Assistant Solicitor General in Fulton County. Throughout her career, she has sought fair resolutions for all parties involved in cases, prioritizing rehabilitation and focusing on the underlying reasons for crime. Andrea approaches each case with integrity, courage, and compassion. She also educates police recruits on Georgia law, criminal procedure, and courtroom demeanor.

Andrea is the President of the Georgia Association for Women Lawyers - Gwinnett Chapter. She previously served on GAWL Gwinnett's board as Vice President and Secretary, and as Co-Chair of Communications with Statewide GAWL. She also serves on the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council for Region 3.

She was one of two diversity and inclusion fellows with the American Bar Association Criminal Justice Section (2019-2021). Andrea helps educate members of the profession on how diversity impacts the practice of criminal law. She is also the Co-Executive Director of Communications and Membership with the American Bar Association - Criminal Justice Section.

Andrea belongs to numerous organizations, including the National Black Prosecutors Association, National District Attorneys Association, Stonewall Bar Association, Georgia Asian Pacific American Bar Association, NAACP of Georgia, Junior League of Gwinnett and North Fulton, GABWA, NCNW Gwinnett, The Pennsylvania State University Alumni Association of Atlanta, and is a Leadership Gwinnett alum.



2021

CELEBRATION

TO REMEMBER

STAFF APPRECIATION & NETWORK EVENT





junior DA

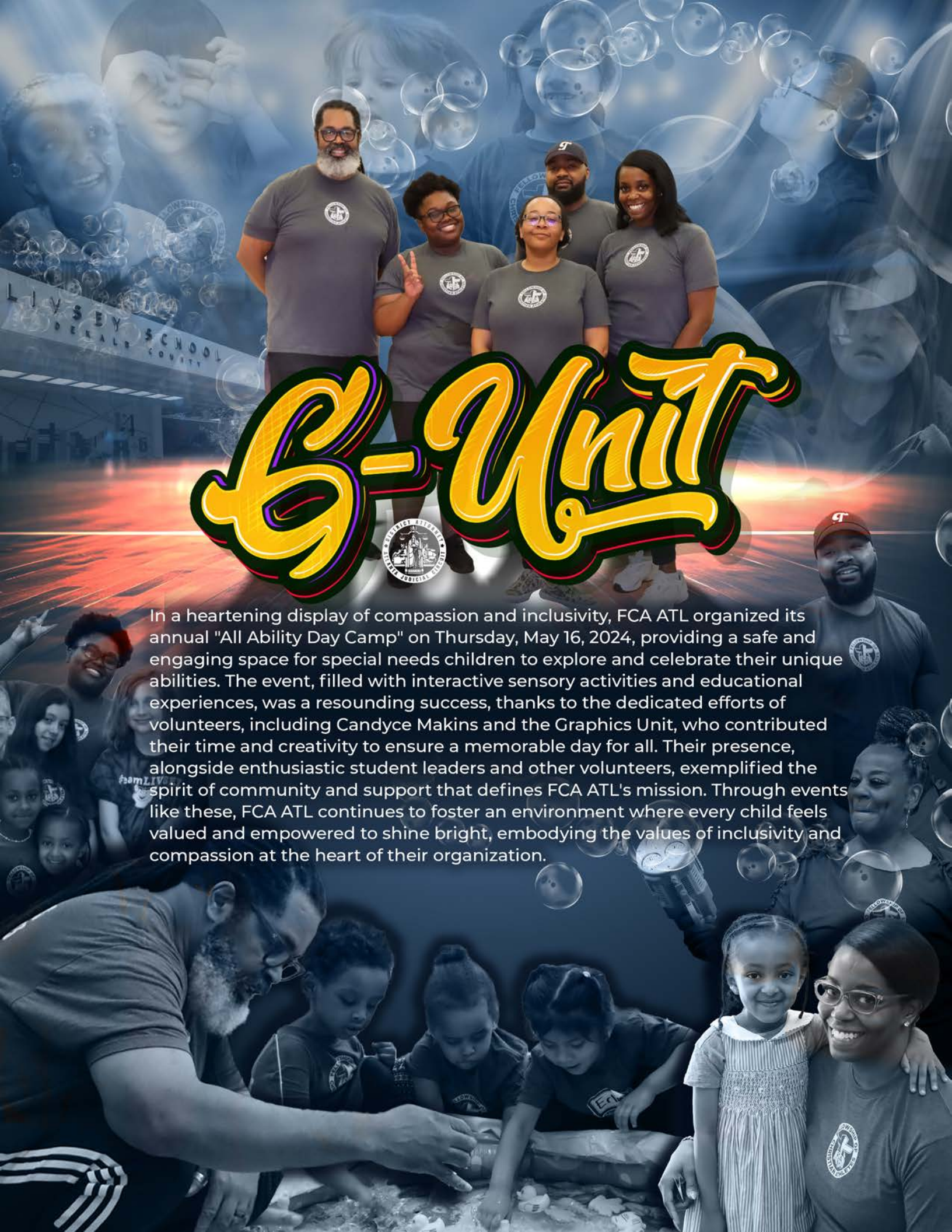
SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM

On the first week of the Junior DA Program, the students embarked on an exciting visit to the Chattahoochee Nature Center. They explored the vibrant vegetable and herb garden, marveling at the variety of plants grown to support local food banks with an impressive annual donation of 10,000 pounds of fresh produce.

Next, they went on an enlightening nature hike where they learned to connect with the natural world using their senses of sight, smell, touch, and sound. This immersive experience also taught them valuable mindfulness techniques to calm themselves during moments of stress or upset.

Following the hike, the students enjoyed a delightful lunch with Roswell police officers, fostering community ties and learning about local law enforcement. The day continues with an adventurous canoeing session, allowing them to experience the beauty of the water firsthand. The visit culminates with a trip to the enchanting butterfly exhibit, where they witness the delicate beauty and diversity of these fascinating creatures. This comprehensive program not only educates but also instills a deep appreciation for nature and community in the students.





E-Unit

In a heartening display of compassion and inclusivity, FCA ATL organized its annual "All Ability Day Camp" on Thursday, May 16, 2024, providing a safe and engaging space for special needs children to explore and celebrate their unique abilities. The event, filled with interactive sensory activities and educational experiences, was a resounding success, thanks to the dedicated efforts of volunteers, including Candyce Makins and the Graphics Unit, who contributed their time and creativity to ensure a memorable day for all. Their presence, alongside enthusiastic student leaders and other volunteers, exemplified the spirit of community and support that defines FCA ATL's mission. Through events like these, FCA ATL continues to foster an environment where every child feels valued and empowered to shine bright, embodying the values of inclusivity and compassion at the heart of their organization.



U.A.E. ANTI TRAFFICKING VISIT

On May 16, 2024, members of the FCDAO's Human Trafficking and Juvenile teams joined Fulton County Juvenile Court Chief Judge Renata Turner and Chief Court Administrator Cicely Barber for a roundtable discussion with United Arab Emirates (UAE) anti-trafficking leaders. Deputy Earnelle Winfrey shared best practices, progress, challenges, and goals of the Human Trafficking and Internet Child Exploitation Unit. Chief Deputy Brett Pinion, ADAs Tarrance Miller and Lashawnda Woods-Roberts, and Investigators Michelle Lam and Jason Johnson also participated in the discussion, providing updates on collaboration efforts to mitigate negative outcomes, particularly for children with court involvement who are suspected to be or have been identified as youth experiencing sexual or labor exploitation. UAE leaders provided information on their advanced monitoring systems, investigations, and education efforts currently in use or planned for their country.

MAYS SISTERHOOD & BROTHERHOOD SUMMIT



Following an after-school shooting at Benjamin E. Mays High School in February, the Southwest Atlanta community hosted an event at the high school to demonstrate to students that violence does not have to define their future. On March 14th, Kendall Watkins, Nicole Whigham, January Towles, Asia Baysah, and Angela Johnson attended the Mays High School Sisterhood Summit. The summit allowed girls to hear from women from their neighborhoods who have gone on to achieve impactful things. The District Attorney's Office had the opportunity to discuss various topics with the young women, including self-care, academic and career advancement, and relationships and social skills.

On March 19th, Benjamin E. Mays hosted the Brotherhood Summit, where Richard Randolph and Brian Salters spoke with young men about financial literacy, holistic health and recovery, and gun violence prevention.

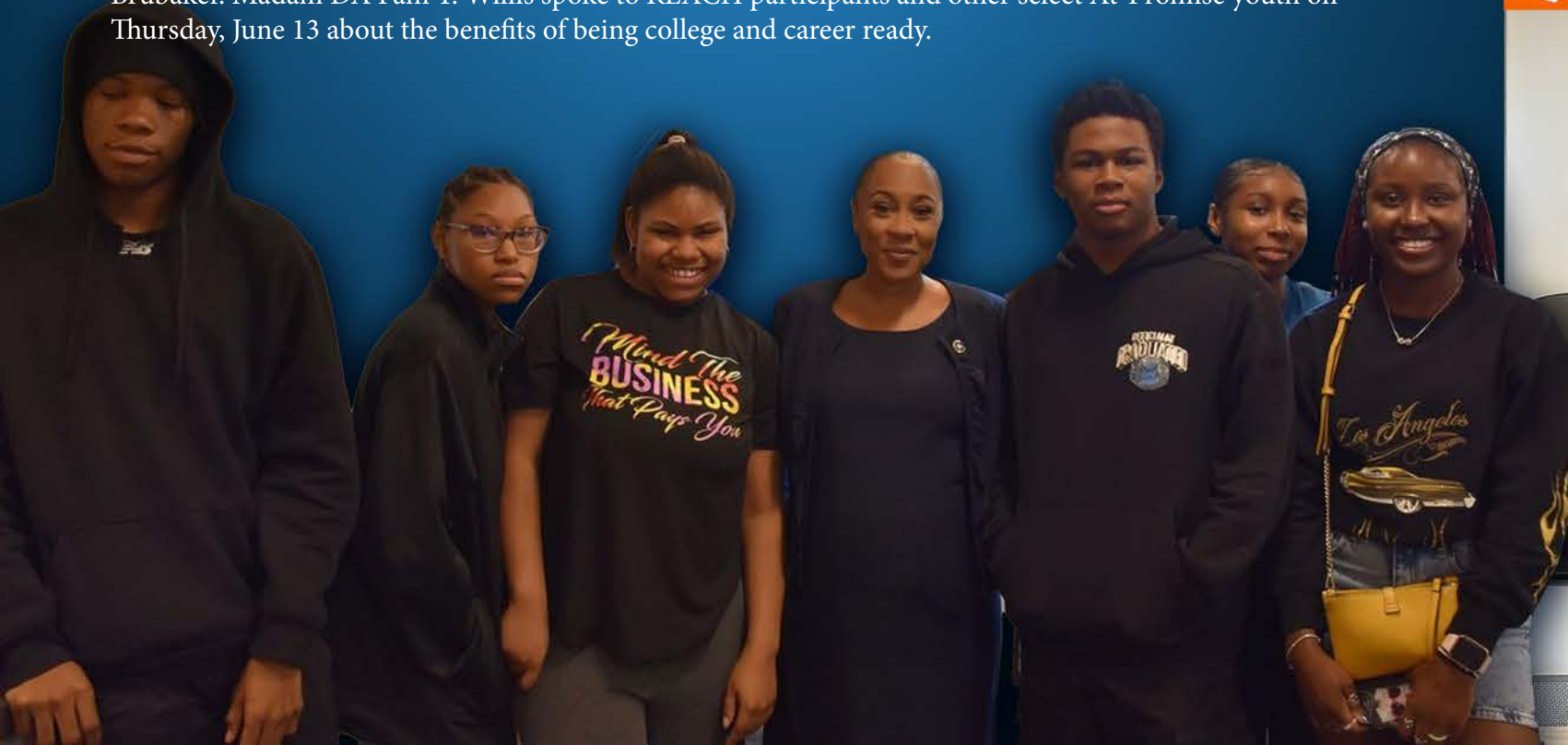
Reach
Transformational Youth Mentoring

COLLEGE READINESS BOOTCAMP

The Fulton County District Attorney's Office REACH Transformational Mentoring Program hosted its inaugural Summer College and Career Readiness Boot Camp in partnership with the Atlanta Police Foundation and At-Promise Center-South June 10-14, 2024. High School students from across Fulton County Reach sites participated in college preparation workshops, heard from over 25 professionals in the local area, spoke with recruitment staff for Atlanta Technical College and Atlanta Metropolitan State College, and engaged several college interns about college, career and social life balance.

Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Elaine Thompson led the morning college preparatory workshops, while panelists, guest speakers and staff shared words of wisdom and facilitated fun activities throughout the afternoons. Workshops included guided activities for standardized test preparation, researching and charting colleges and majors, the application process and essay writing. All participants received a clear bookbag, an SAT or ACT study guide and Certificate of Participation courtesy REACH staff and Chief Senior District Attorney Thompson.

Senior Assistant District Attorney/REACH Coordinator Lashawnda Woods-Roberts served as primary organizer/recruiter and REACH Coordinator Yolanda Shorthouse assisted with organization, recruitment and logistics. Investigators William Hutchinson, Michelle Lam, Christy Manos, Lori Lobel, Chara Dennis, Fred Glenn Jr., Brian Salters, Trina Lucas, and Pat Ponder volunteered to serve alongside staff over the course of the week. Interns Robert Finegar, Amani Riggs, Sadie Race, Aidan Munroe, Judith "Faith" Newby and Elizabeth Brubaker. Madam DA Fani T. Willis spoke to REACH participants and other select At-Promise youth on Thursday, June 13 about the benefits of being college and career ready.





2024 Summer Interns

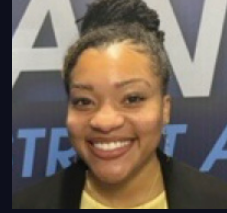
LAW SCHOOL



Alecia Smith
Rising 3L
Ohio Northern University
Pettit College of Law



Cayla Petty
Rising 2L
Atlanta's John Marshall
Law School



Chasity Washington
Rising 2L
Atlanta's John Marshall
Law School



Ivey Foster
Rising 3L
North Caroline Central
University- School of Law



Jaida Farmer
Rising 1L
Barry University School
of Law



Janae Streator
Rising 2L
GSU College of Law



Jasmine Woodruff
Rising 3L
Atlanta's John Marshall
Law School



Jennan Moughrabi
Rising 2L
Atlanta John Marshall
Law School



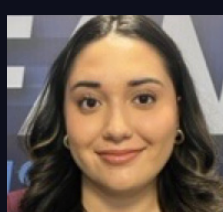
Maya Wilson
Rising 2L
Atlanta's John Marshall
Law School



Natalie Rabun
Rising 2L
Atlanta's John Marshall
Law School



Richard Hamilton
Rising 3L
Atlanta's John Marshall
Law School



Steffaney Guardado
Rising 3L
Southern University
Law Center



Taylor Williams
Rising 2L
Atlanta John Marshall
Law School



Tia Jones
Rising 2L
Vermont Law School



Trinity Brown
Rising 3L
Faulkner University Jones
School of Law



Victoria Conwell
Rising 1L
Southwestern Law School



Katie Tong
Rising 1L
Southwestern Law School

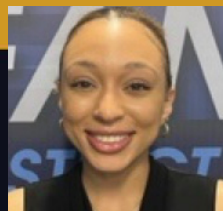


Erika Gardner
Rising 2L
Atlanta John Marshall
Law School



Zy'aire Williams
Rising 2L
Atlanta's John Marshall
Law School

GRADUATE SCHOOL



Dominique Nelms
Graduate
Grand Canyon University



May Fitts
Graduate
Grand Canyon University



Jacquelyn Felder
Graduate
Clark Atlanta University

COLLEGE



Allison Adcock
Rising 3L
Faulkner University Jones
School of Law



Amani Riggs
Rising Senior
Howard University



Chase Row
Rising Junior
Georgia Institute
of Technology



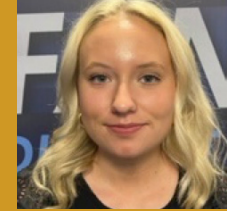
Gabrielle Chan
Rising Senior
University of Georgia



Hannah Perdue
Rising Senior
University of Georgia



Kennedy Norman
Rising Junior
Howard University



Judith Newby
Rising Senior
Georgia State University



Kalei Myers
Rising Senior
Kennesaw State University



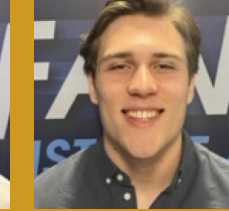
Tyliah Davis
Rising Senior
Langston University



Wendy Carvalho
Rising Senior
Georgia State University



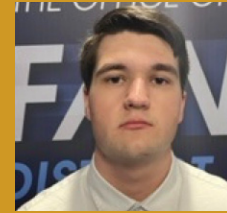
Tyrec Hyde
Rising Senior
Mississippi State University



Robert Steingass
Rising Senior
Emory University



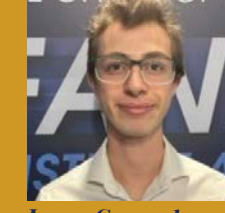
Vajha Cuiellette
Rising Senior
Alabama A&M University



Robert Finegar
Rising Senior
Emory University



Sadie Race
Rising Senior
University of Georgia



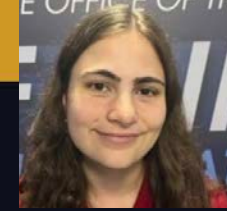
Lucas Gompel
Rising Senior
McGill University



Makayla Hogue
Rising Junior
Howard University



Ojorumi Okoka
Rising Junior
Howard University



Elizabeth Brubaker
Rising Junior
Emory University



Louis-Haslan Dorsinvi
Rising Senior
Vanderbilt university



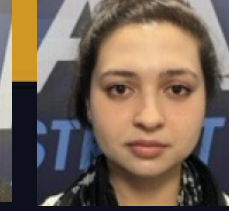
Kayla Williams
Rising Sophomore
University of Pennsylvania



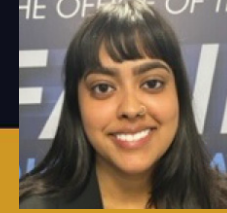
Margo Wilson
Rising Junior
Wesleyan University



Jasmin Akhavan
Rising Junior
Georgia Institute of Technology



Isbah Nasir
Post Bacc Paralegal Student
Emory University



Rhea D'Souza
Rising Junior
Kennesaw State University



Anagha Menon
Rising Junior
University of Georgia



Elizabeth Brubaker
Rising Junior
Emory University



Kennedy Doucet
Rising Sophomore
University of Georgia



Ansley Melnick
Rising Junior
University of Georgia

Calendar

June
17/21/24/28 Medical Examiner's Visit
18/25 GBI Crime Lab Visit
27 Superior Court Tour

July
8/12/19/22/23 Medical Examiner's Visit
9 Launch & Learn
10 Coffee & Convos
11 Superior Court Tour
16 Coffee & Convos
29/30/31 Mock Trial

August 2 Awards Ceremony

OUR INTERNS

... OUT & ABOUT



The Fulton County District Attorney's Office Internship program offers a rigorous 9-week opportunity for students to delve deeply into the world of prosecution. Each summer, approximately 50 interns from diverse backgrounds and educational levels participate in a comprehensive program that includes field trips, guest speakers, hands-on experiences, and more.

Throughout the 9 weeks, interns engage in a variety of off-site field trips, including visits to the Fulton County Medical Examiner's Office, the GBI Crime Lab, the King Center, Fulton County Superior Court, the Supreme Court, the Georgia Capitol, and other criminal justice significant locations. Additionally, interns benefit from the wealth of knowledge within the office through events like "Launch & Learns" and "Coffee & Conversation," covering topics such as gangs, animal abuse, opening and closing statements, and career-defining cases.

Interns are assigned to a division or unit based on their individual backgrounds, interests, or academic degrees. Regardless of their educational level, all participants learn how to prepare a case thoroughly, from its inception to indictment/accusation, providing invaluable hands-on experience in case preparation before court proceedings. Law school interns often have the opportunity to present cases in court, including arguing motions alongside their supervising attorneys or negotiating pleas.

One of the program's highlights is the Mock Trial competition, immensely popular among interns and office staff alike. Interns form teams led by office attorneys who serve as mock trial coaches. Teams are tasked with preparing for a fictitious criminal case, developing strategies for opening statements, closing arguments, witness testimonies, and more. This competition spans two intense days, including a double elimination round, showcasing the interns' legal skills and competitive spirit.

To conclude the summer program and honor the interns' dedication, the office hosts a graduation ceremony where interns, their families, and staff come together to celebrate their achievements.



GBI CRIME LAB TOUR

In June, FCDA interns had the incredible opportunity to tour the GBI Crime Lab. Established in 1952 as the second statewide Crime Laboratory in the United States, the Division of Forensic Sciences provides scientific support to Georgia's Criminal Justice System (GBI Website).

With assistance from lab staff, students met laboratory scientists and technicians specializing in various disciplines. They learned about the collection, analysis, and interpretation of physical evidence. Such evidence is crucial for officers, investigators, and prosecuting agencies statewide. Students also gained insight into the crime lab's integral role in FCDA's efforts to prosecute cases effectively.

Highlights of the tour included demonstrations such as ballistics testing with a weapon firing vat and range, advanced robotic and computer systems in the drug lab, as well as techniques like latent printing and trace testing. The FCDA deeply appreciates the GBI's dedication and for taking the time out of their busy schedules to provide guidance and engage in a robust Q&A session with the interns.

MEDICAL EXAMINER'S TOUR



On the June field trip tour, some of the FCDA interns visited the Fulton County Medical Examiner's Office. They toured the FCME facility and participated in a morning informational session with the doctors and staff preparing them for the tour. The interns learned that the FCME's primary goal is to determine the cause and manner of death for certain decedents and how they are determined to fit their criteria. During the tour, the interns observed a full autopsy and received valuable insights from the dedicated staff. They learned firsthand how determining the manner of death is a critical aspect of death investigations and why this information is essential for prosecution offices. Understanding these processes renewed the interns' commitment to learning about prosecution and advocating for victims.

TRINITY BROWN | ZY'YAIRE WILLIAMS | IVEY FOSTER | RICHARD HAMILTON | JASMINE WOODRUFF | ALEEIA SMITH

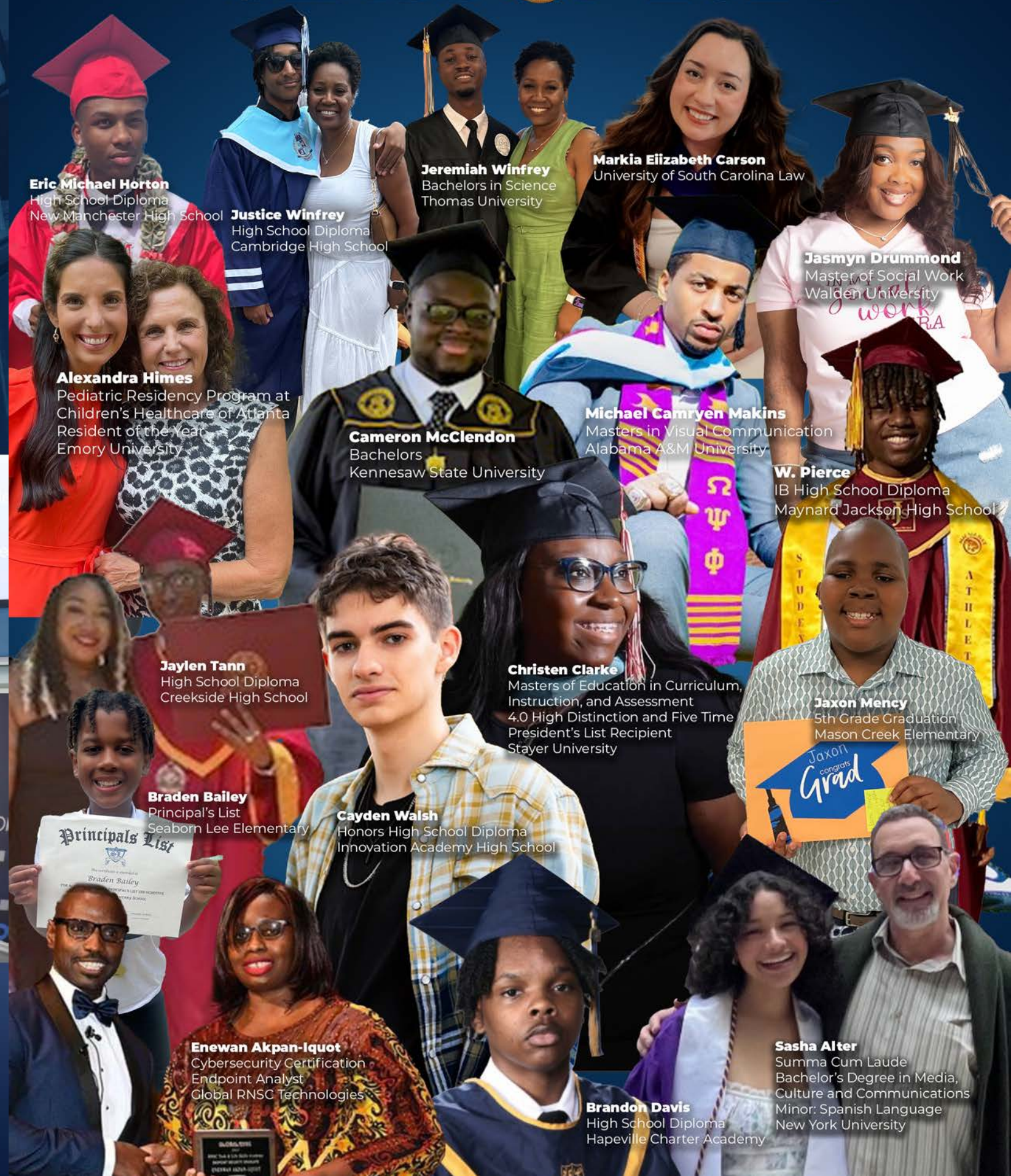


2024 SUMMER INTERN SWEARING IN W/ JUDGE THOMAS A. COX, JR.



LAUNCH & LEARN

CLASS OF 2024



Eric Michael Horton
High School Diploma
New Manchester High School

Justice Winfrey
High School Diploma
Cambridge High School

Jeremiah Winfrey
Bachelors in Science
Thomas University

Markia Elizabeth Carson
University of South Carolina Law

Jasmyn Drummond
Master of Social Work
Walden University

Alexandra Himes
Pediatric Residency Program at
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
Resident of the Year
Emory University

Cameron McClendon
Bachelors
Kennesaw State University

Michael Camryen Makins
Masters in Visual Communication
Alabama A&M University

W. Pierce
IB High School Diploma
Maynard Jackson High School

Jaylen Tann
High School Diploma
Creekside High School

Christen Clarke
Masters of Education in Curriculum,
Instruction, and Assessment
4.0 High Distinction and Five Time
President's List Recipient
Stayer University

Jaxon Mency
5th Grade Graduation
Mason Creek Elementary

Braden Bailey
Principal's List
Seaborn Lee Elementary

Cayden Walsh
Honors High School Diploma
Innovation Academy High School

Enewan Akpan-Iquot
Cybersecurity Certification
Endpoint Analyst
Global RNSC Technologies

Brandon Davis
High School Diploma
Hapeville Charter Academy

Sasha Alter
Summa Cum Laude
Bachelor's Degree in Media,
Culture and Communications
Minor: Spanish Language
New York University

CONVICTION ALERTS



STATE VS. JARVIS GILES

Congratulations to the Gang Unit! In the case of State vs. Jarvis Giles, the Defendant was found guilty on all counts including Violation of the Street Gang and Prevention Act and Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon. Judge Kimberly Adams sentenced the Defendant to 20 years to Serve 8 Years in Custody.

Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Larissa Ollivierre
Assistant District Attorney Amanda Green
Senior Investigator Harold Milanes
Deputy Legal Assistant Keehlan Haygood
Legal Assistant Grant Trowell
Victim Witness Advocate Cherrillie Tonge



STATE VS. MARQUEZ WILLIAMS

Congratulations to the Major Case Unit! In the case of State vs. Marquez Williams, the Defendants were found guilty on all counts including Murder, Felony Murder, and Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon. The Defendants will be sentenced by Judge Robert McBurney to Life Plus 15 Years in Prison.

Deputy District Attorney Adam Abbate
Deputy District Attorney Guatam Rao
Senior Investigator Christopher Davidson
Deputy Chief Investigator Dashawn Raymond
Assistant Chief Investigator Bernice Higgins
Legal Assistant Keira Jackson
Victim Witness Advocate Cherrillie Tonge

CONVICTION ALERTS



STATE VS. ANTHONY SHANNON

Congratulations to the Major Case Unit! In the case of State vs. Anthony Shannon, the Defendant was found guilty on all counts including Murder, Felony Murder, and Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon. Judge David Emerson sentenced the Defendant to Life Plus 10 Years to Serve in Prison.

Assistant District Attorney Christina Robinson
Assistant District Attorney Kelcee Jones-Connor
Senior Investigator Nathan Shoate
Deputy Legal Assistant Felicia Dickens
Victim Witness Advocate Katrina Gill



STATE VS. STERLING WARE

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

Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Marshal Hodge
Assistant District Attorney Tom Griner
Senior Investigator Christopher Davidson
Legal Assistant Keira Jackson
Victim Witness Advocate Katrina Gill

CONVICTION ALERTS



STATE VS. ERIK FERGUSON

Congratulations to the Domestic Violence Trial Team! In the case of State vs. Erik Ferguson, the Defendant was found guilty on all counts including Cruelty to Children in the 1st Degree, Simple Battery, and Criminal Trespass. Judge Rachelle Carnesale sentenced the Defendant to 15 Years to Serve 5 Years.

Senior Assistant District Attorney Nalda "Kay" Charles
 Senior Assistant District Attorney Abigail Potter
 Senior Investigator Emma Mills
 Legal Assistant Nyome Griffin
 Senior Victim Witness Advocate LaTeeka Montgomery
 Deputy Victim Witness Advocate Sandra Jean Louis
 Senior Victim Witness Advocate Beverly Muhammad



STATE VS. TEPORISE NEWTON

Congratulations to the Domestic Violence Trial Team! In the case of State vs. Teporise Newton, the Defendant was found guilty on all counts including Malice Murder, Felony Murder, and Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon. Judge Scott McAfee sentenced the Defendant to Life in Prison.

Senior Assistant District Attorney Abigail Potter
 Senior Investigator Emma Mills
 Legal Assistant Tiffany Horton
 Senior Victim Witness Advocate Beverly Muhammad



100 BLACK MEN CONFERENCE

On Friday, June 14, 2023, Assistant Chief Investigator Brian Salters attended the 100 Black Men of America's conference in Atlanta, GA. Investigator Salters led a team from the Savannah Police Department, Chatham County Police Department, Fulton County Sheriff's Office, and Clayton County Public Schools to present a program for the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE). The team conducted a workshop with approximately 100 middle school students and 150 high school students from across the country.



ADULT DIVERSION RECORD RESTRICTION PARTNERSHIP

Our recent Diversion and Records Restriction event, in collaboration with GA Workforce, was a tremendous success. We welcomed 66 citizens seeking employment, and showcased the impactful programs offered by the District Attorney's Office. We processed applications for record restrictions, provided crucial information about our unique Adult Diversion program, and established valuable partnerships with over 20 vendors ready to hire and support future events. We are excited to announce the upcoming Game Changer Adult Diversion Clinic on July 10, 2024, at the Fulton County Government Center, with on-the-spot hiring by partner Freight on Wheel Express. Key attendees included Legal Assistant Caderrius Armstrong, Investigator Harold Milanese, Diversion Case Manager Mike Passmore, Deputy DA Ms. Ramona Toole, and Adult Diversion Director Ms. Epiffany Henry.

The Byrne Grant is focused on two high-crime hotspots: Fairburn Mays in the City of Atlanta and Red Oak in the City of South Fulton. These areas have been disproportionately impacted by crime and violence within Fulton County. The leadership team, consisting of Assistant District Attorney Samia Giddings and Investigators Lawrence Vazquez and Nicole Whigham, has engaged a wide variety of stakeholders to collectively identify the issues and means of addressing challenges in the community. A review of official crime statistics conducted by Applied Research Services, along with anecdotal reports from community leaders and members, indicates that apartment residents in these hotspots have been subjected to crimes including robbery, vandalism, destruction of property, car thefts, auto break-ins, and various violent offenses. It has become clear that the official statistics do not tell the whole story and almost certainly reflect gross under-reporting.

Further compounding matters is the lack of healthy options and supportive services for youth in these communities. Youth are at higher risk of becoming gang-involved if they engage in delinquent behavior, are predisposed to violence, and have few if any options for healthy engagement and support within their communities.

In June 2024, the Byrne Grant Team is supporting a summer camp in South Fulton facilitated by the Police Athletic League. A few of our interns spoke to the kids about college life, their future aspirations, and why they are interning at the DA's office. Assistant District Attorneys Asia Baysah, Jazmin Dilligard, Kendall Watkins, and Intern Hannah Perdue spoke to the students about Teen Dating Violence. The students were able to role-play what unhealthy dating looks and feels like to them. Afterwards, Chief Meadows and several officers spoke about their experiences in law enforcement and why violence happens in our communities. They discussed the lack of emotional intelligence young people possess and why they are not able to communicate effectively when someone upsets them or hurts their feelings.

The Byrne Grant team also assisted the PAL summer camp in taking the kids on two college tours (Morris Brown College and Georgia Tech), to the MLK Center, and organizing their very own field day.

Michele Henry
Grants Director



WE'RE HIRING

- **Deputy Chief Investigator x2**
- **Assistant Chief Investigator**
- **Deputy District Attorney x2**

Please be advised that the FCDA's office has openings for 2 Deputy Chief Investigator positions and 1 Assistant Chief position. Additionally, we anticipate another investigative leadership position becoming available by January 1, 2025. No further interviews will be conducted beyond this cycle, and promotions will be determined from these interviews. Therefore, if you are interested in a leadership role, I strongly encourage you to apply.

Due to Deputy DA Sonya Allen being elected as the DA of Cobb County and Deputy DA Yolanda Mack being elected as a State Court Judge in DeKalb County, the FCDA's office will have 2 Deputy DA positions available starting in the winter.

If you are interested in any of these positions, please submit your resume, letter of interest, and 3 recommendation letters to Ebony Davis by Friday, July 19, 2024. Interviews will take place in August, and you will be expected to present a PowerPoint at your interview, highlighting your experience, education, and community service.

PAGV CONFERENCE



On June 4th and 5th, Executive District Attorney Daysha Young and Director of Youth Services Aakeem Woodard traveled to Fordham University to speak at the Prosecutors Against Gun Violence (PAGV) conference. They discussed strategies for reducing gun violence in the US through legislation and programming.



LOST & FOUND THRIFT STORE (LGBTQ+)

On May 18th, our office volunteered at the Lost-n-Found Youth (LnFY) Thrift Store. LnFY is an Atlanta-based nonprofit dedicated to ending homelessness for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) and all sexual minority youth. Proceeds from items sold in the Thrift Store support street outreach, a youth center, and transitional housing for homeless LGBTQ youth.

We have recently partnered with LnFY to conduct outreach and increase hate crime awareness among the youth served by LnFY.

ITCORNER

Newsletter from the Informational Technology Unit



LET ME UPDATE YA!

Updates can be a quick fix to minor issues. The top 3 reasons updates are important are:

- Repair Security Vulnerabilities
- Improve Performance
- Adding New Enhanced Features

In Windows follow the Simple Steps:

1. Select Start (Windows Icon)
2. Select Settings (Gear Icon)
3. Select Update
4. "Check Online for Updates"

* Please note work can be performed while updating. Restart computer within 24 hours.



What kind of computer sings the best?

A Dell.

NEWS CORNER



<https://www.atlantaneewsfirst.com/2024/06/11/former-hapeville-coach-teacher-sentenced-life-sexual-abuse-students/>



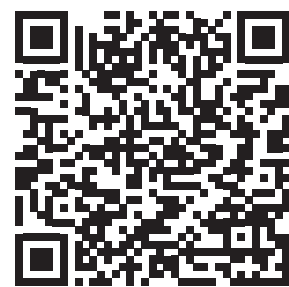
Atlanta man sentenced for deadly shooting over water bottle sales territory (fox5atlanta.com)



'Businessman' allegedly married Steve Harvey's radio co-host to scam over \$750K from 25 victims, mostly other women (msn.com)



Woman sentenced to life in prison graduates at top of her class from Life University | 11alive.com



Fulton DA Willis warns about negative impact of new cash bond law (ajc.com)