



# INTEGRITY NEWS

FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

## A message from "MADAM DA"



When I asked the citizens of Fulton County to support a new vision for their District Attorney's office, I promised them that I would restore integrity to the office, hire staff who they could count on to bring expertise, commitment, and new energy to our efforts to make Fulton County safer, and develop innovative programs that will offer opportunities for those who are at

risk of becoming caught up in the criminal justice system while concentrating our prosecution efforts on the violent offenders who represent true danger for our communities.

As we complete our first 100 days of the new administration, I am proud to report to our constituents that we have a new team of dedicated public servants working every day to keep them safe. Our new team of prosecutors, investigators, and support staff – a combination of veterans who we have kept on and re-energized, experienced staff who had left Fulton for other positions and have chosen to return to serving our county, and newcomers – are working to make this office the top local prosecutor's office in the Southeast and one of the best in the nation. We conducted interviews in excess of 500 people to bring the best and brightest to Fulton County. The people of Fulton County deserve no less.

As you can see from our report, we are taking strong action to solve the case backlog we inherited, both from the challenges of the COVID pandemic and years of mismanagement of the office's caseload. We have restructured the office to create specialized units that have dedicated expertise to protecting children and victims of sexual violence. We have won grant funding to significantly expand our unit prosecuting cases resulting from processing backlogged sexual assault kits. We have created the first specialized unit to evaluate cases with juvenile defendants potentially facing charges as adults. We have also created our county's first pre-indictment diversion program in cooperation with our Superior Court judges. And we are just getting started.

My team and I are proud of the work we have done on behalf of our county in these first 100 days. We look forward to working with you in the coming months and years to do even more and help make Fulton County as safe for everyone as we can.

*Fani Willis*



*First woman District Attorney of Fulton County. Serving the largest judicial circuit in Georgia.*

## Inside

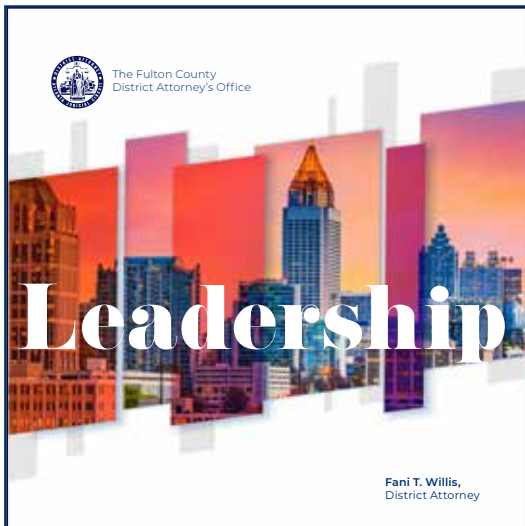
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# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The future of the District Attorney's office and the commitment to the citizens of Fulton County.

## INTEGRITY

This office will now show a consistent and uncompromising adherence to strong moral and ethical principles and values.



## INNOVATION

This office will bring about new ideas, processes, and services with the aim of improving efficiency and effectiveness.

## INCLUSIVENESS

This office will provide an environment of mutual respect, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, age, disability or gender identity.





# 100 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Major Crimes Division

### Cold & Capital Case Unit

- 1 Created the Cold and Capital Case Unit.
- 2 Partnered with Sheryl McCollum (Crime Analyst) from the Hapeville Police Department and the Director of the Cold Case Investigative Institute. The institute will provide our office access to hundreds of experts that focus on solving Cold Cases.
- 3 Collaborated with the US Marshals Fugitive Task Force that serves our jurisdiction to capture defendants wanted on old murders to bring these victims' families closure.

### Major Case Unit

- 4 Conducted training for Assistant District Attorneys and Investigators on proper procedures and protocols when reporting to homicides scenes.

### Gang Unit

- 5 Partnered with Georgia Gang Investigators Association and obtained training and gang certification for 10% of the Fulton County District Attorney's Office.
- 6 Established a Gang Liaison to provide trial assistance and gang training to the Assistant District Attorneys assigned to Juvenile Court to combat the emerging gang crisis within Fulton County.
- 7 Reviewed, signed, and facilitated the completion of more than 50 pen orders for the Fugitive Unit and US Marshals Task Force to assist in the apprehension of our county's most dangerous fugitives.

- 8 Collaborated with the Atlanta Police Department and the Fulton County Sheriff to facilitate a discussion on agency partnerships in combating gang crime and emerging trends in violent criminal street gangs including juvenile membership surges.

### Civil Forfeiture Unit

- 9 Created a Civil Forfeiture Unit.
- 10 Obtained judgments resulting in \$445,653.00 to benefit the law enforcement community.
- 11 Returned 2 vehicles that we determined were not lawfully seized.
- 12 Returned \$12,062.00 that we determined were not lawfully seized.
- 13 Reviewed over 600 cases to determine if Civil Forfeiture was appropriate.

### White Collar Crime Unit

- 14 Joined two state and federal task forces aimed at better investigation and prosecution of certain crimes: GA Unemployment Insurance Fraud Task Force and GA Cyber Fraud Task Force.
- 15 Developed the first session in a series of training for law enforcement partners on White Collar Crimes: "White Collar Case Files 100: What We Need From You".
- 16 White Collar Crime Unit members attended 8 different training sessions to master their expertise.

## Appeals Unit

- 17 Motion New Trial: Appeals has handled 105 motions for new trials (briefs and hearings submitted). We have won 16 and have not lost any. We are awaiting decisions on the remaining cases already presented.
- 18 Direct Appeals to the Court of Appeals: Appeals has handled 13 court of appeals matters (briefs and/or oral argument submitted). We have won 7 cases and have not lost any. We are awaiting decisions on the remaining cases already presented.
- 19 **Grand Total of Appeals Handled: Total 150 appellate matters handled Jan-March (excluding Pro Se matters and Habeas). Zero cases convictions reversed.**
- 20 Direct Appeals to the Georgia Supreme Court: Appeals has handled 17 appeals in the Georgia Supreme Court (briefs and/or oral argument submitted). We have won 11 cases and have lost none. We are awaiting decisions on the remaining cases already presented.
- 21 Out of Time Appeals/ Others: Appeals has handled 15 out-of-time appeal hearings and briefs. We have had 2 granted (this means the court is allowing them to have a motion for a new trial hearing but not that a new trial will necessarily be given). We have won 2 and are awaiting the decision on the remaining cases already presented.

## Special Victims Division

### Crimes Against Children Unit

- 22 **Created a Crimes Against Children Unit to specialize in crimes against our most precious population (Children).**
- 23 Crimes Against Children Unit partnered with Georgia Center for Child Advocacy.
- 24 Crimes Against Children Unit (attorneys, investigators, and victim advocates) completed the Georgia Prosecutor Institute for Child Abuse Prosecutors training.
- 25 Crimes Against Children Unit partnered with the Department of Family and Children Services.
- 26 **Crimes Against Children Unit completed training with the Office of the Fulton County Medical Examiner on fatality prosecutions to develop expertise in fatalities of children.**
- 27 Convened two Child Fatality Reviews.

### Sexual Assault Unit

- 28 **Created a Sex Assault Unit within SVD which is dedicated solely to adult victims of sexual assault.**
- 29 Participated in Atlanta City Councilman Michael Julian Bond's town hall meeting regarding domestic violence during the pandemic.

## Brenda Baham Domestic Violence Unit

- 30 **Created the Brenda Baham Domestic Violence Unit which specializes in handling intimate partner violence cases.**
- 31 Members of the newly formed unit attended a family violence training presented by the Prosecuting Attorney's Council of Georgia to develop their expertise.
- 32 Members of the newly formed unit attended a strangulation training presented by the Prosecuting Attorney's Council of Georgia.
- 33 Members of the newly formed unit attended a domestic violence 101/ strangulation training.
- 34 **Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Spelman College and Georgia State University to serve as a partner to combat domestic violence.**
- 35 Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Atlanta Police Department to form a stronger partnership and serve as a resource to assist with the investigation and prosecution of cases.
- 36 Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with APD and the Fulton County Sheriff's Department to create a unified front against domestic violence.
- 37 Domestic Violence Unit participated in a Fulton County Domestic Violence Task Force meeting.

## Juvenile Unit

**38** Implemented file tracker, which allows our office to track and monitor the progress of every child that is charged with a delinquent act and pair them with the best rehabilitation services.

**39** Added 2 attorneys, 1 investigator, and a juvenile court programs manager to ensure these children are provided the best services.

## SB440 Unit

**40** Created a SB440 Unit within our Special Victims Division to address the issue of juveniles being charged with violent crimes.

In 1994, Georgia enacted State Bill 440 (more commonly referred to as SB-440) to “provide that certain juvenile offenders who commit certain violent felonies shall be tried as adults in the superior court. This SB-440 law granted adult courts exclusive jurisdiction over criminal cases involving juveniles (ages 13-17) who are charged with one or more of the following “Seven Deadly Sins”:

- 1. Murder**
- 2. Armed Robbery with Firearm**
- 3. Rape**
- 4. Voluntary Manslaughter**
- 5. Aggravated Sexual Battery**
- 6. Aggravated Sodomy**
- 7. Aggravated Child Molestation**

**41** All members of the SB440 Unit successfully became gang certified to assist in the evaluation of issues that plague children charged in crime.

**42** Identified all cases appropriate for SB440 evaluation to determine if diverting them from adult prosecution is appropriate.

**43** Hired and collaborated with our Social Services Coordinator to create a bio-psych-social form that can be quantified to properly assess the needs of juveniles charged with violent crimes.

**44** Collaborated with our Social Services Coordinator to assess the tools needed for juveniles to be properly rehabilitated.

## Human Trafficking Unit

**45** The Human Trafficking Unit added a dedicated Victim Witness Advocate to assist this special group of victims.

**46** Partnered with the GA Coalition to Combat Human Trafficking.

**47** Partnered with the Office of the Attorney General’s Human Trafficking Unit to assemble prosecutors across the Metro Atlanta area in responding to an upcoming undercover operation for missing children with the US Marshals Task Force.

**48** Provided training courses from outside agencies regarding the handling of trafficking victims.

## Child Exploitation Unit

**49** Created a Child Exploitation Unit to combat children being abused and exploited online.

## Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (S.A.K.I) Unit

**50** Partnered with GA S.A.K.I Task Force to better serve the needs of all of Metro Atlanta to ensure a sexual assault kit backlog will never occur again.

**51** Met Bi-Weekly with the GA S.A.K.I Task Force for case review.

**52** Established the Fulton County Multidisciplinary Team with law enforcement, medical, state crime lab, and victim services partners to develop policies and procedures county-wide to ensure that a sexual assault kit backlog will not occur again.

**53** Developed a new victim identification form for all suspect interviews going forward.

**54** Indicted 2 serial rapists due to DNA recognition from women victimized more than a decade prior.

**55** Developed and implemented new SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis for all S.A.K.I cases.

**56** Traveled over 700 miles combined while conducting suspect, victim, and witness interviews.

### Elder Abuse

- 57 Created an Elder Abuse Unit to serve senior victims who are susceptible to predators.

### Animal Cruelty Unit

- 58 Established an Animal Cruelty Unit to address criminal abuse of mammals.
- 59 Partnered with PAWS Atlanta to provide canines as emotional support for children traumatized by violence.

### Conviction Integrity Unit

- 60 Opened a conviction integrity office.
- 61 Overturned 1 wrongful conviction.
- 62 Modified 3 lengthy unjust convictions.

### Anti – Corruption Division

- 63 Attended a Use of Force training with the Atlanta Police Department.
- 64 Reported to 2 officer-involved shooting scenes to ensure proper protocol was followed.

### Trial Division

- 65 **Case In-Take Unit**  
Created an all-new Case Intake Unit within the Trial Division to develop and improve standards for case preparation before cases are presented to grand jury.
- 66 Started and is running 2 historic grand juries – a first for the Fulton County District Attorney's office.

- 67 Indicted 321 cases.

### Non-Complex Unit

- 68 The Non-Complex Unit has received commendation from judges related to the ability to handle motion hearings and meet Discovery deadlines.
- 69 Reviewed and determined appropriate prosecution in over 4,500 cases.

### Complex Unit

- 70 The Complex Unit has closed out 16,790 files since January 4, 2021.

### Accountability Court Unit

- 71 For the first time in Fulton County history, we established a policy of accepting people into accountability court without indicting them.
- 72 10 Post-Indicted cases have been accepted into Accountability Court.
- 73 3 Pre-Indicted cases have been accepted into Accountability Court.
- 74 50% of the entire office has been trained on identifying citizens charged with crimes that would more appropriately be rehabilitated by being sent to the Accountability Court. Providing citizens' access to Accountability Court is a top priority of Madam DA.

### Operations Division

- 75 Completed onboarding for 51 new and extraordinarily qualified employees.
- 76 Created a website to allow the community transparent access to the DA's office.

### Records Unit

- 77 Our Records Unit closed approximately 31,200 cases and sent to archives.
- 78 Our Records Unit increased efficiency of the Grand Jury work up process by 90%.
- 79 Developed a public brochure regarding the records restriction application process.

### Graphics and Trial Presentation Unit

- 80 Designed materials for the swearing-in ceremony to commemorate the 1st Woman DA in Fulton County, Fani T. Willis, to restore community trust. The ceremony was attended by over 1,000 Fulton County residents in-person and online.
- 81 Created wall murals for the office to boost morale and create a positive work environment for each division location.
- 82 Created a brand strategy and style guidelines for community outreach.
- 83 Hosted 7 team building events.
- 84 Created a leadership booklet to provide the citizens direct contact with the office and resources.

## Investigation Division

**85** Discovered Investigators were operating without protection and invested \$50,000 in our law enforcement community acquiring protective bulletproof vests for our high-risk staff to ensure they are always safe.

**86** Reported to 17 homicide scenes to provide assistance to local law enforcement.

## Evidence Unit

**87** Identified inventory program for the Evidence Unit to ensure evidence is properly stored, maintained, and secured.

**88** Collaborated with the Fulton County Sheriff's office to establish mechanisms to retrieve telecommunication evidence.

## Programs Division

**89** Created the Programs Division to hold eligible offenders accountable while providing the resources, skills, and education to reduce the risk of committing crimes in the future.

**90** Established the CourtWatch Program to educate, empower, and include the community in the Court Justice System.

**91** Created a steering committee to steer the direction of juvenile diversion in Fulton County.

**92** Establishment of collaborative relationships with the Juvenile Court Administration.

## Victims Witness Advocate Unit

**93** Created a new Victim Witness Program brochure to assist victims in understanding the Court Justice System.

**94** Provided 2,219 victims with services to help them through their traumatic experience.

**95** Created a brochure for victims of domestic violence to educate them on resources and support available to them.

**96** Developed a 360 Program Evaluation tool to provide an evaluation perspective for program participants, program leaders, and the Fulton County DA's office.

## Community Liaison Unit

**97** Created a Community Liaison Unit to build and strengthen our relationship with the community.

**98** Explored community-based programs for the youth and community empowerment center.

**99** Conducted social media campaigns around Black History Month and Women's History Month to engage and educate the community on dynamic leaders from our community.

**100** Conducted social media campaigns to bring awareness to National Child Abuse Prevention Month and Sexual Assault Awareness Month to educate our community on combating these horrific crimes.



DA Fani T. Willis attended the swearing-in of Fulton County Sheriff's Deputies at Mercedes Benz Stadium.

## IN THE COMMUNITY



### **Metro Law Enforcement Agencies Breakfast**

DA Fani T. Willis attended an event at the Georgia Governor's Mansion for top Metro Atlanta law enforcement officials to discuss initiatives for safer communities.



### **South Fulton 'Feeding Our City' Easter Giveaway**

Fulton County DA Fani T. Willis and her office spent their Good Friday giving back to the community they serve.



### **Georgia Center for Child Advocacy**

DA Fani T. Willis toured the Georgia Center for Child Advocacy. Protecting children is a top priority for the District Attorney's Office.





**Pani T. Willis**  
 District Attorney, Atlanta Judicial Circuit  
 Conviction Integrity Unit  
 Est. 2021



Deputy Aimee Maxwell



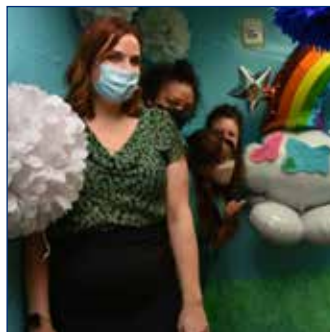
Madam DA and Deputy Aimee Maxwell at the new Conviction Integrity Unit Office.

## AROUND THE OFFICE



### A New Day and A New Look

Renovations underway!  
 Upgrades that create a more positive work environment.



### St. Patrick's Day at the Office

Each unit participated in a door decoration contest to build morale and team bonding.



### PAWS Atlanta Visit

from Atlanta Police Department's PAWS unit (Police Animals Wellness Support). She hopes to build a strong relationship with these pups and bring them to assist victims when they come to court.

# EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS

## Leadership Meeting Award Winners



Lamar Rhodes



Tashekka Fleming



Johnna Griffin



George Jenkins



Will Wooten



Tia Green



Krystal Lunsford, Jeremy Murray, Jazmin Dilligard, Deonté Pollard, Ebony Davis

## Employee of the Month

### FEBRUARY



**Vanessa Condry**  
Administrative Assistant

### MARCH



**Jinnique Roberts**  
Legal Assistant, Non-Complex

## Special Recognition

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### **Chief Investigator, Capers Green**

Congratulations to Chief Green, he has successfully completed the Chief Executive Training Class through the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police. Chief Green also earned a perfect score on the final exam.

### **Deputy DA, Brian Watkins**

On March 25th was a speaker at the Virtual College & Career Day at C.H. Gullatt Elementary School.



### **Assistant DA, Furhawn Shah**

has closed the most cases in the Fulton County District Attorney's office.

### **Deputy DA, Jill Hollander**

presented on elder abuse via webinar in partnership with the Fulton - Dekalb Hospital Authority. She also serves on 2 National Committees (Animal Cruelty & Domestic Violence) as an Elder Abuse Representative.



### **Chief Senior Assistant DA, Earnell Winfrey**

is providing training courses to outside agencies on how to better serve trafficking victims.

### **Chief Senior DA, Stephany Luttrell**

has completed 10 hours of training in the Civil Forfeiture Unit.



### **Assistant DA, Grant Rood**

has completed 12 hours of training in the Civil Forfeiture Unit.



# PROSECUTOR

The prosecutor is the representative not of an ordinary party to a controversy, but of a sovereignty whose obligation to govern impartially is as compelling as its obligation to govern at all, and whose interest, therefore, in a criminal prosecution is not that it shall win a case, but that justice shall be done. As such, she is in a peculiar and very definite sense the servant of the law, the two-fold aim of which is that guilt shall not escape or innocence suffer. She may prosecute with earnestness and vigor -- indeed, she should do so. But, while she may strike hard blows, she is not at liberty to strike foul ones. It is as much her duty to refrain from improper methods calculated to produce a wrongful conviction as it is to use every legitimate means to bring about a just one.

*Berger v. United States*, 295 U.S. 78 (1935).