

# DA DISPATCH *FANI T. WILLIS*, District Attorney



## 2022 Fulton County Kickball League Season Celebration September 15, 2022

### Conviction Integrity Grant

Allowing people from under-represented communities to remain in prison because their cases are hard to reopen does not serve public safety. The Fulton County District Attorney's Office established a Conviction Integrity Unit to review claims of innocence. On September 7, 2022, The FCDA-CIU was notified that they have been awarded grant funding "Post-conviction Testing of DNA" (\$550,000) from the Bureau of Justice Assistance to review, investigate and resolve claims of innocence involving DNA evidence. Without this funding, FCDA-CIU, led by Deputy DA Aimee Maxwell, would not have the resources to focus on wrongful conviction cases involving DNA. Funds will support the hiring of one full-time Assistant District Attorney (ADA). This position will be dedicated to working on DNA cases 100% of the time.

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 OFFICE OF THE  
FULTON COUNTY  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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Black Pride

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# Important Dates and Special Events

SEP 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
18 Family Fun Day 🎉	19	20	21	22 DA Dispatch Release 📄	23 Pay Day 💰	24
25	26 Monday Matinee Movie Day!! 🎬	27	28	29	30	

Domestic Violence Awareness Month 🧡 LGBTQ History Month 🌈 Breast Cancer Awareness Month 🧡						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
OCT 2022	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7 Pay Day 💰	8
9 Pride Parade 🌈	10 Economic Abuse Training (Zoom) 📄	11 Mandatory LGBTQ+ Sensitivity Training 🗣️	12	13 Domestic Violence Symposium: Domestic Violence Beyond the Surface (Downtown Public Library) 🗣️	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 International Domestic Violence Community Fair (Government Center Atrium) 🏛️	21 Pay Day 💰	22
23	24 Monday Matinee Movie Day!! 🎬	25 National Day of Remembrance for Homicide Victims 🧡	26 Spelman College Resource Fair & DV Simulation 4:00pm-6:00pm 🏛️	27	28	29
30	31 Halloween 🎃					

# Employee of the Month



2022

FANI T. WILLIS  
District Attorney

AUGUST  
employee of the month

**MISTY BOTU**  
Victim Witness Advocate  
Major Crimes Division

*Congratulations to Victim Witness Advocate Misty Botu for being awarded with the Employee of the Month distinction. Misty works tirelessly to support the victims and their families as they go through the process of receiving justice. She is kind and caring, and her passion for her work does not go unnoticed by this office or the people we serve!*

NATIONAL DAY OF  
**REMEMBRANCE**  
FOR  
**HOMICIDE  
VICTIMS**  
SEPTEMBER 25TH





# Monday Movie Matinee

# NOW SHOWING

# LEGALLY BLONDE

# SEPTEMBER 26, 2022

# 2:45PM



Partnership Against Domestic Violence

# 11th Annual Candlelight Vigil

An evening to commemorate and honor those who have lost the domestic violence over the past year.

October 27th, 2022 : 6:00 PM

Intercontinental Buckhead - Windsor Garden

Free Admission

RSVP Today: [PADV.org](http://PADV.org)



Scan QR code for more information.

# Faith-Based Breakfast

September 21, 2022



Leaders of the FCGAO gather to meet and eat breakfast with religious leaders on the south side of the city.

# Intern Field Trip

September 19, 2022



The interns (Nicole Sedran, Sonja Reid, Mercedes Dickerson, Kanko Zonou and Youshoda Prashad) visit the GBI Crime Lab.





# Fulton County District Attorney's Office

## 2023 T-Shirt Design Winner

Jasminne White



# Operation HeatWave

September 16, 2022



DDA Chris Sperry, Gang Unit 3L intern Nina Hassen, Gang Unit Legal Assistant and Indictment Writer Sheila Francois, and ATF TFO Adam Day participate in Heatwave.

# Derricho's Mental Health Corner



## Victim Blaming

Working for the District Attorney's Office, most of us presume that victim blaming (when the victim is seen as having some responsibility for what happened) is not an issue. However, we are human, and sometimes victim blaming is common in a prosecution office. In domestic or sexual violence situations or crimes involving family, it's easy to victim blame.

Examples of such include the following comments or questions:

- Why didn't they just leave?
- If they hadn't been there, this wouldn't have happened.
- What did they do to cause the defendant's actions?
- They should have known this would happen.
- Why do they keep accepting this behavior?
- Why didn't they get help or get the defendant help?
- What did they think was going to happen?
- Why did they let him move in when they know he is on drugs and stealing?

These comments and questions can be harmful to a victim, who can end up blaming himself or herself. Also, a colleague may be a crime victim. Hearing a coworker's victim blame can cause a person to feel ashamed and embarrassed. Also, not all victims want to be identified as victims. Some would like to identify as survivors or as a person who was a victim of a crime. Please be cognizant of what is said or implied because you never know who it may impact.

## Chief Deputy Pinion Wins U.S. Attorney's Award



*Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis and Executive District Attorney Daysha Young attend the 2022 U.S. Attorney's Awards honoring Brett Pinion.*

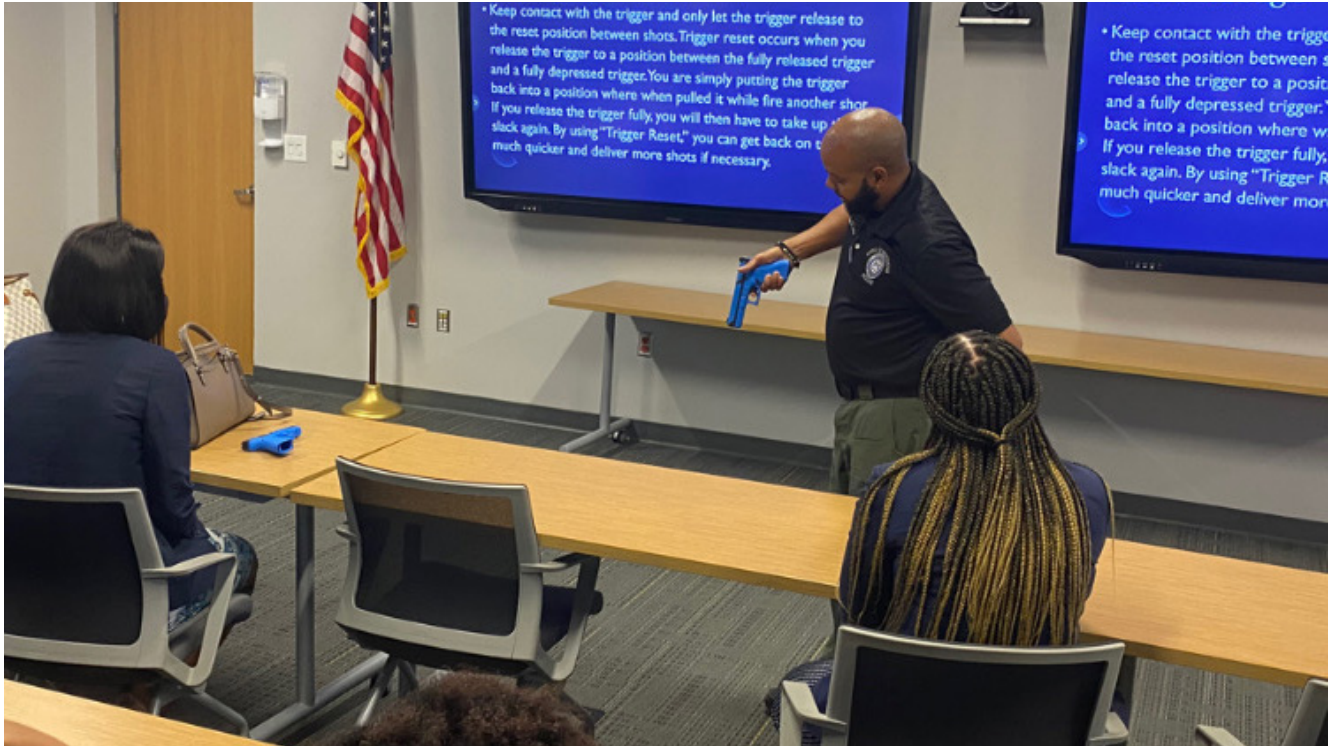
Congratulations to Chief Deputy Brett Pinion for being selected to be recognized at this year's presentation of the U.S. Attorney's Awards. This award recognizes truly exceptional contributions by federal, state, and local law enforcement personnel to cases, matters, and initiatives handled by the U.S. Attorney's Office. The recipients of the U.S. Attorney's Award have in some way surpassed already-high expectations and lead others in the law enforcement community by their example, diligence, effectiveness, and adherence to the highest professional ethics. The Fulton County District Attorney's office is very proud of Chief Deputy Pinion and congratulates him on this well-deserved honor.



# Training Simulation for Non-Law Enforcement Personnel

September 12-16, 2022

Employees of the District Attorney's office gather to learn how to wield a firearm.



# SHINING *stars*



**GEORGE  
JENKINS**

"I am sending this email to shout out our one and only George Jenkins and Keehlan Haygood. Earlier this week anti-corruption had an issue where they needed a fugitive picked up immediately. AC was running into difficulties with our partners in the criminal justice system. Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Haygood immediately volunteered to walk the warrants through the process and the fugitive was picked up within hours due to their dedication. Never once did Mr. Jenkins or Mr. Haygood say – anti-corruption is across the bridge, has nothing to do with me and I have my own work to do. Instead, they dropped their work to assist friends and colleagues. This is the way we all should operate every day.



**KEEHLAN  
HAYGOOD**

I have privately thanked George, but I wanted to publicly acknowledge these leaders for leading from the front. Thank you.

-Fani T. Willis  
District Attorney  
Atlanta Judicial Circuit



**SAUL  
ALTER**

"I went to the mailroom to pick up a table. As I was dragging the table across the bridge, several people offered to assist me. I politely declined and continued on my way. However, Mr. Alter was persistent. I was moved by his genuine desire to help me. He was kind, courteous and professional. His second good deed was that he invited me to Ron Dixon's Retirement Celebration. What a joy to congratulate my former trial partner for his dedicated years of service to Fulton County."

-Patsy Y. Porter  
State Court Judge



**EPIFFANY  
HENRY**

"Our Unit recently reviewed cases that we believe would be a good fit for the Pre-indictment Diversion Program. Our Unit met with Ms. Henry today, just to inquire and discuss what type of classes or services would fit the type of defendants we have in this Unit. Ms. Henry came to this meeting prepared with vision boards created by her participants, redacted papers authored by participants, training literature that addressed anger, criminal thinking, and other behavioral aspects, and spoke passionately, in detail about the purpose and goals for this program.

She also invited us to attend one of her classes, which we all attended. Ms. Henry is truly making a huge difference with these participants. Ms. Henry's dynamic approach to this program is a definite reflection of her belief in the mission and her love for what she does."

- Sonya Allen



# SHINING *stars*



**KENYA  
HERRING**

"I am the mother of Ethan McCallister, who was killed by a hit-and-run driver and Ms. Kenya Herring represented us for the first part of our case. I wanted to recognize her for the outstanding job that she did. She was so kind and always kept me up to date. She got back with me quickly if I ever called or texted her. I never felt like she was in a hurry- she talked to me as long as I needed to talk and answered as many questions as I had. I just want to say thank you for the great job that she did. I appreciate her more than she will ever know. I felt like she was fighting for our son and for the justice that the defendant needed and for that I say thank you!"

-Jody McCallister



**DANNY  
"WILEY"  
MURPHY**



**LORAN  
CRABTREE**



**GERALD  
WALSH**

Atlanta Public Schools Police Department is being assisted by FCDA to investigate a threat made on social media against Midtown High School students.



**JOSEPH  
RICKMAN**

"Dear District Attorney Willis,

I would like to thank District Attorney Investigators Joseph Rickman and Glenn Cross for the efforts they made in locating a critical witness to a homicide that occurred on October 21, 2021. Our investigator contacted Investigators Rickman and Cross, provided them with the name and possible address of a witness, and requested assistance in locating him. Investigators Rickman and Cross went to the address of the witness and ultimately spoke to him by phone. The witness told Rickman and Cross that he had received messages from our investigator but avoided responding because he did not want to get involved. They were able to develop a rapport and convinced him to cooperate and call our investigator to be interviewed. Our investigator was able to interview the witness by phone the following day and obtained important information and cooperation.



**GLENN  
CROSS**

I would like to express my gratitude to District Attorney Investigators Joseph Rickman and Glenn Cross for the assistance they provided to our office. Investigators Rickman and Cross expressed their commitment to duty and diligence in fulfilling our needs in the highest tradition of cooperation between law enforcement agencies."

Sincerely,

-Summer Stephan  
District Attorney

# Welcome **New Hires**

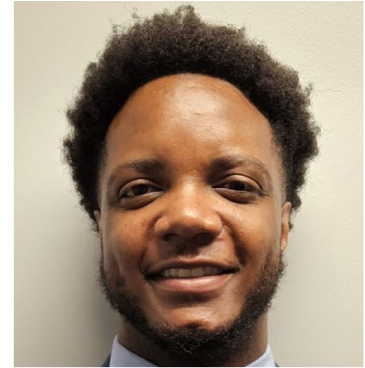
We extend a warm welcome and lots of great wishes for becoming part of our growing family. Your remarkable skills and talents will be a great addition to our office.



**JEFFREY HAWKINS**  
Chief Senior District Attorney  
Major Crimes Division



**JACELYNN PORTER**  
Sr. Assistant District Attorney  
Trial Division  
Non-Complex Unit



**WAYNE WILLIAMS**  
Victim Witness Advocate  
Special Victims Division

## **Ron Dixon's Retirement Party**

Congratulations Attorney Ron Dixon on a well-deserved retirement! Thank you for your 30 years of service to the people of Fulton County!





# Buckhead Judicial System Town Hall

On September 12, leadership from the Fulton County District Attorney's office joined a community meeting on the county justice system hosted by Commissioner Lee Morris at the Buckhead Library. EDA Mike Carlson joined the speaker's panel and discussed the office's efforts to make Fulton County safer by fighting gangs. EDA Daysha Young addressed the meeting regarding efforts to prosecute sexual assault, including serial rapists identified through the SAKI Unit. EDA George Carlson discussed efforts in the Trial Division to move cases forward and clear the backlog while ensuring justice for victims.



# 2022 NAGIA World Gang Summit



"Thanks to Ms. Willis for attending and addressing the 2022 NAGIA World Gang Summit. I had the opportunity to speak with many attendees after the opening ceremonies. Each person I spoke to said that Ms. Willis was the type of elected prosecutor they would love to have in their community. Her message truly resonated with the audience. "

*-Jeffrey Wennar*

*Executive Director at National Alliance of Gang Investigators Association*



# 2022 Fulton County Kickball League Season Celebration

September 15, 2022

The participants of the Fulton County Kickball League gather and network amongst themselves.









# Family Fun Day

September 17, 2022

FCDAO drove out to Wilkerson Park to participate in fun activities for all ages.

















# FCDA Fall Interns



**KANKO ZONOU** | Special Victims Division, Investigations

Kanko Zonou is a senior studying Political Science at Georgia State University. She is the Women's Rights Chair of the GSU Chapter of the NAACP and serves on the Student Judicial Board. She is also a member of the 'Enchanting' Eta Mu Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.



**EDEN BOGOLIN** | Pre-Indictment Division

Eden is interested in working with the Fulton County DA's office in order to directly serve underprivileged communities through assistance with the Pre-Trial Diversion Program. Eden believes that people are driven to crime and delinquency out of economic and personal necessity, and if this is the case, those offenders should be offered the proper opportunities and resources to become productive members of society.



**SHARTECIA ROMAN** | Case Intake Division

Shartecia is an accomplished and energetic person with a solid history of academic achievement and a strong work ethic. She is seeking to utilize a passion to help offenders and reduce the recidivism rate. She is a motivated leader with strong organizational and prioritization abilities.



**CHRISTINA PRINCE-WILSON** | Major Crimes Division, Cold & Capital Case

Christina is a Political Science student at Spelman College. She is a member of Morehouse and Spelman Pre-Law Society, The National Society of Leadership and Success, Alpha Lambda Delta, and Spelman NAACP.



**DAENA BRINK** | Victim Witness Advocate, Major Crimes Division

Daena Brink is a senior in the BSW program at Georgia State University. They are a Goizueta Scholar and the elected representative for their cohort within the Latinx Student Services and Outreach office. Most of their professional experience lies with neurodivergent and disabled children and moving forward they hope to pursue a career in criminal justice reform practicing restorative justice, providing community-based services, and ending reliance on police and prisons. They use they/them pronouns in English and elle/elles in Spanish.

# FCDA Fall Interns



**JOVANNA GREER** | Special Victims Division, Crimes Against Children Unit

Jovanna Greer is a senior at Spelman College majoring in Psychology (Pre-Law track). She is active in the Morehouse-Spelman Pre-Law Society, the NAACP Chapter at Spelman, and Spelman's "So Psyched" Psychology Club where she assists in educating other members about opportunities for psychology-related research and education. She has participated in the RISE organization, where she assisted with text banking and planning informational events related to voter awareness.



**KIMANII HOLLIS** | Trial Division, Complex

Kimanii Hollis is a previous intern graduated with the program. She has many dreams of success and she will achieve them all with hard work and dedication.



**CARLY KNIGHT** | Major Crimes Division Conviction Integrity Unit

Carly is a 3L student at Georgia State University.



**ANDREA TEMPLE** | Victim Witness Advocate, Major Crimes Division

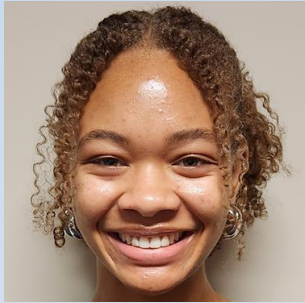
Andrea is a student at Georgia State University getting her Masters in Social Work.



**JADYN WARE** | Trial Division, Anti-Corruption Unit

Jadyn is a Sociology Major with a Pre- Law Concentration. She serves as the Vice President of the Morehouse Spelman Pre-Law Society and Committee Leader of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She is also a member of Next Generation, where she mentors and assists high school girls in their matriculation. She is an Ethel Waddell Githii Honors Scholar and is in the Spelman's Honors Program.

# FCDA Fall Interns



**SHILOH WOLFORK** | Victim Witness Advocate, Major Crimes Division

Shiloh Wolfork is a sophomore Political Science major, English and Management and Organization double minor at Spelman College. She is from Cincinnati, Ohio, and enjoys reading, writing, and doing yoga. She is passionate about human rights, social justice, and policy reform, and currently serves on the Executive Board of the Spelman College National Action Network.



**MERCEDES DICKERSON** | Case Intake Division, Special Victims Division

Mercedes Dickerson is a 3rd-year student at Atlanta's John Marshall Law School. She went to Columbus State University where she majored in Political Science and minored in Spanish. Currently, she serves as the Vice President of Student Bar Association at her law school.



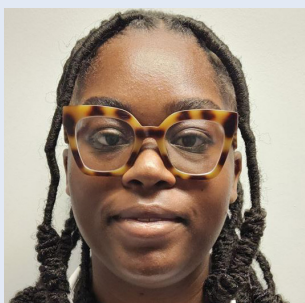
**RAUL ALVIZUA** | Case Intake Division

Raul Alvizua is a 1L student at Atlanta's John Marshall Law School. He completed his undergraduate education from Southern New Hampshire University after completing his active-duty service with the US Navy where he also attended the University of Maryland. He has a full-time job in law enforcement, and is excited for the opportunity to intern with the District Attorney's Office.



**NINA HASSEN** | Case Intake Division, Gangs Unit

Nina graduated from the University of Georgia as an advertising major and is a current 3L at Atlanta's John Marshall Law School. Her legal interests include criminal justice, intellectual property, and entertainment law. Outside of her career interests, she enjoys art, interior design, fashion, baking, and any outlet that allows her to get creative and think outside the box.



**AGELENSE OKOJIE** | Anti Corruption Unit, Trial Division

Agelense is pursuing a degree in Bachelor of Sociology at Spelman College. She serves as the Vice President of Spelman NAACP Chapter, and the Secretary of Girls Going Global Spelman Chapter, and is a member of Morehouse Spelman Pre-Law Society and Fair Fight U.



# FCDA Fall Interns



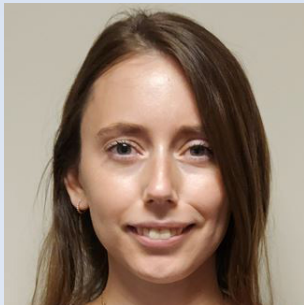
**NICOLE SEDRAN** | Major Crimes Division, Major Case Unit

Nicole is an upcoming senior at Georgia State University majoring in Political Science. She chose this major because of her strong passion for law and government. She wants to pursue a career in this field after she expands her education. Entering her fourth year, she would like to have a meaningful experience with something that relates to the field she is looking to enter.



**MONTSHO CANTON** | Special Victims Division, Sexual Assault

Montsho Canton is a sophomore Sociology major, Asian Studies, and Spanish double minor at Spelman College. She is an Ethel Waddii Githii Honors student and a Social Justice Fellow. She is interested in alternative punishment, criminal justice reform, and youth restorative justice. She serves as finance committee co-chair for the Spelman NAACP and is a member of the Spelman Morehouse Pre-Law Society, The Granddaughters Club, and Spelman's Chapter of Fair Fight U.



**CAROLINE KURUVILLA** | Special Victims Division, Conviction Integrity

Caroline is passionate about holding accountable those who abuse their positions of power and in advocating on behalf of victims. She is particularly interested in the prosecution of white-collar crime and crimes against children. She is also deeply interested in criminal justice reform and restorative justice.



**YOUSHODA (BRIANNA) PRASHAD** | Media Division

Youshoda is a student from Georgia State University who has obtained a bachelor's degree in Political Science with a concentration in International Affairs. She also has a minor in Film Production.



**MATTHEW "MAX" TANS** | Case Intake Division, Major Case Unit

Max is a 2L at John Marshall, a Navy veteran and tech entrepreneur. He studied political science at the University of Wisconsin, started a small business making websites, but really wanted to combine his desires to volunteer, serve, travel and his love of aviation so he joined the Navy. He started a small business helping people use technology at home and moved to the Atlanta area to attend law school and be closer to family.

# FCDA Fall Interns



**MARGARET DUBOSE** | Case Intake Division

Margaret is interested in exploring public service generally, and criminal prosecution specifically, as potential career paths after she finishes law school. Her time working with the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control before law school instilled in her an appreciation for public servants and the responsibility public servants have in serving the communities they live in and promoting their wellbeing.



**ISLEIGH ANDERSON** | Victim Witness Advocate, Major Crimes Division

Isleigh Anderson graduated from Bethune Cookman University in May of 2022 with a Bachelors of Science degree in Criminal Justice with honors. She continued her education at Clark Atlanta University receiving a Masters of Social Work with a concentration of health/mental health. This year I ended off with a 4.0 GPA. I will be graduating next year May of 2023. Currently, she is a Dean Scholar, part of Phi Alpha Honor Society, a candidate mentee for the Black Mental Wellness Mentoring Program, and a Behavioral Health and Workforce Training Scholar.



**SONJA REID** | Special Victims Division, Domestic Violence Unit

Sonya is pursuing her career as an attorney and ultimately a District Attorney. She is a student at Georgia Piedmont Technical College majoring in Criminal Justice with a Minor in Paralegal studies.



**VICTORIA NUNN** | Special Victims Division, Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Unit

Victoria is an Ogeechee Tech graduate seeking to work and gain more knowledge about all aspects of the legal field. She is known to be trustworthy, responsible, and diligent in her work.



**SAVANNAH DREXLER** | Case Intake Division

Savannah Drexler is a rising 2L at Atlanta's John Marshall Law School. She clerked at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission this past summer and is currently working as an associate for Lexis Nexis. She is a John Marshall Scholarship Recipient and is active with the Atlanta Bar Association and the Georgia Association for Women Lawyers, and serves as the Communications and Community Engagement Director for the Peer Mentor Program.



# FCDA Fall Interns



**IVAN SYRITSYN** | Major Crimes Division, Major Case Unit

Ivan Syritsyn is a second-year student at Georgia State College of Law. He graduated from St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland in 2019 and is currently serving a two-year term on the Honor Court for the College of Law. He served as an intern in the Case Intake Division this past summer under the great and informative guidance of Kenneth Hutcherson, Faye Rosenbaum, Stacey Johnstone and a great many other wonderful attorneys.



**BRITTANI HOLMES** | Special Victims Division, Sex Trafficking

Brittani Holmes is a class of 2022 Spelman College alumna whose academic fortitude earned her Magna Cum Laude graduation honors. During her college matriculation, she held memberships in elite organizations such as the Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society, Spelman's Mock Trial Team, the Miss Spelman Advisory Board, Spelman College's Ambassador Program, the Morehouse Spelman Pre-Law Society, the NAACP Spelman College Chapter, Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society, Young Democrats of America, and the Peer Assistant Leader Program.



**ELEANORA KAMEROW** | Case Intake Division-Murder

Eleanora Kamerow attended undergraduate school at Bucknell University in Pennsylvania where she double majored in Creative Writing and French. She is pursuing her JD degree at Emory University School of Law. At Emory, she is involved in TIGER, the technology, innovation, and intellectual property program for the school.



**SKY BRUMFIELD** | Programs Division, Grants

Sky aspires to be a lawyer and work with the FBI. She is majoring in computer science. Her coursework this year consists of learning the code language python, taking calculus, and continuing Spanish. She is a member of Spelhouse Pre-Law society and the cheer leading team at Morehouse College.



# Black Pride

September 4, 2022

When our office began its initiative to rethink how to better serve the LGBTQ+ community last year, we knew it would be essential to get feedback directly from those citizens we serve if we want to make real, effective changes. Participating in events like Atlanta Black Pride Weekend and hearing from LGBTQ+ Atlantans both breaks down walls between our office and the community and helps us better define our ultimate mission.





# CourtWatch Training

Our first group of CourtWatch volunteers are gearing up to attend courtrooms on September 19th, 20th, and the 21st. The pool of active volunteers were given the opportunity to attend hearings at the courthouse by an electronic sign-up sheet. Within 10 minutes, the spots were immediately filled! These participants are extremely enthusiastic to participate in our program.



Lisa Holland from the Programs Division, is promoting the CourtWatch program to 22 potential volunteers from the Roswell Police Department's Citizen Police Academy class. Several of them have already filled out their online application and are excited to help in our endeavor to reduce crime in Fulton County by focusing on repeat offenders.



Roswell Police Officer Kianda Pritchett with the Community Relations Unit with Community Resource Specialist Lisa Holland.



# CONVICTION ALERTS



**QUINTIN LEWIS**

1st Chair  
Assistant District Attorney  
Non-Complex Unit  
Trial Division



Inv. Christopher Davidson



LA Andre Dixon



WVA Cherrillie Looby-Tonge



AC Bernice Higgins



DDA RuShondra Davenport



DC Robert Appell



**SANDRA WOLFE**

2nd Chair  
Assistant District Attorney  
Non-Complex Unit  
Trial Division

Congratulations to the Trial Division's Complex Unit Trial Team for the return of a 12-minute guilty verdict on ALL COUNTS in **State v Dominique!**

The defendant was found guilty of:  
-2 counts of Aggravated Battery  
-1 count of Aggravated Assault  
-1 count of Possession of a knife during the Commission

The defendant was sentenced to 25 years in prison.



**KENYA HERRING**

Assistant District Attorney  
Domestic Violence Unit  
Special Victims Division



Sr. Inv. Kendall Tucker



LA Jayson Chavis



WVA Rosa James



WVA Wayne Williams

Congratulations to the Domestic Violence Unit Trial Team for the return of a 40-minute guilty verdict on ALL COUNTS in **State v Terry Griffin!**

The defendant was found guilty of:  
-Murder  
-Felony Murder  
-Aggravated Assault  
-Criminal Damage to Property in the 1st Degree  
-Possession of a Firearm during the Commission of a Felony

The defendant was sentenced to Life plus 5 years.



**CHINEKWU OKAM**

Assistant District Attorney  
Cold & Capital Unit  
Major Crimes Division



# CONVICTION ALERTS



**JOHN WEITNAUER**

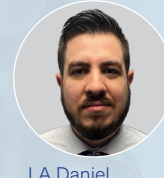
Assistant District Attorney  
Domestic Violence Unit  
Special Victims Division



Sr. Inv. Timothy Effler



VWA Meesun-Hong Thongkoth



LA Daniel Pinilla

Congratulations to the Sexual Assault Unit for securing a guilty verdict on ALL COUNTS in **State v Julio Coto-Naverez**.



**NALDA K. CHARLES**

Assistant District Attorney  
Cold & Capital Unit  
Major Crimes Division

The defendant was found guilty of:

- Rape
- Aggravated Sodomy
- False Imprisonment

The sentencing is scheduled for October 3.



**PAT DUTCHER**

Chief Deputy DA  
Major Crimes Division



Asst. Chief Inv. DeShawn Raymond



Deputy Chief Inv. Michael Green



VWA Ilona Rolack



LA Lora Andrews



Inv. Joseph Rickman



LA Briana Barrett



VWA Misty Botu



LA Joseph King

Congratulations to the Major Case Unit Trial Team on the return of a guilty verdict on ALL COUNTS in **State v Bryan Schmitt!**



**PAREESA AMJADI**

Assistant District Attorney  
Major Crimes Division

The defendant was found guilty of:

- Murder
- Felony Murder (2 counts)
- Aggravated Assault (2 counts)

The defendant received a life sentence.





## CAITLIN BRADLEY

Hate Crimes Advocate  
Case Intake Division

Born and raised in Atlanta, Caitlin Bradley worked as a lifeguard at various public pools around the city during her teens. At 15, she used her summer earnings to fund a study abroad trip and lived for four months in Guayaquil, Ecuador, where she visited the Galapagos Islands– one of her dream destinations as a child. She loves to travel. She studied abroad in undergrad and spent a summer semester in Granada, Spain. Despite her time spent overseas, Caitlin does not speak much Spanish, so please do not approach her when seeking a Spanish interpreter.

Caitlin earned her bachelor’s degree at Georgia State University and moved to Miami for graduate school. At GSU, she worked in the Behavioral Science Lab and studied hyper masculinity as it relates to violence against women and violence against members of the LGBTQ+ community. In graduate school, she volunteered with organizations focused on teen dating violence and preventing sex trafficking.

Attached to this profile is a fun picture taken during a trip to Hawaii for a national billiards tournament. Caitlin and her husband play in an amateur league, and their team went to that tournament representing Atlanta’s division of the American Pool players Association. She and her husband are lifelong Braves fans, and they frequently attend the local games. They live in Southeast Atlanta with two dogs, and they are expecting their first child in December.







## Gerald Walsh

Digital Forensics  
Investigator

Although Gerald Walsh was born in Fort Gordon, Georgia, he does not consider himself a Georgia native because he grew up in Tallahassee, Florida. He served in law enforcement for more than 30 years. He was a tribal police officer for the Seminole Tribe in Florida (where he met his wife), a state trooper in West Virginia, and an Alpharetta police officer in Georgia. In December 2014, Gerald completed his BA in Computer Forensics at West Virginia's Marshall University.

He and his family returned to Georgia, where he took the opportunity to join the Fulton County District Attorney's Office as a senior investigator in 2017. Currently, he is a proud member of the Technology Division working with a great team. Professionally, his passion is digital forensics and technological advancement in law enforcement.

Personally, Gerald's passion is his family. He loves spending time and traveling with family, comprising his son and daughter, and his beautiful wife of 25 years. They recently celebrated their wedding anniversary on August 30th.







## ALLONYA RAGLAND

Investigator  
Trial Division

Allonya Ragland brought more than 7 years of law enforcement experience to the Fulton County District Attorney's Office, when she joined in May of 2021. She has years of experience as a state probation/parole officer and served as a court officer, field officer supervising low-high level offenders, and a sex offender officer. She served on the arrest team and participated in warrant details arresting probationers/parolees who were in violation of their conditions. Allonya added to her law enforcement experience when she became mandated in 2021 as the first full time cadet to be sent to the academy by the Fulton County District Attorney's Office.

Allonya was exposed to the criminal justice system growing up as she had family members that worked in law enforcement which piqued her interest. Her interest and exposure to the criminal justice system turned into passion which led to a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from THE CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY (One of the best HBCUs in the country) where the motto was "Find a Way or Make a Way".

She was born in New Jersey and grew up in Birmingham, Alabama. She attended Gardendale High School where she was a member of the honor society and marching/concert band. Allonya played the clarinet from 4th grade to 12th grade and aspired to be a drum major after watching the Magic City Classic game's (Alabama State v Alabama A&M) half time show when she was a child. She loves to hear HBCU marching bands play and attends the Battle of the Bands competition in Atlanta whenever she can.

Allonya is married to her high school sweetheart, Rosco, and they have a three-year-old son named Caleb. She is not a sports fan, but she does cheer for the best college football team in the land! Rolllllllll Tideeeeeee! (Major side eye to all the Georgia fans! We are coming back for our title! Had to let y'all win one! Lol). In her spare time, she loves to travel, go on cruises, listen to music, shop, read, spend time with her family and friends, and watch her favorite tv show called "In The Heat of the Night".





## CHANDA LOVE

Legal Assistant  
Grand Jury

Born in Brunswick, Georgia, Chanda Love moved to Atlanta in 1990 to attend Grady Memorial Hospital's School of Radiology's two-year program before going on to Georgia State University/University of St. Francis. She worked as a radiologic technologist for 10 years.

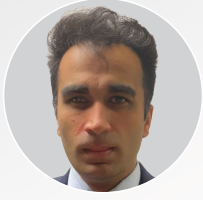
During this time, she met her husband Henry. Marriage, the start of multiple businesses, including janitorial service and home repair, and a growing family delayed her educational journey. Chanda returned to University of St. Francis and received a Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Leadership at age 40.

She has been married for 30 years. She and her husband have five children, two grandchildren, and two dogs (a Pit bull, and a Jack Russell terrier-Chihuahua mix). Growing up, Chanda was the baby in her family with three older brothers and a sister. Her passions and hobbies include traveling, spending time with family and friends (mostly friends – LOL), shopping for home interior goods, and cooking.

Born and raised around water, Chanda admits that she can't swim. She received her passport about a year and half ago, triggering greater adventures that have included Cancun, Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Puerto Rico. She loves traveling with girlfriends and having fun - always ready to go.







# CaseLaw

By: Senior District Attorney  
Gautam Rao

## Dismissing a Juror During Deliberations

A trial court has the discretion to remove a juror during deliberations if there is sound basis for removal. *Jones v. State* 314 Ga. 214, 222 (2022). O.C.G.A. § 15-12-172, which allows a court to remove a juror before or after a case has been submitted for consideration, states in pertinent part that “upon other good cause shown to the court is found to be unable to perform his duty, or is discharged for other legal cause, the first alternate juror shall take the place of the first juror becoming incapacitated.”

“Sound basis” serves the legally relevant purpose of preserving public respect for the integrity of the judicial process. *Jones* at 222-223. What it boils down to, per the Supreme Court, is whether the trial court has conducted a sufficient investigation that supports a finding that that establishes proper reasons for removal that are “unrelated to the jurors view of the evidence introduced at trial.” *Id.* at 223.

Examples of proper reasons for removal are as follows: *Jones v. State*, 307 Ga. 465, 465-66 (2019) (juror refusal to participate in deliberations); *Moon v. State*, 288 Ga. 508, 513 (2011) (lack of candor during voir dire and extra-judicial comments such as a juror referring to a witness as a drug dealer despite no evidence of this at trial); *State v. Arnold*, 280 Ga. 487, 489-90 (2006) (berating fellow jurors leading to a negative effect on deliberations); *Cloud v. State*, 235 Ga. App. 721, 721-22 (1998) (juror requested removal, cried, and said he could not judge the defendant); *Bryant v. State*, 320 Ga. App. 504 (2013) (juror falling ill and court conducting independent investigation to confirm juror’s illness). In these cases, the trial court was not abusing its discretionary authority in dismissing said juror.

Essentially, dismissing a juror should be based on a reason other than the juror's view of the evidence (i.e. lack of sufficient evidence, witness credibility). Replacing that juror for this reason would be reversible error. See *Delgado v. State* 356 Ga. App. 625 (2020) (citing *Semega v. State*, 302 Ga. App. 879, 882 (2010)).

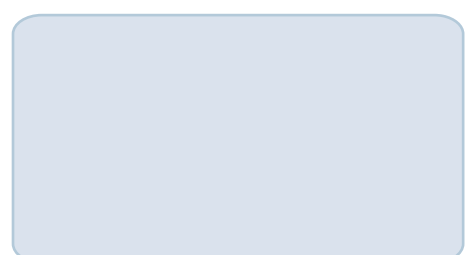
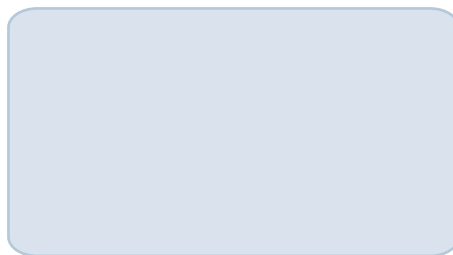
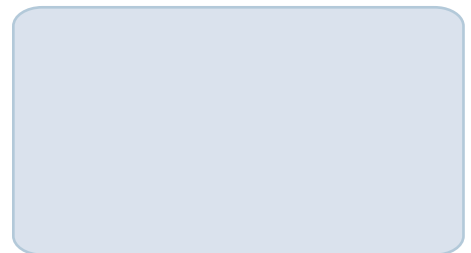
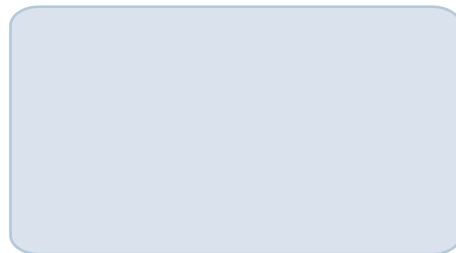
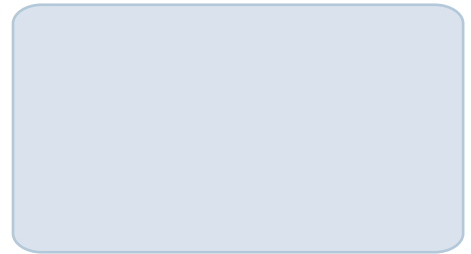
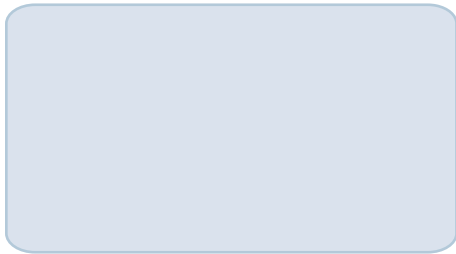
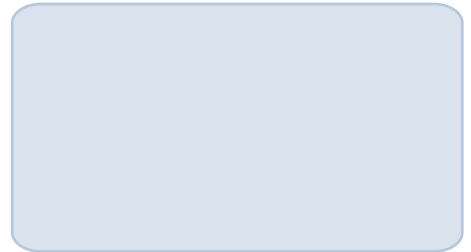
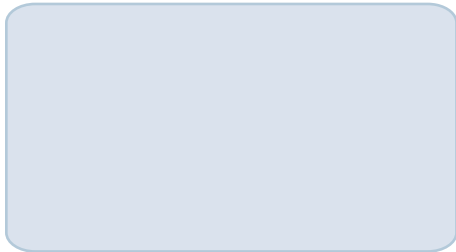
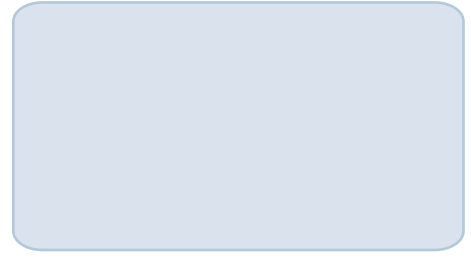
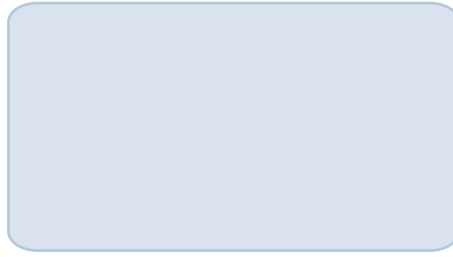
A “sufficient investigation” suggests questioning jurors in private or obtaining reliable indicia to show juror’s incapacity to continue deliberations. See *Cloud* at 722 (juror was questioned by the court outside the presence of his fellow jurors and explained to the trial court that he could not judge the Defendant, stating “I mean I cannot say if he, you know, committed all these crimes or not, you know. I mean, I can't, you know . . . I don't want to go back in there anymore.”); see also *Bryant* at 505-08 (the trial court received a call from juror indicating that she was at the emergency room and verified as best it could under HIPAA that the juror was in the hospital).

Therefore, prosecutors have the responsibility to preserve the record and ensure that the reasons set forth by the trial court are based on sufficient investigation that formulates the reason for a valid dismissal.




# Newsroom

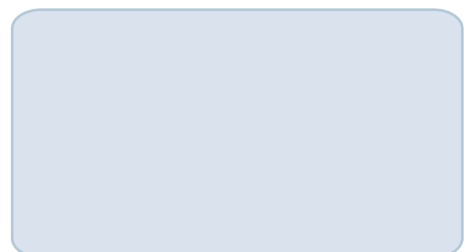
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By: wsbtv News Staff



**Parent of 7-year-old found floating in lake pleads guilty to her murder, DA says**





***FANI T. WILLIS***  
District Attorney

**DA**DISPATCH  
The Fulton County District Attorney's Office