

DA DISPATCH

FANI T. WILLIS, District Attorney



FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

FANI T. WILLIS

BACK-TO-SCHOOL
Extravaganza

The Fulton County District Attorney's Office's
BACK-TO-SCHOOL EXTRAVAGANZA page 8

Welcome to our new **Coordinator of Volunteer Affairs**



Hi Everyone!

My name is Angela, and I am excited to be the new Coordinator of Volunteer Affairs. I'm here to help plan and coordinate special events that Madam DA would like to have throughout the year. My first event to help plan is the Fani T. Willis, Fulton County District Attorney's Office's Back-to-School Extravaganza on July 9. This will be a backpack give-away with plenty of fun and education.

Turn to Page 8 to see more about the event and myself!



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10



City of Refuge Ribbon Cutting

12



Record Restriction Clinic

20



Cinco de Mayo
 Spring Report Celebration

Important Dates page 03

Mental Health Corner page 05

Conviction Alerts page 14

The Fab Four page 22

Case Law Update page 26

Newsroom page 27

Important Dates and Special Events

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| MAY 2022 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 CPM GRADUATION in Athens Legal Assistants Master Class GRADUATION | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 Memorial Day Holiday | 31 NEW Employees Start | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----|
| JUNE 2022 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 Fulton County PayDay | 4 |
| 5 | 6 Adult Diversion Orientation | 7 Lexis Nexis Training | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 DA Dispatch Release | 17 Fulton County PayDay | 18 |
| 19 JUNETEENTH Celebrate Freedom | 20 JUNETEENTH Holiday | 21 | 22 Leadership Meeting @ Fulton County Central Library | 23 | 24 Popsicles & Polo's | 25 |
| 26 | 27 NEW Employees Start Monday Matinee Movie Day!! | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 |

Tech Corner

Mark your calendars!!!

Fulton County District Attorney – Lexis Training Webinars

Lexis Nexis Training

JUNE 7th

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.



RICHARD RANDOLPH
Executive Deputy Chief
Investigations Division

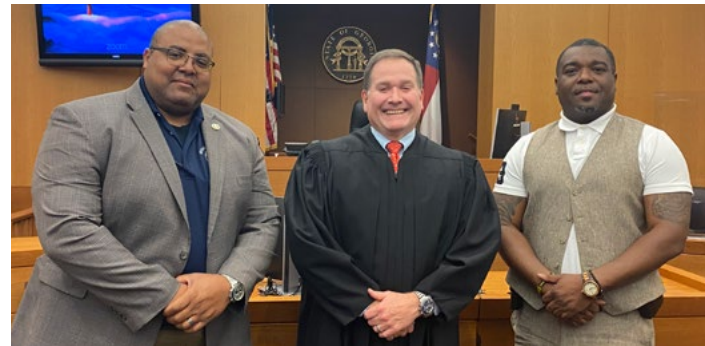


PALLAVI PURKAYASTHA
Editor-in-Chief - DA Dispatch
Media Unit



LAUREN HOPKINS
Clerk
Investigations Division

Swearing-In with Chief Judge Brasher



Awards

Moral Reconciliation Therapy "MRT" Certification



Members of our Adult Diversion team were certified in / received training to teach Moral Reconciliation Therapy "MRT" courses. The Adult Diversion program offers several courses centered in the MRT curriculum that our participants take as a condition of their voluntary participation in our program. These courses include "Thinking For Good" (a behavioral therapy course); Taking The High Road" (a drug course); "Anger Management," and more. For more information on MRT, they can visit their website: <https://www.ccimrt.com/training/>.

Pictured from Left to Right: Operations Manager - Diversion Deonté Pollard; Social Services Coordinator Kelly Greenberg, MSW; Youth Advocate & Liaison Akeem Woodard; Deputy District Attorney Ramona Toole, Esq.; Pre-Indictment Diversion / Record Restriction Liaison Kirsten Williams, J.D.

Congratulations

OFFICE PROMOTIONS



KEVIN ARMSTRONG
has been promoted to serve as our new
DEPUTY OF APPEALS



CAITLIN BRADLEY
has been promoted to serve as our new
HATE CRIMES ADVOCATE



Mental Health Corner

By: Chandrika Derricho
Victim-Witness Assistance Program Director

Secondary Traumatic Stress

Secondary Traumatic Stress is defined as "a syndrome of symptoms nearly identical to post-traumatic stress disorder except that exposure to a traumatizing event experienced by one person becomes a traumatizing event for the second person" (Figley, 1999, p.11). Secondary Traumatic Stress (STS) is a normal reaction to stress and we are at high risk due to being exposed to the traumatic situations of our victims. Protective factors for STS include empathy, social support, organizational support, self-care, and compassion satisfaction. Peer and supervisory support are also protective factors for STS. The key to addressing STS is knowing and implementing the ABC's of self-care. First, you should be **aware** of your own traumas, triggers, and your functioning. If you notice you are experiencing issues, don't be afraid to take a break or ask to switch assignments. Also, seek therapy or counseling to address your own personal issues that you may be experiencing to decrease triggers. Next, there has to be a sense of **balance** between your personal and professional life. Balance always starts with creating and maintaining appropriate boundaries. Be present in what you are doing and don't allow personal or professional life to overlap. Finally, being **connected** to your family, friends, your social and professional communities are important. Remember why you are doing the work that you do and focus on the rewards of your work.

SHINING stars



MIKE CARLSON

Executive District Attorney
Major Crimes Division

Executive Deputy Mike Carlson of Major Crimes Division has been named one of the Most Politically Influential Lawyers for 2022.



TIMOTHY "NEIL" EFFLER

Investigator
Trial Division

I want the entire office to know how Awesome Investigator Timothy "Neil" Effler is! I have never had such a responsive and assertive investigator. From Case Intake, to Non-Complex, to Complex, Neil has gone over and beyond the call of duty. He has set up zoom calls with reluctant victims to make them feel more comfortable, retrieved lost documents, as well as located missing persons. I could not be more grateful! I owe him a drink!

Roncheros D. Fortune, Assistant District Attorney

SHINING stars

CASE INTAKE DIVISION

Madam DA Willis,

I wanted to share with you how great of job the Case Intake Team is doing. I have folks that are coming in early, staying late and coming in on Saturdays and Sundays to prepare case for the ADAs. The teamwork and camaraderie displayed by this group of folks is unmatched. We are in full understanding of the task at hand, and as a group we are going to great lengths to attain these goals set! We know we are the BACKBONE of the operation. 90 plus down 400 and some change, to go for the month.

I have witnessed these folks stay late to help each other, teach each other new ways of doing old task, and walk office staff to their cars, and many other thankless task. This is truly a top notch group of folks! TEAMWORK makes the DREAM WORK!

Robert Turner (Rob)
Assistant Chief Investigator – Case Intake Division



EPIFFANY HENRY

Deputy Chief of Staff
Pre-Trial Diversion



RISHA LEE

Legal Assistant
Trial Division



WHITNEY MEYER

Deputy Legal Assistant
Trial Division

I am so appreciative of the speedy efforts of Ms. Epiffany Henry, Ms. Risha Lee, and Ms. Whitney Meyer. I sent about 11-12 cases for evaluation to Ms. Henry and requested the same number of GCIC requests to Ms. Lee and Ms. Meyer. This resulted in getting offers for 9-10 Defendants into the Adult Diversion program. Ms. Henry sent me some offers at 11 p.m, 12 a.m., and some after 1 a.m. this morning. I was shocked to see so many offers in my inbox! Being able to send these out so quickly, will save time in court and I am certainly grateful. Hopefully these Defendants are able to take advantage of their opportunity. Not all heroes wear capes!

Kara S. Lawrence, Esq., Assistant District Attorney

DIGNITARY PROTECTION

Good Morning team,

I just wanted to send this email because I wanted to commend our dignitary team. The team works Monday through Sunday, day and night, at a moment's notice to ensure Madam and members of this office are safe. This weekend was a large task, but we pulled together and got it done. We're strategic and can adjust to sudden change with grace and effort.

There are other investigators who fill in when needed. Please thank them when you see them: Jason Anderson, Robert Brown, Damien Smith, Keenan O'Neal, James Miller, Justin French, Alfred Martin, Marcus Gerald, Deshawn Raymond, Loran Crabtree, Rob Turner, Antonio Long, Ranetta Cruse, Chief Capers Green, and Deputy Chief Johnna Griffin.

I'm grateful and proud to be a part of an amazing team. The best in this state, for sure, and one of the best in this country.

Thomas L. Ricks IV
Assistant Chief of Investigations/Dignitary Protection



WILL MCCOMBS

Justice Liaison

Dear Ms. Willis,

I was fortunate enough to be directed to Will McCombs in your office. I cannot sing his praises enough. He was diligent about calling me and others to make sure this autopsy was done as fast as possible so that this family could lay their son to rest. Mr. McCombs was phenomenal throughout, and it was an honor working with him.

Sincerely,

Kenya L. Patton
Attorney at Law



BACKPACK GIVE-AWAY

4 x 4 x 4

TEAMS CITIES PARKS
(Fulton County)

Stay tuned for more details!

Welcome to our new **Coordinator of Volunteer Affairs**



ANGELA JOHNSON

Coordinator of Volunteer Affairs

C: 404.210.1896
volunteer.coordinator@fultoncountyga.gov

Hi Everyone!

My name is Angela, and I'm a Scorpio! Jokes... But I am.. I am excited to be the new Coordinator of Volunteer Affairs. I'm here to help plan and coordinate special events that Madam DA would like to have throughout the year. My first event to help plan is the Fani T. Willis, Fulton County District Attorney's Office's Back-to-School Extravaganza on July 9. This will be a backpack give-away with plenty of fun and education. You have been given some information, but I will be providing more in the days to come.

So a little about me. I graduated from Hampton University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering. Madam likes to believe that Howard University is the Real HU, but I like to disagree.. I also have a MBA from Georgia State University and a Master's Certificate in Project Management from George Washington University. I am also a Licensed Real Estate agent and a Regional Sales Manager.

FUN FACTS:

I have two kids, Aysia (22) and Amiri (18). They're pretty good adult kids and I'm pretty proud of them, even though they stay in my pockets. I love to play sports and LOVE a little friendly competition. I've participated in Tough Mudder and the Savage Race which are endurance obstacle courses just to prove to myself that I could do it... I recently won a spades tournament and took home a trophy, which I'm pretty proud of.. I'm obviously a busy body and like to keep busy. Thus, my addition to the team to help with Madam's fun, creative, and always-productive and helpful events.

"The value of a man resides in what he gives and not in what he is capable of receiving." -Albert Einstein

Remember, the greatest gift that you can give is your time!

I look forward to working with you all!



Madam DA has divided the divisions into four teams.

- The teams comprise more than one division.
- Each division should have a team captain – meaning there should be more than one captain for each team.
- You can have several supporting team members.
- Each team is responsible for only one park in a respective city.
- Each team will be provided a budget of \$900.

More details will be provided.

9:00am - 11:00am

UNION CITY

Case Intake Division and Records and Diversion

11:30am - 1:30pm

SOUTH FULTON

Trial Division & Investigations, (Evidence Unit, Technology Unit, Administration Unit, Dignitary, and Jail Calls)

2:00pm - 4:00pm

ATLANTA

Special Victims Division, Anti-Corruption, and Civil Rights

4:30pm - 6:30pm

SANDY SPRINGS

Major Crimes and Programs

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FULL LIST OF CAPTAINS AND TEAM MEMBERS BY **FRIDAY 5/27** to volunteer.coordinator@fultoncountyga.gov.

Giving Back to Our Community

CITY OF REFUGE RIBBON CUTTING

On Tuesday, May 10, 2022, the City of Refuge had a ribbon-cutting for a new rescue home that will assist 11- to 17-year-old female survivors of domestic violence, sex trafficking or parental abuse. Members of the Special Victim's Division, (pictured below right) Crimes Against Children Deputy Lauren McAuley, Executive District Attorney Daysha Young, and Domestic Violence Deputy Simone Hylton, attended to show our support and foster partnership with the organization.



Giving back to Our Community

SENIOR SUMMIT in EAST POINT

East Point Councilman Joshua Butler sponsored an Elder Summit on April 30, 2022. The event brought seniors and other vulnerable adults together to learn about available resources as well as common risks, schemes and other ways they may fall victim to crime. The District Attorney's Office's Deputy of Animal & Elder Abuse Jill Hollander (pictured below) presented an interactive education discussion about what common crimes look like, how they start, how potential victims can protect themselves, how to protect others and where to report crimes. In keeping with the mantra that "prevention is greater than prosecution," the Elder Abuse Unit presents frequently at community events in an attempt to gain the trust of the community and provide vulnerable adults the tools to avoid victimization.



NORTH FULTON

GANGS & HUMAN TRAFFICKING PRESENTATION

On Thursday, April 28, 2022, Deputy District Attorneys Cara Convery and Earnelle Winfrey jointly presented on Gangs and Human Trafficking at the North Fulton County Government Center on Maxwell Road in Alpharetta. The attendees were faith-based leaders, city council members and volunteer community members. The pair's eye-opening presentation sparked a lot of conversation in the room and many shared their thoughts on possible solutions to curb crime before it happens.



SOUTH FULTON

2022 SUMMER HIRING FAIR

On May 21, 2022, the Fulton County District Attorney's Office partnered with City of South Fulton Councilwoman Helen Willis and Fulton County Commissioner Marvin S. Arrington Jr. for the second annual Youth Teen Hiring Fair in South Fulton. More than 200 youth and teens attended. Members of the Fulton County District Attorney's Office, Dependency Diversion Coordinator Bryant Brinson, Youth Advocate & Liaison Akeem Woodard, and Community Resource Specialist January Towles (pictured below right with members of the Fulton County Sheriff's Office) assisted educated youth and parents about programs and opportunities. Fulton County Board of Commissioners Chairman Rob Pitts (pictured below left) came to support the event.



Giving Back to Our Community

RECORD RESTRICTION CLINIC at Historic Ebenezer Church

The Record Restriction Clinic held May 7, 2022, at Ebenezer Baptist Church marked another incredible event hosted in support of the progression of Fulton County residents. The Record Restriction and Diversion Unit believes that so many deserve the opportunity to pursue their best lives while supporting themselves and their families after making prior mistakes - and this event allows so many the opportunity to do just that. Chief Legal Assistant Valencia Younger and Deputy DA Ramona Toole ensured a smooth process for the training and implementation of this event, and hundreds of residents were able to be served and take the next steps toward their futures!



Volunteers: Kevin Armstrong; Stacey Burke; Kimberly Carey; Jana Dixon; Meredith Fortuna; Maria Hunter; Kara Lawrence; Nailah McFarlane; Kevin Majeske; Aimee Maxwell; Donita Morris; Megan Nix; Mychal Scates; Audrey Simmons; Travis Thomas; Nalda Charles; Amanda Thrash; Naporsha Valentine; Billy Ansel; Robert Appell; Christopher Davidson; Obed Ford; Johnna Griffin; DeAntoine Johnson; Tiffany Johnson; Michelle Lam; Lloyd Owens; Brian Salter; Jaysen Thomas; Fatimah Winston; Shaniece Withrow; Brenda Mitchell; Tawanna Flint; Teberh Buggs; Shaneika Crawford; Linda Long; Analla Reid; Nicole Whigham; Nadia Rhodes; Stacie L. Robinson; Lora Andrews; Enenwan Akpan-Iquot; Robert Gordon; Edwina Sellan; Sheila Francois; Jayson Chavis; Alicia Scurry; Brenda Sharpe; Nicole L. Vaughn; Valencia Younger; Keehlan Haygood; Deonte Pollard; Jacob Robertson; and Tessa Gibson.



A special thank you to Fulton County Superior Court Judge Paige Whitaker who took time out of her weekend to assist the FCDA office with the Record Restriction Clinic.



Picture from left to right: Assistant District Attorneys Nalda "Kay" Charles and Audrey Simmons.

IN THE PRESS

Record Restriction Clinic

Canine CellMates

Gang Unit Called to Homicide Scene

CONVICTION ALERTS



CHRIS SPERRY

Assistant District Attorney
Major Case Unit
Major Crimes Division



Inv. Kevin Lewis



VWA Tameka Kelley



LA Quentin Wright

DA Family,

Congratulations on the swift guilty verdict before Judge Whitaker in **State v. Cameron Fleming**.

Thank you all for the outstanding work in honor of Mr. Emanuel Grant, his family, and our office. It was a true team effort and each one of you played a very important role in the process to successfully achieve closure for the family members of Mr. Grant. I am very proud of the work, determination, and joint effort by all! Great example of hard work paying off!

Adam R. Abbate, Deputy District Attorney
Major Case Unit / Major Crimes Division

From ADA Sperry: In addition to Tameka's hard work, Ilona's dedication let me focus my attention on the case. Kevin Lewis and Harold Milanes are rock stars in finding and serving people and in doing so in a way that the witnesses are cooperative and accessible. Also a thank you to Breanna Barrett for helping out with any administrative issues that arose this week. Finally, Grant Rood stepped up with zero issues to testify.



KENYA HERRING

Assistant District Attorney
Major Case Unit
Major Crimes Division



ADA Quintin Lewis



Inv. Kendall Tucker



Inv. Wesley Smith



VWA Chowan Moore



VWA Dericka Mitchell



LA Andre Mooror



LA Breanna Barrett

DA Family,

Congratulations on the swift guilty verdict before Judge Coursey in **State v. Hatita Pollock**.

Thank you all for the outstanding work on behalf of surviving victim Cameshia Brown and in honor of Ms. Bobbie Sykes, her family, and our office.

Special thanks to Deputy Chief Michael Green and Assistant Chief Dashawn Raymond who worked tirelessly to find and secure the attendance of some hard to find and last minute witnesses. Investigator Joe Rickman was able to use his magic and get physical evidence from APD at the snap of a finger without even breaking a sweat. Thank you to the entire Major Crimes investigative team for pitching in, your efforts were vital in securing the conviction of a very arrogant and unremorseful defendant. Great example of true team work paying off!

Adam R. Abbate, Deputy District Attorney
Major Case Unit / Major Crimes Division

PROBATION REVOCATION HEARING



MYCHAL SCATES

Assistant District Attorney
Complex Unit
Trial Division



Inv. Julisha Lansiquot



LA Valerie Carson

DA Family,

Please join me in congratulating TEAM BARWICK in the **State Of Georgia vs. Keon Mitchell Probation Revocation hearing**.

After 8 Witnesses & 17 exhibits – Ms. Scates and team proved that the defendant violated his first offender probation on a substantive new case for Armed Robbery, Motor Vehicle Hijacking, Aggravated Assault, PFDCF & PFXFOB – by a preponderance of the evidence. The defendant's underlying first offender probation cases had a total of 56 years left if ran consecutively. Mychal & Team asked the judge to revoke 20 years as a reflection of the new crime committed in the case in chief presented at the hearing.

This team just killed two birds with one stone by securing this win early on. **CONGRATS TEAM BARWICK!**

Lamar Rhodes, Deputy District Attorney
Complex Unit / Trial Division

NEW Wellness Series

Monday Movie Matinee - Lincoln Lawyer

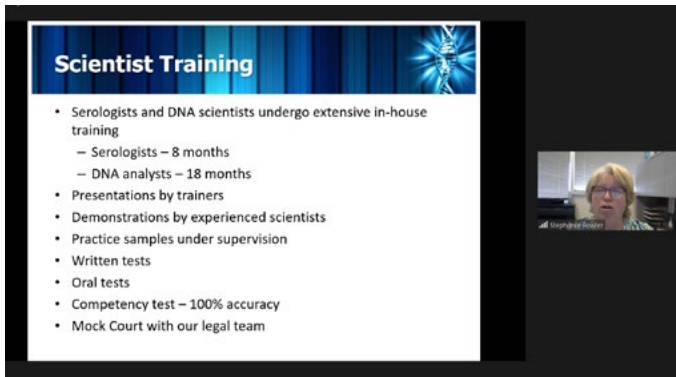


FCDA Trainings



STRANGULATION TRAINING with the Domestic Violence Unit

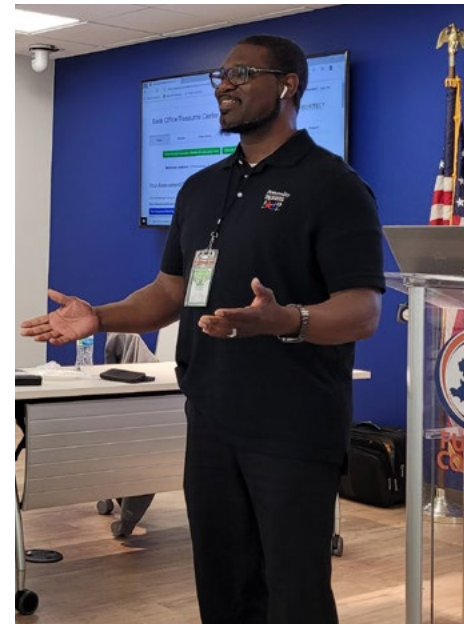
The FCDA Strangulation training was held on Friday, April 29, 2022. We were joined by Jay Eisner with the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to teach law enforcement officers, assistant district attorneys, DA investigators and advocates about strangulation. They taught the medical science of strangulation and how best to investigate strangulations to make better cases for prosecution.



VIRTUAL DNA TRAINING with the S.A.K.I. Unit

On May 9, 2022, the S.A.K.I. Unit hosted GBI lab manager and expert-in-all-things-DNA Stephanie Fowler to give a follow-up training delving more deeply into DNA topics.

RDR TRAINING with Aakeem Woodard



Now hiring.

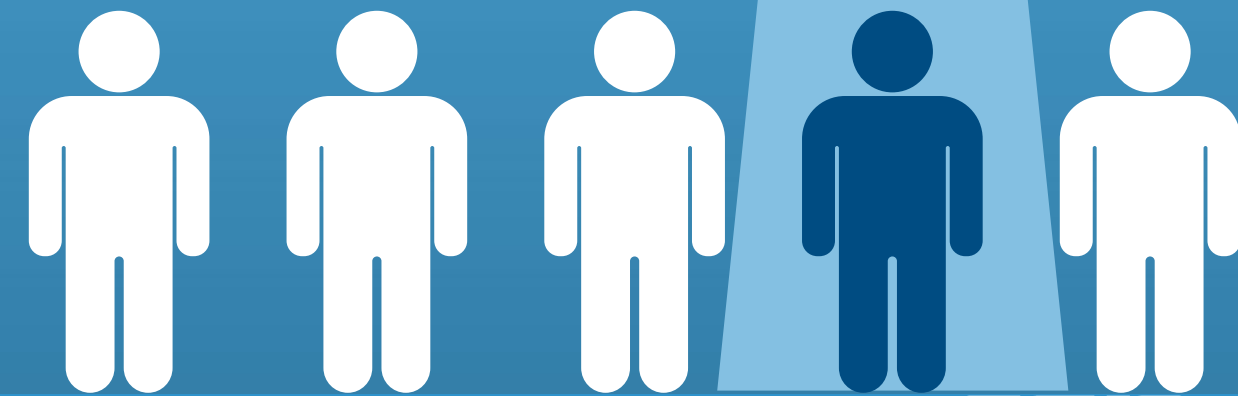
INTEGRITY MATTERS!

DEPUTY DA TRIAL DIVISION*

DEPUTY DA GANGS*

CHIEF SENIOR ADA TRAINING*

**Open to Internal and External Candidates*



If you are interested please submit a letter of interest, a log of all trials you have tried, in what county and in what role (defense / prosecution), and 3 recommendation letters to Ebony Davis by **5 pm on Friday, June 3rd.**



UNIT SPOTLIGHT

Accountability Court and Competency Court

By: Deputy District Attorney Rewa Collier



Picture above, Left to Right: Deputy District Attorney Rewa Collier and Senior Assistant District Attorney Nikia Sellers

Under the leadership of Madam District Attorney Fani T. Willis, the Fulton County District Attorney's Office began a new era in Accountability Court. A Pre-Indictment Track was added to allow a defendant to enter Accountability Court before a case is indicted and to have the case dismissed upon the defendant's successful completion of the 18- to 24-month Accountability Court Program. In April 2022, a Competency Court Unit was created to serve those with forensic mental health and competency issues.

Deputy Assistant District Attorney Rewa Collier joined the Fulton County District Attorney's Office in 1999. With 23 years of prosecutorial experience, she was assigned to supervise the Accountability Court Unit in 2021, and the Competency Court Unit in 2022.

The foundation for Accountability Court has remained the same. The Program consists of Drug Court (overseen by Superior Court Judges Robert McBurney and Rachel Krause); Behavioral Health Treatment Court (overseen by Superior Court Judge Emily Richardson); and Veterans Court (overseen by Superior Court Judge Ural Glanville).

While saving lives and money, Accountability Court, as an Alternative Sentencing Method, aims to promote public safety and reduce recidivism, provide drug treatment, help with employment needs and GED assistance, offer community supervision and mentoring, and support criminal justice-involved citizens through a coordinated system of court appearances. Participants are non-violent felony offenders with a high risk of recidivism, significant substance use and/or mental-health needs. The program is an alternative to jail for participants who may have his/her case declined (Pre-indictment Track) or dismissed (Diversion Track), or remain in compliance with Probation (Plea or Revocation Track).

The Competency Court Unit's work is centered on a court-ordered mental-health assessment to determine if defendant remembers and understands the charges, the alleged offense, and the court proceedings, and is able to assist an attorney in his/her defense. The unit works with the trial prosecutor on issues related to competency and handles the following types of hearings:

1. Competency to Stand Trial
2. Civil Commitment hearing
3. Annual review hearing for Defendants adjudicated Incompetent to Stand Trial
4. Annual review hearing for Defendants adjudicated Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity
5. Involuntary Administration of Psychiatric Medication hearings (pursuant to U.S. v. Sell).

Senior Assistant District Attorney Nikia Smith Sellers will lead the Competency Court. Joining the office in December 2013, she previously handled the specialty courts: Drug Court, Behavioral Health Treatment Court (formerly Mental Health Court), and Veterans Court. She also served as an instructor facilitating a mental health and the law workshop during Crisis Intervention Training (a 40-hour course teaching law enforcement de-escalation skills when faced with individuals in the throes of a mental-health crisis).

ACCOUNTABILITY COURT GRADUATION

On Friday, April 29, 2022, the Accountability Court held its spring commencement ceremony that included seven graduates pictured below with Deputy District Attorney Rewa Collier.



MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER AND HONOR

May 30, 2022

Enjoy your holiday!

¡Cinco, de Mayo

SPRING REPORT
CELEBRATION

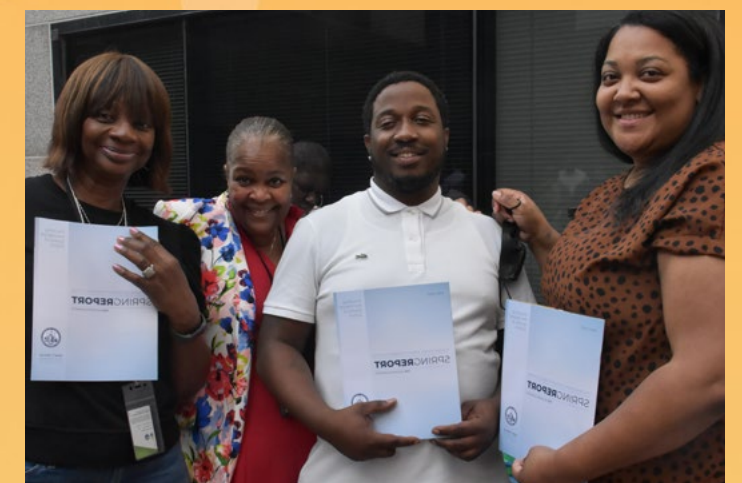
May 5, 2022 | 5:30pm



¡Cinco, de Mayo

SPRING REPORT
CELEBRATION

May 5, 2022 | 5:30pm





Stephanie Samples

Senior Investigator - White Collar, Civil Forfeiture, Appeals Units
Major Case Division

Born at an Air Force base in California, Stephanie Samples' family moved to Georgia when she was 18 months old, so she considers herself a Georgia girl. She wanted to be in law enforcement, specifically investigations, since she was an eighth grader when an investigator from the Clayton County District Attorney's Office spoke to her class on career day. She has a bachelor's degree in Accounting, an MBA, and she is one class away from finishing her second master's degree in Forensic Accounting.



She has two sisters, one older and one younger, but her mom blames her for all her white hair. I also have a grown daughter who is the apple of her eye and is always willing to go on an adventure with her (mainly because Stephanie pays for everything). Stephanie loves to travel, both foreign and domestic. While she loves tropical destinations, Iceland has been her favorite vacation so far. When she's am not travelling, she loves to be at home burning one of her more-than-50 candles.

FAB FOUR SPOTLIGHT



Tameka Kelley

Victim Witness Advocate - Major Crimes Division

Atlanta-native Tameka Kelley has always had a passion for service and aspired to working in social services. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from West Georgia College and a Masters of Arts Education with a focus in School Guidance and Counseling from Clark Atlanta University. She is currently working toward the completion of supervision hours to obtain her Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC) licensure. She prides herself on dedication and stick-to-itiveness and believes awareness is the greatest agent for change.

Tameka is the proud mom of son Seth and the "big sister" to four brothers, all of whom are extremely accomplished and of whom she is very proud. She was born on Thanksgiving, so it's no surprise it's her favorite holiday—a time for hanging out, relaxing and enjoying family, friends and food. In her spare time, Tameka enjoys outings with family, listening to "old school music", cooking and beautifying outdoor garden spaces.





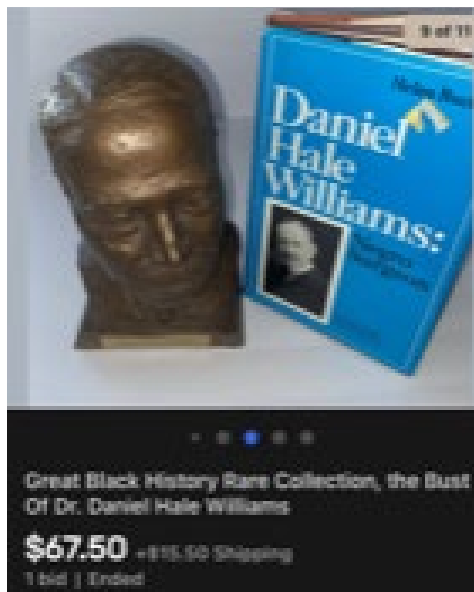
Patrice Stewart

Legal Assistant - Special Victim's Division

Patrice Stewart is a proud Fulton County native, born and raised in Atlanta (Grady baby). She graduated from Walter Franklin George High School and she's an alumna of Savannah State University. She is the mother of three adult children and the proudest "Nana" to five grandchildren. The newest addition was born May 17, and he's captured her completely.

She is married to her high school sweetheart, Mike, a New York native, and he tries to force her to be a Giants fan (not happening). She truly believes that "another man's junk is another man's treasure." In her spare time, she enjoys repurposing and selling items on eBay. She loves to attend estate sales and looking for that next big thing. Her best find so far was a 1965 Jet magazine. She also loves reading books on finance and watching her favorite cartoons.

Patrice thought that she would be a school teacher, but after working at a daycare for two days, she knew that path was not for her. She worked for one of the top criminal defense attorneys in DeKalb County during her career. She also worked as a senior legal assistant with the DeKalb County District Attorney's Office and Director of Operations in Douglas County. She is so happy and super excited to find a new work home in Fulton County.



FAB FOUR SPOTLIGHT



Isabella Lugo

Assistant District Attorney - Non-Complex Unit - Trial Division

Born and raised in Columbus, Georgia, Isabella Lugo went to Valdosta State University and majored in political science. She was president of her sorority, Zeta Tau Alpha, in 2011. She went to Mercer Law school and clerked for the Bibb County District Attorney's Office. After graduating law school, she clerked for the Honorable Bemon G. McBride, III. She worked at the Cobb County Solicitor's Office and the Attorney General's Office before joining the Fulton County District Attorney's Office. She enjoys hanging out with friends, exercising at Chastain Park, traveling and Atlanta sports. Go Braves!! :)





CaseLaw

By: Chief Senior ADA - Training
Kevin Armstrong

Newsroom

Click or scan story for more information

EVIDENCE—STATEMENTS CAPTURED BY BODY CAMERA—EXCITED UTTERANCES.

With the more widespread use of body cameras in recent years, we are seeing more and more statements by bystanders captured on film. These can be great evidence in our cases. The Supreme Court of Georgia recently provided a good example of this in a case specifically involving two witnesses' excited utterances. As with any out-of-court statements, there are two concerns you have to address to ensure such statements will be properly admissible: Confrontation and hearsay.

CONFRONTATION. Confrontation only applies to statements which were testimonial in nature. For more, please see **Carlson on Evidence** (7th ed.), Appendix B (“Testimonial and Cross-Inculpatory Statements”). Even if declarants' statements are considered testimonial, where those declarants testify at trial and are subject to cross-examination, “the admission of their statements does not violate the Confrontation Clause.” **Munn v. State**, ___ Ga. ___ (5) (a), slip op. at 19-20, Case S22A0100 (Ga., May 17, 2022) (citation omitted). (Note. In **Munn**, the declarants testified so the Court did not have to address whether the statements were testimonial.)

EXCITED UTTERANCES. Where it is determined that “the admission of...statements on [an officer's] body camera footage do not violate the Confrontation Clause, ‘normal rules regarding the admission of hearsay apply.’” **Munn v. State**, supra, slip op. at 20 (5) (b) (citation omitted). Any hearsay exception would permit such a statement's admission. In **Munn**, it happened to be excited utterances, which is likely to be one of the most common exceptions we will see in body camera cases. The following is a passage from **Munn** in which the Court provided a summary excited utterances law and an application of it to a case involving what became a homicide scene:

A statement that would otherwise be excluded as hearsay may be admissible as an excited utterance, where the statement “relat[es] to a startling event...[and is] made while the declarant was under the stress of excitement caused by the event.” OCGA § 24-8-803 (2).

We have explained that the excited utterance need not be made contemporaneously with the startling event. Rather, the court should consider the totality of the circumstances in determining whether the statement was made while the declarant was still under the stress or excitement that the startling event caused.

Blackmon v. State, 306 Ga. 90, 94 (2) (829 SE2d 75) (2019) (citations, punctuation, and footnote omitted).

Here, the video recording shows that the witnesses were screaming and crying as they made their unsolicited statements; the statements were made approximately ten minutes after the shooting, while Chambers was still on the scene bleeding to death; and the witnesses were still under the stress of the shooting... The trial court did not abuse its discretion in admitting these statements as excited utterances.

Munn v. State, supra, slip op. at 20-21. See also **McCord v. State**, 305 Ga. 318, 322 (2) (a) (i) (825 SE2d 122) (2019), and **Varner v. State**, 306 Ga. 726, 732 (2) (b) (ii) [(932 SE2d 792) (2019), for additional examples of excited utterances.



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