

DA DISPATCH

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2024



HONORING BLACK & WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTHS

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APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5 Pay Day	6
7	8	9 Dogwood Senior Center Elder Abuse Event Ramadan Ends	10 Eid al-Fitr Ends	11 National Pet Day	12	13
14	15 Performance Evaluations Begin	16	17	18	19 Pay Day	20
21	22 NCVRW Meditation Monday Passover Begins	23 NCVRW Self Defense Tuesday	24	25 NCVRW Firearm Safety Thursday Evaluations are Due	26 Administrative Professionals Day	27 2nd Annual Fani T. Willis Self-Care Fair
28	29 Movie Matinee Monday	30 Evaluations are Due				

MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Law Day	2 Elder Abuse Scamming Prevention Event	3 Pay Day	4
5	6	7	8 Reach Graduation	9	10 All Mom's Day	11
12 Mother's Day	13	14	15	16	17 Pay Day	18 Peace & Prevention Event
19	20 Movie Matinee Monday	21 Primary Election Day	22	23 UGA CMP Graduation	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30	31 Credible Messenger Youth Summit Pay Day	

HUMAN TRAFFICKING & INTERNET CHILD EXPLOITATION UNIT PRESENTS

SKIN IN THE GAME

MOVIE AND PANEL DISCUSSION

In honor of human trafficking awareness month, The Human Trafficking & Internet Child Exploitation Unit hosted a two-day event beginning with the movie screening of “Skin in the Game”. This is a movie inspired by true events that shines a light on the horrors of sex trafficking.

On the following day, we engaged in a panel discussion about how to identify human trafficking.



Balancing Advocacy and the Need for Personal Connections in the Criminal Justice System by

Prosecuting attorneys play a crucial role in advocating for justice on behalf of victims within the criminal justice system. Oftentimes we hear, “I am not good at talking to victims...” However, striking a balance between the vigorous pursuit of justice and meeting victims’ profound need for personal connections and empathy can be challenging. In this article, we examine the struggles faced by attorneys in navigating this delicate balance and the importance of understanding and addressing the emotional needs of victims throughout the criminal justice process.

Advocating for justice requires prosecuting attorneys to approach cases with objectivity, relying on facts, evidence, and legal strategies. The primary goal is to ensure that the legal process is fair and impartial, seeking justice for both the victim and the defendant. This commitment to justice can sometimes create a perception of detachment, as attorneys focus on legal strategies rather than establishing deep personal connections. On the other hand, victims of crime often experience trauma, fear, and a range of complex emotions throughout the criminal justice process. They may seek emotional support, understanding, and empathy from victim advocates, but they yearn for an attorney who not only fights for justice but also acknowledges their pain and provides a compassionate presence during a difficult time.

Striking a balance between vigorous advocacy and fulfilling victims’ need for personal connections can be challenging for attorneys. The attorney’s role as an advocate requires them to maintain a level of professional detachment to ensure an objective and effective legal representation. However, this can create a perceived emotional distance that may leave victims feeling unheard or disconnected. Sometimes this may cause attorneys to feel they need to just focus on the law, but the more seasoned attorneys will tell you there are ways to strike a sweet balance.

Prosecuting attorneys often experience a complex mix of emotions and conflicts when working on cases involving victims. On one hand, they are driven by their duty to seek justice for the victim and hold the offender accountable for their actions. They feel a sense of responsibility to ensure that the victim’s voice is heard and that their rights are protected throughout the legal process. However, they also face the challenge of maintaining a professional distance to remain objective and unbiased. They must separate their personal emotions from their role as legal advocates. This can be particularly difficult when dealing with cases that involve heinous crimes or deeply traumatic experiences for the victim. The emotional toll of working on such cases can be immense. Attorneys may experience a range of emotions, including anger, sadness, frustration, and empathy. They witness firsthand the pain and suffering endured by the victims and their families, which can have a profound impact on their own well-being.



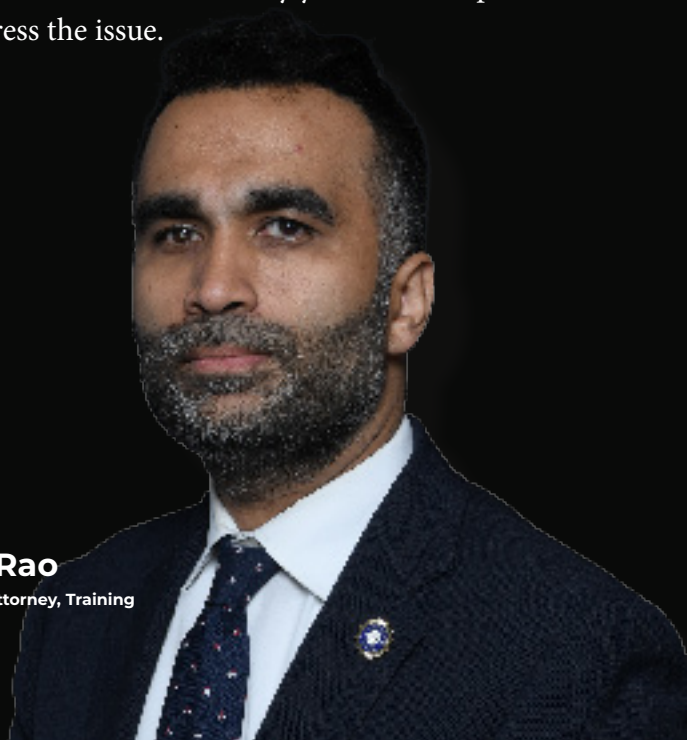
Ilona Rolack
Deputy Victim Witness Advocate

LAW CORNER



Downward Departures under 17-10-6.1(e)

Under O.C.G.A. §17-10-6.1(e) and relevant code sections for these specific offenses, Armed Robbery, Kidnapping, Rape, Aggravated Child Molestation, Aggravated Sodomy, and Aggravated Sodomy all have mandatory minimum sentences ranging from 10 years to 25 years that a Defendant is required to serve. That subsection entitles the prosecution, and ONLY the prosecution, to deviate below the mandatory minimum sentence in a negotiated plea agreement when an agreement is reached between both parties. For example, the Prosecutor agrees to recommend a 20 serve 6 sentence on an Armed Robbery (mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years) or Life serve 15 years on a Rape charge (mandatory minimum sentence of 25 years followed by life on probation) in a exchange for a plea which the Defendant will agree to. The obvious benefit is a pre-trial resolution while the Defendant pleads to the charge on the indictment without having to amend the charge to a lesser included offense. The Judge has the options of accepting or rejecting the sentence, but DOES NOT have the authority to deviate even further below the agreed upon deviation agreed to by the prosecution and defense. This is because subsection (e) of the statute expressly states in clear and unambiguous language that judge may depart from mandatory minimums only at the agreement of the state and defense. Without such agreement, the Court only has the authority to sentence in accordance with offense code section and a recidivist statute under O.C.G.A. §17-10-7, if one has been filed. The Court of Appeals recently addressed this matter, dictating that the trial court has no authority to deviate below mandatory minimums under § 17-10-6.1(e) unless agreed upon by the State. See *State v. Dixon*, 370 Ga. App. 211 (2023). In *Dixon*, the Walton County District Attorney's Office agreed to a 20 serve 6 sentence on an Armed Robbery charge that the Defendant agreed to accept. At the sentencing hearing, the trial court found mitigating evidence to deviate below the agreed upon 6 years. The State appealed and the Court of Appeals vacated the sentence due to it being void of authority by the trial court. This generally does not happen, but if it does, the proper thing to do is to recite the statute and the *Dixon* case and if the trial court continues to proceed with its own sentence, object on the record and notify your direct supervisor and the appellate unit so that affirmative steps can be taken to address the issue.



Gautam Rao
Deputy District Attorney, Training

EARTH DAY CONTEST



This Earth Day, Fulton County is celebrating employees that use reusable cups and water bottles.

To enter the contest, take a picture of yourself with your favorite mug, water bottle, or reusable cup and send it to the QR code on Fulco Connect. Submissions are due Friday, April 19.

Winners will be announced on Earth Day, Monday, April 22, and will receive prizes including reusable utensils, a Fulton County coffee mug, and more!

Please email jessica.lavender@fultoncountyga.gov with questions. For more information



NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

4/22

MEDITATION MONDAY

A guided meditation; victims will be able to have trauma assessments.

Jennifer "Jaki" Johnson WellMiss, Founder & CEO
For more info - <https://www.hellowellmiss.com/>

4/23

SELF-DEFENSE TUESDAY

"Your Right To Self Protection" by Instructor Steel Hameed of Practical Combat Applications: Empowering attendees with simple, practical ways of preventing victimization and methods of ferociously fighting back

Practical Combat Applications is dedicated to protecting people and empowering people to protect themselves.

4/25

FIREARM SAFETY THURSDAY

Train on the proper use and storage of firearms and ammunition.

Instructor Steel Hameed | NRA Pistol Instructor -NRA CCW (Concealed Carry Weapon) Instructor



COMING
THIS
OCTOBER

STOP
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ABUSE



4/27

FANI T. WILLIS
SELF CARE FAIR



FREE dental cleaning for children, food, massages, barber cuts, yoga, and much more!

CT MARTIN RECREATION CENTER 3201 M.L.K. Jr Dr SW, Atlanta, GA 30311
11-2PM



REGISTER HERE

Come meet with other victim service organizations and connect with the Fulton County community while treating your mind and body to self-care.

FREE PARKING FOR ALL EVENTS



HOWARD

CHARTER DAY CELEBRATION



On March 9, 2024, The Howard University Alumni Club of Atlanta celebrated the Charter Day of their alma mater. This event held special significance as members gathered to honor outstanding Metro Atlanta Bison who have made remarkable contributions in various fields and within the community.

The event showcased commissioned artwork by Christopher Alexander, which was presented to the honorees. District Attorney Fani Willis was honored with the Public Service Award for her unwavering support in the community. Through their art auction and ticket sales, The Howard University Alumni Club of Atlanta successfully raised \$5,000 for scholarships.



The Empowerment Workshop & Passport Moms Care, Inc. hosted their 2nd Annual International Women's Day Atlanta Luncheon on March 10, 2024. The luncheon honored trailblazing women from the fields of technology, policy, and business who have not only excelled in their professional lives but are also leaders and role models in their communities. Madam DA Fani T. Willis was honored as the keynote speaker and 2024 Revolutionary Award recipient.

BREAK THE SILENCE



On March 28, 2024, Madam DA and members of the Animal Cruelty and Elder Abuse (ACE) Unit met with staff, administrators, and residents of the Zaban Tower independent living facility. Deputy DA Jill Hollander walked residents through examples of risks, scams, and abuse prevalent within Fulton County and shared preventive measures seniors can take to avoid falling victim. Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions and address concerns.



Women Behind the Shield

AWARDS CEREMONY



In the morning of March 29, 2024, District Attorney Fani Willis and Congresswoman Nikema Williams joined together to celebrate and honor the women serving in the South Fulton Police Department at the Southwest Arts Center. The event, hosted by Chief Keith Meadows, highlighted the achievements of female law enforcement officers. DA Willis expressed her appreciation for the officers' dedication to public safety and thanked them for safeguarding her and her family during her time as district attorney.

EGGSTRAVAGANZA

On March 23, 2024, the Fulton County District Attorney's Office grant partner, We All Value Excellence (WAVE), hosted their 6th annual Easter Eggstravaganza at Laster's Chapel Church. Special guests included Chief Keith Meadows from the South Fulton Police Department, Pastor Samuel Townsend from Laster Chapel United Methodist Church, and our very own Fani T. Willis. Our office donated over 24,000 pieces of candy and were able to serve 250 kids with 5,000 Easter eggs. The kids played games, enjoyed free food, and received free Easter baskets!



CHIEF KEITH MEADOWS & WIFE TANYA





PASTOR SAMUEL TOWNSEND





S.A.K.I. TRAINING

From March 5th to 8th, Assistant District Attorneys Jana Dixon and Katherine Reimer attended the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Technical Training Assistance Prosecutors Institute Training in Raleigh, North Carolina. During this extensive and information-packed training, they learned how to better recognize the danger of sexual violence and its link to other serious offenses, as well as analyze, investigate, and prosecute cold and current sexual violence cases. Furthermore, they learned tips and techniques for integrating victim-centered and trauma-informed approaches into victim notification protocols, investigations, trial preparation, and courtroom proceedings. They explored the new advancements in DNA technology such as forensic genetic genealogy and familial DNA searching. Lastly, they gained proficiency in building a strong foundation for admitting physical, scientific, and expert testimony for trial.



WELCOME NADIA KENDALL

Nadia Kendall was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia. After attending Henry W. Grady High School, she received her Bachelors Degree in Electronic Studio Art at the illustrious Howard University. At Howard, Nadia interned at several organizations including, The Whitehouse Historical Association, CLS Strategies, PCAOB, and For Our Future SuperPAC. She also joined the FIRST Business Fraternity, Alpha Kappa Psi. Nadia enjoys karaoke, taking trips, playing sports, and hanging out with her friends.



G E N E O L O G Y T R A I N I N G

The Enhanced Investigations training, facilitated by the Cold Case Unit and the Emmett Till Grant Office, focused on forensic genetic genealogy (FGG) and its practical applications in investigative work. Led by experts Ed O'Carroll and Roicia Banks, the sessions covered the historical background and evolution of FGG, as well as case studies demonstrating its effectiveness. Attendees, including Vincent Faucette, SaQuez King, Brian Trepanier, Robert Wilson, Antonio Long, Darnell Kennedy, and Grant Director Michele Henry, explored both private and public laboratory resources available to investigators. The training culminated in practical scenarios allowing participants to apply investigative techniques learned throughout the program.





STATE VS. VARQUIS WILLIAMS

Congratulations to the Domestic Violence Trial Team! In the case of State vs. Varquis Williams, the Defendant was found guilty on all counts including Felony Murder, Aggravated Assault, and Aggravated Assault with Intent to Murder. Judge David Emerson sentenced the Defendant to Life in Prison without Parole + 30 years.

Assistant District Attorney Donita Morris
Assistant District Attorney Kassie Hall
Investigator Ranetta Cruise
Victim Witness Advocate Sandra Jean-Louis
Deputy Legal Assistant Felicia Dickens



STATE VS. ERACLIO VEGA-RENERIA

Congratulations to the Crimes Against Children Trial Team! In the case of State vs. Eraclio Vega-Renteria, the Defendant was found guilty on all counts including Rape, Aggravated Assault, Child Molestation. Judge Kimberly Adams sentenced the Defendant to Life + 10 years.

Assistant District Attorney Julian Jordan
Assistant District Attorney Alicia Taylor
Investigator Alloyna Ragland
Victim Witness Advocate Christen Clarke
Deputy Legal Assistant Lynette Gilbert



STATE VS. DERRION OWENS

Congratulations to the Major Case Unit Trial Team! In the case of State vs. Derrion Owens, the Defendant was found guilty on all counts including Murder, Felony Murder, and Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon. Judge Rachelle Carnesale will sentence the Defendant this coming Wednesday.

Assistant District Attorney Danielle Russell
Assistant District Attorney Natalie Atkinson-Brown
Investigator Shameka Duncan
Victim Witness Advocate Christian Williams
Deputy Legal Assistant Keira Jackson



STATE VS. ANTOINE SIMS

Congratulations to the Major Case Unit Trial Team! In the case of State vs. Antoine Sims, the Defendant was found guilty on all counts including Felony Murder, Aggravated Assault, and Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon. Judge Melynee Leftridge sentenced the Defendant to Life + 30 years.

Assistant District Attorney Siri Patel
Deputy District Attorney Kelcee Jones-Conner
Investigator Felipe Brown
Assistant Chief Investigator Bernice Higgins
Victim Witness Advocate Katrina Gill
Deputy Victim Witness Advocate Ilona Rolack
Deputy Legal Assistant Andre Moorer



**STATE VS. DAMARCOS ORTIZ, QUATIN TAYLOR
WAND ARMANI WASHINGTON**

Congratulations to the Gang Unit! In the case of State vs. Damarcos Ortiz, Quatin Taylor and Armani Washington, all Defendants were found guilty on all counts including Gang Activity, Felony Murder, and Malice Murder. The Defendants were sentenced as follows:
Demetrius Ortiz: Life in Prison + 35 years
Quatin Taylor: Life in Prison + 35 years
Armani Washington: Life in Prison + 45 years

Assistant District Attorney Chinekwu Okam
Deputy District Attorney Chris Sperry
Assistant District Attorney Aisha Broderick
Investigator Kevin Lewis
Victim Witness Advocate Katrina Gill
Victim Witness Advocate Christian Williams
Legal Assistant Enenwan Akpan-Iquot



STATE VS. DAVID CLAY

Congratulations to the Gang Unit! In the case of State vs. David Clay, the Defendant was found guilty to all 24 counts including Malice Murder, Felony Murder, and Gang Activity. The Defendant was sentenced to Life without Parole followed by a Consecutive Life without Parole followed by a consecutive 60 years in prison.

Assistant District Attorney Larissa Ollivierre
Deputy District Attorney Christopher Sperry
Investigator Glenn Cross
Victim-Witness Advocates Christian Williams
Legal Assistant Daniel Pinella
Legal Assistant Keehlan Haygood
Legal Assistant Enenwan Akpan-Iquot



STATE VS. KIRSTIE FLOOD AND JEFFREY MEYERS

Congratulations to the Crimes Against Children Unit! In the case of State vs. Kirstie Flood and Jeffrey Meyers, Flood plead guilty to all counts including Malice Murder, Felony Murder, and Cruelty to Children in the First Degree. Meyers plead guilty to Murder in the Second Degree. The Defendants were sentenced as follows:

Jeffrey Meyers: 15 years
Kirstie Flood: Life Without the Possibility of Parole

Deputy District Attorney Lauren McAuley
Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Caitlin McGillicuddy
Senior Assistant District Attorney Tim Pennington
Assistant Chief Investigator Temperance Stoddard
Victim-Witness Advocate Christen Clarke
Victim-Witness Advocates Jasmyn Drummond
Legal Assistant Nyome Griffin



GPTCS CASE INTAKE TRAINING

“Deputy Commissioner Tony Pritchett of the Office of the Insurance Commissioner recently invited our office to conduct a Courtroom Testimony class at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center for an Arson Investigation group. Case Intake designated Deputy District Attorney Kevin Majeski to deliver instruction to the new Arson Investigators. DDA Kevin Majeski represented the Fulton County DA’s Office, Case Intake Division, and himself admirably. Not only did he excel in teaching, but he also improved the accuracy of GPSTC’s PowerPoint presentation to better reflect the law and legal procedures. GPSTC has already expressed interest in having him teach again in the near future.



CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM PANEL

On March 26, 2024, Assistant Chief Investigator Bernice Higgins spoke at Clark Atlanta University on a Criminal Justice Reform panel that covered topics like mental health, prison conditions, and rehabilitation. Investigator Higgins held it down for Women’s History Month being the only female panelist!

Reach COLLEGE

Transformational Youth Mentoring



On February 19, 2024, Reach students had the opportunity to connect with several students and staff members from FSU's CARE Program, gaining firsthand experience of campus life. They learned about the benefits of CARE and its mission to uplift students who are traditionally underrepresented at FSU. Students received admission packets and engaged with CARE students to discuss majors, balancing responsibilities, and prerequisite requirements.

FAMU warmly welcomed Reach students, beginning with a guided tour led by two enthusiastic undergraduates from the Office of New Student Orientation. During the tour, they visited various buildings and facilities, including the "Set and Speak," where students campaigned for next year's school positions. Lunch at the Top Café was generously covered by renowned Attorney Daryl Parks, allowing students to dine alongside college peers and explore the bookstore.

Professors and doctors from various colleges shared scholarship, admission, and advisory support opportunities. Additionally, the Director of the School of Journalism led an extensive building tour, showcasing the Radio and TV stations. Each student received bags containing acceptance information, cups, pins, and more.

GE TOUR & OUTING!!



On January 26, 2024, more than 50 middle school Reach participants from Paul D. West, Bear Creek, and Renaissance Middle Schools attended the “A Day in the Life” Program at Fulton County Juvenile Court. Madam DA Fani Willis initiated the Reach career-oriented event by engaging with the youth on their career interests, reminding them that any dream is attainable, and encouraging them to ask challenging questions to the panelists throughout the day.

On February 15, 2024, McNair Middle School students and staff, Reach team members, and mentors attended the College Park Skyhawks vs. Birmingham Squadron game, gaining insight into the business side of the event. Students had the opportunity to interact directly with staff regarding recruitment, travel logistics, and the overall workings of the G League. They toured the facility, stood alongside players for the national anthem, and took charge of pre-game and halftime festivities. Facilities and team managers, along with Skyhawks staff, were readily available to answer any questions the students had about the business aspects of the league.

Fabulous 4



Kenneth **Rucker**

Kenneth is a retired naval officer, husband, father, servant leader, and philanthropist. He has been married to his beautiful wife, Kerri Lynn Hairston Rucker, for 33 years. Kenneth and his wife are the proud parents of Kenneth L. Rucker II and Kerbi Lynn Rucker Louis. Kenneth has served as a Deacon of the Simpson Street Church of Christ for 31 years. He pledged Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. as a Centennial Line member in 2011. He has allowed his service as a philanthropist to be driven by Omega Psi Phi's official motto, "Friendship is Essential to the Soul."

Kenneth graduated from Brenau University in 1991 with a degree in Business Administration. He also holds a Master's in Public Administration from Georgia State University. Additionally, he has completed Ph.D. coursework in the disciplines of Sociology and Public Administration. Kenneth holds many certifications, including an Executive Certification, which is the highest law enforcement certification offered in the State of Georgia.

Kenneth served as the Chief of Police for the Fulton County Schools Police Department from 1997 to 2008. He also served as a police officer with the Marta Police Department for 10 years. In November 2009, Kenneth continued his work as a public servant, joining the Fulton County District Attorney's Office as a Senior Investigator. He was awarded the CWAC Investigator of the Year in 2018.



Shannon **Trotty**

Shannon Trotty hails from Toledo, Ohio. She earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education from Alabama A&M University and her Juris Doctorate Degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan. When not working, she enjoys spending time with her husband, traveling, and cruising around the world. Eventually, she plans to spend her second chapter with her husband in Wesley Chapel, FL.

On October 1, 2022, her daughter blessed her with her first grandchild, a beautiful baby boy named Remi, whom she affectionately calls "FACE." She delights in conversing with him, playing with him, and chasing him around. He is one of the biggest reasons her heart smiles, as she observes him discovering new things and navigating life. Watching him fills her with hope for the children of the future.

Shannon is an active member of Cornerstone Baptist Church, where she has taught Sunday School to middle schoolers, participated in the praise dance team and choir, and contributed to the health and wellness ministry as well as the first responders' team. Additionally, she is an avid fan of WWE.



Sammy **John**

Senior Investigator Sammy John has been with the Fulton County District Attorney's Office since May 2019, serving in the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Unit of the Special Victims Division. He is an alumnus of Troy University, where he earned both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees. Commencing his law enforcement career in February 2012 following his involvement in sports, he has developed a passion for investigative work.

Outside of work, Sammy enjoys participating in sports, traveling, bowling, and immersing himself in various cultures. However, his greatest pleasure comes from spending quality time with his son, Kaden.



Khristina **Sanders**

Khristina Sanders was born and raised in Illinois. She is married with one son. She attended Pepperdine University, where she obtained her Master's degree in Clinical Psychology with an emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy. She began her law enforcement career with the Atlanta Police Department in 2014. Before joining the Fulton County District Attorney's Office, she served as a Patrol Officer with the City of Decatur. She commenced working for the Fulton County District Attorney's Office in December 2022. Khristina loves spending time with her family and enjoys fishing. Additionally, she has a passion for carpentry and is currently involved in a building project for the Freedom Acres Farm Animal Sanctuary.



Mike
I keep these three
out of trouble.

Ty
I don't play about
logos and flyers.

Mahkayla
Illustrations are my thing
for sure. :)

Consuela
Photographer & Designer
at your service!

OUR SERVICES

Trial Graphics • Event Graphics & Photography • PowerPoint •
Audio & Video Production • Animation • Booklets • Brochures •
Logo Design • T-Shirt Design • And MUCH MORE

G-Unit

WHO ARE WE?



The Graphics Unit (G-Unit) is a team of 4 professionally trained Graphic Designers located on the 4th floor of 136 Pryor St.

WHAT WE DO?



We create trial graphics by conceiving creative solutions that enable attorneys to present their arguments and evidence effectively. We also produce quality visual aids for the entire office.

HOW CAN YOU REACH US?

Submit Graphic Request form by scanning the QR code. Complete the form by giving us the details of your request.



C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S

Dilma **DOS REIS**

The Jumping Jane Conference, annual global event focused on empowering women, brought together women from various backgrounds to connect, learn, network, and inspire one another. Speakers and attendees shared experiences, including challenges and successes in life, career, social media, and environmental activism. Directed by Judy Tubbs Smith and Aneesah Whaley, both champions of women’s empowerment, this year’s conference in Columbus, Georgia, focused on domestic violence and teen violence.

The event garnered global attention and was featured on @tvseema SEEMA TV & Pluto TV. Dilma Dos Reis was invited by the Jumping Jane Conference committee to deliver the keynote address titled “The Campaign to Eradicate Domestic Violence Against Men, Women, and Children” at the 2024 Jumping Jane Conference, scheduled for March 30th. Dilma Dos Reis, a distinguished speaker, delivered a keynote address at the Jumping Jane Conference, focusing on the urgent need to combat domestic violence against all demographics. With her extensive expertise in community resources and education, she provided valuable insights to over 100 top advocates attending the event. Her presentation underscored the critical importance of raising awareness and implementing effective strategies to eradicate domestic violence. In addition to her keynote address, Dilma Dos Reis was honored with the prestigious Jumping Jane Woman of the Year award.

The Brenda Baham Unit, representing the Fulton County District Attorney’s Office, participated in the conference, contributing their knowledge, advocacy, and community resources to the event.



CONGRATULATIONS Jill **HOLLANDER**

Dear Ms. Hollander,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF), a national, nonprofit organization of attorneys who specialize in the protection of animals and who work to ensure the enforcement of existing animal protection laws. Seeking protection for abused animals through our criminal justice system—with zero tolerance for animal cruelty—is a major component of our mission, which is supported by more than 250,000 members nationwide.

This year, the Animal Legal Defense Fund is celebrating our annual National Justice for Animals Week from February 18-24, 2024. The week is dedicated to raising awareness about animal cruelty and urging law enforcement, prosecutors, and lawmakers to protect our animals and our communities from animal abuse. Additionally, we recognize those in the field who have done outstanding work to make their communities safer for animals. I am delighted that we are honoring you as one of our Top Animal Defenders during this week.

The theme of the week is “Fighting Animal Cruelty, Honoring Animal Victims.” The Animal Legal Defense Fund also uses National Justice for Animals Week to bring attention to current statistics and trends relating to animal abuse, including animal fighting, hoarding, recidivism among abusers, and the link between violence toward animals and violence toward humans. We’ll also provide concerned citizens with tools to work within their communities to create stronger laws for animals and assure tough enforcement.

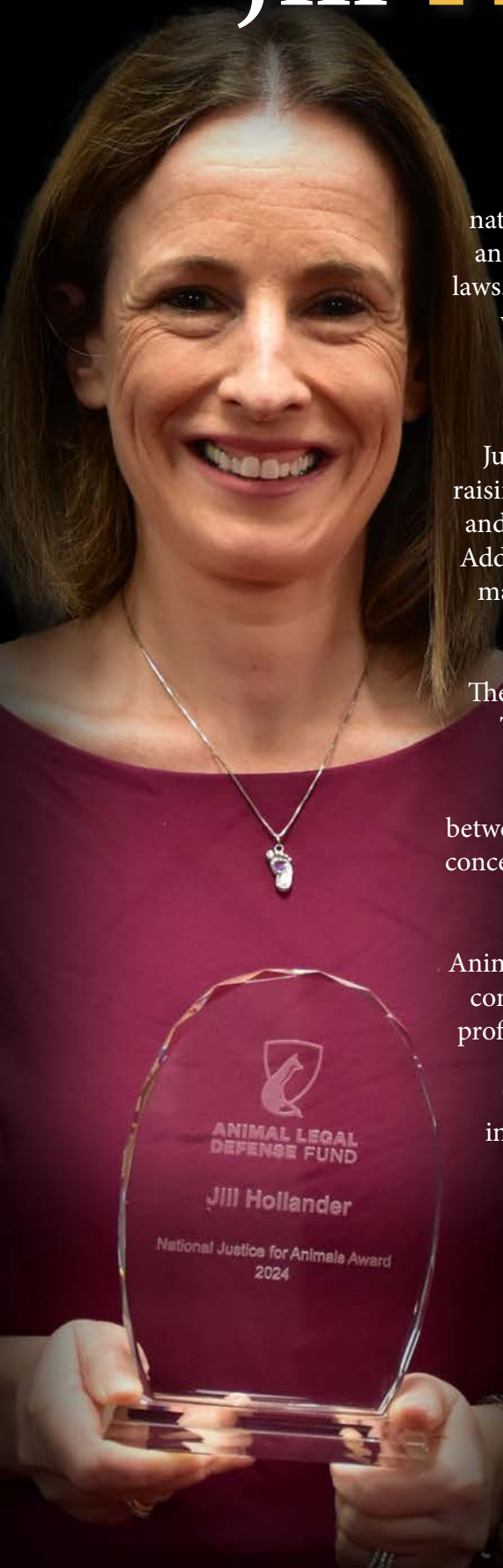
Animal victims of abuse cannot speak for themselves, so caring individuals in the community and criminal justice system must speak up for them. Applying your professional expertise toward cultivating and promoting Fulton County’s Canine Cellmates program exemplifies an effective and compassionate advocacy.

Thank you so much for your time, and again, it is with great pleasure that we include you among the honorees in the Animal Legal Defense Fund’s National Justice for Animals Week 2024.

Sincerely,

Lorà Dunn, Esq.

Director, Criminal Justice Program
All our clients



This month, the grant-funded Emmett Till Cold Case Investigations and Prosecution Program facilitated the training titled “Enhancing Investigations Through Genetic Genealogy,” which took place on March 12 and 13. The training delved into the application of Forensic Genetic Genealogy (FGG) and its role in aiding investigations. Techniques covered included tips on utilizing genealogy to establish the identities of cold case suspects and assist in the identification of human remains. Instruction was provided by experienced investigators who have acquired expert knowledge in the application of forensic genetic genealogy through real-life cases. Topics included forensic genealogy techniques, investigative strategies for developing leads and information, as well as collaboration with private labs and other related resources.

The training was attended by Deputy District Attorney Vincent Faucette, Senior Assistant District Attorney Brian Trepanier, Assistant District Attorney Robert Wilson, Cold Case Senior Investigator Darnel Kennedy, and Emmett Till Grant Coordinator SaQuez King. They were joined by Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Aimee Maxwell, Senior Investigator Pat Ponder, Senior Assistant District Attorney Kem Kimbrough of the Conviction Integrity Unit of the Special Victims Division, Deputy District Attorney Julianna Peterson Eley, Senior Investigator Sammy John, Senior Investigator Shawn Albea, Crime Analyst Kim Boyd, Data Assistant Nahye Kim, Legal Assistant Raymond Carpenter, Assistant District Attorney Jana Dixon, and Assistant District Attorney Katherine Reimer of the SAKI Unit of the Special Victims Division. Also in attendance were Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney Tom Griner of the Major Case Unit, Deputy Chief Investigator Antonio Long, Senior Investigator Terrence Brown, and Assistant Chief Investigator James Spear. Detectives and analysts from the police departments of South Fulton, College Park, and Atlanta were also present.

The training was a successful in-person event that enhanced understanding and camaraderie, marking the first of its kind held in the beautiful multi-purpose room at the Fulton County Office of the District Attorney. Special thanks were extended to Gregory Ware and Tracey Stokes for technical assistance, as well as Deputy Chief Investigator Antonio Long and Deputy District Attorney Kevin Armstrong for CLE and Post-Certification credit registration.



Michele Henry
Grants Director



CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS ARE YOU SECURE?

It's complicated, but is it really? Reset your password!

- Reset your password every 90 days.
- Make it complicated by using numbers and symbols.
- Sharing is not caring; don't give your password out.

Don't Know, Don't Click!

- If an email looks fishy, click "Phish Alert".
- Don't know the sender? Don't reply
- Unexpected text, don't open the link.

Don't Let Strangers In

- When working remotely, connect to the Virtual Private Network (VPN), then surf and work.



What shoes do computers
love the most?

Re-**BOOTS**

NEWS

CORNER



<https://www.wsbtv.com/news/local/atlanta-yfn-lucci-pleads-guilty-violating-street-gang-terrorism-prevention-act/T6VACTSWIREMVJVQGAQH3QRUF4/>



<https://www.wsbtv.com/video/local-video/former-attorney-tex-mciver-pleads-guilty-lesser-charges-his-wifes-death/51255a42-704a-421c-ae0f-1ad4de729af8/>



Alleged serial rapist arrested after new unit begins to test decades-old rape kits – WSB-TV Channel 2 - Atlanta (wsbtv.com)