

OCTOBER 2021

Providing
the Highest
Quality of
Justice

FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

FALLREPORT

THE 100 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



FANI T. WILLIS
District Attorney
Fulton County, GA

Madam DA

Our accomplishments in the first nine months of service to the people of Fulton County



My team and I have been working around the clock to make the Fulton County District Attorney's Office work the way the people of our county deserve. The hard work we have been putting in – day and night, Sunday to Saturday – has our county heading in the right direction.

When we took office in January, we found an office in disarray. It had been almost completely shut down since March 2020, with no work being done on almost all cases. Only a handful of cases had been indicted in all of 2020. We found a backlog of unindicted cases topping 11,000, with just about that many indicted cases on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic's shutdown of our judicial system. We also discovered over 50,000 cases – some dating back decades – that had never been properly closed, leaving the victims, the accused and the justice system in limbo for years.

We brought in a new, highly qualified team of prosecutors, investigators and legal assistants, and they went right to work. We convened two grand juries to run simultaneously for the first time in Fulton County history, and we have made major progress on the backlog of unindicted cases. We are fixing the problem created by the failure to close cases properly. Most importantly, we have worked with the Fulton County Commission and with grant partners at the federal, state and local levels to secure additional resources for an office that had not be adequately staffed for years, to make sure Fulton County is never in this position again.

Even while cleaning up the mess we inherited, we have been able to make important advances in how Fulton County's justice system works. For the first time in history, we have a program that allows us to send appropriate defendants to alternative programs like drug court, veterans court and mental health court before they are marked with the scarlet letter of a felony indictment. We have started a groundbreaking adult diversion program that operates free of charge to participants and helps victims by providing restitution and keeping them informed of the participant's progress. We have a new unit that specializes in handling juveniles charged with the most serious crimes so we can keep the community safe and save young people, if possible, before they are caught up in the criminal justice system permanently. We also created a unit that helps people restrict records on arrest or conviction in accordance with Georgia law, a move that enables people to get jobs, rent an apartment or move on with their lives outside the shadow of a criminal record.

As I promised the people of Fulton County last year, I would run an office with integrity that employs highly qualified, dedicated staff. We would make our county safer and fix what is broken rather than just seeking felony convictions. We have made great progress, but we have much more to do.

We look forward to working with you in the coming months to do our part to make Fulton County a safe, prosperous and just county for all of its people.

Sincerely,

Featured Employees



William "Chris" Clark

Organized and consolidated 14 evidence rooms in the Fulton County District Attorney's Office.



RuShondra Davenport

Received the Outstanding Public Service Award by the National Bar Association, recognizing her outstanding public service and dedication through volunteering.



Jill Hartsfield and Demetrius Smith

Sr. ADA's Demetrius Smith and Jill Hartsfield combined forces to create the **FIRST** team in the state that targets gang sex trafficking of teenage girls and women.



Michele Henry

Applied for and received a \$1 million Department of Justice (DOJ) grant for improving outcomes for domestic-violence (DV) victims.



Simone Hylton

Trained prosecutors statewide at the summer Prosecuting Attorneys' Council (PAC) of Georgia conference on how to prosecute domestic-violence homicides.



Will Wooten

Organized the **FIRST** Fulton County District Attorney's office LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee under Madam DA Fani T. Willis.



Will McCombs

Successfully spearheaded the first "Full Force Fulton" partnership meeting, forming a partnership with Fulton County's Law Enforcement Leadership.



Earnelle Winfrey

Provided education and awareness about human trafficking to the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter.



Major Crimes Division

Appeals

1. Won 127 Direct Appeals.
2. Won 25 Motions for New Trials.

Civil Forfeiture Unit

3. Established Civil Forfeiture Unit.
4. Established a relationship with Atlanta Airport Drug Interdiction Unit (ADIU).
5. Received for forfeiture **\$2,009,114.78** of seized property.
6. Forfeited **\$1,197,357.53** to arresting agencies.
7. **\$143,919.47** forfeited to the District Attorney's Office.
8. 179 notices of seizure filed.
9. 55 complaints for forfeiture filed.
10. Civil Forfeiture Unit completed 27 hours of training.

Cold Case/Capital Case Unit

11. Established Cold Case and Capital Case Unit.

Major Case

12. Successfully brought to final resolution 22 homicide cases.
13. Successfully tried 2 homicide trials to verdict.

Major Crimes Division

Gang Unit

14. Indicted 2 RICO cases.
15. Successfully resolved 31 Gang cases.
16. First guilty verdict in a homicide trial during COVID-19.
17. All lawyers and investigators received GGIA basic certification.
18. Signed 215 orders for the US Marshalls/APD fugitive units.
19. Worked with law enforcement partners to establish gang task force MACE.
20. Certified 50 lawyers and investigators with GGIA training.
21. Featured presenters at the 1st Annual County-Wide Police Chiefs meeting.
22. Gang and Human-Trafficking teams established a unit specifically to address human-trafficking by gangs.
23. Indictment of **FIRST** Gang-Human Trafficking case in Georgia.

White Collar Crime Unit

24. Disposed of 87 Cases.
25. Recovered **\$1,096,000.00** in restitution orders and settlement agreements.
26. Developed partnerships with GA Cyber Fraud and GA Unemployment Task Force.
27. Trained law enforcement on courtroom demeanor, RICO, PAC and Elder Abuse.
28. Indicted the **FIRST** White Collar Crime RICO case of 2021.
29. All Lawyers and Investigators in the White Collar Crime Unit attended training on COVID fraud.
30. All Lawyers and Investigators in the White Collar Crime Unit completed training on fraud targeting seniors.

Special Victims Division



Terrell Williams Crimes Against Children Unit

- 31. Created the **FIRST** Crimes Against Children in Fulton County focused on crimes committed against children 16 years of age and younger.
- 32. All Lawyers and Investigators completed GA Institute for Child Abuse Prosecutors Training.
- 33. All Lawyers and Investigators participated in Stewards of Children training at the Georgia Center for Child Advocacy.
- 34. All Lawyers and Investigators completed mandated reporter training with Georgia DFACS.
- 35. Hosted abusive head trauma training with Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.
- 36. Reduced unindicted caseload by 50%.

Conviction Integrity Unit

- 37. Developed, established and swore in the CIU Review Committee.
- 38. Exonerated 2 defendants.
- 39. Modified 10 sentences.

Brenda Baham Domestic Violence Unit

- 40. Created the **FIRST** Domestic Violence Unit in Fulton County focused on people physically abused in domestic relationships.
- 41. Resolved a total of 170 domestic violence cases.

Elder Abuse and Animal Cruelty Unit

- 42. Drafted policy to establish the **FIRST** Elder Abuse Multi Disciplinary Team in Fulton County.
- 43. Worked with Canine Cellmates to establish a diversion program
- 44. Trained law enforcement and animal professionals on cruelty investigations.



Special Victims Division

Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation Unit

- 45.** Successfully recovered 17 children through multi-agency partnership.
- 46.** Brought to final resolution 10 HT cases bringing closure to 12 victims.
- 47.** Partnered with FBI MATCH Task Force for the **FIRST** time in FCDA history.
- 48.** All Lawyers and Investigators became members of the GA Coalition to Combat Human Trafficking.
- 49.** Charged 21 defendants with Human Trafficking crimes.

Juvenile Court

- 50.** Successfully sent 19 at-risk children to an intense summer-diversion program.
- 51.** Prosecuted 7 juvenile gang cases, leading to gang convictions.
- 52.** Implemented a juvenile case-tracking system.
- 53.** Charged 340 juvenile cases since April 11, 2021.
- 54.** Coordinated with a juvenile court task force to begin a serious offender court.

Sexual Assault Unit

- 55.** Established Sexual Assault Unit focused on adult victims.
- 56.** Convicted a serial rapist.
- 57.** Indicted 96 violent sex offenders bringing to final disposition 53 sexual assault cases giving closure to victims.

SB440 Unit

- 58.** Established a SB440 Unit to evaluate children charged as adults.
- 59.** Established protocol and procedures for social-psycho evaluations for children charged as adults.
- 60.** Established a roundtable for DA, defense counsel and community partners to set up a system for examining juvenile defendants charged as adults.
- 61.** Developed a partnership with federal criminal justice administrators.



Trial Division

Accountability Court

- 62.** Developed a partnership with federal criminal justice administrators.
- 63.** Set up pre-indictment partnership with court administration to teach Life Skills needed to be successful in life.
- 64.** Implemented a shadowing program to teach ADA's how to successfully evaluate defendants for Accountability Court.

Case Intake Unit

- 65.** Indicted **2,088** cases.
- 66.** Indicted 193 homicide defendants.
- 67.** Conducted 2 grand juries simultaneously for the **FIRST** time in Fulton County's history.
- 68.** Completed evaluation of Fulton County Sheriff's Office as required by law for first time in two decades.
- 69.** Trained 6 law-enforcement agencies on case-intake procedures.

Records Unit

- 70.** Closed **45,075** cases.

Complex Unit

- 71.** Successfully closed **14,705** files.
- 72.** Reviewed 165 undicted drug cases.

Non-Complex Unit

- 73.** Evaluated **3,000** cases to determine if appropriate for diversion.
- 74.** Resolved/closed **2,500** cases.

Investigations Division

Evidence Unit

- 75.** Organized 14 rooms of FCDA evidence.

Major Crime Unit

- 76.** Major Crimes investigators completed more than 324 combined hours of training.

Special Victims Unit

- 77.** SVD investigators completed more than 250 hours of training.
- 78.** SVD Investigators successfully worked with FCSO to return 2 violent defendants to custody.

Justice Liaison Unit

- 79.** Collaborated with Atlanta Citizen Review Board.
- 80.** Facilitated Use of Force, Conflict Resolution and De-escalation Tactic training with APD.
- 81.** Partnered with the US Marshals Service.
- 82.** Established Full Force Fulton, a gathering of all Law Enforcement Leadership.
- 83.** Hosted **FIRST** Full Force Fulton meeting of city, county, state and federal law enforcement officers.



Anti-Corruption Division

- 84.** Made charging decisions in 37 backlogged cases from 2016 -2019.
- 85.** Resolved 6 previously indicted cases.
- 86.** Responded to 16 officer-involved shooting call-outs.



Programs Division

- 87.** Launched Junior DA Summer Youth program with 50 students.
- 88.** Implemented the College of Law Internship program with 23 students.
- 89.** Created a case-intake training video for law-enforcement agencies.
- 90.** Participated in We All Value Excellence non-profit bookbag give-away.

Victim Witness Advocate Unit

- 91.** Hosted 2 domestic violence sessions with Grady Hospital and Giving Kitchen.
- 92.** Provided victims with services in 2,520 matters.
- 93.** Served 990 crime victims.



Operations Division

Grants Unit

- 94.** Submitted 16 applications for grants.
- 95.** Researched and completed grant applications for 30 additional staff.
- 96.** Won a three-year domestic-violence grant.
- 97.** Won **\$4.9 million** in grant funds.
- 98.** Developed MOU's for grant-funded employees with law-enforcement agencies.
- 99.** Developed collaborative partnerships with non-profit organizations.
- 100.** All Grant Unit employees completed a four-day training on gang prevention with the Department of Justice.



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