



The mission of the Gwinnett County District Attorney's Office is to seek and pursue justice on behalf of victims of crime through the fair and ethical prosecution of those who commit offenses in our community. Our office strives to impact the community through education, engagement, and reduction in recidivism while working vigorously to keep the community safe so that all Gwinnett County citizens and residents can thrive.

GWINNETT DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

END OF YEAR REVIEW 2025

Patsy Austin-Gatson
District Attorney

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MESSAGE FROM GWINNETT COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY PATSY AUSTIN-GATSON

Dear Gwinnett County Residents and Stakeholders,

As I complete the first year of my second term, I am excited to see this office continue our dedication to advancing justice, strengthening public safety, and building a community where fairness and integrity guide every decision.

In 2025, our office reached new milestones that reaffirm Gwinnett's position as a statewide leader in prosecution, prevention, and public engagement. We launched a groundbreaking **training initiative with statewide reach**, equipping prosecutors and law enforcement across Georgia with the knowledge and tools to address emerging criminal trends more effectively. This effort represents our ongoing commitment to collaboration and continuous improvement across the criminal justice system.

In the courtroom, our team **led the state in Fentanyl-related prosecutions**, sending a clear message that drug trafficking will not be tolerated in our community. These victories reflect the dedication of our prosecutors, investigators, victim advocates, and legal assistants, and underscore our focus on holding offenders accountable while ensuring that every victim's voice is heard.

Beyond the courtroom, we **expanded our community engagement programs**, deepening partnerships with schools, civic groups, and local organizations to promote prevention, education, and access to justice. Initiatives like our *Citizens Academy*, *Junior District Attorney* and *Investigator Mentorship Program*, and *Community Champions* have reached more residents than ever before, bridging the gap between the justice system and the people we serve.

The future of the Gwinnett Judicial Circuit is bright, and I am proud and humbled to stand alongside you in service to this extraordinary community. Thank you for your continued trust, partnership, and belief in achieving the task at hand.

Sincerely,



Patsy Austin-Gatson

District Attorney,

Gwinnett Judicial Circuit



BIOGRAPHY OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY PATSY AUSTIN-GATSON

District Attorney Patsy Austin-Gatson leads the Gwinnett District Attorney's Office with a clear focus on public safety, integrity, and fairness in the administration of justice. Her prosecutorial philosophy is grounded in the belief that justice must be applied equitably, victims must be protected and supported, and individuals who commit crimes must be held fully accountable under the law.

Since taking office, District Attorney Austin-Gatson has emphasized proactive engagement with residents, community partners, and stakeholders to strengthen trust in the criminal justice system. Education and transparency remain central to her approach, ensuring the public understands how the system works, how decisions are made, and how prevention and intervention can reduce crime before it occurs. Her administration prioritizes thoughtful prosecution, victim-centered practices, and evidence-based alternatives that promote accountability while reducing recidivism, particularly among youth and first-time offenders.

District Attorney Austin-Gatson made history as the first woman and the first African American elected District Attorney of the Gwinnett Judicial Circuit. While she views that milestone as a personal achievement, she also considers it an opportunity to open doors for future generations and demonstrate that leadership in the justice system should reflect the diversity of the community it serves.

Her legal career spans more than three decades and includes service with the Georgia Attorney General's Office, private practice as a law firm associate, and the founding of Austin & Associates, where she handled criminal defense, family law, and civil rights employment matters. Prior to her election as District Attorney, she served as a Supervising Attorney in the Gwinnett County Solicitor's Office, further strengthening her experience in courtroom leadership and prosecutorial management.

District Attorney Austin-Gatson earned her Juris Doctor from Emory University School of Law and a Bachelor of Science from Syracuse University's School of Human Development. She is admitted to practice in all Georgia Superior and State Courts, the Georgia Court of Appeals, the Georgia Supreme Court, the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, and the U.S. District Courts for the Northern, Middle, and Southern Districts of Georgia. In addition to her professional responsibilities, she has a long record of volunteer service and civic involvement.



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Gwinnett District Attorney's Office is to seek and pursue justice on behalf of victims of crime through the fair and ethical prosecution of those who commit offenses in our community. Our office strives to impact the community through education, engagement, and reduction in recidivism while working vigorously to keep the community safe so that all Gwinnett County citizens and residents can thrive.

RULE 3.8: SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF A PROSECUTOR

"A prosecutor has the responsibility of a minister of justice and not simply that of an advocate. The responsibility carries with it specific obligations that the defendant is accorded procedural justice and that guilt is decided upon the basis of sufficient evidence."

State Bar of Georgia



EXECUTIVE TEAM

The Executive Team of the Gwinnett Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office comprises a group of individuals who are leaders in their respective professional fields. DA Austin-Gatson assembled this team in recognition of each member's unique backgrounds and the example they each set for their peers.

1. **Patsy Austin-Gatson** - *District Attorney*
2. **John Melvin** - *Chief Assistant District Attorney*
3. **Mike Carlson** - *Executive Assistant District Attorney*
4. **Wanda Vance** - *Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney*
5. **Sabrina Nizam** - *Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney*
6. **John Williams** - *Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney*
7. **Herbert Adams** - *Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney*
8. **Adam Gardner** - *Chief Investigator*
9. **Andres Rodriguez** - *Assistant Chief Investigator*
10. **Chris Ford** - *Assistant Chief Investigator*
11. **Beth Gorski** - *Director of Victim Witness Program*
12. **Karen McKinlay** - *Assistant Director Victim Witness Program*
13. **Beth Hansen** - *Legal Director*
14. **Mistie Odum** - *Executive Manager*
15. **Michelle Harness** - *Assistant Legal Director*
16. **Terrell Patrick** - *Director of Community Outreach & Partnerships*



TRIAL AND CLOSURE RATES

109% CLOSURE RATE

In 2025, the District Attorney’s Office **closed 6,270 felony cases**. During that same 12-month period, the DA’s Office **opened 5,730 cases**, giving a **closure rate of 109%**. Closed cases include 96 trials, comprising of 27 murders, 22 sex crimes, 19 person trials, 12 property trials, and 8 drug or gang trials.

OVER 94,000 VICTIM CONTACTS

In 2025, the Victim Witness Program made **94,283 Victim Contacts**. That is 6,734 Victim Contacts per each of 14 Victim Advocates, or approximately **350 Victim Contacts per day**. Those contacts include phone calls, emails, written letters, text messages, walk-ins, virtual and in-person meetings, and court engagements.

86% CONVICTION RATE

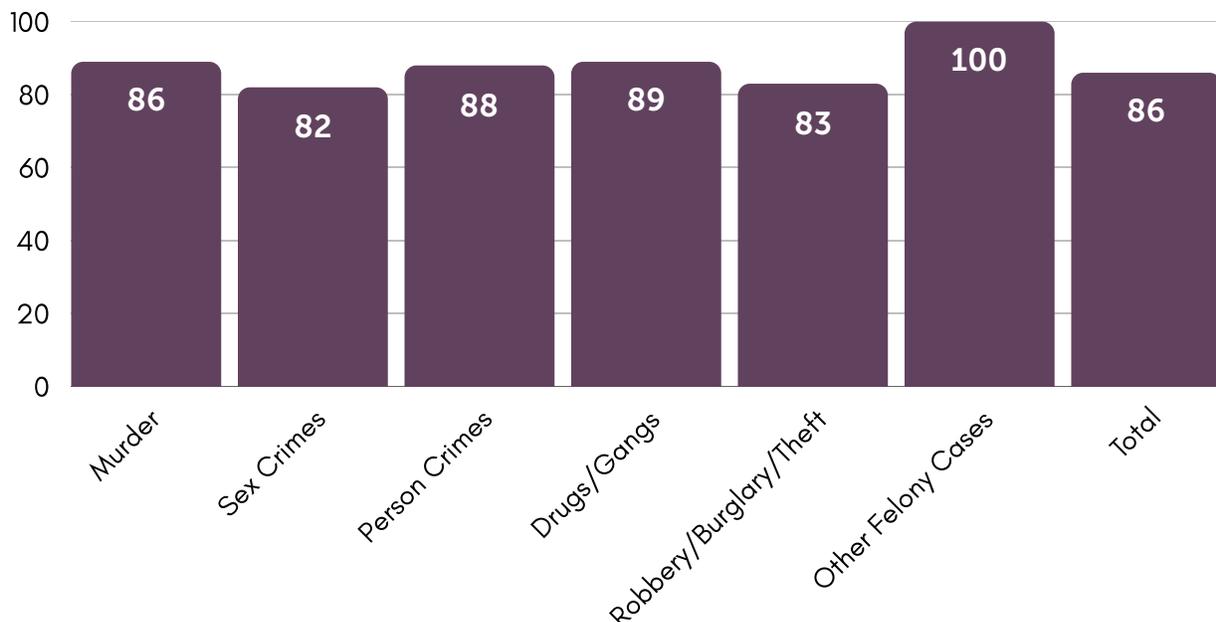
With **96 Jury Trials** in 2025, The District Attorney’s Office closed the year with an **86% conviction rate**, which surpasses the National Average of 68%**.

JUVENILE JUSTICE 96% CLOSURE RATE

The District Attorney’s Juvenile Justice team **opened 1,149 cases** in 2025. During that same 12-month period, the team **closed 1,105 cases** for a **96% closure rate**.

**Bureau of Justice Statistics

2025 CONVICTION RATES





WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF

A justice system that is fair and equitable should reflect the diversity of the community it serves. The Gwinnett Judicial Circuit is in the most diverse county in the nation, and our staff reflects that cross section of cultures and communities. Each year, as we grow and change, we welcome new members to our team who bring with them a broad variety of skills and perspectives that enrich our already extensive talent pool. We welcome our new team members.



Paul Barnhill
Assistant District Attorney



Michael Bednarz
Investigator



Mike Carlson
Executive Assistant
District Attorney



Dallas Cox
Assistant District Attorney



Claire Farley
Assistant District Attorney



Melissa Flores
Legal Assistant



Renee Haygood
Community Outreach Specialist



Peter Hertzog
Assistant District Attorney



Matthew Holmes
Assistant District Attorney



Greg Hughes
Legal Assistant



Carlton "Cal" Lewis
Assistant District Attorney



Chris Lymber
Investigator



Lauren McAuley
Assistant District Attorney



Bernard Monti
Investigator



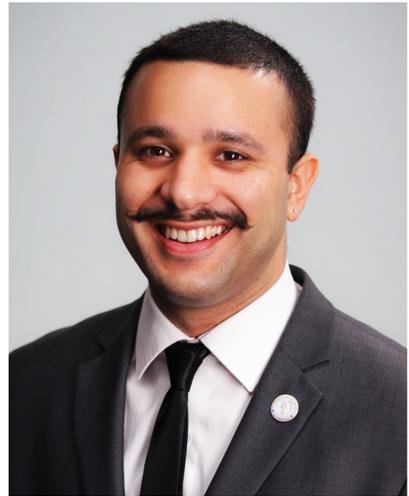
Brian Murphy
Assistant District Attorney



Ramika Palmer
Assistant District Attorney



Christian Robertson
Investigator



Sid Verma
Legal Assistant



John Weitnauer
Assistant District Attorney



Kevin Williams
Investigator



Meg Wilmesherr
Legal Assistant

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

NATIONAL COMPUTER FORENSICS INSTITUTE DIGITAL EVIDENCE FOR PROSECUTORS TRAINING

Assistant District Attorney **Angela Mattozzi** and Assistant District Attorney **John Weitnauer** were selected to take the week-long Digital Evidence for Prosecutors training sponsored at the National Computer Forensics Institute.

The five-day training program is operated by the United States Secret Service, and taught participants a broad variety of strategies for prosecuting. Among other things, they learned computer forensics, search and seizure tactics for digital evidence, tracing IP addresses, preparing computer forensics experts for testimony, and how to present digital evidence from computers, the cloud, mobile devices, and other sources in court.

LEAD ACADEMY GWINNETT

The Gwinnett District Attorney's Office is the first prosecutorial office in the **Megan Matteucci/Managing Assistant District Attorney**

The Gwinnett District Attorney's Office proudly celebrates Megan Matteucci, who graduated from the 2025 Gwinnett County LEAD Academy, becoming the office's seventh staff member to complete the program.

The LEAD Academy is a professional development initiative designed to strengthen leadership across Gwinnett County Government. Its curriculum provides supervisors with a strong foundation in management principles while reinforcing the County's culture, expectations, policies, and procedures.



Angela Mattozzi



John Weitnauer



Megan Matteucci

JUVENILE DIVISION

The Juvenile Division of the Gwinnett District Attorney's Office is responsible for handling cases involving minors accused of violating criminal laws. The division plays a critical role in addressing juvenile delinquency while balancing rehabilitation, accountability, and public safety. The Juvenile Division in 2025 successfully disposed of more than 1,100 cases, demonstrating the team's dedication to effective intervention and to outcomes that support both youth accountability and community safety.





DRUG & GANG TASK FORCE

The District Attorney's Office Drug and Gang Task Force plays a vital role in protecting public safety by aggressively targeting organized criminal activity involving illegal drugs and gang operations. The unit focuses on the investigation and prosecution of individuals responsible for narcotics trafficking, gang-related violence, and coordinated criminal enterprises throughout Gwinnett County.

The Task Force continues to successfully prosecute drug and gang cases through strong partnerships with law enforcement, and a commitment to holding offenders accountable while disrupting criminal networks that endanger the community.



SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT

The Gwinnett District Attorney's Office Special Victims Unit continues its mission to protect our most vulnerable residents. The SVU prosecutes cases involving sexual assault, child abuse, domestic violence, elder abuse, and human trafficking—using trauma-informed practices to support victims, strengthen public safety, and ensure justice is served. The unit is committed to accountability, excellence in prosecution, and victim-centered justice.



INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

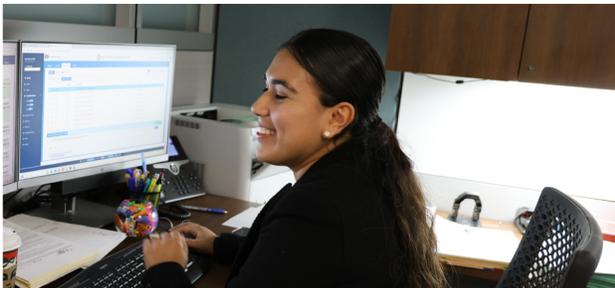
The Gwinnett District Attorney's Office Investigations Unit is an essential part of the criminal justice process.

Led by Chief Investigator Adam Gardner and Assistant Chief Investigators Chris Ford and Andres Rodriguez, our Investigations Unit is composed of 39 experienced Criminal Investigators. Each member of the unit brings more than a decade of law-enforcement experience from agencies across Georgia. Their backgrounds span homicide, robbery, child and elder abuse, use of force, gangs, drugs, computer forensics, and other major felony investigations. Many previously served in supervisory roles such as chief, deputy chief, assistant chief, captain, lieutenant, sergeant, and corporal with other policing agencies.

This year our office opened over 5,700 cases, all of which are reviewed by an investigator before being assigned to prosecutors. Beyond casework, investigators support office-led initiatives — including the Junior DA and Investigator Mentorship Program, high-school mock interviews, college safety awareness programs, and the DA's Liaison Program with multiple local police departments and Gwinnett County Public Schools.

Eight investigators are certified P.O.S.T. materials and firearms instructors, allowing them to assist the Gwinnett Police Academy and partner agencies with specialized training. Two investigators are certified snipers and two operate as certified drone pilots. Several also serve as expert witnesses in court on Cellebrite and PenLink examinations, firearms, and computer forensics. and PenLink analyses, firearms, and computer forensics.





LEGAL ASSISTANTS

Legal Assistants are the unsung backbone of the Gwinnett District Attorney's Office. They are responsible for ensuring that all documentation connected to criminal cases is processed efficiently through our office. Without their support, our investigators and prosecutors could not succeed in their respective roles.

This team opens files, files accusations, handles Grand Jury, logs convictions and sentences, and engages with the public each day, in-person and on the phones. The DA's Legal Assistant team works tirelessly to ensure that the records legitimizing how justice is served in the Gwinnett Judicial Circuit meet the highest standards of detail and accuracy.



VICTIM WITNESS PROGRAM

The Victim Witness Program of the District Attorney's Office is a cornerstone of the office's commitment to serving those impacted by crime. The program provides trauma-informed support, clear communication, and court accompaniment to victims and witnesses involved in cases prosecuted by the DA's Office. The program also provides guidance and aid to those who have become victims of crime or are survivors of homicide.

In 2025, victim advocates made and documented more than 94,283 contacts with victims in the office's case-management tracker — an average of approximately 350 victim interactions per day — underscoring the program's critical role in supporting victims throughout the criminal justice process.

CHILD FATALITY REVIEW AWARD

For the second time, the Georgia Bureau of Investigations Child Fatality Review Unit has named the Gwinnett Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office the Child Fatality Review Committee of the Year — previously honored in 2023 and again in 2025. The committee was recognized for its collaboration, strong partnerships, and dedication to identifying risks and improving child safety systems.

Led by the DA's Office as required by state law, the Gwinnett CFR Committee includes law enforcement, medical, healthcare, social services, and education professionals who work together to analyze cases and recommend systemic improvements.





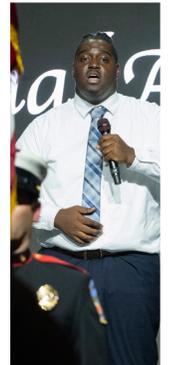
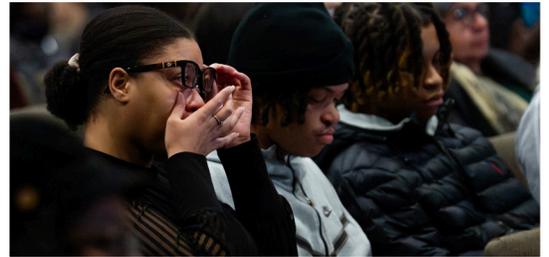


VICTIMS OF CRIME CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

The Gwinnett Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office pauses each December to recognize and remember the individuals and families whose lives have been forever changed by crime. Central to this mission are our Victim Witness Advocates, who provide consistent guidance, compassion, and support to victims as they move through the criminal justice process.

The annual Crime Victims Candlelight Vigil reflects the Office's continued commitment to justice, healing, and community care. The vigil offers a solemn and supportive environment for reflection, remembrance, and connection, bringing together survivors, loved ones, and community members to honor victims.

Participation has continued to grow since District Attorney Austin-Gatson's administration came into office. The 2025 vigil welcomed more than 425 attendees in person and several hundred more through virtual participation, ensuring broader access for families and supporters to come together.





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TRAINING

To keep the Gwinnett Judicial Circuit at the forefront of legal excellence, the District Attorney's Office continues its commitment to advanced training programs highlighting the latest developments in evidentiary law and best practices.

Led by the expertise of Chief Assistant District Attorney John Melvin and Executive Assistant District Attorney Mike Carlson, the Gwinnett DA's Office in 2025 began offering this training statewide. This year we invited prosecutors and investigators from across the state to join in our Advanced Evidence Law Training for Prosecutors and Law Enforcement, and capped off the year with Chief Melvin and EADA Carlson presenting at the Fulton County District Attorney's Office where EADA Carlson previously led the Major Crimes Division.

In 2026 and beyond, we will continue to grow our training program and make it available to prosecutors and law enforcement across Georgia

COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

In 2025, DA Patsy Austin-Gatson recognized community organizations who made a significant difference for people living and working in Gwinnett County by enriching the lives of those receiving their services. Each quarter, a different organization was identified for providing outstanding services to the community in keeping with one of the key tenants of the DA's Office Mission Statement: to impact the community through education, engagement, and reduction in recidivism.

The 2025 Community Champions are:

- **Mission Agape** — Provides service to the unhoused and people in need
- **STRAP (Seeing The Right Amendable Path)** — Youth diversion program
- **GUIDE (Gwinnett United In Drug Education), Inc.** — Drug abuse and suicide prevention
- **COYAD (Council on Youth Anti-Drug)** — Youth drug prevention program



2025 LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION CEREMONY

In November 2025, the Gwinnett District Attorney's Office hosted its annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Awards, honoring the men and women who demonstrate exceptional dedication to public safety across Gwinnett County. The event served as a meaningful tribute to the bravery, professionalism, and service shown by law enforcement officers and emergency responders, both in the line of duty and beyond.

The ceremony celebrated 10 distinguished honorees, including the recognition of a Unit of the Year. Each award recipient exemplifies a steadfast commitment to protecting the community and upholding the highest standards of service. Their actions reflect the values of courage, integrity, and selflessness that help keep Gwinnett County safe and strong.



Gwinnett County Police Department Aviation Unit – Unit of the Year



Lt. Tochi Davis, Sgt. Gregory Ross, Corp. Martele Smith, Dep. David Wood, Dep. Khuong Thai – Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office



Officer Preston Marsh – Duluth Police Department



Deputy Chris Fox & K-9 Dee – GCSO



Officer Ralph Mondesir – GCPD; Nicole Goodwell, RN BSN



Communications Officer Carin Elmore and Officer Gabriel Veras – Norcross Police Department



Inv. Thomas Reynolds & Sgt. Jerry Callahan – Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office



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Corporal William Breitfelder – Gwinnett County Police Department



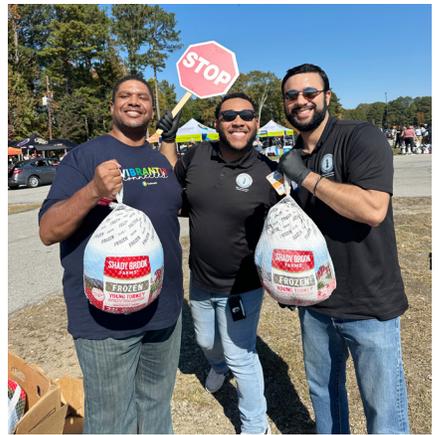
Officer Taylor Mossman and Officer Christopher Lash - Snellville Police Department

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

While the District Attorney's Office maintains its primary focus on securing justice in the courtroom and throughout the judicial process, community outreach remains a vital part of our mission and daily work. As our mission statement affirms, "Our office strives to impact the community through education, engagement, and the reduction of recidivism," and that commitment extends far beyond the courthouse walls.

Members of our team are consistently present in the community — connecting with residents, students, families, and partners to ensure citizens know the District Attorney's Office is accessible, responsive, and available to provide guidance, resources, and support before crime occurs. These efforts strengthen trust, promote prevention, and foster safer neighborhoods across Gwinnett County. Throughout the year, the DA's Office actively participates in and supports initiatives such as the Sheriff's Back-to-School Bash and Bookbag Giveaway, the Genesis Outreach Back-to-School Block Party at South Gwinnett High School, the Sheriff's Thanksgiving Give-A-Way, and Habitat for Humanity buildout on Jimmy Carter Day. Our outreach also includes Elder Abuse Prevention education, engagement through the Citizens Academy, and youth-focused programs such as the Youth Summit and the Junior District Attorney and Investigator Mentorship Program. In addition, our office maintains countless interactions with Gwinnett County schools — providing education, mentorship, and real-world insight into the criminal justice system. The office has also continued its pre-trial diversion initiatives, both for juveniles and for 17- to 28-year-old first-time offenders.

Together, these efforts reflect the commitment of the District Attorney's Office to proactive engagement, education and partnership building.







ADVOCACY

In the execution of their duties, Gwinnett District Attorney Patsy Austin-Gatson and her diverse staff support causes that align directly with the office's mission to pursue justice and promote community safety.

Whether recognizing historic leaders, advocating for the prevention of violence, or supporting victims of crime, the Gwinnett District Attorney's Office takes a stand—both in and out of the courtroom—to champion initiatives that strengthen and uplift the community we serve.

- **Women's History Month:**

During Women's History Month, District Attorney Austin-Gatson celebrated her second term as the first woman to lead the Gwinnett Judicial Circuit while also recognizing the advancement of Sabrina Nizam and Wanda Vance to Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney, reflecting the office's commitment to leadership, excellence, and equity.

- **National Crime Victims' Rights Week:**

Observed each April, National Crime Victims' Rights Week underscores the office's steadfast support for crime survivors, reinforcing its commitment to advocacy, dignity, and access to justice for victims throughout Gwinnett County.

- **National Gun Violence Awareness Month**

In June, staff wore orange to honor lives lost to gun violence and to stand in solidarity with survivors, recognizing the movement inspired by Hadiya Pendleton. This observance complements the office's daily efforts to prosecute gun-related crimes and promote safer communities across the Gwinnett Judicial Circuit.

- **Jimmy Carter Day in Gwinnett County**

District Attorney Austin-Gatson and her staff joined fellow county leaders and agencies to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity during the inaugural Jimmy Carter Day, honoring the late President's lifelong dedication to service, volunteerism, and community empowerment.

- **Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

In October, staff members wore purple in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, reaffirming the office’s ongoing commitment to justice, victim support, prevention, and community education surrounding domestic violence.



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watch video





SUMMER INTERNS

From June to August, the Gwinnett District Attorney's Office employed 20 interns from colleges and universities across the nation. Both law school and undergraduate students with aspirations of becoming prosecuting attorneys joined the office.



During their time with the DA's office, law school interns were able to join prosecutors in court to gain first-hand experience observing a selection of trial court cases, working on case portfolios, legal research, and shadowing during Jury trials. Meanwhile, undergraduate interns assisted in all non-legal facets of the office's inner workings, including assisting our victim witness advocates. Each departed the summer with valuable experience that will enhance their respective careers in the criminal justice field.





ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION

As part of its commitment to keeping Gwinnett County residents safe, the District Attorney's Office provides seniors across the county with vital education and resources to help them recognize, prevent, and report crimes that target older adults.

JUNIOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY AND INVESTIGATOR MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The Gwinnett Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office proudly hosted its fourth year of the Junior District Attorney and Investigator Mentorship Program in 2025.

In 2025, we welcomed 53 high school students into the fourth year of the Junior District Attorney and Investigator Mentorship Program — one of the Office's most impactful and in-demand youth initiatives. The program is designed to provide students with meaningful exposure to the criminal justice system through education, mentorship, and hands-on engagement.

Throughout the program, students interacted directly with prosecutors, investigators, law enforcement professionals, and community partners whose work plays a vital role in public safety and victim advocacy. Guest speakers from local organizations addressed topics ranging from substance abuse prevention and victim services to mental health, resilience, and self-worth — broadening students' understanding of both the justice system and the communities it serves.

Participants also took part in immersive learning experiences, including site visits to the Gwinnett County Police Department, Sheriff's Office, and Corrections facilities. These visits offered insight into law enforcement operations, crime scene investigations, and rehabilitative programming within the jail system, helping students understand the full scope of criminal justice careers.

The two-week program concluded with mock trial exercises that brought lessons into real-world context. Students assumed courtroom roles — including attorneys, witnesses, bailiffs, and judges — demonstrating the skills and knowledge they developed through the program. Since its launch in 2022, the Junior District Attorney and Investigator Mentorship Program has continued to exceed expectations, equipping Gwinnett County youth with confidence, critical thinking skills, and a deeper appreciation for public service.

Additional information and application details for future cohorts are available at [GwinnettCounty.com/JuniorDA](https://www.gwinnettcounty.com/JuniorDA).





Hi, this is Nathan from the JR District Attorney Program. I just wanted to say thank you for helping make this program happen because it had such a big impact on my life. Thank you so much!

Warm regards,

Nathan Jacob

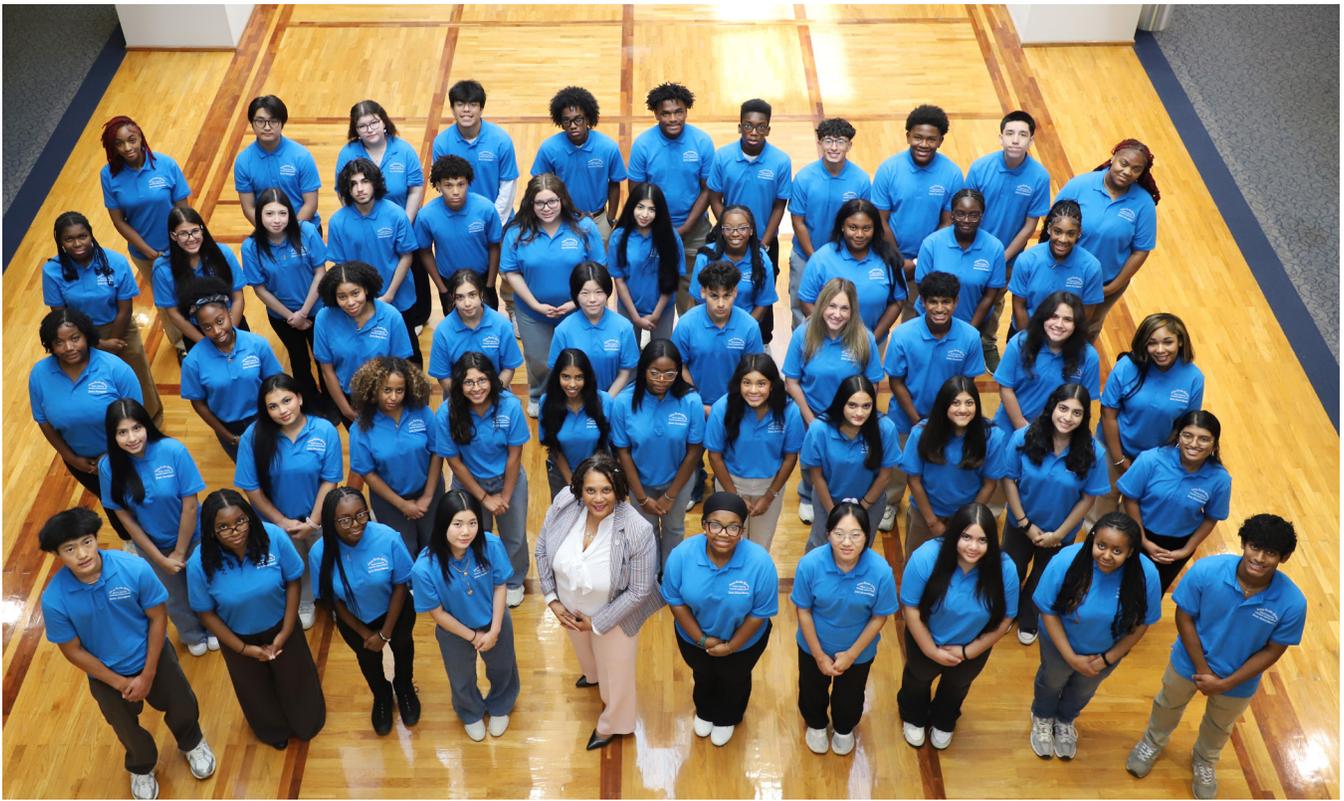
Dear Madam Patsy Austin-Gatson,
Thank you for the incredible opportunity to be a part of the Junior District Attorney and Investigator program. This program didn't just teach me about your impressive judicial system, it confirmed in my heart that this is the path I want to pursue. Seeing your leadership firsthand and witnessing the positive impact of your work has truly inspired me to fight for justice, advocate for



Others, and lead with integrity. I'm immensely grateful for the time, effort, and passion you poured into making this program such a powerful and unforgettable experience. It has shaped me in ways I'll carry with me forever. Thank you for all you do for Gwinnett County!

With all my gratitude,
Skylar Jones





Hello, I wanted to thank you for the opportunity you gave me during the ten days we had. I found this internship program eye-opening as I saw the different parts of the law. Thank you for the tours and the speeches I got to experience firsthand. I hope you have a great summer!

- Brandon Lai

Good morning, I just wanted to say thank you for organizing the internship. I had so much fun on the field trips and made some friends. I also really enjoyed watching the mock trial. Have a great summer,
Kaithin Sai



YOUTH SUMMIT

The Gwinnett District Attorney's Office hosted its second Youth Summit on April 8–9, 2025, bringing together 33 middle and high school students from across Gwinnett County for an engaging spring break experience. Open to youth ages 12 through 18, the program is designed to inspire leadership, civic awareness, and positive growth during a critical stage of development.

Over two days, participants took part in a variety of hands-on activities, including leadership discussions with guest speakers, team-building sports experiences, creative sessions, and interactive workshops. There were even educational sessions for parents about drug and mental health awareness. The Summit fostered meaningful connections among students, community leaders, and mentors while encouraging confidence, resilience, and personal responsibility.

Plans are already underway for the 2026 Youth Summit. Additional information and future application details will be available at GwinnettCounty.com/YouthSummit.





GWINNETT DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S CITIZENS ACADEMY

The Gwinnett District Attorney's Citizens Academy entered its third year in 2025, bringing together 23 residents from throughout the county for an immersive look into the criminal justice system. Spanning nine weeks, the program is designed to provide participants with practical insight into how cases move from investigation to prosecution and resolution.

Academy members take part in interactive sessions and firsthand learning opportunities with prosecutors, investigators, law enforcement officers, and members of the judiciary. This included hands-on experiences during visits to the Gwinnett County Police Department and the Gwinnett County Correctional Facility. By offering transparency into the work of the District Attorney's Office, the Citizens Academy strengthens public understanding, builds trust, and encourages meaningful civic engagement across Gwinnett County.

Former participants have established a Citizens Academy Alumni to turn the knowledge and appreciation gained through the academy into meaningful service. The District Attorney's Citizens Academy Alumni Association supports the DA's Office in its ongoing efforts to engage and connect with the diverse communities served by the Gwinnett Judicial Circuit.



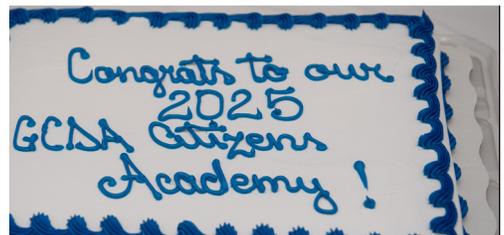


A fun and highly anticipated part of the District Attorney's Citizens Academy curriculum is a field trip to the Gwinnett County Police Department, which includes engagement with the department's Crime Scene Investigation Unit to learn how evidence is collected, and a tour of the Unit's CSI van.





Additional information and application details for future cohorts are available at GwinnettCounty.com/DACitizensAcademy.



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FOR MORE INFORMATION

District Attorney

Gwinnett Judicial Circuit

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Scan to learn more about the Gwinnett District Attorney's Office.



**Gwinnett County
District Attorney's Office**

Patsy Austin-Gatson
District Attorney