



District Attorney's 2026 Business Plan Presentation

Patsy Austin-Gatson
District Attorney



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Mission Statement

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.



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Approved 2025 Operational Request Updates

Victim Witness Advocate

- The new advocate is assigned to a trial division and has been instrumental in providing timely support to victims and witnesses.
- Their presence has improved communication, reduced response times, and enhanced the overall efficiency of case preparation.
- This additional support has also allowed our existing advocates to manage their caseloads more effectively, resulting in more comprehensive and consistent victim services across the office.



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2025 Efficiencies and Improvements

- **Enhanced Pre-Trial Practice:** Implementation of comprehensive pre-trial strategies to improve case direction, resolution efficiency, and judicial outcomes.
- **Staff Development and Legal Training:** Ongoing professional development for attorneys and non-lawyer staff, with focused training on investigative procedures and evolving legal standards.
- **Community Engagement Initiatives:** Delivery of targeted educational programs, including elder abuse awareness, drug and gang prevention, and personal safety/self-defense training, to strengthen community trust and safety.



2025 Accomplishments

- 100% conviction rate on Homicide cases
- 100% conviction rate on Drug and Gang Taskforce cases
- 96% overall Appellate success rate
- 2025 GBI Child Fatality Review CFR Committee of the Year Award
- Investigative command staff is the first District Attorney's office in the nation to receive prestigious FBI-LEEDA Trilogy Award
- Successful community outreach including Junior District Attorney and Investigator Mentorship Program, Citizens Academy, New Directions, RED, and Elder Abuse Trainings



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Emerging Developments and Our Path Forward

New criminal laws and procedures

- Continuing trial and appellate successes under requirements of new Georgia and federal legal authority

Recent State and Federal decisions

- Meeting resource challenges due to enhanced responsibilities in accordance with legal mandates

Retention and growth

- Critical funding needed to maintain excellence in an ever-expanding, vibrant, and diverse community



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Strategic Goals and Efficiencies

- Implemented in-house training to benefit public safety throughout the metro region
- Developing internal expectations and requirements to increase efficiency and effectiveness



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People Strategies

- The department promotes a positive workplace culture and employee engagement through regular office engagements, trainings, and informal lunch-and-learn sessions, supporting continuous professional growth and team collaboration.
 - Monthly officewide birthday celebrations
 - Monthly division Open Houses
 - Community engagement events



2025 Overview

2025 Crimes	2025 January – June
Homicide	21
Rape	57
Burglary	474
Theft	4,628
Gang-related Incidents	136

2025 Deaths by Drugs
71 total certified and uncertified



2025 Overview

	Opened Cases
Superior Court	2,986
Juvenile Court	645
Total	3,631

	Closed Cases
Superior Court	3,084
Juvenile Court	661
Total	3,745

- Drug and Gang Task Force (DGTF) has opened 137 cases in 2025
- Special Victim Unit (SVU) has opened 115 cases in 2025

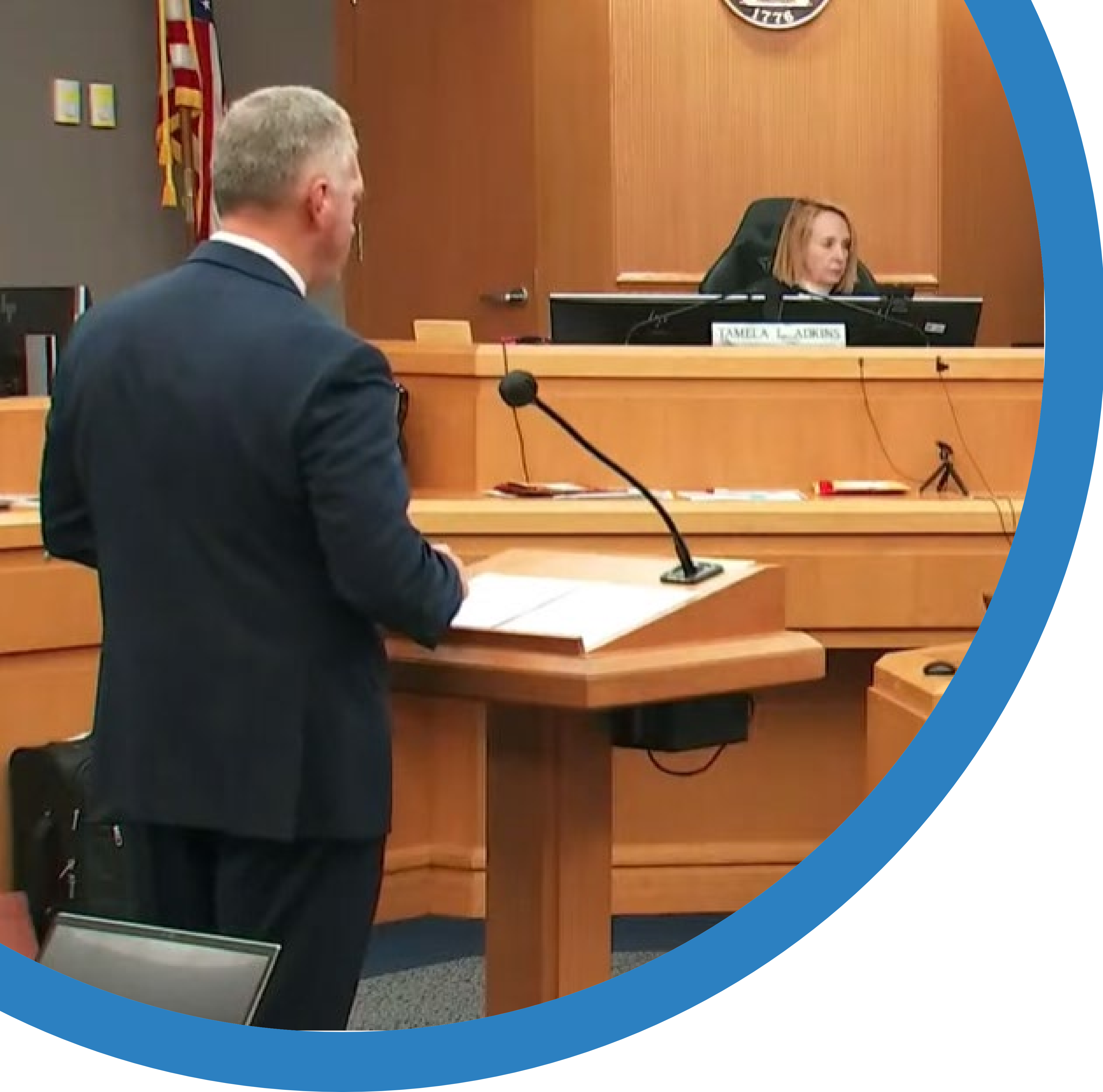


New Operational Request

Supervising Assistant District Attorneys – 2

- The Supervising Assistant District Attorneys will be responsible for prosecuting felony cases, managing growing caseloads, and supporting strategic priorities such as case backlog reduction, timely justice, and enhanced victim services.
- **Requested Budget – \$ 376,181**





New Operational Request Support

- **Lead the prosecution of complex, multi-defendant, and high-profile cases** that require cross-departmental coordination, aligning with the office's mission to ensure public safety and justice through efficient case resolution.



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New Operational Request

Criminal Investigator

- The Criminal Investigator supports prosecutors by gathering evidence, interviewing witnesses, and conducting in-depth case research to strengthen prosecutions and advance justice.
- **Requested Budget – \$239,665**



New Operational Request Support

- This role is essential for building strong cases, improving trial readiness, and ensuring timely and thorough investigations.
- The position is critical to managing increasing case loads and enhances our ability to effectively prosecute serious and complex crimes.



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