

One Court
One Family
One Community

THE FULTON COUNTY JUVENILE COURT

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



ONE COURT | ONE FAMILY | ONE COMMUNITY



ABOUT FCJC

Fulton County Juvenile Court (FCJC) is the largest juvenile court in Georgia and among the largest in the Southeastern United States. FCJC is home to a judiciary of eight judges and four departments, each delivering essential services to the families we serve. The judiciary is led by Chief Judge Renata D. Turner, with administrative and operational functions led by Chief Administrative Officer Cicely Barber. The judges and departmental staff of FCJC collaborate to achieve optimal outcomes for Fulton County families.

VISION

FCJC's vision is to empower children and families by providing a fair, effective, and timely system of justice.

MISSION

The mission of FCJC is first to protect children and the community in matters brought before the court, to rehabilitate children, and to restore families; and second, to create opportunities for the community, partners, and stakeholders to actively engage in this mission.



TYPES OF CASES

CHINS

Children in Need of Services proactively works with youth under the age of 18 to eliminate and reduce formal court involvement by offering resources and services on the front end.

DELINQUENCY

Delinquency cases involve juveniles under the age of 17 who have committed a delinquent act and need treatment and rehabilitation or supervision by the court.

DEPENDENCY

A dependent child is under the age of 18 who is alleged to be neglected, abused, or abandoned. This can happen when the child does not receive proper parental care or control and/or education as required by the law, or other care or control necessary for the child's physical, mental or emotional health.

TRAFFIC

The court adjudicates traffic violations for youth under the age of 17.

CHIEF JUDGE RENATA D. TURNER

As Chief Judge of the Fulton County Juvenile Court, I am proud to reflect on a year marked by meaningful connection, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to the children and families we serve.

In 2025, our Court continued to expand its presence beyond the courtroom, meeting youth, families, and partners where they are, and reinforcing our belief that justice is most effective when it is restorative, educational, and community-centered. Through purposeful collaboration, we created pathways that promote accountability while fostering hope, growth, and opportunity.

A hallmark of this year was our continued investment in youth engagement and education. Mock Trial initiatives with probated youth and at Dunbar Elementary School provided hands-on learning experiences that demystified the justice system and encouraged civic awareness. Community outreach, including my visit to Bethune Elementary School as a Hometown Hero, reinforced the message that the Court is a partner in education and prevention, not solely an institution of consequence.

We also launched our first Positive Youth Development Mentoring Program, an eight-week initiative designed to equip court-involved youth with life skills, mentorship, and exposure to professional environments. The program culminated at the Atlanta Hawks corporate office, offering participants a powerful vision of what is possible when support, structure, and opportunity align.

In 2025, we were proud to introduce Unlocked Voices, a poetry-based workshop created to provide youth with a space for self-expression, creativity, and healing. Led by Dr. Mary Goldschmidt, a nationally respected educator and advocate for system-involved youth, Unlocked Voices allows participants to engage with poetry, reflect on shared experiences, and craft original work that tells their own stories. While youth earn community service hours, the true impact lies in the confidence, connection, and empowerment gained through being seen and heard.

Equally significant was the signing of the Attendance Success (Truancy) Protocol with Atlanta Public Schools, Fulton County Schools, and key court and community partners. This agreement reflects a shared commitment to improving school attendance through coordinated, supportive interventions—recognizing education as a cornerstone of long-term success.

These accomplishments reflect the dedication of our judiciary, staff, and partners, all working together under a shared principle: *One Court, One Family, One Community*. As we look ahead, we remain focused on innovation, collaboration, and continuous improvement to better serve Fulton County's youth and families.



"The Court is a partner in education and prevention, not solely an institution of consequence."

-Renata D. Turner



FCJC BY THE NUMBERS

51

*Feel Good Friday
youth recognitions*



\$1.2

MILLION

Grants under management

Delinquency
Cases

1,584



Offenses

2,739



Dependency
Cases

643



Traffic

368



Voluntary
CHINS Cases

122

Formal Petitioned
CHINS Cases

287

420

*Families Served by
Guardians ad Litem*

FCJC IN THE COMMUNITY

FCJC's mission requires us to create opportunities for the community to actively engage in protecting children in matters brought before the court.



Law Day Mock Trial
Dunbar Elementary School
May 15, 2025



Positive Youth Development Mentoring Program
1st cohort completion ceremony at the
Atlanta Hawks corporate office
August 2, 2025

FCJC IN THE COMMUNITY



NPU-P Public Safety Meeting at William Walker Recreation Center
February 4, 2025



Hometown Heroes Celebration at Bethune Elementary School
April 17, 2025



Law Day Mock Trial Event with Probated Youth
June 6, 2025

CLERK'S OFFICE

The Clerk of Court is responsible for maintaining the official records of the Court in accordance with state and local statutes. The Clerk records all proceedings of the Court, issues and signs summons and subpoenas, receives and maintains evidence, prepares and transmits copies of records to appellate courts, certifies court documents and records, and ensures proper recording and safekeeping of transcripts for all hearings.

CASES BUILT

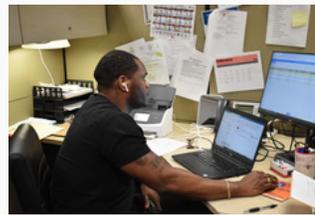
3,861



The Clerk's Office continued to archive and preserve historical records, such as the 1979 Order of Business, shown below.



SWEARING IN NEW CLERKS



ORDER OF BUSINESS
FOR FULTON COUNTY JUVENILE COURT
OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER OF 1979

Hearings will be assigned into the following divisions:

(a) Delinquency Division - Hearings generally involving contested charges of a criminal nature and revocation of probation or aftercare. An Assistant District Attorney will present evidence. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday cases set at 9:00, 10:00, 11:00 A.M. and 2:00 and 3:00 P.M.; on Thursday and Friday cases set at 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00 A.M., or otherwise as may be directed.

(b) Miscellaneous Division - Hearings involving matters other than criminal charges. Evidence will be taken by the Judge or presented by private counsel. Such cases as truancy, custody, neglect, insufficient and improper guardianship, etc. Cases to be set Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 9:00, 10:00, 11:00 A.M. and 2:00 and 3:00 P.M.; on Thursday and Friday cases set at 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00 A.M., or otherwise as may be set.

(c) Preliminary Hearings - Are docketed to begin at 9:00, 10:00, 11:00 A.M. and 2:00, 3:00 and 4:00 P.M. and at other times when arrangements are made with the Presiding Referee, at another time and another place or at Satellite office. If such arrangements are made to hold a preliminary hearing at another time, arrangements must also be made with Mrs. Turner to be present to record the hearing.

There shall be designated an Intake Referee whose duties shall be to conduct preliminary hearings of an emergency nature, at hours not herein specified for preliminary hearings. These hearings, when necessary, shall be performed in conjunction with Intake responsibilities.

(d) Traffic Hearings - Shall be heard in Courtroom #3 or #4 by a Referee Monday through Friday and shall be set at 4:00 P.M., or otherwise, as may be directed.

(e) Arraignment Hearings - Upon the filing of a petition involving contested charges of a criminal nature, the accused juvenile and his or her parents or guardian shall be summoned by the Investigative Probation Officer to appear before the court at a specified time as may be directed by the Judge to establish hearing, whether or not the juvenile admits or denies the charges made against him or her, whether formal hearing with all witnesses present is to be scheduled, and if so, when such hearing will be scheduled.

A Referee may be designated to hear any calendar or any case in lieu of a Judge. The Chief Referee, John W. Greer, III, shall have primary responsibility in the conducting of Referee hearings, assisted by a Referee. The Presiding Judge, or the Judge sitting as Presiding Judge, has the duties of considering motions, requests, issuing warrants, signing orders and considering emergency matters.

This Order of Business is subject to modification as may be announced.

WEEK OF:

October 1	Delinquency Division	Judge Powell
	Miscellaneous Division	Judge Dillon, Presiding
	Preliminary Hearings	Referees
	Traffic	Referees



COURT AND FAMILY SERVICES



CITIZENS' REVIEW PANEL (CRP)

CRP uses community volunteers to conduct legally mandated reviews of the status and welfare of children placed into the legal custody of the Fulton County Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) to ensure that reasonable efforts are being made to reunify the family or otherwise provide permanency for a child.

EDUCATION ADVOCATES

Education Advocates assist court-involved youth in receiving special education services to succeed in school. Research indicates that youth with undiagnosed and unmet special education needs are disproportionately represented in juvenile courts and secure juvenile facilities.

GUARDIANS AD LITEM (GAL)

GALs are court-appointed staff who investigate and represent the best interests of a child in abuse/neglect cases. They conduct interviews and home visits to submit a report to the court detailing their findings and advise on the best, safest arrangement for the child.

CHINS

Under Georgia law, CHINS means a child who needs care, guidance, counseling, structure, supervision, treatment, or rehabilitation without formal court involvement. The CHINS Unit proactively addresses status offense behaviors, such as truancy, through services provided by internal court support and external community partners.

MEDIATION

Mediation is used to divert cases from the court that are more appropriately resolved by collaborating with the parties. Mediation fosters an environment where the child is directly accountable for his or her actions, addresses the victim's needs, and models conflict resolution techniques for children and their families.

COURT AND FAMILY SERVICES



TRUANCY PROTOCOL SIGNATORY EVENT

On January 4, 2025, Court and Family Services supported the signing of the Attendance Success Protocol, which aims to equip all students with the support they need to attend school daily.



EDUCATION ADVOCATES TRAINING

On May 8, 2025, Education Advocates trained Probation and Integrated Services on the new process for obtaining school records from Atlanta Public Schools and Fulton County Schools.



JOB READINESS EVENT

On June 6, 2025, Court and Family Services hosted a Job Readiness Event in collaboration with court partners and community organizations, including WorkSource Atlanta, @Promise Center, Urban League of Greater Atlanta, Guidely, LLC, Bethany Christian Services, and WestCare Georgia. Participants built résumés, conducted mock interviews, received life skills training, and learned how to foster healthy relationships.



INTEGRATED SERVICES

Integrated Services consists of Accountability Courts, Behavioral Health, Programming, and Grants Management. The Department of Integrated Services is committed to empowering families and youth by offering a wide range of support and clinical services, including prevention, early intervention, and evidence-based treatment. By unifying all services within a single department, we aim to eliminate barriers and reduce delays, ensuring families can quickly connect with the resources they need.

Accountability Courts

These specialized courts are tailored to address specific populations and provide a highly-structured, coordinated, and holistic team-based approach to promote rehabilitation and reduce recidivism while simultaneously holding participants accountable for their behavior.

Behavioral Health

Behavioral Health is dedicated to the prevention, early intervention, and treatment of behavioral health-related issues impacting youth and their families. Licensed and/or certified clinicians deliver direct services, offer clinical support, and provide psychoeducation to children, families, court staff, and community stakeholders through trainings, presentations, and by annually highlighting Children's Mental Health Awareness in May.

Grants Management

Grants Management administers a portfolio of grants that support the Accountability Courts, evidence-based programs for youth on probation, and resources to address educational neglect, ensuring these critical services are effectively implemented.

Programming

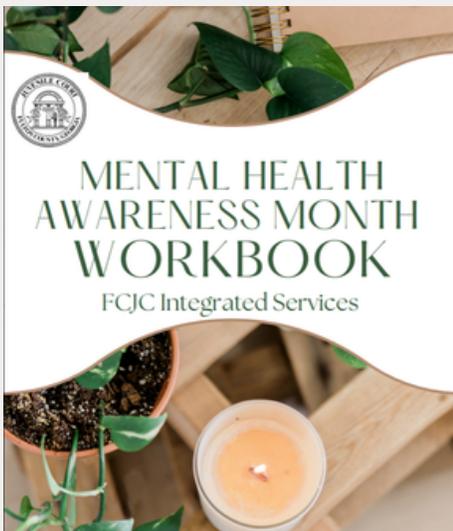
The programming team uplifts court-wide affinity month observations, implements programs, including evidence-based treatment initiatives, vets community-based providers, and develops engagement opportunities that promote positive behavior, reduce recidivism, and enhance the overall well-being of court-involved youth and their families.

INTEGRATED SERVICES

Behavioral Health

Mental Health Awareness Month

Mental Health Workbook
During Mental Health Awareness Month, judges distributed a Mental Health Workbook created by Senior Behavioral Health Clinician, Shante Shipp.



May 2025 - FCJC Mental Health Awareness Month - Calendar of Events!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Self-Care Binets - ALL MONTH LONG	2 Youth Mental Health Workbooks	3 TURN AWARENESS INTO ACTION
4	5 Gratitude Wall - ALL MONTH LONG Door Decorating Contest Begins	6 Multidisciplinary Team Staffing (MITS) Training Session	7	8 National Day at the Capitol Wear GREEN Day	9	10 National Day at the Capitol 8 am - 11:30 am GA State Capitol
11	12	13 Lunch and Learn: Drug Use & Its Impact	14	15	16	17 Lunch and Learn: Drug Use & Its Impact 10 am - 10:30 am 11/12
18	19	20	21	22 Multidisciplinary Team Staffing (MITS)	23 Door Decorating Contest Ends	24 Multidisciplinary Team Staffing (MITS) Multiple Sessions 2:47
25	26 Door Decorating Judging Begins	27	28 Mental Health Information Table	29	30 Door Decorating Contest - Winner Announced	31 Mental Health Information Table 11 am - 1 pm 1 st Floor Atrium

Gratitude Wall

The Gratitude Wall was implemented as a place where FCJC employees, visitors, and stakeholders can openly share positive thoughts and spread appreciation and gratitude.



Door Decorating Contest

FCJC employees decorated office doors to reflect employees' interpretation of mental health while inspiring conversations around an often stigmatized subject.



Wear Green Day

FCJC employees wore green in honor of Georgia Children's Mental Health Day and Mental Health Awareness Month.



FCJC secured three competitive grants from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) to support evidence-based treatment, drug treatment services, and intervention programming for youth and adults with dependency cases.

JUVENILE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION (JPI)

The JPI grant supports prevention and intervention services as alternatives to detention, with a focus on youth mental wellness, substance use reduction, and violence prevention. Funding from this grant supports:

- Credible Messenger Summer Program
- Youth Advocate Programs (YAP) Inc. (Wraparound Mentorship Services)
- BOTVIN Life Skills

\$100,000.00



JUVENILE JUSTICE INCENTIVE GRANT (JJIG)

The JJIG program is designed to reduce juvenile felony commitments and short-term program admissions by expanding access to evidence-based programs proven to lower recidivism and strengthen connections between youth, families, and communities.

- Aggression Replacement Training (ART)
- Functional Family Therapy (FFT)
- Multisystemic Therapy (MST)
- Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT)

\$400,000.00



COUNCIL OF ACCOUNTABILITY COURT JUDGES (CACJ)

The Accountability Court Operating Grant (ACOG) supports evidence-based treatment for adult participants in Family Treatment Court (HOPE) and youth participants in Juvenile Drug Court (CHOICES) who have been assessed to have a substance use disorder.

CHOICES: Choosing Healthy Options Increases Confidence, Excellence, and Success is a voluntary intervention program for a period of 12 to 15 months for moderate to high-risk youth assessed to have a substance abuse disorder.

HOPE: Helping Our Parents Excel is presided over by Judge Juliette W. Scales. HOPE integrates substance use treatment services with dependency/child welfare/child abuse and neglect case processing for parents/legal guardians who have been assessed to have a substance abuse disorder over 18-24 months.

\$78,176.00



OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION (OJJDP) CONTINUUM OF CARE GRANT

\$450,000.00

AFFINITY MONTH OBSERVATIONS

FCJC uplifts Affinity Months through court-wide events and sharing information to foster an inclusive environment that supports cultural awareness.

First Quarter

- Human Trafficking Awareness Month
- Black History Month
- Women's History Month
- Child Abuse Prevention Month
- Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

BLACK HISTORY month

FULTON COUNTY JUVENILE COURT

BLACKOUT MY BLACK IS BEAUTIFUL. BLACKOUT (WEAR ALL BLACK) February 7, 2025

UNITY, PRIDE, CONNECTION (WEAR RED, GREEN OR YELLOW) February 14, 2025

DIVINE 9 ATTIRE (PHOTO TAKEN RM 1132 12:15 P.M.) February 21, 2025

HBCU ATTIRE February 28, 2025

FULTON COUNTY JUVENILE COURT PRESENTS

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

DOOR DECORATING CONTEST

DECORATE YOUR OFFICE DOOR BY MAY 23RD TO ENTER TO WIN A MENTAL HEALTH DAY (8 HOURS LEAVE)

Theme: Turning Awareness into Action!

Celebrate Asian American & Pacific Islander Diversity

Be an ally to our Asian American and Pacific Islander communities this AAPI Heritage Month

May 2025

"A Legacy of Leadership and Resilience."

The Department of Integrated Services presents

HUMAN TRAFFICKING FORUM W/ YOUTHSARK

Discussion Topics:

- Human Trafficking Overview: What Makes Youth Vulnerable?
- Identifying Warning Signs & Family Concerns
- Running Away Behaviors are Strong Indicators
- Services Offered through the Youth Services Center

February 20

Room 1132
11:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

Click the flyer to register for this lunch and learn. Please be prepared to engage.

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK 2025

KINSHIP CONNECTING & HEALING

ESTABLISHED IN 1981 BY RONALD REAGAN, NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK (NCVRW) SETS OUT TO RAISE AWARENESS ON THE CRIMES OF VICTIMS. NCVRW IS A TIME TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RESILIENCE AND STRENGTH OF INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED CRIME, AND TO REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES.

VISIT: WWW.OVC.DIP.GOV FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS WEEK

Wear BLUE Day

Wear blue and create Atlanta CASAs Pinwheel Gardens as we stand against Child Abuse.

When: April 3, 2025 at 12:00 PM
Where: Front of Fulton County Juvenile Courthouse

Click [HERE](#) to RSVP for your pinwheel by April 2, 2025, by 3:00 PM!

Powered by Hope, Strengthened by Prevention.

MAY 2025 National Treatment Court Month

Each year, the treatment court community comes together to honor and address the life-changing impact of treatment courts across the nation.

Meet our FCJC Accountability Court Judge and read all about our in-house Accountability Court Programs.

Juvenile Drug Court: Choosing Healthy Options (COURAGE Program)

Alternative Solutions Creating Excellence: Not Detention (ASCEND Program)

Family Treatment Court (FTC): Making Our Parents Proud (HEAL Program)

Second Quarter

- Mental Health Awareness Month
- Law Day
- National Crime Victims' Rights Week
- Pride
- National Treatment Court Month

Fulton County Juvenile Court

CELEBRATING PRIDE MONTH

HONORING LGBTQ+ HISTORY, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND CULTURE

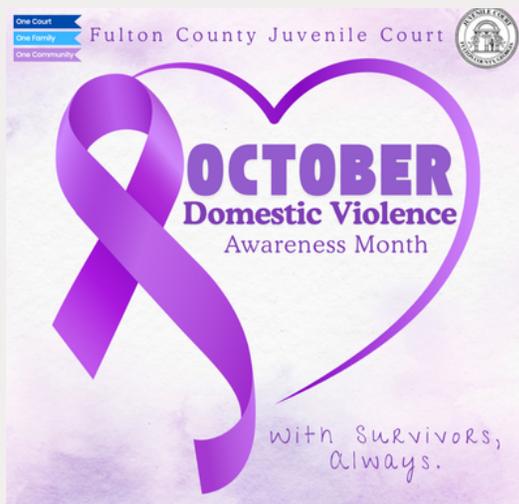
AFFINITY MONTH OBSERVATIONS

Third & Fourth Quarters

- National Recovery Month
- Suicide Prevention Awareness Month
- Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- Breast Cancer Awareness Month



NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH





APRIL IS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

On April 3, 2025, FCJC joined court partner Atlanta CASA in the ceremonial planting of their annual Pinwheel Garden to honor National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The pinwheel is a nationwide symbol for the happy, healthy, and safe childhoods all children deserve.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FCJC celebrated Black History throughout the month of February by sharing facts about African American contributions to America and by wearing paraphernalia from black fraternities and sororities, in addition to an HBCU attire day and a blackout day.



POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Mentoring Program

The Positive Development Mentoring Program (PYDMP) is designed to empower court-involved youth with essential life skills and knowledge to foster economic self-sufficiency, personal development, and long-term success. PYDMP serves low- to moderate-risk youth ages 14 -17 who have been adjudicated on a delinquent charge and placed on probation. This inaugural program ended with a celebration at the Atlanta Hawks corporate office.

PYDMP Objectives

- Enhance Self-Esteem
- Cultivate a Growth Mindset
- Promote Resiliency
- Expand Peer and Professional Networks



Fulton County Juvenile Court Presents

Positive Youth Development Mentoring Program

Youth ages 14-17
Low to moderate at-risk youth
15 Spots Available

Positive Youth Development Mentoring Program (PYDMP) is for low to moderate at-risk youth. PYDMP will meet once a week for 8 weeks from 1:00pm-3:00pm beginning on June 5th through August 2nd.

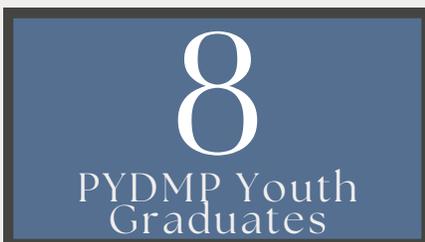
Our Program:

- Helps youth build self-confidence
- Helps youth identify goals
- Helps youth develop resiliency
- Teaches youth to explore various career paths
- Engages youth in community service projects

Apply now

Applications are due by May 16, 2025.
Mandatory participant and parent/guardian orientation will be held:
Tues., May 20, 2025, at 6:00pm (In-Person) or
Wed., May 21, 2025, at 6:00pm (Via Zoom)

Contact: Jenice Regulus
Program Coordinator
(404)401-6316



PROBATION SERVICES

Probation Services provide treatment, rehabilitation, and supervision to youth court ordered to probation. Probation strives to maximize public safety by holding youth accountable for their behavior using current and progressive methodologies while providing maximum community-based supervision.

On April 10, 2025, Probation hosted Goal Getters. During Goal Getters, youth completed court-ordered vision boards, essays, and apology letters.

FULTON COUNTY JUVENILE COURT PRESENTS:

GOAL GETTERS

Join us to complete your vision boards, essays, and apology letters. All supplies and snacks will be provided.

3 hours of community service



At home I would want to play some music, about racing, or customizing cars. This is something I've been doing and enjoying ever since I got a bit of it.

This is a car that I like and would hope to own in the future. I'll be able to afford it by having a budget and using my money wisely.

As a hobby I'll enjoy to go go-karting. I would like this as a hobby because I like driving and racing.

In the future I would like to own a house to have some where to rest and be alone. Owning a house is a life goal I want.

A mechanic is the perfect job that I'll like to do with this job I will be able to work on my own because of my interest in cars and learn about it.



Handwritten labels: CAR, HORSE, GAMES, JOB

What is your dream job? I want to be a professional baseball player. I want to be a professional baseball player.

What is your dream job? I want to be a professional baseball player. I want to be a professional baseball player.

What is your dream job? I want to be a professional baseball player. I want to be a professional baseball player.



FEEL GOOD FRIDAYS

Probation Services host quarterly Feel Good Fridays to acknowledge achievements of youth on probation.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE



PROGRAM COMPLETION



SUPERVISION DISCHARGE



POSITIVE BEHAVIOR



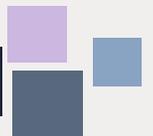
COLLEGE ENROLLMENT



COMPLIANCE WITH PROBATION CONDITIONS



EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

F.O.C.U.S. stands for "Fulton: One County United In Service." The F.O.C.U.S. Awards honor employees who have worked to improve the lives of our citizens and their colleagues every day on the job, and the ceremony was an opportunity to hear the stories regarding their nominations for a F.O.C.U.S. Award. All F.O.C.U.S. Award honorees are nominated by another employee and evaluated by a panel of previous F.O.C.U.S. Award winners.



FULCO NEWS SPECIAL EDITION FULTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

Robert Gregory, Customer Service Award

Our 1st Quarter Award for "Customer Service" goes to Robert Gregory, a Customer Engagement Specialist for the Fulton County Juvenile Court. This role requires him to greet customers as they clear security and inquire as to how he may be of assistance. Mr. Gregory actively addresses customers' needs, doing whatever is required to enhance their experience while present at Juvenile Court.

Each day, he welcomes every employee, contractor, vendor, and customer who passes through the halls of Juvenile Court with enthusiasm, inclusivity, and grace. He is helpful, always willing to serve, and knowledgeable about the inter-workings of the court. When peers require his assistance, he eagerly provides a helping hand no matter the task. He sees the good in people, using this superpower to engender goodwill in the areas of customer satisfaction and customer experience.

JoShonda Guerrier, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

**1ST QUARTER
FOCUS AWARD
WINNER**



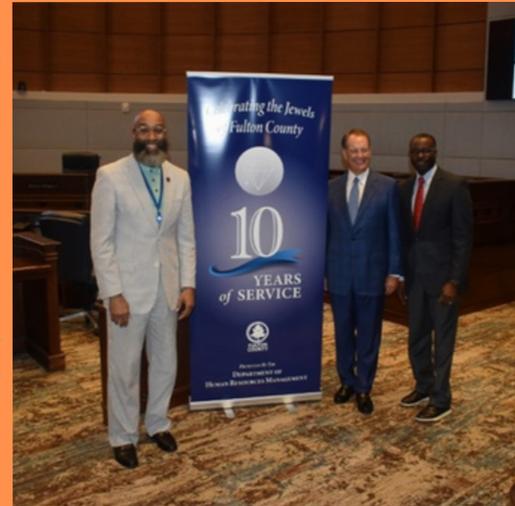
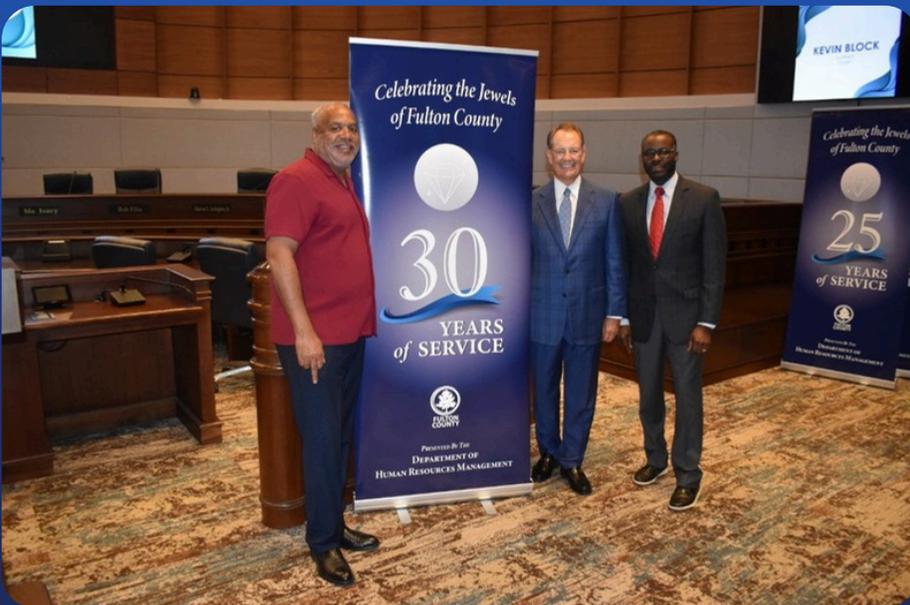
FCJC YEARS OF SERVICE CEREMONY

On May 16, 2025, FCJC honored employees with five to thirty years of service at its annual Years of Service Award Ceremony. Their longevity and institutional knowledge continue to strengthen the Court's mission and impact.





YEARS OF SERVICE CEREMONY



Proud Member of
#TEAM FULTON
GREAT PLACE • GREAT PEOPLE • GREAT WORK





YEARS OF SERVICE CEREMONY



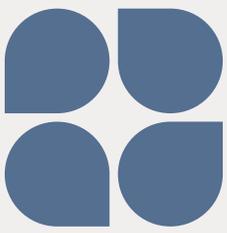
Proud Member of
#TEAM FULTON
GREAT PLACE • GREAT PEOPLE • GREAT WORK



AFRICAN LEADERS VISIT FCJC

On May 29, 2025, the Georgia Council for International Visitors coordinated a delegation of 16 African leaders, representing 12 countries, to visit FCJC through the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program. While in Georgia, they specifically requested a meeting with FCJC to learn more about Deputy Chief Judge Christopher W. Yokom's A.S.C.E.N.D. Program (Alternative Solutions Creating Excellence Not Detention), in addition to the Court's broader efforts with youth and families.





COURTYARD OF SECOND CHANCES

Community Service Project

On June 30, 2025, FCJC hosted 13 probated youth to participate in the implementation of our Courtyard of Second Chances Garden. Staff worked alongside the youth, demonstrating the mechanics of planting a garden.



BEYOND THE BENCH

Judges in the Community



Chief Judge Renata D. Turner was awarded the Bensonetta Tipton Lane Award for Commitment to the Family at the La Vie est un Carnaval: A Tropical Soiree, the annual Glitter Gala sponsored by the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys.



Deputy Chief Judge Christopher W. Yokom, Judge Phillip Jackson, and Judge T. Natasha Crawford attended the 88th Annual National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Conference (NCJFCJ) in Chicago, IL.

BEYOND THE BENCH

Judges in the Community

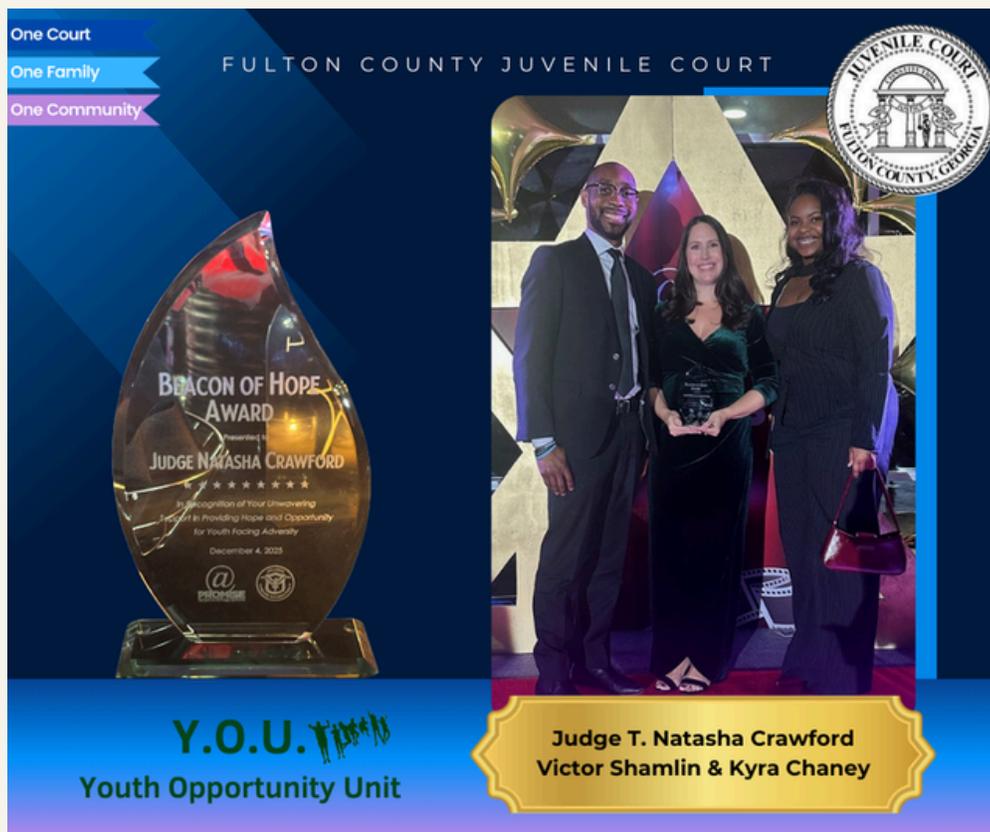


Chief Judge Renata D. Turner was honored in celebration of Women's History Month as one of Georgia's 100 Women of Excellence at the Georgia State Capitol.



BEYOND THE BENCH

Judges in the Community



Judge T. Natasha Crawford received the Beacon of Hope Award for her work with the Y.O.U. Program at the Atlanta Police Foundation and @Promise Center's Annual Impact Awards.



Associate Judge Elizabeth Higgins-Brooks was elected Secretary of the Judicial Section of the Atlanta Bar Association



ATLANTA

Swearing-In Ceremony



On March 20, 2025, Judge Phillip Jackson swore in Atlanta CASA volunteers.



18th Annual YOUTH AND THE LAW SUMMIT

The Power of CommYOUnity:
"I am because *WE* are!"

Chief Judge Renata D. Turner hosts the Youth and the Law Summit annually in April, along with community partners. Youth and their parents/guardians have an opportunity to learn about their rights, obtain community resources, and participate in inspiring discussions with presenters. The Summit aims to serve as a bridge connecting our youth to the resources and opportunities that empower them to build brighter futures.




YOUTH AND THE LAW SUMMIT 2025



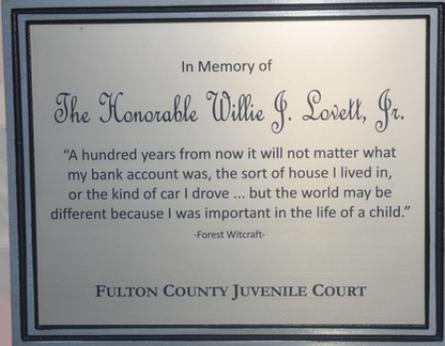
COURTYARD OF SECOND CHANCES

On October 30, 2025, FCJC celebrated the grand opening of our Courtyard of Second Chances with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The Courtyard is a space that embodies hope, healing, and renewal for all who enter our Court.

Through a partnership with the Department of Arts and Culture, a youth-designed mural now enhances the redesigned space. The Home Depot Foundation generously donated the permanent garden installation, ensuring the sustainability of this green space for years to come.

A special area honors the late Judge Willie Lovett, who once planted a rose bush in the courtyard. His wife and family members joined us for this meaningful dedication.

The Courtyard of Second Chances represents more than a renovation; it reflects our collective purpose. It stands as a promise that here, at Juvenile Court, we see the good in every young person and believe wholeheartedly in their capacity to begin again.





National ADOPTION DAY



NOVEMBER 22, 2025



One Court

One Family

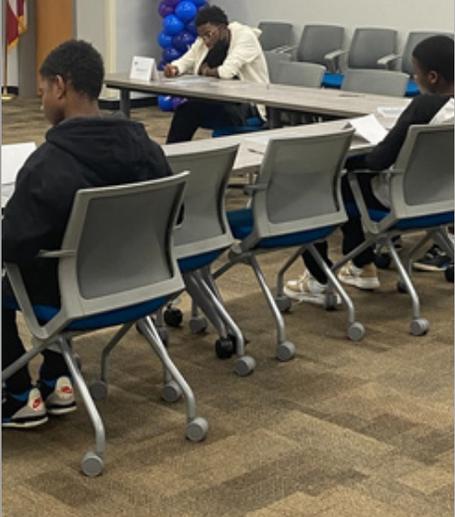
One Community

JUDGE WILLIE LOVETT AWARD WINNER RHODENA LAMBERT



Each year, the Honorable Willie J. Lovett Award is presented to a Juvenile Court employee who demonstrates unparalleled dedication to the children and families we serve—someone whose work reflects compassion, perseverance, hope, and an unwavering commitment to service. This award is a staple of our National Adoption Day celebration each November.

Ms. Lambert received several nominations that painted a powerful and consistent portrait. Colleagues described her as one who continually steps outside of herself to support others, ensuring that no one — youth, families, or coworkers — is ever left without a helping hand. She volunteers her time freely, especially for those with limited access to resources, and treats everyone she encounters with the warmth, respect, and kindness of family.

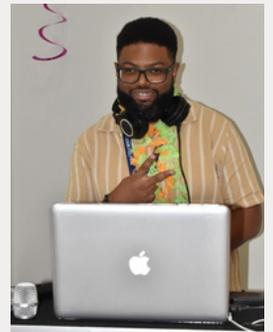


In November, FCJC held its first Unlocked Voices poetry-based workshop. Unlocked Voices is designed to give our youth a space for self-expression, creativity, and healing through the written word.

Each 90-minute session is led by Dr. Mary Goldschmidt, a seasoned educator with over 30 years of experience teaching writing and poetry. Dr. Goldschmidt also serves on the advisory board of the Washington, D.C.-based Free Minds Book Club and Writing Workshop, Inc., where she has worked closely with system-involved youth for over 15 years.

Participants in Unlocked Voices explore poems written by peers with similar lived experiences, reflect on their meaning, and craft original work that tells their story. These sessions go beyond writing; they're about unlocking confidence, connection, and a renewed sense of purpose.

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING PARTNERS FOR THEIR ONGOING COLLABORATION, EXPERTISE, AND SUPPORT:

Atlanta CASA

Atlanta Public Schools

Department of Juvenile Justice

Office of the Child Attorney

Fulton County Division of Family and Children Services

Fulton County District Attorney's Office

Georgia Public Defender Council, Atlanta Judicial Circuit

Fulton County Public Schools

Truancy Intervention Project

youthSpark



