

Junior DA

In April, DA Howard's signature program, "Junior DA" will begin accepting applications for rising 7th and 8th graders in Fulton County. Established in 1998, the law-centered educational program provides students with an overview of the criminal justice system and exposes them to various facets of local government and courts. During the month-long summer program which begins in July, students participate in field trips to Atlanta City Hall, Fulton County law enforcement agencies, the Youth Detention Facility and the Georgia Supreme Court among several other sites. The highlight for many students is the opportunity to be appear as featured guests on CNN's Nancy



Grace Show, hosted by Grace, a former Fulton County Assistant District Attorney. The program culminates with a graduation ceremony and banquet where the students are pinned with a special DA badge which they proudly affix to their signature Junior DA blazers. To apply, contact Program Coordinator **Kenya Johnson** at (404) 612-4206 or Kenya.Johnson@FultonCountyGa.gov.

Legal Lives

The 13th annual "Legal Lives Program" is currently underway. This youth program, adapted by DA Howard from the King's County (Brooklyn) DA's Office in New York, uses volunteer attorneys to teach lessons about law and civics to 5th graders. The grant funded program, which DA Howard brought over from his tenure as Solicitor-General, began with one school and has grown to 12, including schools in North and South Fulton Counties. The four-month program culminates in a

Mock Trial competition held at the Lewis Slaton Courthouse in Downtown Atlanta, with three students from each participating school being selected for an all-expense paid trip to Washington, DC. Using DA Howard's motto for guidance, "You cannot BE what you cannot SEE", the students are exposed to lawmakers, attorneys, and law enforcement professionals in hopes of exposing youth to various career possibilities. 2010's visit to Washington, DC was highlighted by audiences with



Congressman John Lewis and **Senator Johnny Isakson** in their offices on Capitol Hill. Students toured the White House, visited war memorials and attended workshops at the National Crime and Punishment Museum.

exposing youth to various career possibilities. 2010's visit to Washington, DC was highlighted by audiences with

Citizens' CourtWatch

What Is CourtWatch?

Citizens' CourtWatch is a grass roots program administered through the auspices of the District Attorney's Community Prosecution Program. It originated in 2004 as a vehicle for community engagement in the criminal justice system. Community denizens who have expressed interest in the outcome of particular cases are informed via email or phone of upcoming court proceedings and are invited to participate in the process as live courtroom spectators. By doing so, the community participant is able to view first-hand the cranking of the wheel of justice and by virtue of their presence in court, express concerns to the judiciary regarding public safety and quality of life in their communities.



Participants listen to guest speakers including Judge Kimberly Esmond Adams, Sheriff Ted Jackson and Chief Cassandra Jones

Spring Training

Citizens' CourtWatch continues to grow in popularity as an increasing number of crime-weary citizens seek relief from the courts to rid their community of criminals. Nearly 100 participants attended the Spring 2009 training session to gain insight into criminal justice processes and how to become an informed and engaged citizenry. **Superior Court Judge Kimberly Esmond Adams** and **Sheriff Ted Jackson** were among the special guests who dialogued with and answered questions from the community. Participants learned about jail procedures, sentencing and the pardons and paroles process.



Jim King receives an award from DA Paul Howard



Judge Kimberly Esmond-Adams and Sheriff Ted Jackson addressed the group

You Can Be a CourtWatcher Too!

If you are available for any amount of time between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and would like to participate in the CourtWatch program or would simply like to be added to the distribution list for case updates, please contact **Program Coordinator Janet Martin** at 404-699-5297 or courtwatch@fultoncountyga.gov.

Office of the Fulton County District Attorney

136 Pryor St. SW, 3rd Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

(404) 612-4980, after 5pm (404) 224-3230

Multi-Jurisdictional Burglary Task Force

ADA Christina Sears

(404) 612-8275, christina.sears@fultoncountyga.gov

Community Prosecutors

Zone 1 - ADA Steven Jones

1590 Joseph E. Boone Blvd., Suite E
Atlanta, Georgia 30314

(404) 799-5075, steven.jones@fultoncountyga.gov

Zone 2 - ADA Hannah Chung

2996 Grandview Ave., Suite 109B
Atlanta, Georgia 30305

(404) 816-3408, hannah.chung@fultoncountyga.gov

Zone 3 - ADA Claire Farley

Villages @ Carver, 201 Moury Avenue, Apt. 114
Atlanta, Georgia 30310

(404) 624-0612, claire.farley@fultoncountyga.gov

Zone 4 - ADA LaDawn Blackett-Jones

3050 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., Suite X-6
Atlanta, Georgia 30311

(404) 699-5294, ladawn.blackett@fultoncountyga.gov

Zone 5 - ADA Sharla Jackson

340 Boulevard NE, Suite 500
Atlanta, Georgia 30312

(404) 265-3450, sharla.jackson@fultoncountyga.gov

Zone 6 - ADA Paul Camarillo

340 Boulevard NE, Suite 500
Atlanta, Georgia 30312

(404) 612-3256, paul.camarillo@fultoncountyga.gov

North Fulton - ADA Todd Ashley

3155 Royal Drive, Suite 155
Alpharetta, Georgia 30022

(404) 612-9401, todd.ashley@fultoncountyga.gov

South Fulton - ADA Kenya Johnson

Fulton Cty Gov't Svc Center, 5440 Fulton Ind. Blvd.
Atlanta, Georgia 30336

(404) 612-9170, kenya.johnson@fultoncountyga.gov



A Publication from the
Fulton County District Attorney's Office

Community Connection

In This Issue
New Office Opens in Buckhead
Meet Your Community Prosecutors
Community Engagement

Community Prosecution: A Dream Realized

When District Attorney Paul Howard introduced the Community Prosecution concept to Fulton County in July of 2000, he had a vision far beyond the ribbon cutting on the first Community Prosecution Office in Southwest Atlanta's Zone 4. DA Howard dared to dream that Community Prosecution would one day encompass all of Atlanta's Police Zone communities as well as North and South Fulton. Today, Community Prosecution is a dream realized for all Fulton County residents.



In November 2010, the District Attorney's Office opened its sixth CP office in the City of Atlanta's Zone 2 community anchored in Buckhead. The push for the final office was a direct result of Zone 2 citizen demand for a Community Prosecutor. Inspired by the work and progress of Community Prosecutors in other areas of the

county, a group of residential and commercial Zone 2 citizens successfully lobbied the Fulton County Board of Commissioners to fund their own Community Prosecutor through the District Attorney's Office. **Senior Assistant District Attorney Hannah Chung** was subsequently named to the post

in July 2010. Her appointment brings to eight, the number of Community Prosecutors assigned to this unique division of the Fulton County District Attorney's Office.

Under the national Community Prosecution model, prosecutors are strategically placed in community-based offices for greater visibility and accessibility to residents. Fulton County Community Prosecutors are tasked with prosecuting repeat offenders who commit quality of life crimes such as burglary and theft in addition to illegal drug activity. The Citizens' CourtWatch

program is one of the most visible and successful programs associated with Fulton County's Community Prosecution program which has been recognized for excellence both locally and nationally.



District Attorney Howard gives opening remarks



ADA Chung discusses crime prevention strategies with an APD Investigator

On November 10, 2010, the Zone 2 Community Prosecution Office officially opened its doors during a symbolic "Ribbon Cutting" ceremony. The office space, located at 2996 Grandview Avenue in Buckhead was donated free of charge by **Dion Meltzer** of Meltzer Properties. Meltzer received an award for his generosity during the celebration which was well-attended by both dignitaries and citizens alike. Special recognition was also given to several individuals who have already helped to make Zone 2 a safer place. The evening ended with a festive cocktail party sponsored by Basil's restaurant in Buckhead.



"Mayor of Buckhead" Sam Massell welcomes guests



Community Prosecutor Hannah Chung addresses audience

MEET YOUR COMMUNITY PROSECUTORS

Todd Ashley, Executive ADA North Fulton



Executive ADA Todd Ashley joined the District Attorney's Office in November 2001 and after a stint in the Complaint Room, served as a Senior ADA in the Trial Division for six years. Ashley was elevated to Deputy District Attorney in July 2007 and charged with oversight of the DA's Juvenile Division. In July of 2009, DA Paul Howard tapped Ashley to lead the DA's Community Prosecution expansion into North Fulton. Ashley was appointed to the Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council by former Governor Sonny Perdue and currently serves as Vice Chair of the Crime Victim's Compensation Board. He is a graduate of Roswell High School, Georgia State University, and the John Marshall Law School in Atlanta. He is a long-time north Fulton resident.

Office opened in 2009

"I am honored to serve as the Community Prosecutor in North Fulton. I am committed to seeing that our citizens receive the justice they deserve."

Steven Jones, ADA Zone 1



Senior Assistant District Attorney Steven Jones joined the Fulton County District Attorney's Office in 2009. Prior to joining the office, ADA Jones served as the Staff Attorney for Fulton Superior Court Judge Michael D. Johnson. Jones also worked in the Non-Complex Trial Division and was recognized as the Non-Complex Trial Division "Attorney of the Year." He works closely with the residents in Zone 1 to empower them to take back their community. Jones recently held a "Community Action Meeting" to give community members the opportunity to develop solutions to the crime problems with which they are struggling. Jones is also committed to working with the youth in the Zone 1 community to dissuade the next generation of young adults from a life of crime.

Office opened in 2006

"My goal is to empower the residents of the Zone 1 community to realize that THEY are their greatest resource in the fight against crime."

LaDawn Blackett-Jones, Chief Senior ADA Director of Community Prosecution Zone 4



As a life-long resident of Zone 4, Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney LaDawn Blackett-Jones is a natural fit as its Community Prosecutor. Blackett-Jones joined the DA's staff in September 2005 and has been on a steady upward professional spiral from entry-level attorney to upper-level management. In addition to prosecuting cases, ADA Blackett-Jones leads the Community Prosecution team with energy, vigor and passion. In her role as lead Community Prosecutor, Blackett-Jones has led several innovative projects aimed at crime reduction and community involvement. She laid the groundwork for the DA's Multi-Jurisdictional Burglary Task Force whose primary goal is to reduce burglaries across the county by thirty-percent over two years. As a volunteer, Blackett-Jones serves as founder and mentor to the Westlake High School group, the *Women of Westlake*, a non-profit community service and life skills organization.

Office opened in 2000

"I want to promote a proactive rather than reactive mentality by engaging as many members of the community as possible in the criminal justice system."

Kenya Johnson, Senior ADA South Fulton



New to South Fulton Community Prosecution is 10-year veteran prosecutor Kenya Johnson. Johnson is committed to reducing the alarming rate of burglary in South Fulton by aggressively prosecuting repeat offenders and banishing them from the South Fulton area. She is also working to clean up Fulton Industrial Boulevard in hopes of setting the stage for a vibrant business and tourist corridor. In addition to her prosecutorial work, Johnson runs the District Attorney's signature youth programs, "Legal Lives" and "Junior DA." She has lived in South Fulton for six years.

Office opened in 2007

"I live, work, and play in South Fulton so I care!"

Hannah Chung, Senior ADA Zone 2



Senior Assistant District Attorney Hannah Chung joined the Fulton County District Attorney's Office in 2006. During her tenure, she has spent time in several units, including the Crimes Against Women and Children Division and Non-Complex Division. DA Howard appointed Hannah Chung to the position of Zone 2 Community Prosecutor in July 2010. She works with residents, community leaders and law enforcement on a daily basis to ensure that public safety is a number one priority in the Zone. Hannah Chung lives with her family, including her husband and two children, in Zone 2.

Office opened in 2010

"I'm a proud Zone 2 resident and an even more proud public servant."

Paul Camarillo, Senior ADA Zone 6



Assistant District Attorney Paul Arena-Camarillo joined the Fulton County District Attorney's Office in 2009. Prior to joining the D.A.'s Office, ADA Camarillo served as Law Clerk to the Honorable William "Bill" Adams in Bibb County Georgia. Within the DA's Office, Camarillo held positions in the Non-Complex Division and Complex Trial Division where he garnered honors as the 2010 Non-Complex Trial Division Attorney of the Year. Prior to practicing law in Georgia, Camarillo worked in education in the greater Los Angeles area. His work with the lower socio-economic community in Southern California inspired his dedication for community and public service. ADA Camarillo is committed to working with the Zone 6 community to help identify and rid the area of its worst repeat offenders.

Office opened in 2009

"The law means nothing without a community willing to stand behind it. My goal is to ensure that the Zone 6 community has the tools and knowledge necessary to stand in their fight against crime and to encourage them to participate in keeping their community safe."

Sharla Jackson, Senior ADA Zone 5



Senior Assistant District Attorney Sharla Jackson is a seasoned attorney with more than 20 years of prosecution experience under her belt. During her tenure, ADA Jackson has tried a variety of felony cases from theft to shoplifting to murder, resulting in a 95% conviction rate. Jackson is a passionate supporter of community prosecution which stems in part for her upbringing in the multi-cultural mélange of Miami which instilled in her a great love for people and respect for diversity. Sharla works closely with community groups and local law enforcement officials in the Midtown and Downtown areas and is a great friend to the Atlanta business community. One of Jackson's most proud accomplishments is authoring the new 'Smash and Grab' legislation in partnership with the Georgia Retail Federation. The law creates tough prison sentences for convicted 'smash and grab' burglars.

Office opened in 2003

"Community Prosecution removes an element of detachment from prosecution by putting a human face on each and every case."

Claire Farley, Senior ADA Zone 3



A third generation attorney, Claire Farley grew up surrounded and influenced by those who fought for justice. During her 10-year tenure as a Fulton County Assistant District Attorney, Farley has prosecuted a wide range of crimes. One of her most notable cases as a Community Prosecutor was that of the 'You Tube Burglar.' Defendant DeGeorgio Jackson, whose crime was captured on videotape and posted online to international notoriety, was sentenced to 15 years in prison for burglarizing a Grant Park home. Claire is proud to work for Zone 3.

Office opened in 2005

"Every citizen, no matter how rich, how poor, how old, or how young, has the right to enjoy life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness in a community free of crime. I am committed to that cause."

