



UPDATES FROM THE SOLICITOR

The Latest from The Office of The DeKalb County Solicitor-General



Dedicated to a better, safer DeKalb A Message from Solicitor-General Donna Coleman-Stribling:

Happy New Year to you and your family! I am honored to begin my second term as your DeKalb Solicitor-General.

This past year was like no other. As the pandemic took hold of our community, I quickly recognized the need to adjust to our new normal so that our office could continue to serve DeKalb to the best of our abilities.

We incorporated new technologies that allowed our office to collaborate while efficiently reviewing and resolving cases.

We continued to expand our reach in the community with #NOTinmyDEKALB. Our victim advocate placed at the DeKalb Police Department's South Precinct has made a lasting impact on victims and their families. In this new year, we intend to replicate that impact at East Precinct.

We continued our commitment to giving back to DeKalb and our non-profit partners. We organized socially distanced events that gave my team and our community an opportunity to pour back into those in need.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to building a better, safer DeKalb.

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#NOTinmyDEKALB to Expand to East Precinct

DeKalb County Solicitor-General Donna Coleman-Stribling is expanding her #NOTinmyDEKALB initiative by hiring a victim advocate as second-response personnel for misdemeanor domestic violence incidents at the DeKalb County Police Department's East Precinct.

"In 2019, we were able to provide a resource to our community that's never been provided before. We were able to connect with victims earlier in the process, which allowed us to better assist victims and their families," said Solicitor-General Coleman-Stribling. "Our South Precinct advocate has made such an impact and we know more of our community needs this resource. The pandemic showed us the expansion we planned needed to happen sooner rather than later."

Solicitor-General Coleman-Stribling received additional funding from DeKalb County CEO Michael Thurmond and DeKalb County Commissioner Mereda Davis Johnson to expand domestic violence prevention throughout the county. With the funding she created the #NOTinmyDEKALB initiative, which provided second-response personnel from her office to the DeKalb's South Precinct. By hiring a victim advocate for East Precinct, she's continuing the

necessary work of #NOTinmyDEKALB.

The victim advocate in East Precinct will have the opportunity to engage with victims earlier in the process of arresting the perpetrator. The advocate will also assist with information, resources and allow for early intervention in these misdemeanor domestic violence incidents.

Since taking office, it has been Solicitor-General Coleman-Stribling's goal to equip her community with the resources and knowledge needed to better identify problematic patterns that could lead to deadly consequences. By extending these resources she will strengthen partnerships and create a stronger network that can interrupt this deadly cycle.

For more information on the Not in My DeKalb initiative, visit www.NotinMyDeKalb.com.



Georgia Crime Victim's Rights Notification

The Georgia Constitution (Art. I, Sect. 1, Paragraph XXII) and the Georgia Crime Victims Bill of Rights (O.C.G.A. 17-17-1, et seq.) declare that victims of certain crimes and delinquent acts be accorded certain basic rights. These rights include, but are not limited to:

- The RIGHT to be treated fairly and with dignity by the criminal justice system.
- The RIGHT to reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of any scheduled court proceedings.
- The RIGHT not to be excluded from scheduled court proceedings involving the alleged act.
- The RIGHT to be heard at any scheduled court proceedings involving the notice, plea, or sentencing of the accused.
- The RIGHT to be advised of ALL rights included within the Georgia Crime Victims Bill of Rights.
- The RIGHT to restitution and compensation as provided by law.
- If a victim's constitutional right is denied, the RIGHT to assert those rights by filing a motion with the same court that is handling the criminal or delinquent proceeding [Marsy's Law (Article I, Section 1, Paragraph XXV)].

It is the RIGHT and the RESPONSIBILITY of any victim who desires notification under this chapter or any other notification statute to "OPT IN" to the notification system and KEEP ALL CRIMINAL JUSTICE AGENCIES INFORMED OF CURRENT CONTACT INFORMATION.

Please reference the reverse side of this notice for additional resources.

Important Contacts and Available Resources

<p>DeKalb County Solicitor-General's Office 3001 Peachtree Dunwoody Road, NE Atlanta, Georgia 30328 Phone: 404.253.2000 Fax: 404.253.2001 www.dekalbcountyga.gov</p>	<p>DeKalb News Services 100 Peachtree Atlanta, GA 30309 Phone: 404.525.1100 www.dekalbnews.com</p>
<p>DeKalb County Victim Services 3001 Peachtree Dunwoody Road, NE Atlanta, GA 30328 Phone: 404.253.2000</p>	<p>Chapel Hill 100 Peachtree Atlanta, GA 30309 Phone: 404.525.1100</p>

Created by the Prosecuting Attorney's Council of Georgia in partnership with the Marsy's Law for Georgia Advisory Committee.

Informing and Connecting Victims

Georgia Focus, a public affairs program on the Georgia News Network, hosted a discussion on the Prosecuting Attorney's Council of Georgia's new customizable Crime Victim's Rights Notification Card with the DeKalb County Solicitor-General Donna Coleman-Stribling, PAC's Executive Director Pete Skandalakis, and Cordele Judicial Circuit District Attorney Brad Rigby. The card was created in response to Marsy's Law, which seeks to give crime victims meaningful and enforceable constitutional rights equal to the rights of the accused. The new card will be used to inform crime victims and their families on their rights, while connecting them to resources in their community.

Listen to the interview here: <https://www.iheart.com/podcast/960-georgia-focus-57074796/episode/georgia-focus-marsys-law-of-72009430/>



YEAR IN REVIEW

The Latest from The Office of The DeKalb County Solicitor-General

DeKalb County Solicitor-General Hosted Donation Drive for Domestic Violence Shelters

Due to the ongoing concerns surrounding COVID-19, Dancing with the DeKalb Stars did not take place in its usual manner. Instead the DeKalb Solicitor-General Donna Coleman-Stribling hosted a donation drive to benefit Women's Resource Center to End Domestic Violence and International Women's House at the Porter Sanford III Performing Arts and Community Center.

"It is disappointing we will not be able to gather the DeKalb community to raise awareness around domestic violence like we have done for the past three years," said Solicitor-General Coleman-Stribling. "While we recognize it is not safe to gather in the usual environment, we know there is still vital work that needs to be done. Now more than ever the Women's Resource Center and International Women's House need the support of the DeKalb community. I am excited we can lend them this support by rallying our community to donate the supplies they need."

The DeKalb community responded by exceeding expectations in donations of cleaning supplies, paper products and under garments of all sizes for women and children.

For the past three years, Dancing with the DeKalb Stars has been a fundraiser hosted by the DeKalb County Solicitor-General benefitting the two local domestic violence non-profit organizations. The expo and fundraiser raised over \$50,000 since its inception for the two non-profits. In the past, the

event included a dance competition featuring members of DeKalb County's legal, public safety, business and civic communities. For more information about these non-profit organizations please visit: www.internationalwomenshouse.org and www.wrcdv.org.



DeKalb Solicitor-General Partners with Men Stopping Violence to Host #BecauseWeAreFathers



DeKalb County Solicitor-General Donna Coleman-Stribling partnered with Men Stopping Violence (MSV) to host Because We Are Fathers: A Celebration of Fatherhood.

"COVID-19 has changed our way of life. We're in stressful times and we're all leaning on our families now more than ever," said Solicitor-General Coleman-Stribling. "Fathers in our communities are stepping up to ensure their families are safe in uncertain times and we felt the need to recognize the men in our lives doing just that."

The weeklong Father's Day celebration featured daily activities for families to post along with the hashtag

#BecauseWeAreFathers to their personal social media channels. In addition to the virtual activities, MSV hosted two special editions of The Huddle. The Huddle is a bi-weekly zoom call that gives men an outlet to discuss what's going on in their world. Each Huddle featured a community leader who shared their personal take and insights on the pandemic while providing tips for coping during a crisis. David Manuel, founder of IAmAFather 5-K, kicked off a conversation about the importance of self-care for fathers. While Nathaniel Jones, author of Ten Steps to Raising Black Boys, led a conversation about raising a Black son in America.

"Men Stopping Violence is dedicated

to engaging all men to create safer communities. We do this through our programs and engaging men from various walks of life. COVID-19, while a stressful crisis, has given us an opportunity to expand our reach through virtual programming. By partnering with the Solicitor-General on this weeklong celebration, we're able to recognize the men doing the work while engaging our community safely at home," explained Shelley Serdahely, previous executive director of Men Stopping Violence.

For more information on the Because We Are Fathers social media challenge, please visit our site at www.DeKalbSolicitorGeneral.com/BecauseWeAreFathers/

DeKalb Solicitor-General Selects DeKalb School of the Arts Student as Winner of the 2020 Stop Teen Dating Violence PSA Contest



As part of Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month in February, Solicitor-General Donna Coleman-Stribling partnered with Fit For a Queen Boutique, Savvi Formalwear of Stonecrest and Looks By Doe, to host the fourth annual Stop Teen Dating Violence PSA Contest.

Solicitor-General Coleman-Stribling hoped to engage DeKalb County high school juniors and seniors in a conversation about healthy relationships.

Local teens were invited to produce a one minute video promoting healthy teen dating practices that prevent dating violence and highlight positive characteristics such as honesty, compromise, good communication, individuality, understanding and problem solving.

London-Skye Roberson, a senior at the DeKalb School of the Arts, was selected by the Solicitor-General for

producing a visually interactive announcement informing her peers how the cycle of abuse affects young adults.

"London did a great job captivating her audience by providing relevant and pertinent information about this vicious cycle in a visually appealing manner," Solicitor-General Coleman-Stribling said. "It's important for teens to have a solid understanding of how this is currently affecting them, if we hope to interrupt the cycle in a significant manner."

Those interested in viewing Roberson's project can visit <https://youtu.be/ilqCOzUWy7E>.

Due to event cancellations, Solicitor-General Coleman-Stribling awarded Roberson with a check at her home in place of the usual prom prize package.

The Office of the DeKalb Solicitor-General encourages any teen who is aware of or experiencing teen dating violence to reach out to www.loveisrespect.org, call the Hotline at 1.866.331.9474 or text "LOVEIS" to 22522 for assistance.



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State Court of DeKalb County Introduces Online Case Resolution

In response to safety concerns around COVID-19, the State Court of DeKalb County worked with the DeKalb County Solicitor-General's Office to provide an alternative to appearing in-person for traffic ticket resolutions.

Beginning in July, motorists who received traffic citations in DeKalb can use any smart device to visit the county's Online Case Resolution where they can resolve the ticket at any time convenient to them.

"I am proud to work with the State Court of DeKalb County to introduce the new initiative, Online Case Resolution. OCR will provide the citizens of DeKalb County with a convenient method to have their cases heard, evaluated and resolved in a manner that protects and prioritizes their health and safety," said DeKalb County Solicitor-General, Donna Coleman-Stribling.

Visit <https://cii2.courtinnovations.com/GADCSC> for more information.



DeKalb Solicitor-General Welcomes New Chief Investigator

After 30 years of working in law enforcement, DeKalb Solicitor-General's chief investigator, Keith Blander, retired in September. Solicitor-General Donna Coleman-Stribling met Blander when she led the DeKalb District Attorney's Office's Crimes Against Children Unit. Blander became a trusted resource to the Solicitor and joined her on her journey to becoming DeKalb's elected misdemeanor prosecutor.



DeKalb Solicitor-General with retired chief investigator, Keith Blander.

In December, Solicitor-General Coleman-Stribling hired Richard Randolph as her new chief investigator. He previously served as the deputy chief investigator in Cobb County's District Attorney's Office.

"I was honored to welcome Richard Randolph as my new chief investigator," said Solicitor-General Donna Coleman-Stribling. "I am excited to have him join our team. He will bring a fresh perspective and enthusiasm to our office."



DeKalb Solicitor-General's new chief investigator, Richard Randolph

Randolph has spent two decades as a police officer in some of the toughest areas of metro Atlanta. He is also known to dedicate his personal time to varied volunteer efforts. He began his career as a morning-watch officer in the Fulton County Police Department and rose through the ranks to become the director of gang and drug investigations in Fulton County's District Attorney's Office.

He attended Morris Brown College and Strayer University. He is currently pursuing a graduate degree in criminal justice administration.

Protecting Voters' Rights

As the DeKalb County community geared up for the 2020 election in November, the DeKalb County Solicitor-General organized her team to protect DeKalb citizens from any attempts at voter intimidation.

"It's our right to make our voices heard and it is my duty to ensure we protect every citizen's right to have their voices heard at the polls," said DeKalb Solicitor-General Donna Coleman-Stribling. "This is an issue of public safety, not politics. I wanted to make sure my team was available to answer any questions and be a trusted resource for anyone who may experience voter intimidation."

In addition to having her team available on all election days, Solicitor-General Coleman-Stribling joined the New Georgia Project and Fair Fight Action in their voter turnout efforts.

