

2025: Year in Review

Advancing Justice, Strengthening Community



Office *of the* DeKalb Solicitor-General

Donna Coleman-Stribling | DeKalb County Solicitor-General

MISSION OF THE OFFICE OF THE DEKALB COUNTY SOLICITOR-GENERAL
It is the duty of this Office to seek justice, protect victims' rights, ensure fairness and promote public safety. I am committed to serving the citizens of this county by building a better, safer DeKalb.

From the Desk of

DeKalb County Solicitor-General

Donna Coleman-Stribling

As we look to 2026, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the remarkable work accomplished by the DeKalb County Solicitor-General's Office throughout 2025.

From classrooms to courtrooms, and from community events to countywide initiatives, our team represented what it means to serve in, for, and with the people of DeKalb County. Every effort reflected our shared commitment to justice, compassion, and accountability.

Our mission remains clear and constant:

To prosecute misdemeanor crimes committed in DeKalb County in a diligent, fair, just, and efficient manner while maintaining the highest ethical standards and ensuring that justice prevails for victims, defendants, and citizens of DeKalb County.

January 2025

January 2025 began with careful strategic planning—laying the foundation for a year rooted in purpose, partnership, and measurable impact. We held our first office-wide training of the year, outlining goals and objectives, updating our team on changes in case law, and reinforcing expectations for professionalism both in and outside the courtroom. What followed is a powerful testament to teamwork across every division of our office to ensure justice for our citizens.



February 2025

Traditionally known as the month of love, February was filled with our love for outreach and education. Our team connected with students, emerging leaders, and community partners across DeKalb County through the Stop Teen Dating Violence High School Tour, Career Days, Black History Month events, the

Leadership DeKalb Diversion Panel, and Collegiate Pre-Law Roundtable Discussions. Each event reinforced our commitment to prevention, mentorship, and awareness.



March 2025

March was dedicated to outreach, engagement, and congratulations as The Prosecuting Attorney's Council of Georgia awarded our Victim and Witness Advocate Director Brenda Puebla with Director of the Year for 2025. We joined community partners at the National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA) Career Fair, Coffee with a Cop, and Reading Across DeKalb, building relationships and deepening our shared mission of justice through collaboration.





During the Month of April...

April brought reflection and recognition as we celebrated the Diversion Spring Graduation.



During Mental Health Awareness Month and Trauma Awareness Month in May, our office raised awareness about issues that deeply affect victims and families. We also participated in the American Red Cross Blood Drive, a simple yet powerful way to save lives and serve our community.

Summer 2025

As summer unfolded, leadership and learning remained at the forefront. June marked the Misdemeanor Mental Health Court Graduation and provided opportunities to guide college and law interns through tours of the 911 Call Center, Board of Commissioners, Police South Precinct, and the Sheriff's Office and Jail. A personal highlight was speaking at Sheriff Melody Maddox's Boys to Men and Girls to



Pearls Camp, witnessing firsthand the transformative power of mentorship.



September showcased the power of collaboration and education.

One of our proudest milestones was our first Youth Safe Driving Summit, dedicated to reducing street racing and teen driving offenses and reinforcing positive choices—while rewarding teens with laptops to support their academic and personal growth.

We also participated in the Junior League of DeKalb County Women's Commission, Council of Accountability Court Judges (CACJ)



Annual Training Conference, and Leadership DeKalb Opening Retreat. We were especially proud of our Educational Neglect Student Attendance Awareness 13-School Tour, a campaign themed “Don’t Miss 6!”, which emphasized the September newsletter importance of school attendance and accountability.





October 2025 was a powerful month of advocacy and awareness. Our office participated in the Annual Women's Conference for Domestic Violence and Breast Cancer Awareness at Peace Baptist Church and the Board of Commissioners' Domestic Violence Awareness Proclamation. **We also celebrated achievements, once again honoring Director Brenda Puebla, who received the Deborah McDorman Award, for the work with the Law Enforcement Ready Bag initiative, and her outstanding dedication supporting survivors of domestic violence and her commitment to advocacy and justice in our community.**





Also in October...

We joined the Women's Resource Center Candlelight Vigil and the DeKalb County Probate Court Mental Health Symposium, continuing to address the vital connection between mental health and justice. Throughout Breast Cancer Awareness Month, our team wore pink each Wednesday to honor survivors and remember those we've lost.





We also had a little fun in October as some of our staff dressed up for Halloween, making for some good laughs and moments to relax.



In November, we embraced professional development and awareness through training and events.

We expressed gratitude to our veterans, partnered with the Tax Commissioner's Office to collect food for local families, and joined the State Bar of Georgia in the "Out of the Darkness Walk" to raise awareness about suicide prevention. The issue touches many lives, including those within our legal profession. We also announced the return of Dancing with the DeKalb Stars in April 2026, after a one-year hiatus.



In 2025, the Solicitor-General's Office experienced a significant rise in Code Enforcement cases, with an increase over the previous year. As part of the Quality of Life Division, Deputy Chief Terry Grandison led this vital work. The two assigned attorneys in this unit work tirelessly to improve the quality of life for all those in DeKalb County.



As the year closed, December offered a chance to reflect, teach, and keep building.

I am thankful as I look back on all the good work we've accomplished, rounding out the year with the 100 Black Men of DeKalb County's "Locked in for Life" event, where I used the "Will Smith Oscars Slap" to teach high school young men about conflict-resolution, recognizing that lessons can come from anywhere, even Hollywood headlines.





In Georgia this year, we made headlines for our dedication to justice and the Georgia Association of Black County Officials recognized this commitment. GABCO named me as the 2025 Solicitor-General of the Year... saying “This recognition reflected

steadfast leadership to uplifting and protecting our communities across DeKalb County.”

We also recognized our own staff at the end of the year with their peers and supervisors nominating them for exemplary service to our office and the community.

A HUGE CONGRATULATIONS to our 2025 Award Recipients!

Attorney of the Year:

Keith A. Collins and Samantha L. Wicker

Investigator of the Year:

Toniquea P. Mossman

Victim Advocate of the Year:

Amaya P. Ball

Legal Secretary of the Year:

Stephanie A. Burton and Brianna J. Little

Staff Member of the Year:

Keon D. Fann and Judane E. Gayle

Unit of the Year: Trial Line Attorneys

Deputy Chiefs Assistant Solicitors General Monique D. Milner and Katie Fite-Magyar

Thomas J. Krupinski, Jun Tai Kim

Alex Henson, Kendall E. Vogt

Lee F. Tittsworth, Kaila F. Richards

Nicholas Stubbs, Austin K. Russell

Casey M. Hall, Clay R. Thompson

Semhar Haile, Michael S. Weldon

Myesha A. Carter, Deidre E. Miller

Cole D. Fondersmith, Tamia T. Robinson





I am humbly honored with a keen focus on the mission of the Solicitor-General's Office... to be victim-centered, community-oriented, and solutions-driven. Our mission is not just to pursue convictions, but to pursue justice—with integrity, fairness, and compassion. Each year, we recommit ourselves to building a better, safer, more united DeKalb County.



The progress of the DeKalb County Solicitor-General's Office

in 2025 stands as proof of our purpose, driven by a team of dedicated public servants and partners who are now better equipped to accomplish our goals thanks to county leaders approving Georgia's first investment in the PROSECUTORbyKarpel (PbK) system. In this year's final month of December, our office began comprehensive, office-wide training on PbK—a tool designed to help prosecutors streamline cases, save time, and deliver stronger outcomes for victims and the community.



In 2026, our office will begin using the Karpel system. We'll also begin reinforcing #NotInMyDeKalb. I coined the phrase in 2019, two years after I swore to uphold the Oath of Office of DeKalb County Solicitor-General. We are using the hashtag to affirm that domestic violence is unacceptable and that we will advocate fiercely for victims. Additionally, we will continue to prosecute all misdemeanor cases while working to strengthen our community and offer diversion or second chances when appropriate.

Swearing-in Ceremony - 2017





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As we stand on the precipice of 2026, I remind you that together we have the power to support, empower, educate, and advocate to achieve lasting change for DeKalb County, and our communities across Georgia.

With Gratitude,
Donna Coleman-Stribling
DeKalb County Solicitor-General

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