



DEKALB COUNTY
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**DEKALB COUNTY SOLICITOR ANNOUNCES NEW UNIT
-- Created to protect special victims, including women, children and the elderly --**

DeKalb County Solicitor-General Sherry Boston announced today the creation of the Office's first-ever Special Victims Unit while addressing members of the DeKalb County Domestic Violence Task Force, which is comprised of criminal justice professionals and community advocacy organizations that assist victims/survivors of crime. The new Solicitor-General's Special Victims Unit will handle pending High-Risk Domestic Violence, Stalking, Sex Offenses, Child-Victim, Elder, and Disabled Abuse, Vehicular Homicide, and Animal Cruelty cases.

"Our Special Victims Unit will work to restore the dignity, safety, and well-being of DeKalb County citizens who have been victimized by crime," said Solicitor-General Boston. "Together, we will aggressively prosecute and prevent crimes to ensure that our community is safe while ensuring the criminal justice system is fair for all."

This unit is comprised of Deputy Chief Jessica Rock, two additional prosecutors, three investigators, the coordinator of the Victim/Witness Assistance Program, five Victim Advocates, and an administrative assistant. Ms. Rock has spent most of her career prosecuting crimes involving special victims. She has joined the Solicitor's Office from the DeKalb County District Attorney's Office where she was a Senior Assistant District Attorney assigned to the Special Victims Team handling Homicide, High-Risk Domestic Violence, and Elder Abuse cases. She was also appointed to prosecute all felony animal cruelty cases, several of which received national attention.

The Solicitor's trained Special Victims Advocates will provide leadership, guidance and information to crime victims and their families through a variety of court-related services, as well as provide resources and referrals to social services and counseling services designed to meet their needs. Due to our expertise, the prosecutors and victim advocates in the Solicitor-General's Special Victims Unit often present the needs, concerns and perspectives of crime victims to the community, elected officials and public policy makers.

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