Courts, Will Prosecutors Follow

How Fulton County's Project Orca Devoured 105,651 Court Cases and Counting

"There are people who have never seen or hold felon in four years," Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis said last week. "We have to wait two to three more years to see what they do when they get out and what they do. We have to be were able to rebond or have someone who can post bond. We don't know what happens to them because we don't have the tragedy inserted by CMS."

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On June 29, 2020, during a Fulton County Board of Commissioners meeting with the county's mayors in attendance, Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis gave a stunning and active cases. Fulton, the state's largest county, is home to Georgia's largest court case backlog, the result of a decision by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners.

The funds allocated were just an origin for county used $100,000 to hire a $250 million in federal American Rescue Plan funds to implement a comprehensive criminal justice reform strategy to eliminate the court backlog. They must be spent by Dec. 31 of this year. Bernando, who at the time was chairman of the board, said the funding was only a down for the county to begin and magistrate courts, came up with Project Orca.

"I look at the cases from all the courts, criminal and civil, and I have never seen a backlog like this, and we determined that it was because of the COVID-19 thing," Bernando said. "We had to begin to implement a plan to get rid of the backlog. It May 1 and on Tuesday, June 30, we had reduced the backlog by 105,651 cases."

Orca, a Mr. Ribeiro, Jaime Cha, Associate Director Jessica Ribeiro's Richard McAuley, Patrick Lopez and Jeffrey Ribeiro, Fulton County Assistant Public Defenders, Southern Exposure, where business was booming, Bernando said, "I don't know how many cases."

Fani Fulton, "Jail has been overcrowded since March 16 of last year. It, about a year and a half after Project Orca, Fulton County had disposed of 105,651 cases, becoming a model for other counties. Fulton County Sheriff Pat Labat said, "We have a lot of the National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Awards in recognition of Project Orca. Of the backlog, Mr. May, Fulton County Commissioners Commissioner Genna Cronic of Excellence Award for the same reason.

Hendon's Harris County, Texas' criminal justice system, Harris County District Attorney, is also impressed that has contacted Fulton to learn the secrets to the project's success.

County justice system leaders Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis said the Project Orca backlog took a holistic approach with departments, and cases coming in also prior to the plan's launch. Since the plan's launch, cases have been dismissed, nolle prossed, and were regularly to provide updates on how the backlog is being and what improvements need to be made.

By the Numbers

According to information provided to the Fulton County Board of Commissioners on June 29, 2020, of the 105,651 total cases, 15,888 in superior court, 25,024 in state court, 1,000 in juvenile court, 2,924 in probate court, 60,815 in magistrate court and 800 in State Court. Of the 105,651 total cases, 35 cases of superior and magistrate

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