

# Outline for District Attorney Fani T. Willis

## Keynote Presentation: “The Intersection of Justice and Progress: Law in a Changing World”

**Duration:** 60 minutes

**Theme:** *A Modern Practice: Law in a Changing World*

**Objective:** To provide insight into the evolving landscape of criminal justice and the role of the legal profession in fostering equity and public safety amidst legislative and societal shifts.

## Outline

### I. Opening Remarks (5 minutes)

- Introduction to the theme: *A Modern Practice: Law in a Changing World*.
- Brief personal narrative: Experience as the first woman District Attorney of Fulton County and insights into leadership in justice reform.
- Importance of addressing law in the context of societal change and emerging challenges.

### II. Trends in Criminal Justice Reform (15 minutes)

- **Legislative Updates and Policy Shifts**
  - Overview of key changes in Georgia’s criminal justice system, including updates on pretrial diversion programs and sentencing reforms.
  - Impact of federal guidelines such as the *First Step Act* on state-level justice systems.
  - Reference: DOJ report on criminal justice reform trends.
- **Police Accountability and Community Trust**
  - Discuss Fulton County’s approach to addressing police misconduct.

- Progress and challenges in building public trust through transparency and accountability.
- Reference: Initiatives like the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program.

### **III. Advancing Public Safety While Upholding Justice (20 minutes)**

#### **• Pretrial Diversion and Rehabilitation Programs**

- Success stories and challenges in implementing alternatives to incarceration.
- Addressing recidivism through tailored rehabilitation programs.
- Reference: Fulton County's Pre-Indictment Diversion Program statistics.

#### **• Impact of Social and Economic Inequities on Justice**

- Examining the correlation between systemic poverty and crime.
- Role of prosecutors in advocating for social equity and access to resources.

#### **• Case Examples**

- Highlight key cases where innovative approaches to prosecution led to meaningful outcomes.
- Reference: DOJ community engagement resources.

### **IV. Legal Ethics and Responsibility in a Changing Landscape (10 minutes)**

- Balancing community safety with the pursuit of justice.
- Navigating ethical dilemmas in high-profile cases, especially in an era of heightened media scrutiny.
- Emphasis on upholding fairness and impartiality while addressing systemic issues.

## **V. Call to Action for Legal Practitioners (5 minutes)**

- Encouraging attorneys to adopt modern, equitable practices in their roles.
- How legal professionals can be catalysts for systemic change.
- Fostering collaboration between prosecutors, defense attorneys, and legislators to modernize justice.

## **VI. Closing Remarks and Q&A (5 minutes)**

- Reflecting on the future of law and its role in creating a more just society.
- Open floor for questions and interactive discussion.

## **Supporting Materials and References:**

- DOJ Report: [Trends in Criminal Justice Reform](#)
- Fulton County Diversion Program Overview: [Fulton County Official Site](#)
- Fani Willis's Public Statements: [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#)