

**NAME: Lisamarie Bristol**

**PARTY: Democratic**

**SEEKING: Solicitor-General**

**1. Why am I seeking office as Gwinnett Solicitor-General?**

I'm running for office because I understand the real impact the criminal justice system has on the lives of community members. As a mom and resident, raising my kids in this county, I share the concern of many residents about a need for an effective criminal justice system, and strong public safety. As a lawyer, I have worked on both sides of the aisle, both defense, and prosecution. I know how important it is to have an effective Solicitor-General. It's time to bring change to this office, and put a renewed focus on keeping Gwinnett safe, ensuring justice for all.

**2. What do I expect to accomplish if elected?**

If elected, I will work to recruit and retain a solid team for all positions because reliable staffing is critical. I will address the backlog of cases in the office and establish procedures to ensure that cases are prosecuted in an efficient manner. I will build partnerships with other community organizations and stakeholders to ensure victims receive the resources they need. I will work to create meaningful diversion and intervention programs that will help to address root causes and break the cycle of recidivism in the criminal justice system for youthful and non-violent offenders.

**3. What distinguishes my candidacy?**

What distinguishes my candidacy is that I am the most qualified candidate running to be Solicitor-General in this race. I bring a unique perspective to this role having worked as both a public defender and a prosecutor at all levels, handling cases from traffic offenses to serious violent felonies on both sides. I truly understand the criminal justice system and the issues that face these types of cases. I have extensive trial experience and know how to evaluate and manage a caseload, which is very important in the Solicitor's office, because of the high volume of cases handled.

**4. One issue and how I will address it?**

If elected, a primary focus will be addressing the backlog of cases. When criminal cases are not handled efficiently it harms both victims and defendants. This affects community safety. Misdemeanors can impact people's lives and affect their access to housing, job opportunities, education, student loans, military service and more. The current state of the office and flow of cases is concerning and must be addressed. When criminal cases are not handled efficiently, we risk missing the opportunity to intervene and treat low-risk and non-violent offenders in a meaningful way.

#### **5. What are my ideas on curbing all the many area-wide shootings?**

The Solicitor's office does not handle many cases involving guns and shootings, however it does handle cases that may escalate and lead to those types of cases. This office is well positioned to interrupt that trajectory and hopefully prevent defendants from escalating to more serious, violent crimes. The Solicitor's office handles domestic violence and stalking cases, which studies show can have fatal outcomes with the addition of firearms. I will work to put in place intervention programs to stop preventable homicides, and work to keep guns out of the hands of abusers and those with a violent history.

#### **6. My background**

I was born and raised in Hamilton, Ontario Canada. I moved to America in 2004, after completing my Psychology degree at York University in Toronto. I attended Georgia State University College of Law, graduating in 2009. I have been a career public servant, spending the first 4 years of my legal career defending indigent people accused of misdemeanor and felony crimes. I transitioned to prosecution in 2014. I am also an Adjunct Professor at Georgia State University College of Law. My husband and I live in Gwinnett, where we are raising our 3 children who attend Gwinnett County Public Schools.