

NEWS RELEASE

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**SUPERIOR COURT OF
FULTON COUNTY**

National Partnership for Pretrial Justice Launches Advancing Pretrial Policy and Research (APPR) Project *Fulton County among Research Action-Sites*

ATLANTA – The Superior Court of Fulton County, Georgia, has been selected as one of five Research-Action Sites across the country to participate in a five-year research and implementation project designed to improve pretrial risk assessment in the context of broader pretrial reform.

This grant-funded project involves multiple justice partners in Fulton County to ensure a comprehensive, data-driven approach to the research and its implementation. Fulton County will work closely with outside technical partners to implement an evidence-based Public Safety Assessment tool that will be extensively for fidelity and subject to ongoing performance tracking practices.

The Public Safety Assessment, or PSA helps judges better gauge the risk of flight and future criminal behavior that a defendant poses. It is meant to augment the judge’s pool of available information about risk; it in no way limits the judge’s discretion. According to Chief Judge Robert McBurney, “Implementing pretrial detention reform using best practices, community outreach, and evidence-based risk tools will have a meaningful impact on the trajectory of the tens of thousands of accused individuals whose cases will move through the Atlanta Judicial Circuit in the next few years. Atlanta’s criminal justice leaders are committed to improving the current bail process with common sense release decisions based on risk. This gets those who should be released back with their families and back at work and leaves only those who pose a significant risk to public safety in custody pending trial. We look forward to improving the pretrial justice system and sharing our lessons with similarly situated urban areas across the country.” Advancing Pretrial Policy and Research (APPR) is a project of the National Partnership for Pretrial Justice which is supported by Arnold Ventures.

The Superior Court of Fulton, Atlanta Judicial Circuit, is the largest and busiest trial court in Georgia, serving the county’s one million residents, with 20 elected judges. For more information and resources, please visit our website at www.fultoncourt.org.

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