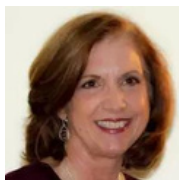


The Dangers of Youth Vaping Q&A

Harrison High School

Sponsored by Our Admin Team, PTSA, and Campus Safety Committee



Laura Searcy

Laura Searcy, MN, APRN, PPCNP-BC, FAANP, is a highly experienced pediatric nurse practitioner with a deep commitment to addressing the challenges of substance use and addiction in children and communities. With a focus on primary prevention of youth substance use and tobacco control, she also works on building resilience in children and addressing the growing behavioral health crisis among youth. Laura is a sought-after speaker and trainer at national, regional, and state levels, emphasizing the importance of cross-sector collaboration. She offers training, consultative services, and technical assistance to various state and local agencies, prevention coalitions, as well as K-12 and post-secondary education institutions. Additionally, she is a trainer for the Sources of Strength suicide prevention program. Laura Searcy's work is dedicated to improving the well-being and future of children and families.



Judge Kareem West

Kareem West, the current Cobb County Juvenile Court Judge, brings a diverse background to his role. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from Southern University and earned his Law Degree from John Marshall School of Law. Kareem's career includes serving as a Mississippi Parole Board member from 2000 and 2007, an Assistant Solicitor General in the Richmond County, Georgia Solicitor General's Office from 2005 to 2008, and an Assistant District Attorney in Cobb County, GA from 2008 to 2013. In 2013, he established West Law Services, practicing Criminal Law, Juvenile Law, Real Estate Law, and Premises Liability Law. Kareem assumed the role of Cobb County Juvenile Court Judge on November 9, 2018, alongside three other Juvenile Court Judges. Together, they prioritize building strong community relationships to empower Cobb's youth in reaching their full potential.



Ashleigh Merchant

With an impressive legal background, Ashleigh has held various significant roles, including serving as the former president of the Cobb County Bar Association Criminal Defense Section. She is currently the President-Elect of the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (GACDL), one of the world's largest criminal defense organizations, with her presidency commencing in January. Notably, she's also worked as the former Legislative Chair for GACDL, contributing to the drafting and passage of the organization's first sponsored statutes in Georgia. Furthermore, She shares her expertise as an Adjunct Professor in Litigation at the University of Florida College of Law. Her accomplishments include multiple selections to Super Lawyers and Rising Stars, as well as being named to Georgia Trend Legal Elite. Her dedication to the legal profession is evident through accolades such as the Daily Report's 40 Under 40 Award in 2013 and the Southern Center for Human Rights Vanguard Award in 2023.



Chief Judge A. Gregory Poole

Chief Judge Poole has been an esteemed figure in the Cobb County legal system since his election to the Cobb County Superior Court in 2012. With a decade of prior service in the Cobb County Juvenile Court, Judge Poole brings a wealth of experience to his role. He holds a Juris Doctor degree from the Cumberland School of Law and is a distinguished member of various legal organizations. His accomplishments include serving as the President of the Georgia Council of Juvenile Court Judges and earning the Distinguished Judicial Service Award from the Younger Lawyers Section of the State Bar of Georgia. Beyond his legal career, Judge Poole is deeply involved in local charities and remains dedicated to his Marietta community. He currently serves as Chief Judge of the Superior Court, symbolizing his leadership and commitment to justice.