

# Conference on Crimes Against Women 2025 Workshops

## **Accident, Suicide or Murder? Exploring the Ways Intimate Partner Homicides Can Be Staged**

**Kenneth Rosgen, Shannon Shafer, Nancy Tardibuono, Andrea Zaferes**

Human trafficking cases often involve challenging victim and witness dynamics, including vulnerabilities such as prior criminal histories, undocumented status, histories of prostitution, mental illness, substance addiction, and hostility toward the legal system. Witnesses may share similar backgrounds, presenting unique obstacles for prosecutors. Building strong cases in the face of such complexities requires strategic approaches and collaborative efforts. This workshop will explore practical strategies for prosecuting human trafficking cases. The presenter(s) will describe methods to leveraging the power of the grand jury and well-structured charges, utilizing a trial map, and reframing juror perspectives through voir dire to transform case weaknesses into strengths. Key topics will include building corroboration post-filing, flipping buyers and co-defendants, structuring trial line-ups to emphasize strengths, and countering common defenses with expert testimony and other tools. Additionally, the workshop will emphasize the importance of collaborating with law enforcement during investigations to include trafficking co-defendants and corroborative sources, shifting the evidentiary burden from the victim to a broader base of testimonial, digital, and documentary evidence.

## **Adult Forensic Interviewing**

**Khara Breeden, Julie Germann**

## **Alcohol: A Sex Offender's Weapon & Shield**

**Julie Germann**

Alcohol is the cheap, legal, culturally acceptable intoxicant that is present in many sexual assaults that also results in victims being more vulnerable, causes gaps in their memories, makes them less likely to report the assault, and less likely to be believed. Additionally, victims of alcohol-facilitated sexual assault may not be able to provide a complete account of the assault or may only have suspicions or heard rumors of what happened to them. Conversely, perpetrators of sexual assault use alcohol or drugs as a weapon to create or exploit vulnerabilities in their victims and will use their own intoxication as a shield to deflect responsibility. This workshop will examine the role alcohol plays in facilitating sexual violence by increasing victim vulnerability and blurring the lines of consent. The presenter(s) will focus on investigative and prosecution strategies for supporting victims of alcohol-facilitated sexual assault and uncovering and identifying predatory behavior.

## **All In! The Multi-disciplinary Approach to Responding to Sexual & Intimate Partner Violence in Indian Country**

**Afton Delgado, Chenel VandenBerk**

Rural and tribal jurisdictions face distinct challenges in addressing violence within Tribal communities, including limited resources and the cultural needs that influence responses to violence. Ensuring survivor-centered, trauma-informed approaches requires overcoming these barriers through innovative strategies.

This workshop will feature a panel discussion with direct service providers, law enforcement, advocates, and medical professionals, highlighting the benefits of a collaborative response to sexual and intimate partner violence within Alaska and Indian Country. The presenter(s) will share their experiences in building partnerships, coordinating care, and addressing obstacles to justice. Insights into best practices for creating effective, culturally responsive solutions that prioritize survivor safety and well-being will also be discussed.

## **All Means All: Combatting Myths About Violence Against Sexually Exploited Individuals**

**Jane Anderson, Patti Powers**

Justice can be elusive for those who have been abused and exploited within the commercial sex industry. Offenders often identify sexually exploited individuals as easy prey for violence, assault, and further exploitation. An effective response to sexual violence requires a depth of understanding of the crime(s), the tactics used, and recognition of the impact of such on victims who may be coerced into non-disclosure, threatened, or who fear they will not be believed. Chief among these tactics is making use of existing misconceptions and myths that juries and judges may carry about sexual violence generally, and sex work in particular. To effectively seek justice for victims, prosecutors must understand and challenge these misconceptions. This includes understanding that sex offenders may target both known and unknown victims as well as a combination thereof. Offender tactics may vary significantly from victim to victim even from the same offender, but can include stalking, image exploitation, doxing, sextortion, and sex trafficking. This workshop will provide strategies to combat common myths surrounding what sexual offenses against commercially sexually exploited victims look like, and ways to combat those misconceptions at trial to maintain focus on the actions of the offender to avoid having those misconceptions shape an improper assessment of the victim at trial.

## **All Out in the Open: Using OSINT in Human Trafficking Investigations**

### **Joseph Scaramucci**

Human trafficking investigators and analysts often face challenges in utilizing open-source intelligence (OSINT) in their investigations. What also can be difficult is investigating without victim cooperation or possessing the proper technical tools that could enhance those investigations. In this workshop, the presenter(s) will guide attendees through the process of using publicly available information to identify human trafficking victims and target offenders. The discussion will also cover how to conduct these operations effectively with minimal funding and manpower. Additionally, the presenter(s) will demonstrate how these OSINT tools can be applied to a variety of criminal investigations beyond human trafficking.

## **All Rise! Judicial Considerations for Prosecutors**

### **Stuti Trehan Patel**

While judges review important information and evidence presented during domestic violence court proceedings, it is vital not to forget the significance of data that can be assembled before proceedings begin that could potentially make or break a case. Who and what to subpoena, how to successfully utilize pretrial motions, and which trial and jury prep strategies are most optimal to employ should all be taken into serious consideration. This workshop is designed to educate prosecutors on how to best prepare a case from initial arrest through sentencing as well as cover legal options and evidentiary strategies to assist from the initial filing of charges through disposition. The presenter(s) will include a thorough examination of all applicable criminal statutes and evidence laws in Texas.

## **Animal Abuse + Family Violence: Investigation & Prosecution Strategies to Keep Families Safe**

### **Allie Phillips**

Research studies worldwide have documented the link between animal abuse and family violence. With 66% of American households having pets, domestic violence professionals, law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges will frequently encounter cases where family pets are abused to silence and coerce child and adult victims. Understanding this dynamic is crucial for effective safety planning, investigations, prosecutions, and post-sentencing considerations. This workshop will examine research on the connection between animal abuse and violence against women, the importance of addressing animal abuse in homes experiencing interpersonal violence, and the need for a multi-disciplinary agency response to achieve better outcomes. Service strategies to assist survivors with pets in crisis will also be explored. Investigation, prosecution, and courtroom strategies regarding the link between domestic violence and animal abuse will be discussed. \*No abusive photos will be shown during this session.

## **[RESTRICTED] Aquatic Crimes Against Women Staged as Noncriminal Swimming Pool & Open Water Deaths**

**Kenneth Rosgen, Shannon Shafer, Andrea Zafares**

RESTRICTED TO: LAW ENFORCEMENT, PROSECUTORS, INVESTIGATORS, AND MEDICAL EXAMINERS (attendees who do not meet the qualifying professions criteria may not be able to attend or be refunded). Aquatic Crimes Against Women (ACAW) are often staged as noncriminal bathtub deaths. In this interactive workshop, the presenter(s) will demonstrate the scene and case through the eyes of a prosecutor, judge, and jury with attendees acting as a bathtub homicide case as a patrol officer, detective, CSI, or death investigator. The presenter(s) will also provide strategies on how to document the victim's body, collect critical scene evidence, and report party evidence. Skills will include photographing wet/damp evidence, interviewing suspects of ACAW, identifying important injury and postmortem physiology artifacts, and applying a practical investigative framework with a bathtub case investigation form that attendees can bring to their departments. Attendees will also interact with and interview the reporting-party husband to document important circumstantial evidence. Additionally, a circumstantial evidence homicide senior state's attorney will describe the legal pitfalls to avoid and proven ways to approach and work the scene for the most just jurisprudence outcome. \$20.00 pre-registration is required.

## **A Balancing Act: Enhancing Efforts to Promote Survivor Engagement in Pretrial & Probation Supervision**

**April Higgs, Jeanne Mullane**

Have you ever wondered how victim voices can be better incorporated into probation and pretrial supervision? Both offender accountability and victim safety can be integrated within the context of community supervision. The creation of a Victim Outreach Probation Officer (VOPO) position in Loudoun County, VA has proven to be effective in the enhancement of victim advocacy. This workshop will explore how system gaps were identified and addressed through the creation of the VOPO, whose role involves demystifying community supervision for survivors by providing them with critical case information, explaining pretrial and probation processes, and collaborating with internal and external stakeholders as part of a coordinated community response to intimate partner violence. This presenter(s) will cover the origins of the VOPO position, its primary duties, evolution, and lessons learned, and discover the benefits of a VOPO working alongside pretrial and probation officers, as well as surveillance officers responsible for GPS and electronic monitoring of defendants/offenders. Case examples and how this position differs from victim-witness and other system-based advocate roles will be discussed.

## **"Because He Loves Me": Exploring Stalking in a Pop Culture Context**

**Patrick Brady, Jennifer Landhuis**

Romantic comedies, crime dramas, and horror films often give false impressions about stalking, making people think stalkers are usually mentally ill strangers obsessed with celebrities. In reality, most victims know their stalker, and the risk of harm and lethality is much greater when the stalker is an intimate partner. The presenter(s) will use data from the National Crime Victimization Survey and police and prosecutor case files to correct common myths about stalking. They will also explain how intimate partner stalking is different from cases involving strangers or acquaintances, helping attendees better understand the risks and realities of stalking.

## **Behind the Cloak of Darkness: The Impact of Pornography**

**Myra Strand, Russell Strand**

The influence of pornography on the neurobiology of both developing and developed brains reveals significant implications for sexuality and body image. The overwhelming presence of hardcore imagery shapes and informs sexual identity and practices, often with profound effects. A key question frequently raised is whether pornography contributes to interpersonal violence. Research indicates that over 100 studies have shown pornography use is both correlated with and causative of a wide range of violent behaviors, as demonstrated through experimental studies. Additionally, more than 50 studies highlight a strong connection between pornography and sexual violence. This workshop offers valuable insights for professionals seeking to understand and address the cultural factors underpinning interpersonal violence in its many forms. The presenter(s) will explore the above-mentioned findings, articulating how excessive porn use impacts individuals and contributes to harmful behaviors.

## **Beyond Fight/Flight/Freeze: The Neurobiology of Fawning and Appeasement**

**Ruby Jo Walker**

While the trauma-response terms of fight-flight-freeze are widely recognized in both professional and layperson circles, the concepts of fawning and appeasement are emerging as adaptive trauma responses. Studies have revealed the role of power in the adaptations of fawning and appeasement and the need to understand the neurobiological underpinnings of these two concepts as blended states. Effectively supporting victims/survivors with a deeper understanding of these adaptations is critical, as it empowers them and restores agency. The presenter(s) of this workshop will explain how fawning and appeasement are connected to biological drives for safety, both arising from a down-power position that can often hinder the healing process. Additionally, the workshop will explore the neurobiology of these trauma adaptations and provide strategies for identifying and supporting clients in transitioning from victim to survivor.

## **Beyond the Kit: Transforming Crime Response Through the National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative**

### **Misty Marra**

Since 2015, the National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI), administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), has provided funding to support and enhance sexual assault response, reduce violent crime, and improve overall public safety. SAKI funding assists agencies with testing sexual assault kits and associated crime scene evidence, implementing trauma-informed, victim-centered policies, building capacity to prevent the future accumulation of sexual assault kits, supporting investigative and prosecutorial strategies, and establishing sustainable coordinated community responses. Since its inception, the SAKI program has expanded to address the identification, collection and testing of lawfully owed samples for inclusion in the Combined DNA Index System and support investigation of all other violent crime cold cases. This expansion is a direct result of data gathered from the program which indicates the significant number of serial sexual offenses and instances of cross-over offending with other violent crimes. This workshop will explore the critical intersection between sexual assault response and broader violent crime strategies by highlighting the outcomes of the SAKI program and underscoring the importance of a holistic approach to violent crime reduction.

## **Beyond the Shadows: Unmasking Stalking, Strengthening Support, & Pursuing Justice**

### **Lauren Dennis, Marie Sadanaga**

Stalking crimes are complex and often overlooked. Additionally, the various types of stalking and the recognition of key behaviors and escalation patterns can add challenges to investigative work. As investigators work alongside victim advocates, it is important that both are fully equipped to be able to provide holistic support, including crisis intervention, legal advocacy, safety planning, and effective collaboration with law enforcement and community resources. This workshop offers an in-depth exploration of stalking crimes and will examine the various tactics used by stalkers, from traditional harassment to the increasingly common cyberstalking and the hidden threat of proxy stalking, where third parties are manipulated to intimidate victims. Through real-world case studies and interactive discussions, attendees will be provided with actionable strategies to strengthen their response to stalking, protect victims, and pursue justice. The presenter(s) will highlight the psychological, social, and economic impacts on victims, equipping attendees with the knowledge to recognize escalating behaviors before they become dangerous. A comprehensive overview of the legal landscape, including the latest laws and promising practices for evidence collection to build strong cases against perpetrators will also be discussed.

## **Beyond Translations: Bridging the Gap for Hispanic Survivors of Violence**

**Teresa Gallegos, Atenas Martinez**

Hispanic survivors of domestic and sexual violence often face significant barriers when seeking help, including cultural stigma and mistrust of law enforcement and legal systems. These challenges can obstruct access to critical services and hinder the effective prosecution of gender-based crimes. By fostering a collaborative approach, advocates, law enforcement, and legal professionals can better support survivors and ensure justice in domestic and sexual violence cases. The presenter(s) of this workshop will explore the unique obstacles encountered by Hispanic survivors and discuss practical techniques for advocates, law enforcement, and prosecutors to better engage these communities. The workshop will educate attendees on how to identify specific barriers, such as fears related to immigration status and cultural perceptions of authority, that may prevent victims from coming forward. Additionally, actionable strategies for building trust within Hispanic communities, improving communication, and enhancing service delivery will be discussed.

## **Boofed & Bruised: Exploring the Complexities of Drug-Facilitated Sexual Assaults in Queer Communities**

**Patrick Brady, Michael Wilmore-Crumrine**

Drug-facilitated sexual assaults (DFSA) present unique challenges, particularly within queer communities, where prior trauma, such as sexual and physical victimization, often influences participation in drug cultures, increasing vulnerability to DFSA. The role of dating apps in facilitating unsafe encounters will be critically examined, with a focus on whether these platforms help mitigate risk or exacerbate vulnerabilities through insufficient safety measures. The presenter(s) of this workshop will explore the cultural and situational factors contributing to DFSA and gain guidance for working with survivors whose cases may face prejudiced scrutiny from jurors. Strategies for overcoming victim-blaming narratives will be discussed, equipping attendees with the tools to better support survivors who may be unfairly judged for their involvement in drug use or for being targeted by predators. Additionally, this workshop will provide both theoretical insights and practical tools for enhancing investigations and advocacy for survivors in DFSA cases.

## **Breaking the Silence: How Faith Communities Can Confront Domestic Violence**

**Tawana Angela Davis**

Domestic violence (DV) is a pervasive issue that affects individuals across all walks of life, including within faith communities with faith leaders, congregants, and advocates often facing challenges in addressing DV from a faith-based perspective. Understanding the dynamics of DV in faith communities and being able to successfully prevent or respond to DV that cultivates ongoing dialogue about DV in the faith space is key. This

workshop will equip attendees with the knowledge, tools, and resources needed to respond effectively to DV in faith communities. The presenter(s) will guide attendees through the complex dynamics of abuse, the role of spirituality in healing, and how faith communities can serve as safe havens for survivors. Through interactive discussions, case studies, and theological reflection, the workshop will explore strategies for prevention, effective responses to those affected by DV, and how to foster a culture of safety and support. Attendees will be offered a deeper insight into the role faith communities play in confronting DV, promoting justice, and offering holistic care to survivors.

### **Bridging Mental Health & Law: A Collaborative Approach for Community Well-Being**

**Mylira Green**

Societal attention towards mental health and mental health disorders has grown exponentially with practitioners and the general public alike embracing awareness around the significance of healthy psychological fitness. However, stigmas around mental health, especially within legal circles, still exists. Furthermore, the universality of social media has allowed ill-informed and untrained individuals to dispense mental health treatment and advice that could be dangerous and devastating to victims and survivors. The presenter(s) of this workshop will engage with law professionals to explore the intersection of mental health and the legal system and will highlight the importance of collaboration between mental health and legal professionals in addressing the complex mental health challenges prevalent in our communities. With the workshop designed to foster a dialogue between mental health and law professionals, its aim is to offer a platform for mutual understanding and collaboration to create more comprehensive, compassionate, and effective solutions for community mental health.

### **Building Better Teams: Why & How It Matters For Human Trafficking Cases**

**Kirsta Melton, Heather Moga, Haley Patterson**

How can disciplines with different approaches and priorities work together effectively on behalf of trafficking victims, and why is this so necessary to help restore victims and build successful criminal prosecutions? This workshop will outline the practical foundations for understanding similarities and differences in the goals and expectations of diverse partners, underscore critical approaches in building rapport with victims, and meaningful relationships between the criminal justice system and victim service providers in your community.



## **Building Bridges: LGBTQ+ Allyship in Law Enforcement**

**Josh Bronson, Natasha Haunsperger, Joseph Scaramucci, Brandon Wootan**

In today's society, law enforcement faces significant challenges in fulfilling their responsibility to serve all members of the community with dignity and respect. Allyship to LGBTQ+ communities is an essential aspect of creating inclusive, safe, and equitable spaces for everyone. By fostering trust and building genuine relationships with LGBTQ+ individuals, law enforcement can help dismantle systemic biases, reduce fear, and promote justice for marginalized groups. This workshop will explore how law enforcement can effectively become allies to LGBTQ+ communities. The presenter(s) will focus on the importance of allyship, strategies for engagement, and the challenges that law enforcement personnel face in balancing their duties while creating a welcoming environment for all citizens, including those from the LGBTQ+ community.

## **Building Collaborative Partnerships to Prevent Teen Dating Violence in Rural Communities**

**Kaiti Blackburn, Larissa Whitney**

In rural communities, preventing teen dating violence requires intentional, collaborative efforts that bridge gaps in resources and education. Through shared responsibility and evidence-based strategies, practitioners can prevent violence before it starts and cultivate a culture of respect and equality for the next generation. This workshop will explore how schools, community organizations, and leaders can work together to educate young people about healthy and unhealthy relationship behaviors, with the ultimate goal of reducing the continuum of violence.

## **Building Resilience & Retention in Probation Officers Working with Gender-based Violence & High-Intensity Caseloads**

**Carolina Frane, Robert Omer**

Probation officers play a vital role in rehabilitating offenders and keeping communities safe through their supervision efforts. Nevertheless, working as a probation officer can be emotionally draining, and staffing probation offices can be equally taxing for supervisors and chiefs. Training for new hires typically covers the basics of risk, needs, responsibility principles, and documentation systems, but it is often assumed that new officers have a fundamental understanding of intimate partner and sexual violence, as well as testifying in court. However, this is frequently not the case. Without a solid knowledge of these issues, coupled with the exposure to traumatic stories in police reports and a lack of preparation to process such information, probation officers are at risk of burnout. This workshop will explore strategies to reduce burnout and better prepare officers to perform their roles in a way that fosters job satisfaction, work-life balance, and long-term success in their careers.

## **But Isn't He Still a Good Dad?**

**Ruth Guerreiro**

The number one reason why a woman stays in an abusive relationship is for her children. And the number one reason why a woman leaves an abusive relationship is for her children. However, abuse can continue beyond the home and extend into the realms of school, childcare services, and family court as the abuser may use the children as weapons thereby employing manipulation and control strategies while living in the home as well as after separation. The presenter(s) will discuss the effects domestic violence has on children and the child-mother relationship, especially when the children continue to have visitations with the non-custodial father. Some of these adverse effects are having to go back and forth between homes, continuing contact with the perpetrator of abuse, and experiencing extended separations from mom all increase the likelihood that trauma symptoms will persist for both mom and her children. Additionally, this workshop will explore attachment therapy strategies and a new program from Genesis Women's Shelter & Support entitled "Visitation Camp" that concentrates on trauma-informed responses to the effects of witnessing abuse in the home.

## **But, What If? How to Handle Difficult Sexual Assault Presentations in the Healthcare Setting**

**Tamara Jackson, Jaclyn Rodriguez**

Forensic nurses and SANE coordinators have encountered numerous situations in healthcare settings that do not align with evidence-based practice guidelines. Furthermore, healthcare providers, advocates, law enforcement, and survivors often feel stuck and uncertain about how to navigate these challenging sexual assault patient presentations. Through mock scenarios, this workshop will teach multi-disciplinary team members how to identify gaps in service and provide resources to advocate for evidence-based, trauma-informed, and victim-centered care and treatment in healthcare settings.

## **"Call 911!" The Vital Role of Dispatchers & Call-Takers in Law Enforcement Investigations**

**Robert Frechette, Jennett Sullivan**

Call takers and dispatchers are often the first responders in gender-based violence cases and play a crucial role in influencing victim participation in the investigative process. The trauma and stress experienced by victims during these events create significant challenges in eliciting critical information from callers. This, in turn, increases the risks to all involved parties, including responding officers and other public safety professionals. Developing trauma-informed strategies to improve communication between call takers, dispatchers, and responders will enhance safety and contribute to the successful

prosecution of offenders. The presenter(s) of this workshop will discuss strategies for building and maintaining trust with victims beyond the initial call and for working with victims who are hesitant to continue with the criminal justice system. Additionally, the presenter(s) will explore ways to strengthen partnerships between dispatchers, call takers, first responders, and investigators.

## **Capturing Evidence: Strategies for Conducting Thorough Domestic Violence Investigations**

### **Kimberly Orts**

#### **CASE STUDY: Catching Tate**

##### **Monica Fortson**

In May 2018, serial rapist Marquis Tate was sentenced to seven life terms for the aggravated sexual assault of six women. New to investigations in 2016, Det. Fortson began looking into CODIS matches for eleven active and cold cases. Her investigation spanned multiple states, years of victimization, and a suspect who began committing crimes in his early 20s. With a potential victim list of over 30 women, the presenter(s) will walk attendees through the way to develop suspect leads, locate victims working in the sex trade industry, and ultimately apprehended suspects such as Tate. Challenges faced while working a major case as a rookie investigator and how this case shaped her career as a detective will also be discussed.

#### **Coercive Control 101: Using Research & Practice to Help Identify Dominate Aggressors**

##### **Patrick Brady**

Investigating and prosecuting domestic violence complaints is an ongoing challenge, especially in cases where both parties claim the other is responsible for the disturbance. In response, laws and policies have been enacted encouraging officers and prosecutors to identify the “predominate aggressor” (as in the party posing the most serious, ongoing threat regardless of whether they initiated the disturbance in question). To date, however, research on the specific characteristics of predominate aggressors is limited, leaving decision-makers to rely on policies that may increase the risk of arresting victims. While research is ongoing, officers and prosecutors would benefit by understanding the role of coercive control and how it can be used to identify parties who likely pose the greatest risk for future harm. Using case studies and emerging research on coercive control and dangerous assessments, this workshop will explore strategies to identify dominant aggressors in domestic violence complaints. More specifically, the presenter(s) will define what coercive control is, describe the overlap in tactics abusers use to coerce compliance, and share interview strategies that can help elicit responses that unpack power and control dynamics among allegedly mutually combative parties.

## **Coercive Control: Discussing the Dominance of Abuse During Pre & Post Separation**

**Christine Cocchiola**

Coercive control, increasingly recognized as the foundation of all abuse, involves one individual or group exerting power and control over their victim by exploiting their vulnerabilities. Perpetrators use various strategies beyond physical violence, including manipulation of systems. In intimate relationships, coercive control often intensifies when the adult victim attempts to leave, a phenomenon known as post-separation abuse. When children are involved, they are frequently weaponized. The complexities of this form of abuse can make it challenging to identify, even for the most observant individuals. This workshop is designed to explore strategies on how to develop or create a greater understanding of coercive control, identify the tactics used by coercive controllers [abusers] to harm adult and child victims, examine the implications of systemic coercive control and the harms inflicted on to victims and survivors. Discussion surrounding the traumatic experiences of adult and child victims and survivors will also take place.

## **Combatting Domestic Violence Through Community Policing & Inter-Agency Collaboration**

**Kimberly Orts, Derrick Taylor**

Community policing is based on building strong bonds between law enforcement and the community through effective law enforcement presence, increased community involvement, and proactive, collaborative approaches to crime prevention. One way to embrace community policing is the establishment and implementation of Community Outreach Officers. The presenter(s) of this workshop will share how they carried these principles forward in their roles—one returning to the streets as a patrolman and the other promoted to detective-- and will provide real-life examples of how they used creativity in community involvement and interagency collaboration to increase awareness of domestic violence (DV), improve information sharing within their patrol district, enhance responses to DV calls through training, and raise expectations for DV investigations.

## **Communication is Key! Enhancing Safety Through Language Access in Domestic & Sexual Violence Cases**

**Jose Juan Lara Jr.**

Language access is essential for effective communication and collaboration with diverse communities impacted by domestic and sexual violence. When victims and survivors are unable to fully express themselves, their needs and access to appropriate services can be compromised, jeopardizing their safety and well-being. This workshop will focus on addressing language barriers in domestic violence cases, emphasizing the importance of overcoming these obstacles to enhance safety for victims, law enforcement, and the broader community. Through engaging discussions, real-life case scenarios, and

practical exercises, the presenter(s) will explore the impacts of language barriers and provide strategies for ensuring language access that fosters justice, equity, and safety for all involved.

### **Conducting Evidence-based, Trauma-informed Investigations in IPV Cases**

#### **David Thomas**

Evidence-based, trauma-informed investigations, coupled with pro-prosecution, represent some of the most innovative methods utilized by the criminal justice system in combating intimate partner violence. The way in which service providers respond and investigate these particular cases is crucial to holding offenders accountable for their actions. This workshop is designed to enhance response and investigative strategies. The presenter(s) will techniques that can be employed in properly investigating an evidence-based case and illustrate that, just as in the case of a homicide, the participation of the victim during investigatory follow-up and or the case at hand, although preferable, is not necessary.

### **Conducting Modern Death Investigations: It's a Homicide Until Proven Otherwise**

#### **Russell Strand**

Investigating unattended deaths is a complex process that demands careful consideration and ethical rigor. Therefore, determining the true cause and manner of death often requires collaboration, analytical thinking, and a willingness to look beyond the obvious. Errors in these investigations can lead to significant consequences—not only for the accused but also for immediate family members, friends, and the broader community, potentially affecting generations. Such mistakes may also compromise the safety and security of our communities. Criminal justice professionals must approach these investigations with open minds, developing multiple hypotheses, constructing timelines, and applying advanced investigative techniques. Over the past several decades, advancements in technology and critical thinking have transformed the field of death investigations, emphasizing the importance of precision and thoroughness. This workshop explores the intricacies of modern death investigations, highlighting the critical role of technology, analytical skills, and innovative techniques. The presenter(s) will provide expert insights and case studies to illustrate best practices in determining cause and manner of death. Attendees will also be provided practical knowledge and tools to conduct comprehensive and effective investigations across diverse scenarios.

## **Considerations for Recording Human Trafficking Victim Interviews**

**Jane Anderson**

Victim disclosures are often the cornerstone of human trafficking prosecutions, and trauma-informed interviews play a vital role in facilitating these critical revelations. Key considerations include the importance of obtaining informed consent, the challenges and benefits of conducting multiple interviews, and the preparation of law enforcement officers to testify effectively. Strategies for presenting victim disclosure evidence at trial are also essential components of the process. This workshop is designed to help multidisciplinary stakeholders identify the objectives of victim interviews, evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of recording these interviews, and understand how recordings can influence the interview goals. The presenter(s) will provide insights into best practices for building successful cases and supporting victims throughout the legal process.

## **Context is Everything: Identifying the Predominant Aggressor**

**Jeanne Mullane, Jacqi Smith**

The creation of mandatory arrest policies emerged from a strong call for law enforcement to effectively address domestic violence, hold offenders accountable, and provide victims with safety and justice that had previously been lacking. These policies were widely accepted as the preferred law enforcement response to domestic violence. Over time, however, arrest rates for women began to rise in jurisdictions that adopted mandatory arrest policies, leading to the unintended criminalization of domestic violence victims. Properly identifying the predominant aggressor is essential to prevent misidentifying victims as offenders. This process should begin at the entry point into the criminal justice system—arrest. The presenter(s) will explore the history, implementation, and unintended consequences of mandatory arrest policies, discuss strategies on how to recognize the negative impact mandatory arrest policies can have on the lives of DV victim/survivors, and educate attendees on how to pinpoint the difference between primary vs. predominant aggressor to properly identify the predominant aggressor in DV incidents.

## **Correcting the Causes & Consequences: Victim-Offender Overlap in Sex Trafficking Prosecutions**

**Vanessa Bouche, Ava Kamden, Meghan Lundstrom, Cara Pierce**

Research indicates that 54% of females charged in federal sex trafficking cases were previously victims of trafficking themselves. This workshop explores the historical roots of criminalizing sex trafficking victims, examines why this practice persists, and highlights its profound impact on survivors. The presenter(s)—a researcher, two survivor-leader researchers, and a former federal prosecutor—will discuss policy and practice reforms to address this ongoing issue. Blending data, research, and lived experiences, this workshop offers a unique perspective that combines expertise from researchers,

practitioners, and survivors. The presenter(s) will conduct a deeper dive into the intersection of victimization and criminalization and explore actionable strategies to bring about meaningful change.

### **Count it Up! Discovering the DOZEN Ways to Write an Effective Sexual Assault Police Report**

**Kenny Smith**

A DOZEN Ways to Write an Effective Sexual Assault Police Report is a comprehensive course designed to enhance critical skills in the effective and accurate writing of sexual assault police reports. The presenter(s) will educate attendees on how to document incidents with clarity, attention to detail, and in a human-centric manner, ensuring that reports are thorough, factual, and truly reflect the experience of the victim and other parties involved and the totality of the circumstances. Don't worry though, we'll make sure plenty of fun gets sprinkled in too!

### **Courageous Conversations: Identifying & Preventing Gender Bias in Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Response**

**Tom Tremblay**

The current level of activism and outrage about sexual assault and domestic violence is the direct result of victims and survivors who have courageously come forward to communicate their experiences. This workshop is designed to encourage continued "courageous conversations" about the way society views sexual assault and domestic violence and will examine the human condition of bias and its impact through a large group participation exercise. The presenter(s) will review case studies where gender bias and discrimination impacted the pursuit of justice. Most importantly, we will conclude with best practices to help our communities identify and prevent gender bias in our response to sexual assault and domestic violence.

### **Creating Advanced Domestic Violence Training for an Entire State**

**Raven Aae, Jordan Ferguson**

Washington State's House Bill 1715 mandated the Criminal Justice Training Center to develop advanced domestic violence (DV) training for law enforcement that is accessible statewide. The training, which includes both self-paced online workshops and in-person sessions, covers key topics such as coercive control, enforcement and service of protection orders, firearm surrender, and trauma-informed practices. With almost thirty hours of training required, the curriculum was designed to accommodate staffing levels and officer time constraints. This workshop will provide law enforcement agencies and academies with a roadmap for creating advanced DV training programs.

## **The Criminal Investigative Interview: A New Evidence-based Approach**

**Bryan Barlow, David Thompson**

It is not hard to find examples of how the traditional "interrogation" method created problematic legal outcomes. Multiple recent reports and documentaries show how investigators, largely based on accepted methods and training, have unknowingly secured false confessions, shut down suspects who would otherwise be cooperative, or misread victim behavior. The results are disastrous in terms of diminished trust in our legal system and the high human cost. This workshop will draw on decades of law enforcement experience and cutting-edge research in the wake of interrogation controversies to analyze what wasn't working with investigative interviewing, and to suggest an alternative approach that not only protects victim and suspect rights but is effective in eliciting actionable information in an ethical and legally admissible manner. The presenter(s) will share their work on high-profile cases with organizations such as the Innocence Project, and their legislative advocacy to ensure that criminal investigative interviews are conducted with the highest ethical standards with the ultimate goal of protecting the innocent and ensuring accountability for those who commit crimes.

## **Critical Tribal Partnerships in a Coordinated Community Response**

**Marcus Bruning, Chad Janis**

An effective coordinated community response in tribal communities requires partnerships that engage the community toward a common goal, while also considering capacity, resources, and the roles and responsibilities of each partner. Victim safety and offender accountability are the overarching themes, but partnerships must be grounded in a shared mission, purpose, and function, incorporating trauma-informed approaches and practices. This multidisciplinary panel will explore promising practices for fostering collaboration, discuss partnerships between tribal and local police, and highlight the importance of accountability and trust between agencies and organizations. The panel will also share resources to better support victims and create a path to healing.

## **Cybercrimes**

**Elaina Roberts**

## **The DARCC Difference: A Collaborative Approach to Serving Survivors**

**Heather Hutchison, Amy Jones, Megan Morales**

The collaboration between advocacy and clinical services can transform the healing journey for survivors of sexual violence. The leadership team from the Dallas Area Rape Crisis Center (DARCC) will share "The DARCC Difference," an in-depth look at how their survivor-centered philosophy prioritizes healing through an integrated approach that equally values the roles of advocates and counselors. The presenter(s) will educate



attendees about the history and evolution of DARCC's advocacy department, created in response to client needs, and how it has become a cornerstone of their holistic services. The workshop will explore how this integrated model empowers clients, enhances organizational cohesion, and creates a balanced environment for staff. Through a discussion of successes, challenges, and lessons learned, the presenter(s) will offer practical strategies and cautions for agencies considering a similar collaborative approach. A leadership perspective will also address organizational impacts, including considerations for grant funding and sustainability.

### **Domestic Violence Fatality Review through a Cultural Perspective**

**Marissa Alexander, LeTasha Davis Pyke**

One way to successfully intervene is through the development and implementation of a domestic violence fatality review teams (DVFRTs) whose primary purpose is to identify deaths related to domestic violence to examine systemic interventions that took place with both parties before the homicide and/or suicide. Through these DVFRTs, members can identify the nature and frequency of fatalities, barriers, gaps in training, policies, practices, and resources, and help foster a formalized coordinated community response. This workshop will highlight the importance of developing culturally specific responses within domestic violence fatality review teams. The presenter(s) will cover strategies to improve cultural responsiveness and demonstrate how these tailored approaches can help prevent future domestic violence homicides, particularly among victims from marginalized populations.

### **Doesn't Matter What You Call It, Let's Talk About It: Addressing Traumatization for All Responders**

**Katherine Manners, Angela Weekes**

When discussing work-related trauma exposure, practitioners and leadership need to create an environment in their organizations that understand and address the occupational hazard for individuals working and volunteering in the fields of victim services and law enforcement. This multidisciplinary panel will explore both direct and indirect exposure and highlight how those exposures can affect individuals, teams, and organizations. Through guided conversation, the panel speakers will share experiences and first-hand accounts and discuss promising practices that can be implemented to cultivate personal and professional resilience.

### **Dual Diligence: Civilian & Military Prosecution of Crimes Against Women**

**Melissa Hoppmeyer, Kathryn Marsh**

Civilian and military prosecutions of crimes against women differ significantly in structure and approach, yet collaboration between these systems can be crucial to achieving

justice. Understanding these differences is key to determining the best path for prosecution and ensuring effective coordination. This workshop will examine the distinctions between civilian and military prosecution, using case studies involving homicide, sexual assault, and domestic violence to highlight opportunities for collaboration. The presenter(s) will explore strategies for determining jurisdiction, fostering partnerships between civilian and military prosecutors, and identifying factors that influence which office is best suited to prosecute a case.

### **Dual Marginalization: The Unique Complexities of the LGBTQIA+ Community in Sex Trafficking**

**Rana Amini, Hannah Counter**

The LGBTQIA+ community faces unique vulnerabilities that heighten their risk of sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. Systemic discrimination, a lack of resources, and limited familial support exacerbate the disproportionate impact of trafficking on this population, creating significant barriers to accessing services. These challenges are compounded by the need for programs that address the specific needs of LGBTQIA+ individuals while fostering inclusivity and trauma-informed care. The presenter(s) will offer attendees a comprehensive understanding of these complex dynamics and share strategies to build inclusive support systems and programs designed for LGBTQIA+ sex trafficking survivors.

### **Double-edged Sword: When Survivors are Criminalized**

**Cindene Pezzell, Jennifer Waindle,**

Every day, victims of intimate partner violence are arrested and incarcerated, often because their survival strategies are criminalized. These survivors face heightened risks while navigating the criminal legal system. The experiences of intimate partner violence victims can have critical relevance at various stages of the criminal legal process, from arrest to reentry, including probation. Recognizing criminalized survivors at every stage of the process is crucial to informing practices, enhancing safety, and securing more just outcomes. The presenter(s) of this workshop will describe how and why survivors are criminalized, the risks they face while navigating the system, and demonstrate how to identify defendants who are survivors.

### **DV & Post-Arrest Abuse: Does The Violence Stop?**

**Sandra Campanella**

Domestic violence (DV) affects 1 in 3 women and 1 in 7 men. Many victims do not call the police, and few report the first or every crime. Even when abuse is disclosed and offenders are arrested, perpetrators often continue to coerce and manipulate their victims,

either from jail or after release, often to avoid prosecution. Post-arrest abuse can feel even more dangerous and frightening for victims, frequently involving harsher recriminations. DV offenders may stalk, tamper with, intimidate, bribe, love-bomb, threaten future violence or civil consequences, or retaliate against their victims. This behavior often causes victims to minimize or recant abuse to law enforcement or disengage from the prosecution process entirely to protect themselves and their children. The presenter(s) will describe the dilemmas victims face and provide techniques on how to identify, investigate, and charge post-arrest DV crimes. The presenter(s) will also discuss counterintuitive victim behaviors, best practices for victim interactions, and strategies for enhancing victim safety.

### **The Embracing of Forensic Genetic Genealogy: Creating Investigative Leads for Cold Cases**

**Susan Brown Davis, Robert Moore**

The Center for Human Identification is the first public lab in the nation to offer forensic genetic genealogy (FGG) laboratory, genealogy, and investigative support to law enforcement agencies. The Center's focus is on providing investigative leads and services within the scope of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI's) 2019 Interim Policy on FGG making violent crimes, as defined by the FBI, and unknown human remains qualifying cases for the Center's work. This workshop will concentrate on the workflow process—from crime scene to lab, to genealogy, to investigative leads—and provide insight into the policies and operational procedures of a public FGG lab.

### **Emerging Issues in Firearm-Facilitated Domestic Violence: Best Practices for Survivor-Centered Research & Implementation (2-Part)**

**Jennifer Becker, Abigail Hurst, Chelsea Parsons, Tannuja Rozario, Jennifer Waindle**

The Supreme Court's decision in *Rahimi v. United States* renewed attention on the devastating intersection of gun violence and domestic violence. While the Court's decision upholding federal law was a positive step, more must be done to prevent firearm access by adjudicated abusers. This 2-part workshop will explore two key aspects of this issue. Part 1 will present new research, starting with key findings and risk factors for intimate partner homicide-suicide from a first-of-its-kind, survivor-centered focus group study conducted by Everytown for Gun Safety where access to firearms is at the center of these dual tragedies with 93% involving a gun, and 95% involving women killed by their male partners. Part 2 will highlight key findings from a new survivor survey by BWJP and the National Domestic Violence Hotline, which measures survivor experiences with firearm threats and violence. The results, including survivor narratives, demonstrate the many forms this violence takes. Part 2 will also focus on the urgent need for federal, state, tribal, and local system actors to ensure the effective implementation of laws designed to

prevent abusers from accessing firearms. presenter(s) will provide specific strategies for effective implementation of these laws, including relinquishment protocols. Case studies from different jurisdictions will be explored, creative approaches to these issues will be discussed, and the importance of training and interagency collaboration will be emphasized.

### **The Empathy Tightrope: Resilient Prosecutors Leading Effective Trauma-informed Responses**

**Miiko Anderson**

Prosecuting human trafficking cases demands highly skilled prosecutors who deeply understand the complex dynamics of trafficking and are committed to working with victims and survivors of severe trauma. These cases often involve large volumes of graphic, violent, or disturbing evidence, placing unique demands on prosecutors. A trauma-informed approach requires prosecutors to lead with empathy while staying vigilant to the impact of secondary trauma on job performance and personal well-being. This workshop will explore wellness as a critical component of addressing human trafficking, focusing on strategies to recognize early signs of burnout and secondary trauma. The presenter(s) will share practical approaches to managing stress and building healthy coping mechanisms. Through interactive discussions, attendees will learn how these strategies support both personal well-being and the ability to achieve justice for trafficking victims while holding offenders accountable.

### **Empowering Healing: Delivering Trauma-informed Care to LGBTQ Survivors of Sexual Violence**

**Kalen Knight**

The prevalence of sexual violence and barriers to reporting in the LGBTQ community is very high and is exacerbated by current and historical implications that have contributed to stigmas and biases present today. Thus, it is imperative that a trauma-informed approach be implemented and utilized when responding to or working with members of the LGBTQ community who have experienced sexual violence. Moreover, for true victim advocacy and support to occur, service providers must also learn to recognize conscious/unconscious biases and mitigate them in practice. The presenter(s) of this workshop will provide case study examples of both positive and negative interactions between healthcare/legal professionals and members of the LGBTQ community, discuss and describe statistics, historical events, barriers, and the trauma-informed care model and ultimately foster an opportunity for self-reflection of conscious/unconscious biases.

## **Empowering Survivors: Understanding T-Visas as a Path to Justice for Trafficking Victims**

**Natalia Sternau**

A common misconception about T-Visas is that they are rare and challenging to obtain, leading many people, including those in legal and social service professions, to overlook them as a viable option for survivors of human trafficking. This misunderstanding can leave potential applicants without the support they need to escape exploitation and rebuild their lives. However, T-Visas are, in fact, a crucial and increasingly common tool that provides trafficking survivors with essential protections, such as access to TVAP services like housing, medical, and mental health care, work authorization, and a pathway to permanent residency. Therefore, raising awareness about T-Visas and their benefits can help change lives by enabling more survivors to access legal protections. The presenter(s) of this workshop will describe and discuss the legal challenges trafficking survivors face, share best practices for guiding clients through the T-Visa process, and highlight the importance of collaboration between law enforcement and advocates in empowering survivors.

## **Every Second Counts: The Race Against Time in Missing Persons Cases**

**Carri Gordon, Michelle Nickens**

Nearly 1 in 2 women in the U.S. will face physical violence from an intimate partner in their lives. More than 19 million women have been stalked in their lifetime. A child, woman, or young man goes missing and is forced into labor or sex trafficking every 90 seconds. And, when a person goes missing, every second counts. The first 72 hours can determine whether a missing person is found safe. Moreover, although a smaller share of the nation's population, black, indigenous, and Hispanic women represent 40 percent of women and girls who are reported missing. They are also more likely to fall victim to intimate partner violence and other crimes that result in missing person cases. Understanding the missing person's life patterns, previous victimization, and potential risks can be the difference between a successful rescue and a tragic outcome. Furthermore, many missing individuals are linked to other crimes, such as intimate partner violence, stalking, and human trafficking. Recognizing the patterns of victimization and their role in missing persons cases is crucial to help trace the events leading to an abduction and ensure individuals are quickly located and returned home. This panel will examine three real-life cases of missing women and the link to intimate partner violence, stalking, and human trafficking and discuss how missing person programs, such as the Ashanti Alert Program, can aid investigations and foster collaboration.

## **Expert Witness Do's & Dont's**

**Julie Germann, Melissa Scaia**

Myths and misconceptions about intimate partner violence and sexual assault can keep a victim from obtaining a just outcome from the criminal or the civil justice system. Expert witness testimony can help educate judges and juries about the dynamics of intimate partner and sexual violence. The presenter(s) of this workshop will share the do's and don'ts of testifying as an expert witness in gender-based violence trials and cover what it takes to qualify as an expert witness and ways to collaborate with and educate the prosecutor to bring out the best possible testimony. The workshop will also highlight the common subject areas for testimony as well as good answers to common questions. Pitfalls encountered by expert witnesses and how to avoid them along with how to survive cross-examination and what to do when the defense attorney is aggressive will also be addressed.

## **Firing Back: Discussing the Federal LE's Role in Fighting DV & Firearm Violations** **Jeff Boshek**

## **From Coast to Coast: Cross-Agency Victim Collaboration**

**Chris Whitaker, Jennifer White**

Collaboration and coordination between Coast Guard Investigative Services (CGIS) and Coast Guard military prosecutors play a critical role in supporting victims from investigation through trial. A trauma-informed approach to interviews and trial preparation is essential for empowering victims and ensuring they can navigate the military justice system with dignity and respect. This workshop will focus on the partnership between CGIS and prosecutors, highlighting strategies to provide victim-centered support throughout the process. The presenter(s) will provide insight into practices that uphold victims' rights and foster trust while advancing justice.

## **From the Street, for the Street: Trafficking Through the Lens of Lived Experience**

**Rachel Fischer**

Trauma-informed and survivor-informed care are essential for achieving successful outcomes when addressing sex trafficking. Insights from a survivor who is now a forensic nurse and private investigator working undercover with traffickers and victims, both domestically and internationally, will offer a unique perspective for attendees. This workshop will analyze the language and secrets of the "life" to build rapport with trafficked victims, saving time in the investigative process. The presenter(s) will discuss digital trends involving children and sexual exploitation, symptomatic interview techniques to gather more effective intelligence, and terminology commonly used by pimps and victims. Advocacy strategies from a survivor's perspective will be highlighted, along with the

intersection of domestic violence, sexual assault, strangulation, and sex trafficking. These connections are crucial for prosecutions and lifesaving interventions.

### **From Torment to Murder: Federal Tools for Prosecuting Domestic Violence**

**Andrew Howard, Callie Woolam**

In seeking justice for victims and survivors of gender-based violence, there are often opportunities to prosecute these crimes at the federal level. However, local and state law enforcement and attorneys may not always be aware of the options available for pursuing federal charges. This workshop is designed to help investigators, prosecutors, and other professionals recognize when a case may be suitable for federal prosecution, the key questions to ask, and the types of evidence needed to better prepare a case for federal court. The presenter(s) will provide an in-depth review of federal cyberstalking and domestic violence statutes, including real case examples involving serious facts and even murder. Both worst-case scenarios and best-practice strategies, along with lessons learned, will also be discussed.

### **Harm in the Digital Age: Exploration of Dating Apps & Sexual Assault Exploitation**

**Kathryn Kosmides, Julie Valentine**

Dating apps have transformed the dynamics of connecting with potential romantic or sexual partners, becoming the most common way to form relationships. However, growing concerns about dating app-facilitated sexual assault (DAppSA) and exploitation have emerged in media reports, police investigations, and research. These platforms have also introduced challenges such as the phenomenon of serial perpetration and unique characteristics of both perpetrators and victims. This workshop will present national and international data on the prevalence of DAppSA, drawing on research findings and case studies. The presenter(s) will educate attendees about current strategies and future possibilities for mitigating harm, including the role of legislation, multidisciplinary practice approaches, and technology-driven solutions like artificial intelligence to detect violent predators. Survivor services tailored to DAppSA will also be discussed. Addressing DAppSA is critical for enhancing public health and safety, and this workshop will provide key stakeholders with knowledge and tools to prevent sexual violence and support survivors in the digital age.

### **Healing Our Community: Working with Men who have Caused Harm**

**Kimya Motley, Anthony Porter**

Eradicating violence against women and girls requires the involvement of everyone. As we continue to advance the movement to end violence against women and girls, we must begin to discuss the healing of our communities. This requires us to be invested in the health and well-being of men. This includes addressing the challenging but important work of engaging with men who have caused harm, while also holding them accountable

for their behavior. As difficult as it may be, an advocacy lens must advance and grow to encompass working with men. In addition, it must include the complexity of engaging ALL male-identified individuals by working with those who have caused and those who have experienced harm. This panel discussion will explore men's intergenerational trauma and pathology and how that often plays a role in their harmful behaviors. The presenter(s) of this workshop will address the collective socialization of manhood and how it can help in understanding men's mental health, and trauma as well as examine how communities can practice restorative justice with men who have caused harm. This practice includes approaches to accountability, healing, and welcoming back into communities in a way that prioritizes the safety of women and girls.

**"He Loves Me Not": Grooming Tactics by Killers & Non-Lethal Intimate Partner Abusers**  
**David Adams**

**The Hidden Cost of Heroism: PTSD & Suicide Prevention for Responders**  
**Jason Long**

This workshop will focus on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and the significance of good mental health among telecommunicators and responders. The presenter(s) will examine strategies for managing PTSD throughout one's career, as well as identifying signs of possible suicide within a network of responders and co-workers.

**The Hidden Faces of Human Trafficking: Expanding the Narrative & Empowering Survivors**  
**Hillary Walsh**

Human trafficking isn't confined to dramatic depictions of abductions or far-flung crime syndicates—it's often far closer to home. Trafficking happens behind closed doors, where spouses force their partners into domestic servitude. It happens in kitchens, where undocumented workers labor under threats of deportation for little or no pay. It happens to nannies caring for children, unable to leave because their documents are withheld or their freedom restricted. Together, society can move beyond stereotypes, amplify the voices of those trapped in hidden servitude, and ensure that every survivor knows there is a path to safety, justice, and hope. This workshop challenges society's narrow understanding of human trafficking, revealing the everyday exploitation hiding in plain sight. The presenter(s) will shed light on how trafficking manifests in homes and workplaces across the U.S. Using real-life examples, the transformative power of T visas, U visas, and VAWA—three underutilized legal pathways that help survivors regain their freedom and build secure futures—will be discussed. Additionally, this workshop is designed for attendees to walk away with a redefined understanding of trafficking and practical knowledge to advocate for survivors effectively. Together, we can move beyond



stereotypes, amplify the voices of those trapped in hidden servitude, and ensure that every survivor knows there is a path to safety, justice, and hope.

## **Hiding Behind Jurisdictional Complexities: The Convergence of Human Trafficking & the Tribal Community**

**Ben Greer**

Native Americans are a profoundly strong and proud, however insular, people. This isolation, coupled with multi-jurisdictional complexities, heightens their vulnerability to human trafficking, one of the most profitable and fastest growing humanitarian crimes today. An emerging body of research indicates Native Americans face a confluence of victimization, oppression, and poverty, making them particularly susceptible to this modern-day form of slavery. While human trafficking is both a state and federal crime, questions arise as to who has the jurisdiction to investigate and prosecute traffickers operating on tribal lands. To operate effectively, tribal, local, state, and federal authorities must each understand the joint and concurrent criminal jurisdiction they possess. The detection and prosecution of trafficking in Indian country has been generally ineffective, due in large part to underfunded law enforcement, education, and training. This situation has created the potential for a de facto haven for traffickers, allowing traffickers to operate with little concern of detection or prosecution. This workshop will discuss current understanding of the trafficking/Indian country nexus; historical understanding of exploitation in Indian Country; Public Law 280 and its legal application; collaborative efforts in a multidisciplinary multijurisdictional Task Force Model; and domestic and international efforts to investigate Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Men (MMIW+).

## **Hidden in Plain Sight: Victims & Perpetrators of Labor Trafficking**

**Kirsta Melton**

Labor trafficking affects adults and children from diverse backgrounds, compelling them to work in industries such as agriculture, massage, drug trafficking, hospitality, landscaping, domestic servitude, construction, and even teaching, under the force, fraud, and coercion of traffickers. These hidden networks of perpetrators thrive by exploiting systemic failures and the intersectional vulnerabilities of victims, including race, ethnicity, and gender. Addressing labor trafficking requires confronting historical and ongoing patterns of exploitation while focusing on the inherent value of people rather than the profits they generate. This workshop will examine criminal and civil cases to uncover the recruitment methodologies of traffickers, the disguises perpetrators use, and their exploitation of system failures, including the opacity of international financial systems. The presenter(s) will provide insight into the unique dangers faced by female workers in exploitative labor environments and explore strategies for identifying victims who may avoid engaging with systems they distrust. The workshop will also provide a fresh perspective on building resilient cases with trial-ready evidence of force, fraud, and coercion.

## **CASE STUDY: Hit & Run or First Degree Murder?**

**Monica Timmerman**

The investigation and prosecution of Toneshia Hardeman's murder relied heavily on technology to bring her killer, estranged boyfriend Michael Lurry, to justice. A largely circumstantial case, investigators and prosecutors were able to link Lurry to her murder through the use of surveillance video, dash cam footage, and DNA analysis. Had this crime occurred 25 years ago, it likely would have gone unsolved. However, with advancements in technology and their widespread use, Toneshia and her family were able to obtain the justice they deserved. The presenter(s) will provide illustrate to attendees on how to utilize technology to prove a circumstantial case, incorporate video into a jury trial, and discuss the benefits of body camera footage when there is no CSI investigation.

## **A Homicide Prevention Unit: A Unique Approach for Cops, Advocates, & Prosecutors to Improve DVHRT Outcomes**

**Steven Hughie, Julia Sweeney**

The Austin Police Department's Special Victims Intervention Unit (SVIU) is a victim-centered unit focused on protecting domestic violence and sexual assault survivors. Rooted in the Travis County Domestic Violence Homicide Review Team (DVHRT), the mission of the SVIU is to increase the safety of survivors and the public. This is achieved through collaboration with the Travis County DVHRT, a zero-tolerance stance on protective order violations, and deploying resources to ensure survivor safety. The SVIU provides services such as stalking and cyberstalking checks, home security installations, and offender apprehension, offering real-time responses with a range of tools. Additionally, the unit supports survivors throughout the criminal justice process, from initial reporting to prosecution. This workshop is designed for advocates, prosecutors, and law enforcement professionals seeking new, effective strategies to address domestic violence and sexual assault crimes, as well as reduce lethal intimate partner violence. Attendees will receive an introduction to the unit's work and its involvement with justice system agencies and advocacy groups. Through case studies, the presenter(s) will demonstrate the effectiveness of the unit's approach, covering policies, procedures, best practices, and how these contribute to the vision of homicide prevention.

## **CASE STUDY: Hospice Fraud: Death with Dollar Signs**

**Marty Basu, Donna Max, Michael McCaslin**

The hospice benefit under Medicare Part A is intended to provide a peaceful death to terminally ill patients. Unfortunately, for individuals caught in the web of Novus Healthcare, their lives became nothing more than dollar signs for the owners, doctors, nurses, and employees of the hospice company located in Frisco, Texas. As one Novus doctor texted the owner, "If we are going to be dirty, I want to be real dirty. This case study

will explore a vast criminal conspiracy that spanned four years, culminating in a five-week criminal trial resulting in 13 federal convictions, hundreds of victims, and a \$27 million fraud against the Medicare system. The owner of Novus, an accountant, took a mathematical approach to his hospice business: at times, he directed healthy patients to hospice services, and at others, he expedited the deaths of the most terminally ill. The primary focus was always the amount of money a patient could generate for the company, rather than the care provided to the alleged dying. The presenter(s) will examine how numerous doctors and nurses were willing to compromise their medical oaths for financial gain, including nurses fabricating medical records and doctors selling their signatures and prescribing authority for powerful narcotics to individuals who were not qualified. Additionally, the victimization of hundreds of vulnerable patients, highlighting the disturbing extent of this fraud will also be addressed.

### **How to Bury a Defendant Who Keeps Digging Deeper: Exploring Forfeiture by Wrongdoing**

**Donald Goodman, Joshua Steward**

The vast majority of domestic violence survivors become uncooperative with law enforcement and prosecutors to some degree during the pendency of a case. Most of the time, the recalcitrance of a survivor is due to the meddling of the abuser. When this meddling culminates in making the survivor unavailable for trial due to absence, feigned lack of memory, assertion of the 5th Amendment, or simple refusal to testify, the doctrine of forfeiture by wrongdoing can often be used to turn the tables on the meddling abuser. This workshop will highlight and provide advanced techniques to prosecutors, detectives, and responding officers on the basics of the doctrine of forfeiture by wrongdoing, its history, and how it can be used to prevail in some of the most difficult cases. The presenter(s) will educate attendees on how to build a forfeiture case at every step of the process from when the first officer responds to the middle of trial. The workshop will also offer practical guidance that can be used by all law enforcement officers and prosecutors to build better domestic violence cases and to salvage ones that seem utterly unwinnable.

### **How to Effectively Communicate with Survivors & Increase Participation**

**Ruth Guerreiro, Jordyn Lawson**

Have you ever found yourself feeling frustrated while working with a victim of domestic violence? Ever thought to yourself... "Why won't she listen?" It may feel taboo to say, but the truth is that we all feel frustrated at times. This workshop will discuss typical reactions from victims that may affect their ability and/or willingness to participate in the investigation, prosecution, or therapeutic process based on where they are at in the stages of change. The presenter(s) will also lay out practical ways to address these reactions and overcome barriers to communicate with victims of domestic violence more

effectively. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and practice effective phrasing and approaches using hypothetical scenarios.

### **How to Make Testifying a Healing Experience for the Survivor**

**Ruth Guerreiro, Jordyn Lawson**

Testifying in court can be revictimizing for a victim who has experienced physical or sexual abuse. This workshop will help attendees understand how trauma impacts the brain as well as other areas of functioning. It will explore ways to prepare the victim for a successful and healing experience on the witness stand, to benefit the victim rather than traumatize her further when her testimony in court is required.

### **[RESTRICTED] How to Work Aquatic Crimes Against Women Staged as Noncriminal Bathtub Deaths**

**Kenneth Rosgen, Shannon Shafer, Andrea Zaferes**

RESTRICTED TO: LAW ENFORCEMENT, PROSECUTORS, INVESTIGATORS, AND MEDICAL EXAMINERS (attendees who do not meet the qualifying professions criteria may not be able to attend or be refunded). When investigators respond to a crime scene involving water, several questions are inevitable... Is this an accidental drowning? Was she homicidally drowned? Is this a strangulation staged as a suicidal drowning? Or is this a postmortem body disposal? Just as fire investigators and crash reconstructionists need training to recognize, identify, document, and investigate their respective scenes, anyone working cases involving pools or open water scenes need training on the realities of what happens to living and dead bodies in water. This includes the drowning process, how to determine truthfulness and deception during interviews, processing aquatic scenes, recovering small submerged evidence, packaging submerged bodies, processing submerged evidence for prints and DNA, and more. This interactive session provides hands-on skill practical drills that include optional in-water experiences and is valuable for law enforcement, CSI's, aquatic first responders, prosecutors, and anyone who would work aquatic crimes against women cases. \$20.00 pre-registration is required.

### **Human Trafficking, Forced Criminality, & Justice-involved Folks**

**Sharon Sullivan**

Forced criminality, or criminal exploitation, is recognized as a form of labor trafficking in the law, but is only beginning to be recognized/identified in the justice system in very limited ways. As society continues to incarcerate victimized and vulnerable people, service providers and practitioners must understand the coercive element of forced criminality. Additionally, every time a victimized person is incarcerated, the traffickers abuse of the legal system is reinforced thereby making justice-involved people become ever more vulnerable to exploitation and subsequent recidivism. The presenter(s) of this

workshop will educate attendees on how to identify elements of labor trafficking-forced criminality (LTFC), describe the vulnerabilities of justice-involved people while incarcerated and after release, and share strategies on how to advocate for best practices to address LTFC at various systems levels.

### **Identity Theft as a Secondary Crime**

#### **Mona Terry**

Identity theft can have devastating consequences for victims, often preventing them from moving forward with their lives. In the context of domestic violence (DV) and trafficking, identity theft is frequently used as a secondary crime to further exploit and manipulate survivors. Survivors of DV and trafficking often report that their abusers steal personal information to open fraudulent accounts or make unauthorized purchases. In some cases, the abuser may use the survivor's identity to access government benefits or commit tax fraud. The presenter(s) will guide attendees through the basics of identity theft, including how it occurs and the common types reported by survivors of DV and trafficking. How to recognize identity theft, steps to take if they suspect they are victims, and proactive measures to protect their personal information will also be discussed.

### **The Illusion of Consent**

#### **Gerald Fineman**

It is often believed that strangulation and sex occurred only on the fringes of society, in deep dark places. With the proliferation of pornography, strangulation has now become a part of mainstream sex practices, especially amongst younger populations. Popular magazines tout "breath play" as a potential means of spicing up the bedroom. In reality, breath play is death play, with dire consequences for all involved. Even more disturbing is the trend for abusers to try and avoid prosecution for strangulation, claiming the victim "consented" to the activity. This workshop will focus on the dangers of breath play. The presenter(s) will educate attendees on how to evaluate situations to distinguish between agreed upon acts and abusive conduct. The legal limits of consent and application to civil and criminal prosecutions and examples of how to educate survivors, juries, and the public will also be discussed.

### **The Impact of 911: Analyzing 911 Calls & Assessing Admissibility**

#### **Laura Gorman, Kimberly Orts**

Most violent crime investigations begin with a 911 call, but the recordings of these calls are often overlooked or undervalued, resulting in the loss of critical evidence. This oversight can hinder prosecution efforts and have catastrophic effects on a case. The presenter(s) will examine common types of 911 calls, including those from victims, abusers, welfare checks from family or friends, and third-party witnesses. They will also

cover flag-downs and situations where officers are direct witnesses. Through real-life cases, the presenter(s) will guide attendees in breaking down and evaluating the dynamics of each category, highlighting specific factors that can aid investigations, inform arrest decisions, guide prosecution efforts, and help develop pre-trial and trial strategies. The presenter(s) will review admissibility considerations under the Texas Rules of Evidence, the Confrontation Clause, and Crawford v. Washington, as well as discuss responses to objections. Additionally, they will offer insight into how 911 calls can support evidence-based prosecutions, even when survivor participation is limited or absent.

### **“I’m Just a Bill”: The Importance of Developing a Human Trafficking Policy Framework**

**Kirsta Melton**

Effectively combating human trafficking requires a multifaceted approach, including robust enforcement efforts, comprehensive victim services, wide-ranging prevention programs, cultural analysis and change strategies, and a policy framework to provide authority, funding, and structure for these initiatives. Without the expertise, vision, and practical knowledge of those working directly against trafficking, the quality and effectiveness of legislative efforts can suffer, impacting the overall fight against trafficking. This workshop will emphasize the importance of a long-term legislative strategy to address all aspects of trafficking and the need for collaborative mechanisms in statute to support future legislative efforts. The presenter(s) will educate attendees on how to analyze, prioritize, and contextualize legislative needs; cultivate statewide partnerships; avoid unintended consequences; recruit champions for the cause; anticipate implementation challenges; and build a legal framework that ensures anti-trafficking initiatives are both sustainable and successful.

### **The Importance of Body Sovereignty During Medical Forensic Examinations in Indian Country & Beyond**

**Kelsey Morris, Chenel VandenBerk**

The medical forensic exam requires individuals to entrust their bodies to a clinician for assistance after experiencing physical or sexual violence. This process can be challenging without an environment of trust and safety. When conducted properly, the medical forensic exam can empower patients by offering them a way to regain control over their bodies. For those who have experienced interpersonal violence, particularly American Indian/Alaska Native individuals, a trained clinician can make the exam process empowering. The focus on giving patients control over their bodies is embedded throughout the medical forensic exam, a practice that holds particular significance for American Indian/Alaska Native individuals. National guidance documents, such as the National Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations (Adult/Adolescents), emphasize that care for patients who have experienced sexual violence should shift the power dynamic from the clinician as the healer to the patient, the one in need of healing.

The presenter(s) of this workshop will highlight the concept of body sovereignty during a medical forensic exam that could extend beyond American Indian/Alaska Native individuals to anyone reclaiming their power after experiencing sexual or physical violence. Areas of the medical forensic exam process that foster body sovereignty will also be discussed and strategies for empowering patients to utilize the concept of body sovereignty in process of their own healing and care will be provided.

### **In Her Shoes (Interactive)**

**Ruth Guerreiro, Jordyn Lawson**

### **Investigative Genetic Genealogy**

**Randy White**

### **Investigative Insights into the Apple & Android Ecosystems: Tracking & Data Protection Challenges in Stalking, Domestic Violence, & Sexual Assault Cases** **Chuck Cohen, Jennifer Landhuis**

Bluetooth Low Energy and Ultra-Wideband geolocation technology in Apple devices like AirTags™ and CarTags™, as well as Google's recently enhanced "Find My Device" network, are influencing real-time tracking of victims or offenders. The investigative impact of iCloud Private Relay™, can hinder efforts to trace online activity and expose abusive behaviors. This workshop will provide critical insights into how both Apple and Android ecosystems are shaping investigations into domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault. The presenter(s) will explore the complexities introduced by Apple's Advanced Data Protection and similar Android encryption when accessing cloud data vital to these sensitive cases.

### **CASE STUDY: Investigating & Prosecuting Scammers who Target Elderly Women in their Homes**

**Jeanne Canavan**

This workshop will focus on three cases where women over the age of 65 were approached in their homes. One case involved the "grandparent scam," the second was a lawn service scam, and the third case was an "I'm your neighbor" scam. These three women lost tens of thousands of dollars and in the aftermath of these crimes, each woman confronted the possibility that she might have to move out of her home to protect herself - and her assets - in the future. The presenter(s) will explore how the police investigated and arrested the suspects, how the district attorney's office built on the investigations to prepare the case for trial, the role that bank personnel played in assisting the victims, and how the victim advocate assisted each victim and her family during the prosecution of these cases.

## **The Invisible & Unrecognized Domestic Violence- The Traumatic Brain Injury Epidemic: How to Support the Resilience & Healing of Victims & Survivors**

**María Garay-Serratos**

There is a silent and unrecognized domestic violence-traumatic brain injury (DV-TBI) epidemic in the U.S. with much more to be learned about how to support potential DV-TBI victims and survivors and collaborate to address this epidemic together. Furthermore, health disparities in DV-TBI are rampant and are not being adequately addressed due to the paucity of knowledge among service providers and practitioners to address this pervasive issue. The presenter(s) of this workshop will provide an overview on DV prevalence and relevant trends, DV-TBI statistics, symptoms, short-term and long-term consequences such as progressive neurodegenerative diseases including Alzheimer's disease and chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), comorbidities and co-occurring disorders, health disparities, latest brain science research, and treatments. The workshop will also focus on how to support the resilience and healing of potential DV-TBI victims and survivors and how to address the DV-TBI epidemic in a collaborative community-based approach. Additionally, the presenter(s) will share specific aspects of their personal DV-TBI and DV-CTE story and show selective clips of This Hits Home (the DV-TBI/CTE documentary released in 2023) to highlight key points, solicit participation and discussion, and facilitate breakout groups.

## **"I Said Rape, You Wrote Sexual Intercourse": Understanding the Complexities of Report Writing**

**Lauren Dennis, Rob Fanelli**

Bias, frustration, and speculation can unintentionally affect reports for gender-based violence, negatively impacting victims, the case, officers, agencies, and communities. Understanding trauma and its influence on public perception can guide law enforcement in writing more effective reports. Using language that accurately captures the victim's experience, while detailing suspect actions and investigative steps, is essential for victim safety, promoting healing, building public trust, and supporting successful prosecution. In this interactive workshop, the presenter(s) will educate attendees on how to identify trauma and articulate it in reports. The presenter(s) will also conduct mock interviews, explore trauma-informed practices, and engage in facilitated discussions about report narratives. Additionally, attendees will take part in small-group activities to apply best practices and identify areas for improving reports. The presenter(s) will lead discussions on effective and accurate trauma-informed report writing to enhance victim empowerment, safety, and healing.



## **Is Your Agency Prepared? Creating a Culture of Zero Tolerance for Police-Perpetrated Domestic Violence from Hire to Retire**

**John Guard, Chad Janis, Mark Wynn**

Domestic violence in the homes and relationships of law enforcement agency members is a reality, with incidents of violence in law enforcement families mirroring those in the general population. Distinct aspects of law enforcement culture may create an environment where domestic violence thrives and remains hidden. This panel discussion will explore lessons learned from recent cases, successful practices, and promising agency efforts to hold offenders accountable while supporting victims of these complex crimes. The presenter(s) will discuss agency policies, comprehensive training, effective leadership, and family and victim support strategies that agencies can implement to enhance officer health and wellness, while building trust within the agency and the community.

## **"I Take it Back": Investigating Recantations in Pursuit of True Justice**

**Russell Strand**

Recantation by a victim can significantly impact the outcome of an investigation or prosecution. Often, a recantation leads to the closure of an investigation, refusal to prosecute, or, in some cases, the filing of false complaint charges against the complainant—despite the fact that these outcomes may not always be warranted. The consequences of making case determinations based solely on recantations are far-reaching, affecting not only the reported victim and perpetrator, but also potential future victims and society as a whole. Furthermore, improper determinations can have devastating effects and undermine confidence in the criminal justice system. While some recantations result from false reports, many are due to complex reasons that victims face in the aftermath of trauma. Therefore, it is crucial that all recantations be thoroughly investigated to determine their validity. This workshop will provide guidance for decision-makers, first responders, investigators, prosecutors, victim advocates, and other multidisciplinary professionals in understanding the dynamics surrounding recantations, ensuring that investigations are handled with care, sensitivity, and accuracy.

## **It Ends with Us: Media's Portrayal of DV, Intergenerational Trauma, & Relationships**

**Heena Khan**

This workshop will critically examine how Hollywood and media shape public perceptions of domestic violence and the complex dynamics of intergenerational trauma. Through an analysis of this popular film, the presenter(s) will explore the narratives presented and their impact on societal attitudes and individual experiences. By distinguishing between truth and misleading portrayals, the workshop aims to empower therapists with a deeper understanding of these issues through a thought-provoking discussion that encourages

critical thinking about the media we consume and its implications for mental health and healing in the community.

### **It Starts at the Top: First Line Supervisors' Response to Gender-based Violence** **Mark Wynn**

Supervisors and those responsible for overseeing first responders and investigators face unique challenges in addressing gender-based violence crimes such as sexual assault, domestic violence (DV), and stalking. Therefore, it is important that these specialized service providers are able to convene in a space that cultivate opportunities for networking with colleagues, sharing those challenges and devising potential solutions, and strengthening their leadership skills for effectively addressing gender-based violence as well as improving officer responses. This workshop will explore current approaches for responding to and investigating these crimes, emphasizing the recognition of cultural influences on law enforcement responses. The presenter(s) will provide practical strategies to maximize supervisory efforts, manage civil liability, address officer-involved domestic and sexual violence, and enhance officer safety when responding to the most dangerous calls.

### **It Takes a Village: The Importance of Stalking Victim Safety Planning from Investigation through Adjudication** **Lauren Dennis, Jennifer Landhuis**

Stalking cases often involve long investigation and prosecution phases, during which victims face an increased risk of harm. Safety planning is crucial before, during, and after a case is investigated and adjudicated. This workshop will use a real case scenario to explore effective safety planning strategies. The case involves a 12-month stalking investigation where the offender was arrested twice, violated a civil protection order numerous times, and was ultimately prosecuted. The presenter(s) will share lessons learned and highlight how law enforcement, prosecutors, and advocates can work together to improve safety for stalking victims while holding offenders accountable

### **It's Complicated!: Identifying & Understanding Gender Bias within Policing** **Rob Fanelli, Chanel Smith**

According to the U.S. DoJ, gender bias is a form of discrimination that can lead to law enforcement providing less protection to certain victims based on gender, failing to respond to crimes that disproportionately affect a particular gender, or offering fewer services due to reliance on gender stereotypes. Effectively responding to and investigating sexual assault and intimate partner violence can be challenging for law enforcement. Implicit and explicit bias only add to these challenges by discouraging victim engagement, creating obstacles in investigations, undermining public trust, and failing to hold offenders accountable. This workshop will address the negative consequences of gender-biased policing and the practices rooted in gender stereotypes. The presenter(s)

will examine the complexities of gender bias in law enforcement and present strategies for agencies to assess and recognize signs of gender bias in law enforcement responses and work to overcome these biases. The importance of implementing clear, up-to-date policies and practices, conducting comprehensive training, and establishing accountability systems will also be discussed.

### **It's More Than Physical Skills! Prevent, Respond, & Heal with Empowerment-based Self-defense**

**Nicole Snell**

Empowerment-based self-defense (EBSO) is a combination of verbal and physical techniques that have been shown to increase confidence, lessen PTSD symptoms, and reduce violence by up to 50%. EBSO is one of many violence prevention solutions with a strong body of peer-reviewed research compiled over 40+ years that supports the efficacy of EBSO education for preventing violence against women. Despite its documented effectiveness, many advocates are unfamiliar with its benefits which potentially deny women access to all available options so they can live with more freedom, autonomy, and confidence. This interactive workshop is designed to highlight the effectiveness of EBSO, debunk common myths, understand how it supports survivor healing, discuss research methodology, and address fallacies that contribute to the aversion to resistance education. The presenter(s) will reference her own personal survivor stories, her article in the Sexual Assault Report, and will expand on how "self-defense" encompasses more than a physical response to a violent situation. basic empowerment strategies including setting boundaries, using your voice, verbal de-escalation, and simple physical techniques that participants are welcome to practice will also be discussed.

### **It's NOT All On Us! Exploring Collaboration Approaches**

**Justin Boardman, Cheyenne Wilson**

Ending violence against women is a collaborative effort that requires a multi-faceted and multi-disciplined approach. One of the biggest challenges encountered is maintaining survivor engagement from the initial report all the way through to court proceedings. Far too often, survivors disengage from the process, leading to a loss of justice for them and increased frustration and burnout for the professionals who are dedicated to supporting them. This workshop will aim to address the critical issues of increasing survivor participation, improving procedural justice for survivors, and supporting/reducing burnout among professionals. The presenter(s) will share unique perspectives on providing comprehensive support and resources to survivors, review both new and older resources, and interact with attendees to brainstorm additional resources.

## **"It's NOT He Said She Said!" A Practical Guide for Prosecutors to Successfully Prosecute Intimate Partner Violence Cases**

**Laura Gorman, Sarah Moore**

Prosecutors are often told they will be unsuccessful with a case because it's "just he said, she said." This statement, made by defense attorneys, victims, law enforcement officers, and even other prosecutors, is misleading and incorrect. This workshop is designed to provide practical, hands-on guidance with sample forms, templates, organizational techniques, and checklists to help achieve favorable dispositions. The presenter(s) will provide real-world strategies, tips, and tools to challenge the misconception that any case is merely "he said, she said." The first part of the workshop will focus on everything that happens pre-trial, from charging strategies to an in-depth discussion on building the case itself. Topics will include evidence checklists, evaluating case strength, preparing for pre-trial hearings, subpoenaing witnesses, and general preparatory tips. The second part of the workshop will concentrate on trial strategies, with suggestions to improve jury selection, trial presentation, and punishment phases. presenter(s) will offer strategies on witness order, evidence admission, using the rules of evidence to the State's advantage, handling forfeiture hearings, rebutting defense objections, and managing unexpected scenarios.

## **Justice for Criminalized Survivors of Gender Violence**

**Demetrece Lopez**

Not only do many victims and survivors endure complex and often over-looked experiences of gender-based violence, they also find themselves criminalized by the very system that should offer protection. Unfortunately, many survivors are frequently charged with crimes as a result of their victimization with many of their unique struggles being misunderstood. This workshop is designed to examine the legal challenges faced by survivors as they navigate the justice system. Topics covered will include the criminalization of self-defense in abusive relationships, the prosecution of survivors for crimes committed as a result of their victimization, and the barriers to accessing justice, such as lack of trauma informed legal representation and systemic bias. The presenter(s) will also explore potential reforms aimed at creating a more equitable and compassionate legal system for those affected by gender violence.

## **Language, Abilities & Trauma: How to Build Trust with Immigrant Survivors**

**Elisabeth Swim**

When a person faces harm from multiple family or community members, social pressures to remain silent or stay with those causing harm can isolate survivors in debilitating ways. For these individuals, trust in sources of help can feel nearly impossible. Furthermore, immigrant survivors, survivors with disabilities, and those dealing with ongoing trauma face additional barriers to seeking support from existing systems. This workshop will explore a client-focused approach to sharing the Cycle of Abuse, alongside inclusive

education on issues such as head injuries. The presenter(s) will demonstrate how to model choice, autonomy, and compassion when providing direct services to include healing-centered engagement that support victims or survivors who may be ambivalent about leaving, preparing them to reach out when they are ready to seek help. The presenter(s) will also share insights from work with individuals at risk of irreparable harm.

### **Lap Cloths & Loose Clothing: Addressing Sexual Violence in the Black Church** **Q. Olivia Rivers**

The church has been a cornerstone of the Black community in the United States since slavery, playing a vital role in social, cultural, political, and spiritual life. Its significance in the lives of African Americans extends beyond a religious haven. However, when the church becomes an abuser to its congregants, the impact can be devastating and have far-reaching consequences. This workshop will address the critical issue of sexual abuse and violence within the Black church. The presenter(s) will explore the complex intersections of culture, history, and religion that create barriers for survivors seeking help, as well as the role the church can play in both perpetuating and preventing abuse. Emphasizing practical solutions, the workshop is designed to equip church leaders, community members, and allies with the tools to create a safe, healing environment for survivors and foster a culture of accountability, transparency, and care.

### **Legal Jiu-Jitsu: Combatting Witness Intimidation in Human Trafficking Cases** **Jane Anderson**

Human trafficking often morphs into witness intimidation once investigations and prosecutions are initiated. In collaboration with law enforcement and victim services, prosecutors can both support victim participation and identify evidence that can be used against traffickers to strengthen cases of sex and labor trafficking. This workshop adheres to the core philosophy of jiu-jitsu which is to use the opponent's force against themselves. When combating witness intimidation in tandem with human trafficking, prosecutors and law enforcement can take one of the most pervasive tools used by traffickers to quiet their victims to instead, bring the victim's voice into court via forfeiture by wrongdoing. The presenter(s) will discuss strategies to protect victims and strategies to bring their voices into the courtroom when traffickers have relied on witness intimidation to prevent them from testifying.

### **Let's See the Signs! Educating Judges & Juries About Victim Behavior in Human Trafficking Cases** **Miiko Anderson**

Public perceptions of how victims should respond to physical and emotional trauma often conflict with the way victims actually behave, particularly in human trafficking cases where perpetrators exert emotional control over their victims. These misconceptions can severely affect the fact finders' assessment of victim credibility and ultimate case

outcome. Experienced professionals familiar with victim behavior understand that victims have individual responses to trauma that are often counter to public expectations, but may be unable or unsure of how to explain this to the jury. Introducing expert testimony to explain victim behavior is a way to dispel myths and assist the jury to make an informed decision based on the evidence. The presenter(s) of this workshop will describe common victim behaviors and dynamics in human trafficking cases, as well as their impact on fact finders' assessments of victim credibility. Additionally, the presenter(s) will summarize the law related to the introduction of expert testimony by the prosecution to explain victim behavior and identify experts qualified to testify on this issue. How to identify ways to work with experts to prepare a case for trial even if the testimony will not be introduced will also be discussed.

### **Leveraging Relationships to Save Lives: Creating a Successful Domestic Violence High Risk Team**

**Sarah Galgano, Brandon Wootan**

Implementation of a DVHRT typically begins with the shared vision of reducing information silos to create a better response to intimate partner violence. However, breaking down silos across domestic violence system stakeholders can be complicated and requires more than just initial momentum among stakeholders, it requires intentional outreach & thoughtful planning. This workshop will highlight the critical components of successful DVHRT implementation and operation. The DVHRT Model, created by the Geiger Institute in 2004, is an innovative strategy designed to prevent intimate partner violence related homicides. The Model incorporates evidence-based risk assessment to identify the most dangerous cases. Topics will include gaining leadership buy-in for implementation, building relationships with DV system stakeholders and other community partners, ensuring operational processes are in place to set the team up for success, and planning for sustainability. The presenter(s) will share an intentional approach to DVHRT implementation and how to keep the focus on a victim-centered community response when the going gets tough.

### **Let's Talk About Sext: Technology Facilitated Sexual Violence**

**Q. Olivia Rivers**

Social media has revolutionized how teens and young adults share information, form relationships, and engage with communities. Designed to connect people through instant communication, it provides access to knowledge at their fingertips. However, the online space also has a dark side. Predators exploit digital platforms and apps as tools to groom and perpetrate violence, impacting young people during their most formative years. This workshop will explore the correlation between social media and sexual violence, highlighting how technology is weaponized to harm. The presenter(s) will offer strategies to support advocacy work, respond to technology-assisted violence, and implement resources that advance prevention efforts in both professional and personal contexts.

## **LGBTQIA Are Not Just Letters of the Alphabet**

### **Sabrina Blevins**

Intimate partner violence is present in every community although unfortunately many times it goes unreported in the LGBTQIA+ community for a myriad of reasons. This workshop is designed to educate individuals on the barriers the LGBTQIA+ community faces when reporting violence as well as ways to build rapport in order to better serve the community. The presenter(s) will cover common terminology, pronoun use, barriers to reporting and simple things one can do that can make all the difference in ensuring a positive interaction with a survivor of intimate partner violence within the LGBTQIA+ community.

## **A Love Like "You": The Glamorization of Violence in Pop Culture**

### **Q. Olivia Rivers**

Inspired by the hit Netflix series, "You", this workshop explores the media's influence on glamorizing stalking, possessive behavior, and violence as forms of love or passion, as well as the psychological impact of these portrayals on young audiences navigating real-life relationships. The presenter(s) will engage attendees through media clips, group discussions, role-play scenarios on navigating conversations about healthy relationships, and collaborative brainstorming of resources and strategies to bring back to their work environments.

## **Mastering Meetings: Best Practices for Leading DVHRT & Other Multi-Disciplinary Team Collaboration**

### **Sarah Galgano, Alicia Nuzzie**

Effective management of a Domestic Violence High-Risk Team (DVHRT) is crucial for increasing collaboration among stakeholders, fostering trust, and working effectively to serve victims in high-risk cases. The DVHRT Model, created by the Geiger Institute in 2004, is an innovative strategy designed to prevent intimate partner violence-related homicides. This evidence-based approach integrates risk assessment into a community's domestic violence response system, identifying and intervening in the most dangerous cases. These cases are monitored by a multidisciplinary team that shares case information and implements coordinated intervention plans, enhancing survivor safety and offender accountability. Real-world examples from the Pasadena, TX DVHRT will illustrate how multidisciplinary teams can develop survivor-focused intervention plans without compromising confidentiality. This panel discussion will explore the typical members of a DVHRT, the information they contribute, and methods to improve communication between meetings. The presenter(s) will also share best practices for structuring, preparing for, and leading team discussions, maximizing collaboration, and building trust among team members. While the presentation centers on the DVHRT model, the strategies and examples can be applied to other multidisciplinary team approaches.

## **Medical Forensic Exam 101: What the Forensic Nurse Wants You to Know**

**Laci Smith**

Regardless of their discipline, all professionals involved in responding to crimes involving sexual violence should understand the basic components of the medical forensic exam and be able to confidently communicate the importance of medical forensic care to victims. In this workshop, the presenter(s) will provide a comprehensive overview of the medical forensic exam to equip law enforcement, attorneys, advocates, and other professionals with the information needed to enhance victim services. Real-life scenarios to provide professionals with critical information to enhance collaboration, improve the coordinated community response to sexual assault and intimate partner violence, and positively impact outcomes for victims will also be discussed.

## **CASE STUDY: Military, Motherhood, & Murder of Tiffany Hill: Discussing the Important Need for Notification**

**Lauren Boyd, Tanya Wollstein**

Tiffany Hill was a Marine, a mother, and a victim of domestic violence. For many years, she endured abuse at the hands of her husband, Keland Hill. On September 11, 2019, Keland was arrested after assaulting Tiffany. Afterwards, she made the difficult decision to leave him, reporting his abuse, stalking, and violations of a protection order. Despite multiple arrests and an attempt to purchase a firearm, Keland ultimately murdered Tiffany in the parking lot of their children's school, also shooting her mother in the process. Following Tiffany's tragic murder, new legislation was passed in her name, allowing judges to order electronic monitoring with victim notification. The presenter(s) of this case study will breakdown Tiffany's story and the investigation into Keland's crimes to highlight the challenges of multi-jurisdictional cases, the importance of lethality assessments, and the role of technology, such as electronic monitoring with victim notification in keeping victims safe.

## **Motivational Interviewing**

**Kate Watson**

## **CASE STUDY: Murder Through the Eyes of the Experts: Telling a Tale of Terror**

**Travis Danielsen, Kerri New**

Corey Griffin, who worked in the oil fields of West Texas and was away from home for weeks at a time, used fear, humiliation, and violence to control his wife from halfway across Texas. In their almost 20-year relationship, Chelsie Griffin had endured so much but never uttered a single word to friends, family, or the police. When Chelsie filed for divorce in December of 2022, what followed was straight out of the DV handbook. Corey tried to manipulate Chelsie into reconciling. When that didn't work, he started a campaign of terror: harassing and threatening Chelsie, using the children against her, and even threatening to kill himself. When Chelsie still stood her ground, Corey got in his truck and



headed straight for her home in Royse City; a 456-mile drive that would end with Chelsie dead and Corey in custody. The presenter(s) of this case study will discuss how the prosecution and trial of this case hinged on digital evidence, forensic pathology, and subject matter expertise and how the utilization of experts helped fill in the blanks of Chelsie Griffin's life and death.

## **Narcissism & Understanding Domestic & Gender-based Violence**

### **Ramani Durvasula**

Narcissism is often portrayed and misunderstood as superficial vanity and attention seeking, as well as mere egocentricity and selfishness. While these are elements of narcissism, the key pillars of narcissism - lack of empathy, entitlement, grandiosity, arrogance, impulsivity, poor frustration tolerance often manifested as rage, emotional dysregulation, incapacity for taking responsibility, and a propensity to emotional manipulation, exploitation, control and coercion - reveal a behavioral, cognitive, emotional and characterological pattern that is associated with a greater likelihood of physically and psychologically abusing partners and other people close to them. Many clinicians are not adequately trained in personality patterns such as narcissism, which can often leave a "hole" in our understanding of these patterns of violence and abuse. As the word "narcissism" enters the conversation, lack of understanding about this term can result in missed opportunities for psychoeducation of women at risk, families, law enforcement, judicial institutions, and policy makers which can better inform realistic prevention and intervention. Furthermore, current models of family-based violence and gender-based violence do not account for narcissism and its associated patterns which is a significant omission. The presenter(s) of this workshop will clarify exactly what narcissism is, what it means clinically, and how this pattern is central to understanding domestic abuse and gender-based violence in all forms.

## **Navigating Challenges: Effective Approaches to Working with Difficult Probation Clients within a Gender-based Violence Scope**

### **Susan Boyle, Carolina Frane**

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, probation clients who commit gender-based violent offenses have garnered increased attention from professionals in the criminal justice system. These clients often face multiple challenges due to complex histories of intimate partner violence, other legal issues, addictions, and mental health conditions, among others. This workshop will provide probation officers and other stakeholders with innovative strategies and practical tools to effectively engage, retain, and support these probationers in their rehabilitation journey.

## **Navigating Emerging Forms of Technology-facilitated Violence**

**Adam Dodge**

The online spaces, apps, and devices used by victims often present emerging threats to their digital safety and well-being, including synthetic nude images, AI-powered catfishing scams, exploitative chatbots, nonconsensual tracking, image-based stalking, and more. To effectively protect victims today, it's crucial to understand how to prevent and address these modern threats. The good news is that you don't need to be a tech expert to take action. This workshop will conduct a comprehensive exploration of these digital challenges, with a focus on the impact on marginalized victims, and equip attendees with practical strategies to strengthen the emotional, physical, and digital safety of modern victims. The presenter(s) will provide actionable steps and tools to counter and prevent these emerging threats, fostering confidence in victims and survivors as they navigate the technology they need to survive and thrive.

## **Navigating Evidence Collection from Electronic Service Providers: A Crucial Guide for Domestic Violence, Stalking, & Sexual Assault Investigations**

**Chuck Cohen, Jennifer Lanhuis**

This workshop offers an in-depth exploration of how to effectively interact with Electronic Service Providers (ESPs) during investigations of domestic violence (DV), stalking, and sexual assault (SA). In many domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault cases, crucial digital evidence—such as communications, location data, or account activity—can be obtained from platforms like social media, cloud services, and messaging apps. However, collecting this evidence isn't always straightforward. Investigators must understand the critical nuances of properly serving legal process on these providers to avoid jeopardizing the case. A misstep in communication or legal service can compromise the entire investigation, delay justice, or even endanger the victim.

## **Not All Sugar is Sweet: Locating & Combatting Sex Trafficking on College Campuses**

**Faith Syfrett**

The issue of identifying high-risk students and providing them with resources is critical for universities, especially when addressing sex trafficking and exploitation. Identifying common areas where self-reporting occurs on campus and building trauma-informed faculty and staff who can effectively partner with law enforcement is essential for addressing this issue. The presenter(s) will discuss the best approaches for outreach on campus, including forming strategic partnerships, selecting the right venues for education, and the benefits of community policing in identifying trafficking survivors and ensuring successful prosecution of purchasers and traffickers. This workshop will cover prevention efforts through John operations and victim recovery operations, including successful case preparation. Two types of operations will be highlighted: one targeting sex purchasers, identifying individuals targeting college students, engaging in undercover chatting, and making arrests; the second focuses on recovering and locating high-risk students or those

actively involved in the sex trafficking industry. Known applications used by college students, such as Seeking Arrangements, Whisper, and dating apps, will also be explored. Following successful recovery, the presenter(s) will address how to provide necessary resources and build cases for prosecuting purchasers and traffickers.

### **Obstruction of Justice: Unveiling Witness Intimidation & Building a Coordinated Response to Support Victims**

**John Guard**

Witness intimidation in gender-based violence investigations is a pervasive and deeply concerning issue that undermines the pursuit of justice for survivors. Offenders often use a variety of coercive tactics to prevent victims from testifying or cooperating with authorities. These tactics may include threats of physical harm, psychological manipulation, stalking, and economic abuse, all designed to instill fear and silence survivors. The landmark Supreme Court case Crawford v. Washington has had significant implications for gender-based violence cases, particularly in relation to witness intimidation and the importance of survivors' testimony in court. This workshop will explore the connection between the Crawford decision and witness intimidation, emphasizing how the legal framework can both protect and, at times, inadvertently empower perpetrators. The presenter(s) will examine recent cases and the challenges that arise when survivors face intimidation aimed at keeping them silent. This workshop will also highlight the critical role law enforcement, legal professionals, and victim advocates play in safeguarding survivors' voices and ensuring their rights are protected.

### **Occupational Therapy & DV Advocacy**

**Ruth Guerreiro, Jan Langbein**

### **One Roll Call Training at a Time: Building Trauma-informed Agencies**

**Josh Bronson, Angela Weekes**

Time is short, resources are limited, and personnel are stretched thin, making gender-based violence (GBV) investigations complex and challenging. Law enforcement teams must stay up to date on policy, trends, and promising practices, while creating a culture that prioritizes an effective response to GBV. One solution is integrating comprehensive information into law enforcement roll calls and similar short timeslots, offering opportunities for continuous education, improved awareness, and consistent responses. Understanding the critical role first responders play, it is vital to provide trauma-informed, offender-focused responses. This workshop will be divided into two parts. In the first, the presenter(s) will explore the key benefits of roll call and short-time slot training, including how brief, regular sessions can enhance knowledge retention, foster a culture of accountability, and keep responders informed on evolving GBV practices. The presenter(s) will also discuss how to create an effective GBV roll call training plan. In the

second part, attendees will work in small groups to identify training topics, design a specific roll call training, and receive feedback from the group.

### **On the Front Lines: Prosecuting Strangulation in the Military**

**Jennifer Markowitz, Bridget Ryan**

This workshop will cover all of the unique aspects of prosecuting a strangulation in the military justice system from charging through trial. The presenters will also work through case studies to include best practices for utilizing expert witnesses at trial.

### **One Size Doesn't Fit All: Cultural Considerations when Working with African American Youth Survivors of Sex Trafficking**

**Rana Amini, Hanna Counter**

African Americans are 1.5 to 10 times more likely than other races to be confirmed sex-trafficking victims. This workshop is designed to provide a relevant and up-to-date understanding of the intersectionality of the increased victimization of African American girls within the realm of sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation and the role that systemic racism, poverty, and educational barriers play in contribution to this victimization. Moreover, the presenter(s) will discuss best practices for service providers to deliver adequate care to this population through the lens of intersectionality and cultural norms and ways in which to impact the trajectory of further victimization on a macro level.

### **Operation Nightmare: Proactive Undercover Operations in Human Trafficking within the BDSM Subculture**

**Jason Stewart**

The intersection of human trafficking and the BDSM subculture presents unique investigative challenges and complexities. Within this framework, traffickers exploit the dynamics of consent and control inherent to the BDSM community, often masking exploitative behavior under the guise of consensual practices. Members of the Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) led North Texas Trafficking Task Force (NTTTF) to uncover and address these hidden crimes. This workshop will highlight the efforts of the NTTTF to navigate the intricacies of these cases, shedding light on how traffickers manipulate power dynamics and exploit victims in this subculture. The presenters will provide insight into investigative strategies used to identify trafficking within BDSM contexts, build trust with victims, and distinguish between consensual activities and coercion.

### **Order in the Court! Understanding the Role of Trauma in the Legal System**

**Miesha Aubrey, Amanda Elkanick Oder**

Trauma has a profound impact within the legal system, influencing how survivors of power-based violence—such as intimate partner violence, sexual assault, trafficking, stalking, and abuse—respond and recover. Addressing this impact requires a trauma-

informed approach that prioritizes understanding and support. This workshop will focus on the role of advocacy in empowering survivors and integrating trauma-informed practices into legal processes. The presenter(s) will explore how trauma shapes survivors' experiences and gain strategies to support their recovery while promoting justice.

### **Origins of the Title IX Predator**

#### **Brikitta Hairston**

The epidemic of sexual violence on college campuses has not decreased, despite intervention efforts and increased prevention education protocols. So, how can sexual violence on college campuses end? One way is through Title IX, the policy behind sexual violence response, and now, with new regulations, it enjoins prevention with response replacing predominant reactivity with proactivity. Furthermore, revamped Title IX policy outcomes has made it evident that a preventative approach to understanding how sexual violence in higher education develops allows for campuses to implement a framework to address sexual violence holistically, proactively, and not just reactively. The presenter of this workshop will detail the DD-12 Risk Factors of Sexual Violence; created by Brian Van Brunt and Amy Murphy. Through interactive scenarios, attendees will be encouraged to apply risk factors to fictional fact patterns in order to understand how Title IX complainants and respondents emulate the risk factors of sexual violence in higher education.

### **OVW Campus Funding & its Impact on Trauma-informed Response for Campus Law Enforcement & Public Safety**

#### **Barbara Robbins, Lindsey Tilley**

Based on experience serving as the OVW Campus Law Enforcement Technical Assistance Providers for over a decade, the presenter(s) will discuss the OVW Grants to Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking on Campus Program Opportunity, implementation of grant and its impact on a trauma informed response, and current trends and challenges around creating a trauma informed response to gender-based violence on campuses. Additionally, the presenter(s) will provide resources and strategies created and identified through expertise and valued partnerships with OVW partners and campus grantees. These will include, but are not limited to, resources for sworn, non-sworn, and private security officers to improve the overall response through training; protocol and policy review; collaboration strategies; and evaluation of all departments.

## **OVW Tribal Affairs Division: Leveraging OVW Funding & the OVW TAD Special Initiatives**

**Tammy Ashley, Jenny Mills**

The OVW Tribal Affairs Division (TAD) is dedicated to sharing the many ways that they support victims and survivors of gender-based violence and the advocates who support them. This workshop will discuss how TAD implements the Violence Against Women Act statute and responsibilities imparted to it when addressing domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and sex trafficking in Indian country. The presenter(s) will provide an overview of the TAD grant programs, technical assistance projects, policy and legislation, special initiatives such as the Tribal Jurisdiction special initiative in Alaska, the Alaska Pilot Project, and other activities facilitated through this Division.

## **Paving the Way From the Ground Up: Leveraging Voices to Create Change & Transform Culture**

**Matthew Stegner, Jennet Sullivan**

Change is often thought to be initiated by those at the top of an organization or agency. However, leaders and agents of change can be found at every level of policing, advocacy, and within the community. Furthermore, individuals, even when not in a formal leadership role, can strengthen the response to victims and environmental culture overall. This panel discussion will present strategies and actions that can foster a culture of empathy, accountability, and victim-centered responses across all agencies and organizations. A diverse group of experienced law enforcement professionals from various ranks and roles—each of whom has successfully implemented trauma-informed changes within their departments without holding titles like chief, executive, or superintendent—will share real-life examples of how change can occur from any position, regardless of the size of the agency or organization. The panelists will present strategies and actions that can foster a culture of empathy, accountability, and victim-centered responses across all agencies and organizations. Additionally, the panel discussion is designed for attendees to be able to walk away with practical ideas for navigating shifting leadership dynamics, identifying the opportune moments for introducing positive, victim-centered reform, recognizing and seizing opportunities for leadership and influence, and effectively advocating for change. The panel will also discuss the strategy of “asking for forgiveness, not permission,” while emphasizing the importance of acting ethically.

## **The Pervasiveness of Poly-Victimization: Lightning Does Strike the Same Place Twice**

**Myra Strand**

Poly-victimization, particularly in the context of human trafficking, involves experiencing multiple forms of victimization either simultaneously or over time. This cycle often leads to compounded trauma and increased vulnerability, as victimization itself becomes a risk factor for further victimization, perpetuating a challenging and harmful cycle. Survivors of poly-victimization frequently endure re-victimization while seeking assistance from

systems meant to protect them. These survivors often encounter barriers to justice, as their experiences may be misunderstood or dismissed. Labeling them as “frequent flyers” or attention seekers can result in their victimization being deemed unfounded—or worse, lead to their criminalization. Perceptions and biases within these systems contribute to such outcomes, further marginalizing survivors. This workshop will explore the unique challenges faced by survivors of poly-victimization and how systemic biases can exacerbate these issues. Through case studies and real-world scenarios, the presenter(s) will offer strategies for changing harmful perceptions and providing effective support. Attendees will be provided tools to foster a more empathetic and effective response, helping to break the cycle of victimization and improve outcomes for survivors.

### **Police vs Victim in Domestic Violence Calls**

**Leslie Morgan Steiner, Eric Threlkeld**

Empowerment-based self-defense (EBSA) is a combination of verbal and physical techniques that have been shown to increase confidence, lessen PTSD symptoms, and reduce violence by up to 50%. EBSA is one of many violence prevention solutions with a strong body of peer-reviewed research compiled over 40+ years that supports the efficacy of EBSA education for preventing violence against women. Despite its documented effectiveness, many advocates are unfamiliar with its benefits which potentially deny women access to all available options so they can live with more freedom, autonomy, and confidence. This interactive workshop is designed to highlight the effectiveness of EBSA, debunk common myths, understand how it supports survivor healing, discuss research methodology, and address fallacies that contribute to the aversion to resistance education. The presenter(s) will reference her own personal survivor stories, her article in the Sexual Assault Report, and will expand on how "self-defense" encompasses more than a physical response to a violent situation. Basic empowerment strategies including setting boundaries, using your voice, verbal de-escalation, and simple physical techniques that participants are welcome to practice will also be discussed.

### **The Psychology of Domestic Violence & the Role of the Telecommunicator**

**Jason Long**

This workshop will delve into the hazards that come with responding to and handling domestic-related incidents. The presenter(s) will explore the reasons why victims may choose to remain in such situations, as well as other relevant domestic-related statistics. Additionally, the presenter(s) will evaluate methods through which telecommunicators can contribute to preventing responder injuries and fatalities during these routine calls for service.

## **Public Trust: Law Enforcement Sexual Misconduct Prevention & Accountability**

### **Tom Tremblay**

The overwhelming majority of those who serve in the noble profession of law enforcement are professionals that uphold their oath of office. However, the numerous headlines, arrests, convictions, and lawsuits describing horrific acts of sexual misconduct perpetrated by law enforcement officers must be addressed more proactively. A predatory sexual offender with the power and authority of the police is an extremely serious breach of the ethics of law enforcement, a violation of the color of law, and a traumatizing victimization for citizens that officers are sworn to protect. Law enforcement must work with community-based advocacy agencies and other partners to ensure that the prevalence of this problem and its impact on public trust is no longer ignored. Through an examination of case studies, after-action reviews, and the emerging national demand for increased accountability for all forms of sexual assault/misconduct, this workshop will encourage courageous conversations and inspire proactive leadership and community strategies to prevent law enforcement sexual misconduct, and hold those who choose to offend accountable.

## **Rape/Murder Cold Case: 51 Years, 2 Generations of Cops-Case Closed**

### **Tom Tremblay, Philip Tremblay**

In 1971, a beloved school teacher was raped, beaten, and strangled inside her own apartment in Burlington, Vermont. This case haunted the community for over 50 years, altering the sense of safety in a city where residents never locked their doors. The victim's family, determined to see justice served, inspired law enforcement to keep working the case. Over the decades, detectives worked through a large pool of suspects, including serial killer Ted Bundy. Det. Thomas Tremblay began working the cold case in 1986, and in 2023, his nephew, Det. Phil Tremblay, along with a new generation of detectives, solved the case. The advancements in science, DNA technology, and genetic genealogy made this breakthrough possible, thanks to the instincts and evidence preservation efforts of detectives in 1971. This case study will explore the lessons learned from solving an unsolved case, how working on such cases can enhance investigators' experience, improve outcomes for future cases, and advance departmental professionalism, all while ensuring compassionate service to victims and their families and maintaining an unwavering commitment to justice across generations.

## **Regulators...Mount Up! Using Code Enforcement to Address Human Trafficking**

### **Dennis Domagas**

Certain types of businesses, such as massage establishments and alcoholic beverage establishments, have become key elements in the business model for prostitution and human trafficking. Pimps and traffickers often disguise their criminal enterprises as legitimate businesses, allowing them to operate publicly alongside legitimate



establishments and embed themselves in communities. However, these businesses, like all legitimate ones, must adhere to government regulations and code enforcement, which creates vulnerabilities that law enforcement can exploit. Due to limited resources, manpower, and time, traditional law enforcement may face challenges in addressing these illicit businesses. However, the regulations that apply to legitimate businesses can be used to disrupt the trafficking business model. The presenter(s) will describe the typical business models for prostitution and human trafficking in massage and alcoholic beverage establishments. Additionally, the Texas state codes, Harris County regulations, and Houston municipal ordinances that apply to these establishments, and how these regulations can be leveraged to combat human trafficking in illicit businesses will be covered. Attendees will also be educated on how inspections of illicit establishments can enhance traditional criminal investigations and assist in aiding victims of human trafficking.

### **Reimagining Justice: Advocating for Criminalized Survivors of Domestic Violence** **Selena Faith, Ellie Williams**

#### **Removing Cultural & Linguistic Barriers to Access for Survivors with Limited English Proficiency** **Natasha Haunsperger**

With over 200 languages and dialects spoken in the U.S., law enforcement faces the ongoing challenge of investigating crimes involving individuals who may have limited ability to communicate effectively in English—whether speaking, reading, writing, or understanding. As new immigrants and refugees arrive and resettle in our communities, law enforcement and partners must address the cultural and linguistic barriers to ensure these vulnerable community members are served effectively and holistically. Law enforcement must constantly evolve to protect an ever-changing demographic. This workshop will present promising practices for conducting trauma-informed interviews using interpreters, leveraging bilingual officers, identifying technology to support victim interactions, and implementing tools that strengthen victim safety, ensure perpetrator accountability, and improve community trust. Additionally, the workshop will explore strategies to enhance officer safety while minimizing barriers when serving immigrant and refugee communities.

#### **Restoring Hope: Addressing MMIP & Building Pathways to Healing** **Nicole Matthews, Melissa Skeet**

Addressing the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) requires a holistic and community-focused approach. By integrating generational trauma awareness, transparent communication, community participation, and culturally competent and culturally sensitive approaches, the goal to create a toolkit for community response and long term healing while addressing gaps within the areas of victim

advocacy, wellness and resilience support, and the criminal justice process can be achieved. This workshop will describe a successful approach to addressing MMIP was by introducing the Healing and Response Team (HRT) Special Initiative created in response by the Not Invisible Act Commission (NIAC) led by the Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition (MIWSAC). The importance of this Tribal-based model of care to meet the important and specific needs of Tribal communities and families affected by MMIP in cases that intersect with domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and sex trafficking will be discussed.

### **Responding to Domestic & Sexual Violence in the Law Enforcement Family**

#### **Mark Wynn**

Law enforcement officer-involved domestic and sexual violence presents unique challenges both within the police family and in the broader community. Historically, these crimes have been underreported, with a lack of accurate statistics and distinct investigative characteristics. The presenter(s) will explore the dynamics and impact of these offenses, offering insight into the complexities of conducting investigations in such cases. The workshop will also address nationally established standards for recruiting, training, corrective discipline, and the ongoing need for policy implementation to address officer-involved violence.

### **The Role of SAFVIC Systems: Enhancing Law Enforcement Through Technology to Combat Family Violence**

#### **Jason Lundquist, Autumn Vandergriff**

Law enforcement agencies nationwide are facing a hiring crisis, with many operating below their authorized strength for extended periods. This crisis is driven by attrition and the difficulty in hiring qualified candidates to fill the ranks. New hires often lack the experience needed to handle the complex issues presented in law enforcement. To address this gap, agencies must find ways to supplement the lack of experience, and one effective solution is through technology. SAFVIC Systems is an innovative tool already in use by several law enforcement agencies. This web-based, CJIS-compliant online reporting tool for family violence offenses allows users to log in from any secure device. Given the pervasive and dangerous nature of domestic violence, leveraging technology like SAFVIC Systems can enhance victim cooperation, improve case resolution, and contribute to successful prosecutions. This workshop will provide an overview of how the program guides users through advanced investigations, eliminating guesswork by using user-friendly interfaces, conditional logic, and rudimentary AI. The presenter(s) will illustrate how the program produces a comprehensive, standardized case report, legally sound offense-specific probable cause affidavits, lethality assessments, and all associated forms, significantly reducing the risk of error.

## **Sick & Tired: Responding to the Needs of Survivors with Unseen Disabilities**

**Tiffany Lee**

Survivors of gender-based violence often experience complex, long-lasting impacts of trauma, including unseen disabilities such as mental illness or chronic health conditions. Unfortunately, legal and medical systems can be not only triggering but also inaccessible for survivors with these invisible disabilities, further marginalizing them and creating significant gaps in services. This workshop will explore the connection between trauma and unseen disabilities, examining the specific vulnerabilities, barriers, and stigma that survivors with these disabilities face. The presenter(s) will offer insights into the importance of providing individualized access and inclusion, both for survivors and those they employ, in order to promote more equitable, trauma-informed services. By improving understanding and support for survivors with unseen disabilities, attendees can be better equipped to offer comprehensive and inclusive care.

## **CASE STUDY: Sinking into the Stalking Tactics of Joel Waters**

**Sherri Coronado, Jennifer Landhuis**

A female victim, who fled her marriage and moved to Boise, Idaho, sought asylum with her parents after leaving her husband in Oregon. Over several months, the suspect engaged in a series of harassing behaviors, including vandalism, burglary, and arson. The escalating actions, fueled by substance abuse, caused the victim to fear for her life. This workshop will focus on the case's investigation, including the necessity of using a dynamic approach to stalking cases. The presenter(s) will discuss how victim services played a crucial role throughout the investigation, which began in Oregon and continued in Idaho. Attendees will be provided key lessons from the case and practical tips for handling future stalking investigations. The workshop will also cover the victim impact statement, the current status of the defendant, and long-term considerations for stalking victims.

## **So, You Want to be A Police Instructor? Finding the Right Message as an**

**Advocate**

**Mark Wynn**

Advocates have a unique opportunity to offer ongoing and progressive training to their local law enforcement on a long list of topics to address gender-based crimes. This workshop will demonstrate how advocates can prepare and deliver training for your local sheriffs and police to strengthen response, investigation and prevention from the victim and advocates point of view. Building a shared vision through training, forming realistic cross discipline expectations and trust is vital to the overall success of your community coordinated response.

## **Slow & Steady Wins the Race: Using Lessons Learned from Piloting a Lethality Assessment to Inform Community-wide Rollout**

**Miles Earwood, Sarah Galgano**

Implementation of lethality assessments require intentionality to ensure success and fidelity- particularly when you are one of the largest police departments in the U.S. One such assessment is the The Danger Assessment for Law Enforcement (DA-LE), an 11 question, evidence-based risk assessment instrument that identifies victims at the highest risk of intimate partner homicide (IPH) and near-lethal assault. The DA-LE was designed to be easily administered by responding law enforcement officers and to supplement the police report with high-risk victims being immediately connected to services. Moreover, the DA-LE is provided to the court to inform criminal proceedings. In July 2023, the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) piloted the DA-LE in three of its seven substations. The one- year pilot allowed SAPD to utilize data and feedback to inform and enhance broader rollout across the Department. Based on lessons learned in San Antonio, this workshop will provide a framework for piloting risk assessment before broader implementation in order to increase long-term sustainability. The presenter(s) will highlight the importance of using data to ensure fidelity, creative methods for troubleshooting common challenges, bringing community partners together throughout the process, and planning for sustainability.

## **Stalking from a Survivors Viewpoint**

**Sheila Griffith**

## **CASE STUDY: State v. Clark: Lessons Learned from a Missing Person-Turned-Homicide Case**

**Shawn Jensvold, Nicholas Moseley**

State v. Jon-Christopher Clark involved the August 2018 disappearance and death of 19-year-old Kiera Bergman. Ms. Bergman's body was found almost exactly one month after she disappeared. Her body was found along a bike trail in the desert alongside a rural highway outside Phoenix, Arizona. Kiera's severely decomposed body appeared to have been staged to look like a sexual assault with her pants missing and her panties secured around her ankles. The defendant, Mr. Clark, was Kiera's live-in boyfriend and the last person to see Kiera alive. Clark was charged with second degree murder and evidence tampering after Kiera's body was found. However, in 2022, after 5 weeks of trial and 2 1/2 days of jury deliberations, the jury returned not guilty verdicts on both charges. The presenter(s) of this case study will courageously confront and discuss the investigative and unique legal challenges including, but not limited to, witness tip information, Apple iCloud records, and decomposition of the victim's body and analyze lessons learned from the investigators, prosecutors, victim advocates, and others involved in domestic violence homicides.

## **A Strategy for Success: Bringing Traffickers to Trial**

### **Kirsta Melton**

Human trafficking cases often involve challenging victim and witness dynamics, including vulnerabilities such as prior criminal histories, undocumented status, histories of prostitution, mental illness, substance addiction, and hostility toward the legal system. Witnesses may share similar backgrounds, presenting unique obstacles for prosecutors. Building strong cases in the face of such complexities requires strategic approaches and collaborative efforts. This workshop will explore practical strategies for prosecuting human trafficking cases. The presenter(s) will describe methods to leveraging the power of the grand jury and well-structured charges, utilizing a trial map, and reframing juror perspectives through voir dire to transform case weaknesses into strengths. Key topics will include building corroboration post-filing, flipping buyers and co-defendants, structuring trial line-ups to emphasize strengths, and countering common defenses with expert testimony and other tools. Additionally, the workshop will emphasize the importance of collaborating with law enforcement during investigations to include trafficking co-defendants and corroborative sources, shifting the evidentiary burden from the victim to a broader base of testimonial, digital, and documentary evidence.

## **Strengthening Partnerships: Bridging Medical, Law Enforcement, & Legal Collaboration for Victim Support**

### **Robert Frechette, Shannon Knudsen, Matthew Stegner, Brandy Treagresser**

Gender-based violence crimes are multifaceted and complex, requiring a collaborative and multidisciplinary approach to support victims, promote survivor healing, and strengthen cases. Unfortunately, the important role of medical providers and multidisciplinary partnerships when working with victims and offenders is often overlooked or not fully optimized. Additionally, the ways in which the criminal justice system can leverage medical information for successful case outcomes, including prosecution is a crucial piece of the puzzle. This moderated panel will explore how healthcare professionals, law enforcement, and attorneys can work together to support victims of gender-based violence. Through case studies, legal frameworks, and practical strategies, the panelists will describe how practitioners can navigate the complexities of identifying and assisting victims while ensuring provider safety, patient safety, and evidence preservation. The dynamics of gender-based violence, handling legal documentation, and maintaining HIPAA compliance when working with law enforcement and prosecution will also be discussed. Moreover, this panel discussion will emphasize the importance of effective communication and interdisciplinary cooperation to improve patient outcomes and enhance offender accountability.

## **CASE STUDY: Successful Strategies for Prosecuting Large-scale Sex Traffickers**

### **John Jones, Melanie Smith**

This federal case of the U.S. v. Anthony Johnson aka "Bucc" began when a young woman called 911 and reported she had been held against her will at a home in Rockwall and escaped by leaping off a second-story balcony. Homeland Security Investigations opened an investigation and discovered that Johnson had trafficked multiple women over two decades and operated in a number of states across the country. Victims described horrific abuse they suffered at the hands of Johnson during the time he trafficked them and described how Johnson forced them to walk the "track" in various locations, his rules, and his use of physical violence to keep them compliant. Johnson's main method of punishment involved whipping the women with extension cords when they disobeyed his rules. This case study will focus on how to work with multiple agencies to build trafficking cases, as well as how to stabilize and support victims throughout an investigation. The presenter(s) will also describe how prosecutors and law enforcement can effectively use historical victims to help corroborate the accounts of more recent victims.

## **Supporting Justice Through Expert Witness Testimony**

### **Jaclyn Rodriguez, Jamie Saye**

Forensic nurses possess extensive knowledge on a wide range of topics, including injury identification, ano-genital anatomy, and strangulation, among others. However, much of this expertise remains untapped until they have the opportunity to treat a patient or educate colleagues or communities. As stewards of justice, why is this vital information not being shared more broadly? Because forensic nurses are in a unique position to convey their knowledge to prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges, and juries, ensuring that the criminal justice system is fair, accurate, and unbiased. During this workshop, the presenter(s) will share their experiences providing expert witness testimony in criminal cases where another provider cared for the victim.

## **Survivor Response to Lethality Assessment: Evaluating the Effectiveness of an LAP**

### **Caryn Burton**

Indiana began implementing the Lethality Assessment Protocol - Maryland Model in 2009. Throughout that time, it was often asked how survivors who were screened felt about the process itself. It was the one question that couldn't really be answered. Until now. This workshop will explore the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence's in-depth evaluation of survivor's experience of the LAP process, survivor's response, feedback gathered from first responders, and the changes that should and will happen because of it.

## **Survivors Behind Bars: The Criminalization of Victims & Survivors of Abuse, Assault & Trafficking**

**Jamie Beck, Chelsea Estes**

Victims and survivors of child abuse, domestic and sexual violence, and human trafficking are too often arrested for crimes directly related to their victimization. Instead of being recognized as victims and offered support and services, they are treated as criminals in the legal system. The presenter(s) of this workshop will address the intersectionality of victim-offender dynamics and the criminalization of victims. Discussions will also include the abuse-to-prison pipeline, the root causes of victim criminalization, the prevalence of victim-defendants, the types of crimes they are charged with, and disparities among various groups. Issues of culpability, remedies available for survivors, and a systems-change approach to addressing this issue will also be explored.

## **Survivors' Voices in Law Enforcement Response: Using Research & Evaluation to Promote Improved Experience**

**Emily Burton, Kimberly Messina**

Crime victims must have a voice in the criminal justice system. Intentionally seeking trauma-informed ways to incorporate victims' voices throughout the daily practice of law enforcement agencies can be challenging. Law enforcement-based victim services programs are being developed and enhanced in police agencies across the country to address this challenge. This workshop will highlight the ways law enforcement agencies can use research and evaluation to grow their response to victims of crime from the time a report is made through case resolution. This presenter(s) will describe one practitioner/researcher partnership's experience focusing on a sexual assault task force. Practical tips for developing research partnerships, engaging victims and other stakeholders in research activities, and incorporating findings into policy and practice decisions will also be explored.

## **Suspending Death: The Intersection of Stalking, Strangulation, & Homicide**

**Brie Benson, Kaitlyn Hall**

This workshop examines the elements of stalking and strangulation and the high lethality rate of both of these crimes towards victims and law enforcement officers. The presenter(s) will utilize national and state level case studies to illustrate patterns of behavior, interviewing questions and strategies, and victim resources to harness during investigations. Additionally, the use of the NC BIO-25 will be applied through case study examples.

## **Tech-enabled Trauma & Online Victim Blaming**

**Adam Dodge**

Abuse is never the victim's fault, yet victim-blaming persists and thrives, especially in online spaces. In the digital age, victim-blaming has become amplified and more severe,

compounding the trauma victims experience and affecting how we address online harm. By understanding the differences between online and offline trauma, service providers and practitioners can better support modern victims, mitigate re-traumatization, and enhance their trauma-informed approaches in online spaces. This workshop will highlight common forms of tech-facilitated victim-blaming, identify who is (and isn't) being targeted, and provide strategies to empower victims and communities in preparing for, addressing, and navigating victim-blaming in online spaces.

**Tech for Safety: Transforming 9-1-1 Responses to Crimes Against Women**  
**Dominique Mathis**

This workshop will explore how technology is transforming the response of 9-1-1 dispatchers to incidents involving crimes against women. The presenter(s) will educate about the latest technological tools, best practices for implementation, and strategies for enhancing communication and support for victims.

**Technology Is a Solution: Exploring the Usage of Proximity Alerts & eBodyGuard**  
**Collaboration to Keep Victims Safe**

**Melissa Hart, LaVonda Fowler**

The North Carolina (NC) Legislature has allocated \$7.5 million in appropriations to prevent domestic violence and intimate partner violence homicides. Using the unique capabilities of the GPS proximity alert system and monitoring program, the NC Criminal Justice Information Network (CJIN) Governing Board has equipped victims with devices that monitor defendants while allowing victims to become exclusion zones. When a victim and defendant come within proximity, as defined by a judge's orders, both parties are notified. This enables victims to activate their safety plans while defendants can remove themselves from the area or prompt law enforcement dispatch. CJIN has further enhanced this program by partnering with eBodyGuard, a voice-activated application that enables victims to call 911. The application allows victims to input personal identifying information, which is transmitted directly to 911 upon activation. Both the phone and 911 record audio during activation. Notably, the app can contact 911 even without cell service, providing location assistance in remote areas. For victims unable to participate in the CJIN GPS Monitoring Program, the eBodyGuard application remains an accessible safety tool. By offering these complementary options, victims can regain a sense of safety and control in their lives. The presenter(s) will demonstrate how GPS monitoring and proximity alerts keep victims safe, explain how the monitoring program is used and how it is enhanced with the eBodyGuard application, and help attendees identify the unique benefits for a victim using the eBodyGuard application.



## **There Are More Guns Than People: Addressing Firearms & Intimate Partner Violence to Increase Community Safety**

**John Guard, Marie Sadanaga**

The rise in intimate partner homicides, particularly those involving firearms, presents a critical issue for law enforcement. Firearm-related violence disproportionately affects marginalized communities, and 95% of domestic disturbance-related law enforcement homicides involve firearms. In many cases, predictions of dangerousness must be made with limited background information, and decisions regarding firearm seizures require careful consideration of the Fourth Amendment, federal and state statutes, as well as internal policies and practices. Recognizing the urgency of addressing this issue, this workshop is designed to empower law enforcement officers and allied professionals to navigate local, state, and federal authority concerning gun laws while emphasizing equitable enforcement and amplifying underrepresented voices. The presenter(s) will provide insights into law enforcement's authority and educate about legislative advancements and effective practices for firearm seizure in intimate partner violence (IPV) cases. Promising practices for documenting probable cause, seizing firearms under emergency protective orders, and utilizing red flag laws will be discussed. Strategies for referrals to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (BATF) and collaborative investigations will also be shared. Emphasis will be placed on proactive approaches, such as building strong interagency partnerships, leveraging community resources, and increasing transparency in firearm seizure protocols to prioritize community safety and justice for all.

## **They Weren't Physically Violent...Until They Killed**

**Kris Anglin-Barney, Justin Boardman**

The justice system responds to "verbal domestic" calls thousands of times each year. Even if an offender has not been physically violent, it doesn't mean they won't eventually kill. Many of these cases go undocumented or are reclassified in our databases as "disturbances" or "assist public," missing key warning signs. As insignificant as these cases may seem, they are not. They are potential powder kegs that can escalate into significant violence, homicide, and suicide. This workshop will emphasize the importance of properly documenting these cases and circumstances when a victim contacts the system to increase the likelihood of obtaining a protective order. If victims do not contact the system, recognizing these signs can help inform loved ones and friends, especially if they have the honor of hearing a victim's disclosure. Additionally, the presenter(s), along with a survivor whose offender murdered his girlfriend, the survivor's daughter, and died in a suicide-by-cop incident, will explore suspect traits and warning signs of future violence, drawing on real case profiles and first-hand experience.

## **Transforming Understanding of DV & Sexual Assault: The Influence of Expert Witness Testimony**

**Nancy Oglesby, Aimee Stockenstrom**

Prosecutors, juries, and judges often face challenges in understanding and explaining victim behaviors in domestic violence and sexual assault cases. Preconceived beliefs and biases can lead to the assumption that all victims exhibit similar responses, which may discourage prosecutors from pursuing charges and slow case progress. Recognizing that victim responses are multifaceted and can be explained is vital for successful prosecution, particularly when utilizing expert witnesses. This workshop, led by a career prosecutor and therapist who regularly serves as an expert witness, will advocate for expanding the role of expert witnesses beyond traditional forensic nurses and scientists to include trauma experts and advocates. The presenter(s) will share strategies on how to critically analyze past cases, foster collaboration with experts both inside and outside the courtroom, and align expert testimony with prosecutorial expectations to navigate the complexities of victim behaviors and the dynamics of domestic violence and sexual assault.

## **Undercover Advocate: Building a New Police Department Culture**

**Kristin Daley, Kenny Smith**

At the core of advocacy lies the unique role advocates play in sex crimes investigations and agency culture as a whole. Police who collaborate closely with advocates are better positioned for success, and establishing a strong foundation of advocacy creates a ripple effect throughout the agency. This workshop will explore the unique benefits and challenges of systems-based advocacy, providing a foundation for building robust advocacy programs within agencies. The presenter(s) will provide strategies on how to leverage advocates as a resource to enhance transparency, accountability, and communication within law enforcement.

## **Under One Roof: Animals & Interpersonal Violence**

**Nancy Blaney, Claire Coughlin**

Research has established a strong link between animal maltreatment and interpersonal violence, particularly the connection between animal abuse and domestic violence (DV). Unfortunately, pets are often used by abusers to exert power and control, creating significant barriers for victims seeking safety. However, victims and survivors should not have to choose between their personal safety and their pets. This workshop will summarize research on the intersection of animal abuse and DV, explore relevant federal and state pet protection laws, and discuss cross-reporting requirements. The presenter(s) will provide recommendations for assessing and addressing barriers to safety and discuss practical implications for practice. Insights into policies, programs, and tools they can use to enhance their work and support both human and animal survivors will also be provided.

## **Understanding Intimate Partner Violence in the Lives of Black Women: Culturally Responsive Assessment & Treatment**

**Carolyn West**

Black women survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV) face unique challenges, often shaped by the intersecting identities of ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, and more. IPV within this community also occurs within a "web of trauma," which includes historical trauma, family violence, structural violence, institutional violence, cultural violence, and community violence. Black survivors disproportionately experience reproductive coercion, non-fatal strangulation, and domestic homicide, with many also coping with IPV-related PTSD and depression. To address these complex issues, the presenter(s) will provide strategies on how practitioners can provide survivor-centered, culturally-responsive, trauma-informed, and strengths-based care to Black women survivors of IPV. Insights into how IPV is influenced by the intersecting identities of Black survivors and how treatment strategies can be tailored for IPV-related PTSD and depression will be discussed. Additionally, the presenter(s) will explore effective strategies for addressing the unique challenges Black survivors face when navigating systems of support.

## **Understanding the Mindset: Overcoming Barriers & Challenges Faced by Human Trafficking Victims**

**Debra Rush**

This workshop is designed to enhance the learning experience by engaging attendees in activity-based exercises. The presenter(s) will focus on helping attendees better understand the mindset of individuals impacted by human trafficking, particularly within crime-impacted and impoverished communities. The presenter(s) will also provide insight into the social vulnerabilities and challenges these individuals face, including the influence of social media and other generational systemic vulnerabilities.

## **Upon Further Inspection: Sexual Assault & Expanding the Perspective in Death Investigations**

**Anne Boatright, Kalen Knight**

Sexual assault (SA) often goes unreported and, therefore, is sometimes referred to as a "silent" epidemic within the United States. Even in cases where SA is reported, less than 2.5 percent of perpetrators will go to prison. Lack of evidence and inability to identify perpetrators contribute to difficulty in prosecuting SA cases. The reality is that some victims do not receive the opportunity to report and are instead victims of sex-related homicides, further increasing the challenge of prosecuting perpetrators because of the lack of history provided by a victim. The healthcare system has already incorporated trained professionals, called Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE), into the care of

patients who experience SA because they can perform thorough medical forensic examinations that include evidence collection. Research demonstrates higher prosecution rates when SANEs are involved. This workshop aims to provide stakeholders within the field of death investigation a holistic view of SA and sex-related homicide investigations in hopes of increasing recognition of subtle signs of SA when a victim cannot provide the history of what occurred. The presenter(s) will define what actually happens or what could happen after the signs of SA are identified within a scene or on a decedent. Statistics and terminology related to SA will be discussed, as well as steps of a medical forensic examination, including evidence collection, to allow for the death investigator to visualize processes. Reflection on lessons learned will also introduce the opportunity to evaluate jurisdictional practices regarding sex-related homicide scenes and methods to increase the chances of identifying potential evidence of SA or other sex-related crimes.

### **ViCAP: A Resource for Violent Crime Investigations**

#### **Christine DePoyster**

Established by the DOJ in 1985, the FBI Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (ViCAP) provides law enforcement agencies nationwide with a free repository for behavioral and investigative information related to both solved and unsolved violent crimes, including homicides, attempted homicides, sexual assaults, missing persons, and unidentified human remains. Currently embedded within the Behavioral Analysis Unit (BAU) Crimes Against Adults, ViCAP serves as a vital resource for enhancing investigative efforts. This workshop will explore the origins and mission of ViCAP, demonstrating how law enforcement can effectively utilize this tool to support investigations. A case study will be presented to illustrate ViCAP's role in solving cases, offering valuable insights for law enforcement professionals seeking to leverage this resource in their own work. (Note: This session is intended for law enforcement personnel, not victims.)

### **Victim Interviews Through a Trauma-informed Lens**

#### **Rob Fanelli, Matthew Stegner**

First responders, investigators, prosecutors, victim services personnel, medical staff, and other allied professionals interact with victims at various points where the misinterpretation of trauma can be detrimental. To better support victims of domestic and sexual violence, law enforcement must implement trauma-informed practices. With an understanding of trauma and how trauma affects victim behavior and memory, law enforcement can build stronger cases. The presenter(s) of this workshop will introduce trauma and explore trauma-informed interview practices and investigative strategies to create physical, psychological, and emotional safety for domestic and sexual violence victim reporting.

### **Victim to Offender: The Aftermath of Mandatory Arrest** **Jeanne Mullane**

Significant strides have been made in the criminal justice response to intimate partner violence (IPV). However, some unintended consequences of this progress have emerged and continue to go largely unnoticed. One such consequence involves a category of offenders—IPV victims who assault their abusers which has become an increasingly common situation that escalates an already high-risk scenario. When a victim becomes involved in the criminal justice system as an offender, it can lead to increased risks to their safety, loss of employment and financial stability, loss of eligibility for advocacy services, child custody issues, and the psychological and emotional trauma associated with arrest and court involvement. This, combined with the incentives embedded in the justice system, may create additional barriers for IPV victims who are seeking support to protect themselves and their loved ones from an abuser. This workshop will delve into the challenges faced by victims-turned-offenders and explore how advocates, law enforcement officers, court personnel, and allied professionals can better serve this unique group.

### **Virtual Dating: Sexual Violence & Real-Life Harm** **Jane Anderson, Patti Powers**

Modern love stories often begin online through various dating apps, but not every connection leads to a happy ending. Increasingly, offenders misuse these platforms to identify victims and perpetrate stalking, abuse, or exploitation both online and in the real world. Tech-savvy offenders often exploit technology to evade detection and accountability, while outdated victim-blaming attitudes, such as "assuming risk," can hinder investigations and prosecutions. These attitudes may also discourage victims from reporting crimes out of fear of disbelief or judgment. This workshop will use case examples to explore how dating apps are misused to identify, recruit, abuse, exploit, and stalk victims. The presenter(s) will provide insight into the dimensions of violence linked to these platforms and practical strategies for investigating and prosecuting cases involving dating violence, sexual assault, non-consensual distribution of intimate images, stalking, and related crimes. Additionally, discussions will cover preserving and presenting digital evidence, ethically safeguarding victim safety and privacy, and countering common defenses at trial.

## **Vital Signs: Improving the Healthcare Response to Stalking**

**Jennifer Landhuis, Angelita Olowu**

Stalking is a harmful victimization with its own significant impacts and serves as an indicator of increased likelihood and severity of sexual violence (SV), intimate partner violence (IPV), and homicide. Survivors of stalking also experience a significantly higher prevalence of chronic health issues, including sleeping difficulties, chronic pain, frequent headaches, asthma, and vision problems, compared to individuals who have not been stalked. Despite its severe consequences, stalking is often omitted from existing protocols aimed at identifying and addressing IPV, SV, or standalone stalking crimes, resulting in missed opportunities for appropriate and timely interventions. Therefore, healthcare providers play a critical role in violence and homicide prevention by inquiring about, identifying, and addressing the unique needs of stalking victims. This workshop is designed to equip forensic nurses with the tools and resources to enhance their ability to identify stalking victims during examinations, recognize the emotional and physical risks stalking poses to patients, and make informed referrals with the appropriate level of urgency.

## **Voice of Strength: Public Safety Telecommunicators in Responding to Crimes Against Women**

**Dominique Mathis**

This workshop will examine the integral partnership between public safety telecommunicators and law enforcement in responding to crimes against women. The presenter(s) will address the complex challenges telecommunicators face as the initial point of contact for victims, acting as the communication hub in critical situations. How to collaborate with first responders to manage incidents, provide victim support, and contribute to both the investigative and prosecutorial processes will also be discussed.

## **Voluntary Intoxication: It's Not Consent for Sex You Know**

**Russell Strand**

Alcohol plays a significant role in many crimes, but it holds a unique place in the context of sexual assault. Victims under the influence of alcohol are often blamed for their own assaults, creating a clear and measured bias. This bias can lead to police deciding not to forward reports for charging, or prosecutors declining to file charges. Yet, alcohol is commonly used in the social settings of dating, mating, and pursuing sexual encounters. If we accept alcohol's normalization in these environments, we must also treat sexual assault involving alcohol like any other crime. For example, if a person drives under the

influence and causes a fatality, they are still held accountable, and the victim is not blamed. This workshop will delve into the complex relationship between alcohol and sexual assault. It is not a judgment on alcohol use or an analysis of alcoholism, but rather a comprehensive discussion of this challenging issue. The presenter(s) will offer detailed strategies to improve recognition of how alcohol impacts victims and to illustrate why it is often the drug of choice for sexual predators. By addressing these dynamics, attendees will be offered critical insights to better support survivors and pursue justice in alcohol-facilitated sexual assault cases.

### **"Wait! I've Changed My Mind": Recantations vs. False Reporting in Sexual Violence Cases**

**Kenny Smith**

The dynamics of recantation and false reporting in sexual violence cases are complex and multifaceted. Social pressures, psychological factors, and legal implications often play a role in why victims recant. The impact of recantation on legal proceedings, victim support, and public perception will be explored in this workshop. In contrast, false reporting will be examined, focusing on its prevalence, motivations, and potential consequences. Through critical analysis and discussion, attendees will gain insights into the ethical, legal, and social challenges surrounding these issues, fostering a nuanced understanding essential for professionals in the criminal justice system.

### **Walking Away with Insight Into Financial Abuse & Economic Justice (2-Part)**

**Ruth Guerreiro**

Studies show that financial abuse happens in 94-99% of abusive intimate partner relationships, yet, it is the least understood form of abuse. Furthermore, there exists numerous tactics by offenders that fall into various categories of financial abuse including coerced debt and financial fraud. The presenter(s) will discuss the many ways financial abuse impacts a woman while she is in the abusive relationship as well as the long-lasting effects it can have after leaving the abusive relationship. The workshop will explore ways advocates, attorneys, and other professionals can help support a survivor of financial abuse. In Part Two, attendees will participate in the Economic Justice version of In Her Shoes(R), developed by Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Through this experiential learning, participants come away with a deeper understanding of how difficult it is to navigate systems, find effective support, and make the decision to leave an abusive partner, all while being impacted by a lack of financial resources.

## **CASE STUDY: A Web of Deception from a Familial Trafficking Perspective**

**Jason Lundquist, Hailee Reily**

In 2016, a courageous victim came forward to report years of abuse by a family member, sparking a complex investigation that uncovered additional unreported victims. The case led to the arrest of three individuals, with two suspects ultimately receiving lengthy prison sentences. Investigated and charged as a trafficking offense, this case highlighted the importance of trauma-informed techniques in achieving justice and supporting survivors. In this workshop, the survivor will share her unique perspective, offering firsthand insights into what was helpful, what caused additional harm, and how she persevered through the process. The presenter(s) will discuss best practices and holistic response strategies that contributed to the positive outcomes in this case and offer attendees the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of survivor-centered approaches and the critical role they play in investigations and healing.

## **What If It's Not Working? Solving Problems Around Firearm Relinquishment in Gender-based Violence Cases**

**Jennifer Becker, Jennifer Waindle**

Federal and many state laws prohibit domestic abusers convicted of certain crimes or subject to a qualifying protection order from accessing firearms. In response, many communities are developing firearm relinquishment protocols to enforce firearm prohibition laws. Successful implementation of these protocols requires a local, multidisciplinary, coordinated community response. However, in too many jurisdictions, the process stalls when one partner in the system fails to fulfill their responsibilities. What happens when the court doesn't hold compliance hearings? What if law enforcement refuses to store firearms? What if prosecutors don't address firearms possession violations? What resources are available to help overcome these challenges? In this interactive workshop, the team from BWJP's National Center on Gun Violence in Relationships and the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence and Firearms will discuss common obstacles communities face in removing firearms from adjudicated abusers. Through small and large group discussions of hypothetical scenarios, attendees will work together to identify solutions.

## **What Now?: DNA Expert Testimony in the Context of Smith v Arizona**

**Misty Marra, Patti Powers**

DNA evidence can be crucial in establishing identity or linking a suspect to a crime scene or victim. When a DNA sample is uploaded to CODIS, it can also help connect an offender to other crimes or crime scenes, especially in cases involving sexual assault, homicide, or other violent crimes. Understanding the technology, testing processes, quality



assurance protocols, and interpretation of results is vital for preparing and presenting DNA expert testimony at trial. Experts may testify when analysts are available and, in some cases, under the context of *Smith v. Arizona* when an analyst is no longer available. Prosecutors and forensic experts must proactively plan for pre-trial and trial proceedings. This workshop will focus on strategies for effectively qualifying DNA experts, presenting expert testimony to the court and jury, and ensuring compliance with the Confrontation Clause, *Smith v. Arizona*, and other relevant case law. Topics including testing protocols, data interpretation, peer review, and quality review which are key to establishing the validity of DNA testing and preparing for scenarios where the original analyst is unavailable will also be discussed.

### **When the Officer Becomes the Perpetrator: An Experiential Perspective from Her Lens & Key Insights for Police Leaders**

**Chad Janis, Susana Wilcox**

The epidemic of violence against women is a pervasive issue in our society. While significant progress has been made to mitigate these harms, much work remains to be done. The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and its many updates over the past 30 years have significantly altered the landscape of domestic violence intervention. However, the issue of police officer-perpetrated domestic violence remains a taboo topic among police leaders, legislators, and within communities. The untold stories of survivors of these complex and often violent acts may hold the key to understanding what is working, where change is needed, and how we can learn from the experiences of brave survivors. Every police leader should be asking what can be done when policies fail, and people are victimized by those who have sworn to protect them. This workshop will explore one survivor's perspective of events that changed her life, along with lessons learned from a police commander with extensive experience in investigating, leading, and creating community awareness on the issue of domestic violence.

### **Why Do DV Victims Do That?: Understanding Victim Response to Offender Tactics**

**Sandra Campanella**

Domestic violence (DV) victims face significant challenges and decisions throughout their abusive relationships. With approximately 80% of victims recanting to some degree, they navigate personal and systemic costs when disclosing violence to law enforcement, district attorneys, and others, as well as the consequences of avoiding such disclosures. Abusers often establish and maintain power and control even after arrests, convictions, or the end of the relationship. On scene, offenders may use various manipulation tactics, while victims may appear hesitant, minimize the abuse, or deny it occurred altogether. This workshop will explore the dynamics of DV, including how abusers exert control and

how victims experience these situations. The presenter(s) will discuss ways to recognize manipulation tactics used by offenders, understand victims' motivations and behaviors on scene, and identify critical evidence to document and gather while maintaining a victim-centered approach. Attendees will practice "Victim Whispering" with helpful phrases designed to elicit information without sounding judgmental or frightening, and ways to build rapport and safety with reluctant victims who aren't ready to disclose their experiences.

### **Writing a Wrong: Decoding a Victim's Narrative of Abuse**

**Julie Balovich, Margaret Bassett**

When a case is premised upon an act of interpersonal violence, the victim's story of what happened is often the most essential proof of what occurred. But victim's stories are rarely simple. Complex relationship dynamics between the abuser and victim may result in victim behavior that seems counterintuitive and the impact of trauma on the brain may affect how a victim processes the event, remembers the event, and/or recounts the event. This workshop will talk through the case of a criminal defendant who was the victim of interpersonal violence where prosecutors and law enforcement misinterpreted the challenges of victim's narratives as proof of deception and guilt. The presenter(s) will illustrate how expert witnesses can help trial attorneys issue spot, understand their case, explain their case to a fact-finder, and anticipate and prepare for challenges to a victim's credibility.

### **Yours? Mine? OURS!: How Police & Community Create a Shared Framework for Addressing Crimes Against Persons**

**Kristin Daley, Kenny Smith**

In recent years, the divide between police and the communities they serve has deepened. At times, it may feel as if both entities are speaking different languages, but understanding each other's perspectives is essential in building an effective framework for gender-based violence prevention and response. By translating community needs into trauma-informed police policies and practices, the "us vs. them" mentality can be broken down and common ground can be found. This workshop will engage attendees in an interactive conversation about the evolving relationship between law enforcement and communities, focusing on human-centric and collaborative approaches to addressing crimes against persons. The presenter(s) will explore how trust, accountability, and shared responsibility are key to building safer communities and reducing violence. The ethical, legal, and practical frameworks involved in the collaborative efforts of police and community stakeholders to holistically, effectively, and practically respond to and prevent violence will also be addressed.