
Event Agenda

2025 NCVC National Training Institute

Wednesday, September 03, 2025

Registration & Coffee

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM | Location: Palm Foyer

From Secrecy to the Spotlight: How 40 years of Catholic Church litigation changed the framework for handling child sex abuse cases

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM | Location: Palm Ballroom

PLENARY SESSION

In 1985, National Catholic Reporter reporter Jason Berry released a stunning exposé detailing how a popular Louisiana priest was known to be molesting children for years. That same year, the Diocese of Lafayette and its insurers agreed to pay at least \$4.2 million, the priest later pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 20 years in prison "at hard labor" and with no possibility of parole.

This compelling plenary session delves into those first groundbreaking lawsuits against the Catholic Church, which led to a pivotal movement in the legal landscape establishing a case for institutional accountability. This panel will explore how these landmark cases not only pioneered the concept of holding institutions accountable for sexual abuse but also laid the groundwork for similar lawsuits against various organizations, including Michigan State, the US Olympic Committee, the Boy Scouts, and others. These cases have had the largest impact in forcing large institutions, such as religious organizations, schools, and child serving organizations, to change their policies and practices to keep our children safer.

Our panel consists of attorneys, survivors, and industry experts—each with over 25 years of experience—will provide invaluable insights into the evolution of litigation against the Catholic Church. We will examine the Church's response to these legal challenges and the strategies they employed to mitigate further litigation. Additionally, the session will highlight how these lawsuits have triggered significant legislative reforms, including changes in statutes of limitations, and other critical protections for victims of abuse. This engaging discussion promises to shed light on the ongoing fight for justice and accountability within institutions, reflecting on past accomplishments and looking ahead to future developments in the field.

PLENARY

Speakers



Michael Pfau

Partner | Pfau Cochran Vertetis Amala



John Manly

Manly, Stewart & Finaldi



Ryan DiMaria

Structure Broker/Attorney | Structured Settlement Benefits



Mary Dispenza

SNAP

Moderator



Anne Barrett Doyle

Co-Director | BishopAccountability.org

Peer-to-Peer Meeting - CLOSED SESSION

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM | Location: Crystal Room

Please note this session is closed to participants of the Peer-to-Peer meeting. If you have any questions, please ask an NCVC staff member.

Break

10:30 AM – 10:45 AM

Image-based Abuse 101: What Advocates and Justice Professionals Need to Know About This Growing Form of Abuse

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM | Location: Salon I

TECHNOLOGY

The surge in image-based abuse cases over the past five years highlights the urgent need for a deeper understanding of this growing form of abuse and the ways communities must begin to respond. The workshop will discuss what image-based abuse is and its prevalence; its impact on survivors; existing laws and policies, including survivor rights; barriers to justice; and what's next in the fight

against this abuse. In addition, it will explore the strengths and opportunities to enhance resources for survivors. Participants will review efforts from both the U.S. and globally, and discuss next steps for their own communities.

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Ilse Knecht

Policy and Advocacy Director | Joyful Heart Foundation



Andrea Powell

IBSA Policy Consultant | Joyful Heart Foundation



Leah Juliett

Tech-Facilitated Violence Expert with Lived Experience | Joyful Heart Foundation

From Fear to Foundation: Creating Housing Stability for Domestic Violence Survivors

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM | Location: Salon II

SEXUAL & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Housing instability is one of the greatest barriers that survivors of domestic violence face when trying to escape abusive relationships. Without access to safe, stable, and affordable housing, many survivors are forced to choose between homelessness and returning to their abuser. This workshop will explore the systemic challenges survivors encounter when seeking housing, including financial abuse, eviction history due to domestic violence, and the lack of trauma-informed housing policies. Participants will gain insights into innovative advocacy strategies, housing-first approaches, and community collaborations that empower survivors to rebuild their lives.

BREAKOUT

Speaker



Danielle Leverett

Executive Director | Our 3 Memorial Foundation

Applying Findings from the VictimConnect Evaluation to Improve Victim Services

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM | Location: Salon III

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The National Center for Victims of Crime's VictimConnect Resource Center is the only national helpline serving victims of all crimes. It provides relevant referrals, information, and emotional support through anonymous call, chats, and texts. NCVC has partnered with the Urban Institute to evaluate VictimConnect's implementation and impact on victims and other service providers. In this workshop, attendees will learn from and engage with NCVC's staff who operate VictimConnect as well as the VictimConnect evaluation team. The session will first introduce attendees to VictimConnect's background and service model before sharing an overview of the evaluation and its findings. The team will focus on the recommendations for victim service providers generally and for programs with hotlines specifically to increase access to and improve delivery of their services. For example, attendees will have the opportunity to discuss implications for staffing, use of technology, and engagement with victims.

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Malore Dusenbery

NCVC Research Consultant



John Kemp

Deputy Director | National Center for Victims of Crime



Jennifer Yahner

Senior Research Fellow | Urban Institute

Restorative Justice Expands Victim Choices and Elevates Victim Voices

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM | Location: Salon VI

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Many crime victims envision a more expansive definition of justice outside of the offender focused criminal justice system we all know. This expansion of justice options can be found within the spectrum of Restorative Justice. This workshop will provide an overview of restorative justice practices and principles that can provide opportunities for victims' voices to be elevated and for offenders to learn more about the impact of the harm they have caused.

BREAKOUT

Speaker



Angela Keen

Senior Training & Technical Assistance Specialist | Office for Victims of Crime Training & Technical Assistance Center (OVC TTAC)

Empowering Survivors: Strategies for Improving Victim Compensation and Advancing Survivor-Led Advocacy

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM | Location: Salon VIII

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

This interactive workshop is designed for crime survivors, advocates, service providers, and other victim service practitioners dedicated to improving victim compensation systems. Leveraging insights from the "Crime Survivors Speak: Right to Heal—Access to Victim Compensation" campaign, the session will explore current barriers in the compensation process and present innovative strategies to enhance access and empower survivors. Attendees will gain practical tools and knowledge to better support survivors, streamline service delivery, and advocate for policy reform.

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Aswad Thomas

Vice President | Alliance for Safety and Justice & Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice



Jonathon Lewis

Managing Director | Crime Survivors Speak

From Missing to Murdered – A Runaway Case Study

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM | Location: Salon VII

JUVENILE VICTIMS

This presentation will focus on Missing/Runaway Juveniles and the investigation of these cases from the initial report to closure. The course will highlight Patrol response and responsibility and the role of the primary Investigator. Investigative tools/tips will be presented to include Law Enforcement resources, legal/law definitions and policies, and the use of social media. The course will also the growing trend of "COVID KIDS" and juvenile investigations since 2020. The Case Study will center on a Juvenile Runaway that was subsequently murdered, and the subsequent Investigation by multiple agencies and departments leading to the arrest, conviction of those responsible

BREAKOUT

Speaker



Det. John Witherspoon

detective | Montgomery County Police Special Victims Unit

Preparing for a Mass Violence Incident in Your Community: Lessons Learned from Responding to the Apalachee High School Shooting in Winder, GA

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM | Location: Narcissus/Orange

MASS VIOLENCE

The NMVC responded to the tragic school shooting at Apalachee High School that occurred on September 4, 2024, which included providing resources and guidance on how to best provide mental health support to students, parents, and teachers. During these response activities, it was highlighted that areas where the community had prepared for potential violence predicted how resilient the individuals and community members were in the weeks and months that followed. This session will describe the response to Apalachee High School and present the 16 Best Practices to MVI Preparedness, with examples and lessons learned from this specific community. We will also describe the many resources available to help survivors, professionals, first responders, and communities from the National Mass Violence Center.

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Angela Moreland

Professor | Medical University of South Carolina



Elizabeth Cronin

Associate Academic Program Director | National Mass Violence Center

Lunch

12:15 PM – 1:00 PM

Breaking Barriers, Building Futures: Advancing Reentry Services for Women and Survivors

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: Palm Ballroom

PLENARY SESSION

Women and survivors of trauma face unique and often compounding challenges when navigating reentry into the community after incarceration or involvement in the justice system. This plenary will explore innovative approaches to reentry services that center healing, dignity, and empowerment.

Through a dynamic conversation with lived-experience experts, service providers, and funders, participants will examine systemic barriers that disproportionately impact formerly incarcerated women and survivors as well as best practices and emerging models that foster successful reintegration and healing. Attendees will leave with actionable strategies to enhance service delivery, promote equity, and advocate for systemic reforms that support women and all survivors reentering their communities.

PLENARY

Speakers



Montrell Carmouche

Senior Advisor Quality Care Innovator | Operation Restoration



Jen LaChance

Director of Advocacy & Victim Services | Through These Doors



Shawn LaGrega

Deputy Director | Maine Pretrial Services, Inc.



Dolfinette Martin

Housing Specialist | Operation Restoration

Moderator



Aswad Thomas

Vice President | Alliance for Safety and Justice & Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice

Break

2:00 PM – 2:15 PM

Implementing Evidence-Based Practices in Victim Services

2:15 PM – 3:45 PM | Location: Salon I

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Safety, justice, and healing depend on agencies' ability to deliver effective and efficient services when responding to those who were harmed. Yet despite the growing body of victim services research into effective practices, there exists a gap between the knowledge generated and integration of new techniques and models in practitioner settings. We collaborated with the National Center for Victims of Crime (NCVC) to identify evidence-based practices, compiling a training and coaching package to address violence, trauma, and harm. In this presentation, we discuss the approach and its underlying theory and how we will educate and coach agencies on its use, including opportunities to sign up for free training. Providers interested in participating in the study are encouraged to join!

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Jennifer Yahner

Senior Research Fellow | Urban Institute



Walter Campbell

Senior Research Assistant | Urban Institute



Malore Dusenbery

NCVC Research Consultant

Healing from Within: Integrating Trauma-Informed Yoga, Meditation, and Breathing Practices into Trauma Care

2:15 PM – 3:45 PM | Location: Salon II

TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES

This session explores the intersection of trauma-informed care and the holistic benefits of yoga, meditation, and breathing practices. Participants will gain insights into how these mind-body approaches can support trauma recovery, foster resilience, and improve overall well-being. This session will define trauma and its effects, the science of healing, practical applications, how to integrate mind-body therapies and traditional therapies, and a guided meditation and grounding exercise during our session. In addition to the main session, we are planning to offer an optional Guided Trauma-Informed Yoga session, which will take place outside of our scheduled presentation time—either before or after the conference, depending on scheduling availability. This additional session will be open to all conference participants and will emphasize body awareness, gentle movement, and mindfulness practices, with a specific focus on creating a safe, supportive environment for individuals at all levels of experience.

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Jourdan Weitgenant

Yoga Instructor | J & J Healing Haven



Jessica Weitgenant

Executive Function Coach | J&J Healing Haven

Multiple Pathways to Accountability: The New York City Model

2:15 PM – 3:45 PM | Location: Salon III

SEXUAL & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In New York City, the Center for Justice Innovation partnered with the

Coalition on Working with Abusive Partners (now known as HEARTS) and the NYC Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence to create a plan

and implement a comprehensive approach for abusive partner intervention. After a year of focus groups and listening sessions with criminal and civil legal system stakeholders, community-based organizations, advocates, survivors, and people who cause harm through intimate partner violence, the Seeding Generations report highlighted the need to create multiple pathways to accountability and

healing for people who cause harm As a result of this initiative, New York City, via an interdisciplinary coalition of practitioners, now offers culturally enhanced and trauma-informed mandated programming, voluntary programming unconnected to systems entirely, community-based education approaches at the intersection of intimate partner violence and gun violence, brief education classes for people

on supervised release, training and support for practitioners, and a restorative justice collaborative to support practitioners engaging in restorative approaches to IPV. In this panel, program staff, a researcher and a representative from the Mayor's office will highlight these programs and the benefits of New York City's approach to provide comprehensive engagement and intervention for abusive partners.

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Gene Johnson

Associate Director | Center for Justice Innovation



Saloni Sethi

Commissioner | NYC Mayor's Office



Devin Deane

Program Manager | Center for Justice Innovation



Storm Ervin

Researcher | Urban Institute

When They Want to Take It Back: Reluctance and Recantations in DV/IPV

2:15 PM – 3:45 PM | Location: Salon VI

SEXUAL & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The complexity of domestic and intimate partner violence may involve significant factors that influence victims to be uncooperative, even in a short amount of time when the incident took place. What is critical is understanding dynamics that increase the likelihood of recantation or reluctance from a victim so as to better identify those factors and understand how to thoughtfully respond to them. This knowledge and reaction is imperative for an appropriate response that continues to seek justice and integrate appropriate services for the individual. This session includes activity-based discussions to explore this critical topic.

BREAKOUT

Speaker



Lindsey Dula

Founder | NFIN

How a Serial Killer Just Walked In

2:15 PM – 3:45 PM | Location: Salon VII

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

2016 -2018 in North Texas, DFW area, Billy Chemirmir stalked over 20 senior citizens. He entered their residences where he stole from them and smothered them. The majority of these crimes occurred in four independent living establishments. The murderer faced 22 indictments and had two capital murder convictions. SOSS is comprised of victims' adult children. We share what we have learned to protect others; what we wished we had known about our loved one's residences. We work to increase awareness of vulnerabilities in senior living and to pass legislation in Texas improving senior security. For more information www.secureourseniorssafety.org, "Pillowcase Murders" on Paramount+, "Serial Killer's Playbook" People Investigates, "Unnatural Causes: The Texas Elder Murders" AARP

BREAKOUT

Speaker



Shannon Dion

Director | Secure Our Seniors' Safety

Healing Power of Dogs: A Perspective from the Tri-State Canine Response Team

2:15 PM – 3:45 PM | Location: Salon VIII

TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES

In the wake of traumatic events, the integration of trained crisis response dogs has emerged as a powerful adjunct to psychological first aid and emotional stabilization. This presentation explores the therapeutic impact of Canine-Assisted Crisis Intervention through the lens of the Tri-State Canine Response Team, an organization dedicated to deploying highly trained handler-dog teams to comfort, support and enhance the quality of life of those who are suffering from a personal condition or community crisis utilizing the human/canine bond and its power to heal.

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Janice Campbell

President/Founder | Tri-State Canine Response Team



Daniela Terrosi

Florida Volunteer Coordinator | Tri-State Canine Response Team

Preparing for a Mass Violence Incident in Your Community: Strategies to Improve Preparedness Plans to Address Victim Needs at a Critical Time: What Aren't We Thinking Of?

2:15 PM – 3:45 PM | Location: Narcissus/Orange

MASS VIOLENCE

No one wants to think that a mass violence incident (MVI) can occur in their community, but MVIs can occur anywhere and at any time. No community is immune. One of the most impactful ways to avoid the chaos that accompanies these incidents and to promote short- and long-term recovery, is to be prepared. What are the things a community should do in developing a victim-centered, trauma informed plan? The NMVC has responded to a number of mass violence events and understands the lessons each community learns from their preparation and response. This session will focus on the 16 Best Practices to MVI Preparedness with a specific focus on sometimes overlooked but important issues such as volunteer management, financial donations, memorial planning and the criminal justice system.

BREAKOUT

Speaker



Elizabeth Cronin

Associate Academic Program Director | National Mass Violence Center

Break

3:45 PM – 4:00 PM

A Comprehensive Approach to Care for Financial Fraud Victims and Loved Ones

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM | Location: Salon I

FINANCIAL CRIMES

Financial fraud is a complex, ever-changing type of crime that is often misunderstood in terms of the impact on victims and their loved ones and the complexity of the crime syndicates that operate these scams. One of the greatest challenges the field faces is preventing re-victimization, which happens at alarming rates due to the shame and isolation victims often feel.

Preventing re-victimization means ensuring victims and their loved ones receive the appropriate mental health support, which can be challenging if searching solely for an informed clinician. This session addresses the healing journey of an often overlooked, underreported, and underserved population within victim services.

Participants will learn how to support individuals with empathy while identifying and creating the resources needed to create safe spaces. Professionals will learn how to access training for clinicians to better serve the fraud community and how to connect victims and loved ones to peer support.

BREAKOUT

Speaker



Julie Wells

Director, Strategic Relationships | Give an Hour

Scaling Safety - A Community-Driven Public Safety Model

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM | Location: Salon II

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Scaling Safety Initiative, a collaborative project led by Alliance for Safety and Justice (ASJ) and Community-Based Public Safety Collective (CBPS). This innovative effort aims to transform public safety by investing in resident-powered crime prevention and centering survivor voices to break cycles of violence in these cities and beyond: Austin, Cleveland, Jackson, Miami, and Tucson. Participants will gain insight into what it takes to “Scale” community-driven safety efforts. We will zoom out to understand the broader strategy and zoom in to explore how local leadership and survivor advocacy can come together to create safe communities. The session will offer practical takeaways for those interested in strengthening community safety efforts in their own cities. Participants will leave with tools to begin assessing gaps and assets in their local ecosystems and ideas for how to mobilize survivors and community partners in designing solutions.

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Richard Washington

Senior Manager, Scaling Safety | Alliance for Safety & Justice



Shundrea Trotty

Director of Organizational Development, Shared Safety | Alliance for Safety & Justice



Subhash Kateel

Director of Advocacy, Shared Safety | Alliance for Safety & Justice

Survivors of High Profile Tragedies & the Media: Filling a Critical Gap in Support

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM | Location: Salon III

MEDIA

Survivors should have more of a say in if, when and how their stories are told. Often, survivors of high-profile tragedies like mass trauma incidents, homicides, suicides, missing persons and climate crises face unexpected and often unwanted media attention without support. This gap in services impacts those stepping forward to tell their stories or advocating on their survivor issues in the days, weeks or years after a tragedy. This gap is felt most in under-served communities which face a disproportionate level of violence and access to fewer services. An emerging public-private partnership in Massachusetts is filling this gap through a new nonprofit, Survivors Say and in collaboration with victim advocates, law enforcement, government, faith leaders, health care providers and community organizations. Through a trauma- and survivor-informed approach, we support survivors, victim advocates and other partners to upend that dynamic and ensure survivors have the support wherever and whenever they need it.

BREAKOUT

Speakers



David Guarino

Founder & President | Survivors Say



Alejandra StGuillen

Board Director | Survivors Say



Amanda Munger

Board Officer / Treasurer | Survivors Say



Brenna Chase

Deputy Chief of Staff | Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance

Behind the Charge: Working Towards Safety for Victims/Survivors Involved in the Criminal Legal System

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM | Location: Salon VI

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

This interactive training session is designed for advocates, service providers, legal professionals, and community stakeholders seeking to deepen their understanding of the complex experiences of victimization and survivors who become involved in the criminal legal system. Through case studies, discussion, and practical tools, participants will explore the systemic pathways that often funnel survivors into criminalization, and the compounding challenges they face once inside the system.

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Understand the social, economic, and systemic factors that lead victims/survivors into contact with the criminal legal system.
- Recognize the unique and often overlooked challenges survivors face post-entry, including stigma, retraumatization, and lack of access to supportive services.
- Apply trauma-informed and survivor-centered strategies to promote healing, safety, and accountability in their work.
- Identify systemic barriers and advocate for alternative approaches, including diversion programs, restorative practices, and policy reforms.

Whether you're new to this work or looking to refine your practice, this session offers critical insights and actionable strategies to better support survivors navigating the criminal legal system.

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Jen LaChance

Director of Advocacy & Victim Services | Through These Doors



Shawn LaGrega

Deputy Director | Maine Pretrial Services, Inc.

Parenting Time with Purpose: Protecting Children and Survivors in High-Risk Situations

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM | Location: Salon VII

JUVENILE VICTIMS

This workshop explores the critical role of supervised visitation, also known as Parenting/Family Time plays a critical role in safeguarding the safety and well-being of children, especially in situations involving domestic violence. As systems shift toward minimizing structured supervision in favor of the least restrictive environments, this session underscores the ongoing necessity of supervised settings to protect vulnerable children and survivors. Through evidence-based strategies and the powerful personal narrative of Hera McLeod—who tragically lost her son after supervised visitation was discontinued—participants will gain a deeper understanding of the vital role these programs play in mitigating risk, supporting survivors, and ensuring child safety in the context of domestic violence and family reunification.

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Joe Nullet

Executive Director | Supervised Visitation Network



Hera McLeod

Board Member | Supervised Visitation Network

The Power of People and Technology: Resources to Respond and Support Survivors of Online Exploitation

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM | Location: Salon VIII

JUVENILE VICTIMS

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children is the nation's largest and most influential child protection organization. We lead the fight to protect children, creating vital resources for them and the people who keep them safe. This workshop will help participants learn about our diverse programs of services, the support offered to victims and families of missing and exploited children, our outreach, prevention and community education efforts as well as our children advocacy responses in all communities.

Through this session, participants will:

- Learn about NCMEC, our mission and programs of work
- Recognize specific trauma responses based on CSAM production
- Understand the impacts of CSAM on children and how NCMEC helps
- Learn how to use and navigate through the Take it Down platform
- Highlight trauma-informed best practices in survivor advocacy work
- Develop better understanding of NCMEC Prevention resources

BREAKOUT

Speaker



Orquidea Rivera

Supervisor, Family Advocacy Division (Mental Health Professional) | The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

The Three Centers Created in the Aftermath of Mass Violence Incidents

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM | Location: Narcissus/Orange

MASS VIOLENCE

In the aftermath of many mass violence incidents (MVIs), local, state, national, Tribal and Federal leaders collaborate to create Centers that identify and address the many needs of victims, survivors, first responders and the community-at-large:

1. Friends & Relatives Center
2. Family Assistance Center
3. Resiliency Center

While each Center and its services are unique to the impacted community, national guidance and protocols have been created that can help communities plan for the most critical components of each Center, which can be easily adapted to a specific community and MVI. This National Town Hall will provide an overview of each Center, and the continuum of services that are provided across the implementation of each Center.

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Anne Seymour

NMVC Associate Academic Program Director | Medical University of South Carolina, National Mass Violence Center



Alyssa Rheingold

Director of Response, Recovery, & Resilience | National Mass Violence Center - MUSC

Thursday, September 04, 2025

Registration & Coffee

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM | Location: Palm Foyer

Facing the Gun Violence Epidemic: Survivor Stories and A Call to Action

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM | Location: Palm Ballroom

PLENARY SESSION

This informative plenary panel will be full of emotion, inspiration and hope as gun violence victims of some of the most notorious mass shootings in US history tell their loved one's stories, how they have found purpose through this unthinkable tragedy and what the future holds in preventing gun violence.

The plenary will be moderated by Michael Haggard, managing partner of the national premises liability Haggard Law Firm. The Haggard Law Firm has handled more gun violence cases than any victim law firm in the country. Haggard will interview several gun violence victims who have suffered the ultimate loss. The families will tell the incredible stories of who was lost and how it has severely affected them. Yet, these families will also address the crowd on how they have turned this tremendous loss into a beautiful purpose. You will hear how each family has chosen to honor their loved ones in a pursuit to end and prevent gun violence.

PLENARY

Speakers



Michael Haggard

Attorney and Board Member, National Center for Victims of Crime | NCVC



Alyssa Rheingold

Director of Response, Recovery, & Resilience | National Mass Violence Center - MUSC



Happy Perry

Mother of D'Sean Perry | The Haggard Law Firm



Jeff Binkley

Maura's Voice Co-Founder | The Haggard Law Firm/Maura's Voice



Tim Schmidt

Break

10:15 AM – 10:30 AM

Stronger Together: Collaborations for Campus Safety and Wellness

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM | Location: Salon I

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In today's rapidly evolving campus environment, safety and wellness are top priorities—but no institution can address these challenges alone. This session explores the critical role of multidisciplinary collaborations in building resilient, supportive, and safe college communities. Participants will learn how strategic partnerships between campus departments, local law enforcement, public health agencies, mental health providers, student organizations, and community stakeholders can foster a proactive and holistic approach to campus well-being.

Through real-world examples, practical tools, and interactive discussion, we will examine collaborative strategies to address today's most pressing issues—ranging from mental health crises to violence prevention and emergency preparedness. Attendees will leave with actionable insights to strengthen their institution's network of support and promote a culture of care, trust, and shared responsibility.

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Kim Camacho

Program Manager | NCVC



Daniel Torre

Deputy Director, Center for Victim Service Professionals | National Center for Victims of Crime

From Law Enforcement to Advocacy: A Father's Journey Supporting His Child from Victim to Survivor

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM | Location: Salon II

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Join a former law enforcement officer and an educator—parents of a son who survived sexual misconduct by a female mentor—as they share their journey from shock to advocacy. Experiencing the justice system from the victim's side, they built a network of support through victim advocates, detectives, prosecutors, and legal experts. Their story highlights key lessons on navigating the legal process, addressing gender biases in offender responses, and the critical role of advocacy in healing. Framed within national victim research, this workshop explores how intentional support can transform trauma into empowerment.

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Kelly Olson Stewart

Associate Professor/Researcher/Consultant | University of Arizona Global Campus



Michael Stewart

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources | Washington Elementary School District

Overcoming Abusive Defense Tactics

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM | Location: Salon III

LEGAL

This workshop will provide an overview of tactics used by legal counsel for persons accused of sexual misconduct to turn the tables on survivors, including by filing civil suits against them, challenging the use of pseudonyms to "out" survivors publicly, and other legal tactics intended to divert attention away from the principal allegations, punish survivors who file legal proceedings or go public, or to pressure survivors to forego enforcing their rights.

The workshop will focus on the rights of survivors to proceed by pseudonym and defense challenges thereto; defamation and SLAPP suits filed against survivors; the extent of the litigation privilege protecting survivors in Title IX proceedings and civil suits; and, threats of extortion made by defendants against survivors. The workshop will educate advocates, attorneys, and survivors about the law governing these issues and educate them on ways to anticipate, evade, and overcome these tactics.

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Jacob Goodman

Attorney | The Fierberg National Law Group, PLLC



Iliana Konidaris

Managing Legal Counsel | New York | The Fierberg National Law Group, PLLC

Victim Rights Mapping: Identifying Systemic Gaps & Enhancing Collaboration for Victim-Centered Justice

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM | Location: Salon VI

LEGAL

Victim Rights Mapping is an innovative approach to understanding and improving victims' experiences within the criminal justice system. This interactive session explores how mapping exercises help identify where victims' rights are upheld or missed, ensuring that systemic gaps are recognized and addressed. Participants will learn how to apply a structured mapping framework, integrating the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) and multi-agency collaboration strategies to enhance victim services. Using real-world case scenarios, this session will equip professionals with actionable tools to improve systemic responses, increase trauma-informed engagement, and foster interagency cooperation.

This session will explore:

How Victim Rights Mapping helps visualize victims' journeys through the justice system.

The role of critical access points where rights are reinforced or overlooked.

Strategies for multi-disciplinary collaboration to enhance victim services.

Through discussion, case studies, and evidence-based strategies, participants will leave with a deeper understanding of how to implement Victim Rights Mapping in their own jurisdictions.

BREAKOUT

Speaker



Nela Kalpic

State Director | Marsy's Law for Wisconsin

Homicide Advocacy - A Survivor Advocates Perspective

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM | Location: Salon VII

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The Homicide Advocacy Training Workshop is an intensive, trauma-informed program designed to equip advocates with the knowledge and skills necessary to support families and individuals impacted by homicide from a survivor advocate perspective. This workshop provides a comprehensive understanding of the criminal justice system, victim rights, and the emotional and practical challenges that survivors face.

Through expert-led discussion, participants will learn:

The legal processes following a homicide, including investigations, court proceedings, and victim advocacy roles.

Best practices for providing emotional support, crisis intervention, and resource navigation using trauma-informed approaches.

Strategies for community outreach, policy advocacy, and collaboration with law enforcement and service providers.

By the end of the workshop, attendees will be equipped to offer compassionate, effective, and informed advocacy, ensuring that no survivor is left to navigate the aftermath of homicide alone.

BREAKOUT

Speaker



Crystal Anlage

Executive Director & Victim Advocate | Jacksonville Survivors Foundation & Project: Cold Case

Building Victim Services Teams Through Actively Caring for People and Performance Driven Thinking

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM | Location: Salon VIII

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

This workshop will feature two national models that seek to improve performance in serving victims through the science of performance and kindness. Performance Driven Thinking (PDT) is a thought process to establish the desire to perform with the will to succeed and Actively Caring for People (AC4P) based on the science of kindness established through the academic research and teachings of Virginia Tech professor, Dr. E. Scott Geller. This workshop provides a pathway for increased self-motivation that will reactivate your personal and professional passion to make a lasting impact on the victims you serve and build positive outcomes for the field.

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Iva Rody

Chief Operating Officer | National Center for Victims of Crime



Bobby Kipper

Adjunct Professor | University of North Florida

Helping the Helpers: How do we foster resilience and reduce trauma in our work as victim service professionals?

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM | Location: Narcissus/Orange

MASS VIOLENCE

Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it. — Helen Keller

Resilience is the process of adapting in the face of adversity. All humans face stressors, suffering, and challenges throughout our lives. Many victim service professionals describe anxiety, burnout, fatigue, and vicarious trauma in the work we do in the helping field. This can be especially challenging for those working with individuals and communities impacted by mass violence. Special attention will be spent during this training to discuss the unique aspects of the impact of mass violence on victim service professionals. Strengthening strategies to foster resilience can help improve quality of daily life, enhance competence in managing life stressors, improve satisfaction in the work we do, and prevent the development of long-term health complications. This training will provide several practical approaches to coping with emotional distress, clarify our values to strengthen the “why,” and practice compassion for oneself.

BREAKOUT

Speaker



Alyssa Rheingold

Director of Response, Recovery, & Resilience | National Mass Violence Center - MUSC

The Defense Expert: Taking Them On and Taking Over

10:30 AM – 11:15 AM | Location: Salon IV-V

NCVBA

How to prepare, analyze and depose/cross examine defense security and premises experts. Determinations as to whether the defense expert should even be deposed (multiple factors to consider). Approaches to cross examination and attacking the expert in deposition and trial.

BREAKOUT

Speaker



John Leighton

Attorney | Leighton Panoff Law

The Powerful Use of Corporate Representative Depositions Simplified and Made Practical In Order to Advance Your Client's Case

11:15 AM – 12:00 PM | Location: Salon IV-V

NCVBA

This presentation will walk you through how to effectively (and practically) take advantage of the corporate representative deposition regardless of the state in which you practice. The corporate representative deposition - often known as the 30(b)(6) rule in federal litigation - is more than just a deposition reserved for corporations like McDonalds and Pepsi. Almost every state (if not every state) has a 30(b)(6) equivalent. This is a powerful tool to elicit testimony in a case, identify witnesses a defendant has failed to disclose, and identify documents a defendant has refused to produce. This presentation will walk you through preparing for the 30(b)(6) with practical advice on how to frame topics, to taking the actual deposition, to handling witnesses who give you unsubstantiated testimony, to following up on documents and witnesses the corporate representative identifies but which the defendant has refused to provide to you in discovery. This presentation will use real life examples, including video footage of deposition testimony by corporate

BREAKOUT

Speaker



Lucas Franken

Attorney | Pfau Cochran Vertetis Amala

Lunch

12:00 PM – 12:45 PM

The Scam Justice Legal Clinic: Helping victims of scams and fraud

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM | Location: Palm Ballroom

PLENARY SESSION

Learn about the Scam Justice Legal Clinic, the founding organizations, why they collaborated to create this clinic, and how together we can better provide support to scam survivors.

PLENARY

Speakers



Ron Long

Special Consultant | Stevens & Lee



Abigail Bishop

Head of External Relations | Amazon



Grant Damon-Feng

Partner | Davis Wright Tremaine LLP



Melissa Lanning

Executive Director | BBB Institute for Marketplace Trust

For Us, By Us: Providing Culturally Specific Services and Community Based Services to Survivors of DVSA

1:45 PM – 3:15 PM | Location: Salon I

SEXUAL & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Learn from The Safe Sisters Circle in an informative workshop designed for direct service providers. The session will delve into the critical role of culturally specific services and community based services in supporting survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault (DVSA). Participants will gain insight into what culturally specific and community based services entail and how they can be integrated into the victim services, including legal representation of DVSA survivors. Using real-world case examples from The Safe Sisters Circle, this session will highlight best practices. Attendees will leave equipped with practical strategies for more effective and empathetic advocacy, ensuring survivors receive the nuanced, culturally specific support they deserve.

BREAKOUT

Speaker



Nel-Sylvia Guzman

Executive Director | The Safe Sisters Circle

Identifying the Hidden Dangers and Subsequent Barriers that impede Cruise Ship Crime Victim's Access to Collaborative Assistance and Response.

1:45 PM – 3:15 PM | Location: Salon II

LEGAL

If you've never thought about the ways in which the laws that are applicable to cruise ship crime victims differ from the laws that apply to land-based crime victims, or if you're unaware of all the assumptive rights that cruise passengers unwittingly relinquish when they embark on a cruise ... or, if you have never witnessed the ways in which a cruise ship crime victim's right to pursue justice differs from a land based crime victim's pursuit, you are not alone. You and the 31,000,000 passengers projected to take a cruise this year have much in common. But you have a chance to make a difference. You have a chance to join us in becoming a part of the change you would like to see. Discover ways to help these unique victims, discover ways to change antiquated laws, and ways to give victims a voice for change.

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Jamie Barnett

President | International Cruise Victims



Laurie Dishman

Advocate/Speaker

Reporting Barriers for Victims with Disabilities

1:45 PM – 3:15 PM | Location: Salon III

TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES

Our research team has identified gaps and brainstormed 'fixes' to support victims with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in reporting victimization. We connected with professionals (i.e., law enforcement, advocates), individuals with IDD, and the community (i.e., caregivers, support persons). We will discuss barriers to communication, current policy and available accommodations to support individuals with IDD, and areas for training.

Individuals with IDD are often missing from the creation of data due to, among other things, communication differences. We developed inclusive interview guides. We created visual schedules and social stories to clarify expectations for the research process. A visual schedule provides steps for the types of questions that will be posed during the data collection with images. Social stories support comprehension of a new task for individuals with communication differences. We seek to listen through our work and together develop supports to ensure all voices are heard, especially survivors with IDD.

BREAKOUT

Speaker



Amanda Simmons

Associate Professor | University of Cincinnati

Empowering Victims of Fraud: A Collaborative Approach

1:45 PM – 3:15 PM | Location: Salon VI

FINANCIAL CRIMES

This workshop presented by Amazon, the Better Business Bureau (BBB), and Davis Wright Tremaine (DWT) will explore a collaborative approach to assisting victims of financial crimes and scams.

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Tom Olsen

Senior Corporate Counsel | Amazon



Melissa Lanning

Executive Director | BBB Institute for Marketplace Trust



Grant Damon-Feng

Partner | Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

When Family and Criminal Law intersect: A Child at the Center

1:45 PM – 3:15 PM | Location: Salon VII

JUVENILE VICTIMS

This workshop will explore the intricate challenges presented by child custody cases where criminal charges are also involved. Participants will gain valuable insights from the perspectives of both victim advocates serving protective parents and legal counsel representing them in these challenging cases that exist within both the family and criminal justice systems. The workshop will cover victim constitutional rights, recent case law that aims to reduce the trauma of the court process and provide participants with practical tools and strategies to safeguard child victim safety and further protect against future violence. This workshop is essential for anyone working with families facing these difficult circumstances.

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Kirstin Flores

Director; Office of Victim Services | AZ Attorney General's Office



David J. Newstone

Executive Director and General Counsel | Defenders of Children

Survivor Response to Lethality Assessment - Our Evaluation Journey

1:45 PM – 3:15 PM | Location: Salon VIII

SEXUAL & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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, and the changes that will happen because of it.

BREAKOUT

Speaker



Caryn Burton

Homicide Reduction Strategies Coordinator | Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Using Restorative Practices to Enhance Trauma Informed Care Staff Culture

1:45 PM – 3:15 PM | Location: Narcissus/Orange

TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES

Victim Service Agencies have an ethical obligation to support their workers, providing a community of care that supports the continuity of care expected and offered to victims/survivors. Restorative Practices align with trauma informed care principles, not just in how we interact with victims/survivors, but also how we interact with and treat our co-workers and colleagues. Restorative Practices are historically rooted in cultures placing high value on respect, integrity and shared responsibility. This workshop aligns these practices to move beyond theory to practice.

BREAKOUT

Speaker



Angela Keen

Senior Training & Technical Assistance Specialist | Office for Victims of Crime Training & Technical Assistance Center (OVC TTAC)

Contemporary Ethics Issues for Crime Victims' Attorneys

1:45 PM – 2:30 PM | Location: Salon IV-V

NCVBA

Rebecca Roe and Erin Olson will use real-life examples to discuss contemporary ethics issues, including the use of artificial intelligence tools in your practice and the identification and analysis of particular conflicts of interest.

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Erin Olson

Attorney | Law Office of Erin Olson, P.C.



Becky Roe

Attorney | Schroeter Goldmark & Bender

NMVC/NCVC Listening Session - INVITATION ONLY

1:45 PM – 5:00 PM | Location: Crystal Room

Please note this session is closed to participants of the invited to this listening session. If you have any questions, please ask an NCVS staff member.

AI in Depositions: Revolutionizing Prep, Execution, and Post-Deposition Work

2:30 PM – 3:15 PM | Location: Salon IV-V

NCVBA

In this presentation, we will explore how AI-powered platforms are transforming the deposition process from start to finish. With advancements in artificial intelligence, lawyers can streamline preparation, enhance real-time deposition performance, and optimize post-deposition workflows to gain a strategic edge. We will work through live demos and see it all in action together!

BREAKOUT

Speaker



Guy D'Andrea

Attorney | Laffey Bucci D'Andrea

Break

3:15 PM – 3:30 PM

Best Practice Resources to Empower Victims from Incident to Release

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM | Location: Salon I

SEXUAL & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

One in four women and one in nine men are victims of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, physical violence, or other crimes -- resulting in injury, fear, and/or a need for judicial help. It is critical to keep victims informed from incident to resolution.

This presentation will:

Demonstrate how utilizing a network like VINE can help protect victims from re-victimization, find greater peace of mind, and knowledgeably plan for their safety.

Explore how VINE, in collaboration with Versaterm, leverages a national network of web, mobile, and interactive voice technology to help agencies provide the necessary resources and support to help keep crime victims who register for services informed, from the point of the 911 call initial incident, to release.

Educate attendees on the breadth of VINE resources and technology that are available to states across the nation.

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Karen Adams

Manager of Training Programs | VINE



Emily Kamer

Client Relationship Manager | Public Safety - Equifax Workforce Solutions

Bridging Technology and Care Coordination: How BRIGHT Enhances Service Delivery for Human Trafficking Survivors

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM | Location: Salon II

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Studies have indicated that there is a need for a technological solution that addresses the entire continuum of care in victim services. This workshop will showcase a demonstration of a new solution that combines technology with care coordination seamlessly across various service needs: the BRIGHT model. Informed by partners with lived experience in the field through participatory action research, speakers will highlight the needs that arose from prototype tests and focus groups on BRIGHT's usability, and how to address these needs moving forward. These needs include how to adapt the system efficiently for law enforcement, by implementing survivor-advocates within the recovery process. Implications for the system across victimization types will be highlighted. The speakers will workshop with participants regarding establishing this platform in their respective spheres and discuss how to overcome challenges faced by participants in their own fields based on the applicability of BRIGHT outside of the anti-trafficking arena.

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Shelly Wagers

Associate Professor and Project Director | University of South Florida



Kailey Carter

BRIGHT Project Manager | University of South Florida



Marianne Thomas

Founder and President | My Name My Voice



Sarah Lockwood

Assistant Professor | University of South Florida

Go Team-: Utilizing Police /Social Service Partnerships to Address Child Trauma

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM | Location: Salon III

JUVENILE VICTIMS

In this session, attendees will learn about Family Service of Rhode Island's Go Team-, a law enforcement/social service co-response model aimed at improving outcomes for traumatized children encountered on crime scenes. The Go Team- model pairs trauma-informed social service professionals with law enforcement to provide immediate, on-scene support and wrap around aftercare for children exposed or witnesses to violence and other traumatic events. This partnership model has operated for over 20 years in numerous Rhode Island communities and has received a number of national awards. Family Service of Rhode Island recently received a Substance and Mental Health Services Administration, National Child Traumatic Stress Network Category II Treatment and Services Adaptation Center grant to establish the Center for Trauma- Informed Policing (TIP Center). The TIP Center will serve as a state-of-the-art resource for law enforcement across the nation interested in becoming trauma-informed and replicating FSRI'S Go Team- best practice model, with social service partners to mitigate the effects of childhood trauma exposure, reduce revictimization risk, and divert children away from unnecessary juvenile justice involvement and hospitalization. This session will cover the Go Team- model in detail and its effectiveness through specific case examples. Attendees will also learn how to start a Go Team- in their local community utilizing free TIP Center consultation and training resources.

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Liz Gledhill

DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR TRAUMA-INFORMED POLICING | Family Service of Rhode Island



Ryan Duffy

NEWPORT POLICE CHIEF | NEWPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

Civil Justice for Victims of Crime

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM | Location: Salon VI

LEGAL

While service providers are often well-versed in the intricacies of the criminal justice system, they are often unfamiliar with the civil justice system and how it can help crime victims rebuild their lives. This introductory seminar focus on the basics of tort law, the various civil causes of action that can be brought by victims, and where service providers can refer victims to find legal assistance.

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Renee Williams

Chief Executive Officer | National Center for Victims of Crime



Michael Pfau

Partner | Pfau Cochran Vertetis Amala

Abuse, Violence, and Bulimia: The Complicated Common Thread of Complex Trauma

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM | Location: Salon VII

TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES

Eating disorders such as bulimia nervosa are complicated conditions impacting numerous teen girls and women. According to the National Eating Disorders Association, about 20 million women in the US are struggling with bulimia, making it the third most common chronic illness among this population. Many experts agree that bulimia nervosa symptomology is often associated with the complex traumatic effects of abuse and violence victimization. Examination of this multifaceted relationship needs to be a significant focus for professionals working with bulimic clients. This presentation will share valuable information regarding the associations between interpersonal violence and bulimic disordered eating. And it will offer empirically sound trauma-focused assessment, treatment, and woman-centered best practices to best help and support victim-survivors with this eating disorder.

BREAKOUT

Speaker



Suzanne Kramer-Brenna

Senior Project Director | North Dakota Domestic & Sexual Violence Coalition

Empowering Survivors: Navigating Post-Conviction Challenges with the Post Conviction Resource Center (PCRC)

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM | Location: Salon VIII

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

In the aftermath of a conviction, crime victims and survivors often feel unprepared for ongoing case activity. This presentation introduces the newly launched Post Conviction Resource Center (PCRC), an online platform offering essential information and resources to support victims and survivors during the variety of post-conviction processes that may occur. Healing Justice staff and a crime survivor will discuss the unique challenges survivors face and share best practices for trauma-informed, victim-centered engagement. The session will also explore the growing presence of conviction and sentence review units nationwide and highlight key post-conviction moments for victim services and collaboration. Participants will learn how to effectively use the PCRC to seek out resources and connect victims and survivors with trained advocates for individualized support, empowering them to navigate the complex post-conviction process including appeals, parole hearings, conviction review and more.

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Brittany Shefter

Director of Healing Programs | Healing Justice



Claire Exley

Director of Justice Programs | Healing Justice

COPS University Community Policing Toolkit

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM | Location: Narcissus/Orange

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Session attendees will increase their knowledge of contemporary community-oriented policing practices on college campuses, knowledge gaps on research in this area, available resources for their agencies, and will be able to provide early feedback on the University Community Policing Toolkit. This presentation will shed light on the under-studied intersection of community-oriented policing and campus policing, and how university campuses are prime environments for agencies to implement community-oriented policing practices

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Quin Patterson

Associate Research Analyst | CNA Corporation



Lindsey Clancey

Research Scientist | CNA



Felix Martinez

Chief of Campus Police | St. Mary's College of Maryland



Ebonyque Taylor

Social Scientist Analyst | Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office)

Empowering Victims of Fraud: A Collaborative Approach

3:30 PM – 4:15 PM | Location: Salon IV-V

NCVBA

First FREE legal clinic for scam victims! This workshop presented by Amazon, and Davis Wright Tremaine (DWT) delves into the collaborative Scam Justice Clinic, which provides free legal assistance to individuals impacted by financial crimes and scams.

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Melina Garcia

Associate | Davis Wright Tremaine LLP



Ian Harris

Davis Wright Tremaine



Beersheba Philippe

Sr. Program Manager | Amazon

Getting damages in school sexual harassment and abuse cases after Cummings v. Premier Rehab

4:15 PM – 5:00 PM | Location: Salon IV-V

NCVBA

This presentation would fully address a question that has been asked in the CSA Section of each NCVBA conference I've attended:

how do we get full compensation for victims of sexual harassment after the Supreme Court's decision in *Cummings v. Premier Rehab*? Before *Cummings*, practitioners primarily relied on a federal law, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, to sue schools for failing to protect students from sexual harassment. But in *Cummings*, the Supreme Court effectively held that Title IX plaintiffs cannot get damages for emotional distress, which often account for most (if not all) of the damages in school harassment and abuse cases. The decision has had a seismic impact, even causing some lawyers to stop taking school harassment cases altogether.

This presentation would outline three ways that student sexual harassment victims can still get damages after *Cummings*, drawing on cases the Students' Civil Rights Project has litigated. First, it will detail the types of damages still available under Title IX. Second, it will describe legal theories that can be used to sue institutions for sexual harassment under 42 USC Section 1983 and teach how to avoid common pitfalls in bringing such claims. Third, it will address common state civil rights statutes that may allow students to sue for sexual harassment, often despite immunity statutes that would bar ordinary negligence claims, and describe arguments that courts should interpret those state civil rights laws more expansively than Title IX.

BREAKOUT

Speaker



Sean Ouellette

Attorney | Public Justice

NCVC 40th Anniversary Disney Dessert Party

8:00 PM – 9:00 PM | Location: Epcot

Join NCVC in celebrating our 40th Anniversary at at the most magical place on Earth! Attendees will be treated to an assortment of desserts and drinks while having a premiere viewing spot for the Epcot fireworks show. Please note that this is a ticketed event and attendees must have a ticket (which includes a park ticket and access to the event) in order to attend the event. Tickets can be purchased [here](#).

Friday, September 05, 2025

Registration & Coffee

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM | Location: Palm Foyer

Networking Bingo!

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM | Location: Palm Ballroom

PLENARY SESSION

Join other attendees for an opportunity to get to know one another and expand your network! Come prepared to swap business cards and stories, and hopefully walk away knowing a few new colleagues.

Break

10:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Mental Immunity: Building Internal Strength to Withstand Repeated Exposure to Trauma

10:15 AM – 11:45 AM | Location: Salon I

TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES

This session introduces the concept of Mental Immunity®—a proactive approach which focuses on building proactive resilience to prevent crisis before it occurs. Using several self-assessment models, participants will learn how to strengthen protective factors, recognize and address vulnerabilities, and apply practical every-day strategies to sustain long-term wellbeing. The session explores 12 areas of health, to equip participants to create a foundation of mental strength and overall wellness that reduces risk, supports recovery, and fosters resilience across both personal and professional domains.

BREAKOUT

Speaker



Amy Morgan

CEO/Founder | Center for Training

Time's Up-Document The Abuse

10:15 AM – 11:45 AM | Location: Salon II

LEGAL

Come join us and learn about amazing and innovative new resource in the fight against abuse of any kind, the **Evidentiary Abuse Affidavit (EAA)** - a groundbreaking tool designed to help abuse victims document their experiences and protect themselves before it's too late. A digital diary that helps victims to assemble their information all in one place. This tool is available throughout the U.S. with inquiries coming from other countries also.

Norma Peterson shares her story not for the sympathy, but in the hope of changing the landscape for victims of any kind of abuse, in any situation that makes you feel in danger. Norma has seen firsthand the emotional strain, fear and isolation that victims navigate and now having gone through this experience wants to help others in a way that wasn't possible for Stacy Peterson and Kathleen Savio.

This workshop provides critical insights into how the EAA works, it's legal significance and how survivors, advocates, law enforcement, and legal professionals can integrate it into safety planning and as a community resource. A short overview using the the evidence provided during the Kathleen Savio murder trial to which her ex husband Bolingbrook, Ill. Police Sargeant Drew Peterson was convicted of and is now serving a 38 year sentence.

BREAKOUT

Speaker



Norma Peterson

Executive Director | Document The Abuse

Skills for Psychological Recovery for Victims of Crime

10:15 AM – 11:45 AM | Location: Salon III

MASS VIOLENCE

Adults and children in the United States experience disturbingly high rates of criminal victimization. Victims of crime are at risk for experiencing a range of mental health problems including posttraumatic stress disorder, depression, and substance abuse. Several acute interventions have been developed over the past decade with the goal of being implemented shortly following a traumatic event (i.e., within four weeks), with the aim of reducing risk for longer-term mental health problems. This workshop will provide clinicians, health care providers, first responders, victim advocates, and other victim service professionals with an overview of mental health challenges faced by victimization and traumatically bereaved persons as well as an introduction to the basic concepts of Skills for Psychological Recovery— an early intervention approach relevant to the needs of victims of crime. Needs of mass violence victims will be discussed in the context of early intervention approaches.

BREAKOUT

Speaker



Alyssa Rheingold

Director of Response, Recovery, & Resilience | National Mass Violence Center - MUSC

Taking Action: Assisting Victims of Financial Fraud

10:15 AM – 11:45 AM | Location: Salon VI

FINANCIAL CRIMES

Anyone can be a victim of financial fraud, and perpetrators of this type of crime can range from the most intimate of people like partners and family members to strangers far away. With financial fraud increasing, it's important for practitioners, and those who do client-facing work, to understand the dynamics of financial fraud, identify strategies, and provide resources to help professionals in supporting victims and those who will occupationally support someone experiencing fraud.

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Kim Camacho

Program Manager | NCVC



Robert Mascio

Director | FINRA

Engaging Innovative Approaches to Serving Victims of Crime: Leveraging Peer Support

10:15 AM – 11:45 AM | Location: Salon VIII

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Historically, the concept of peer support programs has been applied primarily to mental health, substance abuse and occupational challenges. The foundation of peer support draws connections between persons who have experienced adversity and trauma and others currently facing adversity and trauma. The victim services field is ripe for innovation using the peer model. In some ways, this has been happening unofficially for years within underserved and marginalized communities. Similarly, victims and survivors of crime often choose to work or volunteer in the field to help other victims and survivors. This presentation will detail how peer support programs are evolving in the victim services field.

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Daniel Torrez

Deputy Director, Center for Victim Service Professionals | National Center for Victims of Crime



Michele Schwartz

Senior Director of Programs | National Center for Victims of Crime

In the Spotlight: Helping Victims Navigate Media Attention

10:15 AM – 11:45 AM | Location: Narcissus/Orange

MEDIA

We've all turned on the nightly news only to see story after story about crime. People are always eager to consume news about public safety — and the media is more than willing to provide the content. Too often, though, these stories are told at the expense of victims and their families. NCVC has created a guide to help survivors and their advocates navigate the media spotlight, from interacting with reporters to using media attention to help solve cases. You'll get practical tips for protecting victims and advocating for responsible, trauma-informed journalism.

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Renee Williams

Chief Executive Officer | National Center for Victims of Crime



Dashiell Coleman

Communications Manager | National Center for Victims of Crime

When Trouble Leads to Trauma: Advocating for Exploited Teens in Personal Injury Cases

10:15 AM – 11:00 AM | Location: Salon IV-V

NCVBA

This presentation explores the unique legal challenges and considerations in personal injury cases involving exploited teens, drawing attention to high-profile examples like Paris Hilton's revelations about abuse in youth residential facilities. We will examine how such environments can contribute to physical and emotional injuries, the legal responsibilities of institutions, and strategies for effectively advocating for plaintiffs. Demonstrative examples will include case studies of negligent supervision, institutional abuse, human and labor trafficking, education neglect, and the lasting impact of trauma on adolescent development. Attendees will gain insights into building compelling narratives and utilizing visual aids to illustrate the profound effects of these injuries in court.

BREAKOUT

Speaker



Kimberly Wald

Attorney | Haggard Law Firm

Litigation Strategies to Maximize Pressure and Recoveries Against Institutional Defendants for Individual Survivors

11:00 AM – 11:45 AM | Location: Salon IV-V

NCVBA

Lawyers will discuss successful tactics used to maximize pressure on defendants and achieve record recoveries for individual survivors. Tactics discussed include waging exhaustive deposition campaigns (50+ depositions), strategic decision making on what witnesses to depose, and waging the written discovery war. Beyond the immediate victory, we'll explore how thorough prosecution of a single case can create a ripple effect, influencing parallel litigation against the same defendant.

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Martin Gould

Partner | Stinar Gould Grieco & Hensley



Valerie Letko

Attorney | Stinar Gould Grieco & Hensley, PLLC

Lunch (On Your Own)

11:45 AM – 1:00 PM

True Crime's Impact on Victims: Navigating Ethics, Advocacy & Justice

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM | Location: Salon I

MEDIA

The rise of true crime media through documentaries, podcasts, and social platforms has reshaped public interest in violent crime, influencing everything from criminal justice reform to victim advocacy. But as the genre grows, so does its impact on victims and survivors of high-profile cases. Using data and real-world case studies, we'll discuss strategies to harness the popularity of true crime to support victims rather than exploit their trauma. Participants will engage in discussions on policy changes, responsible storytelling, and ways to mitigate the risks of sensationalism while promoting justice and advocacy.

Join us as we navigate the intersection of true crime, social impact, and ethics focusing on how we can turn awareness into action.

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Clara Guidry

Safe Community Institute Manager | Crime Stoppers Of Houston



Sydney Zuiker

Sr. Director of Programs and Special Projects | Crime Stoppers of Houston



Andy Kahan

Director of Victim Services | Crime Stoppers of Houston

Scams, Fraud, and Identity: Identity Crimes as a Hidden Form of Victimization

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM | Location: Salon II

FINANCIAL CRIMES

Identity crimes, such as identity theft, scams, and fraud, often go unnoticed as forms of victimization, but their effects can be deeply damaging, both financially and emotionally. This workshop is designed to equip attendees with the tools to recognize and address the toll these crimes take on victims.

Through real-life examples and practical resources, attendees will leave with a deeper understanding of the complexities of identity crimes and actionable steps to better serve and protect victims. This workshop emphasizes the importance of collaboration to ensure comprehensive support for those affected.

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Mona Terry

Chief Victims Officer | Identity Theft Resource Center



Cindy Morales

Director of Victim Services | Identity Theft Resource Center

Hidden Homicides: The misclassification of domestic violence murders as suicides

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM | Location: Salon VI

SEXUAL & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

This session will discuss the overwhelming and alarming number of domestic violence homicides that are being staged and misclassified as suicides; how killers are getting away with murder and why Alliance for HOPE International has created three new programs to help law enforcement and family members address suspicious death cases with a history of domestic violence.

For the last seven years, the Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention (a program of the Alliance) has been working on too many suspicious death cases with a history of domestic violence that have been misclassified as suicides or undetermined. These cases have come to our attention through family members and law enforcement. Compelled by a huge gap in our criminal justice system and the potential of hundreds if not thousands of Hidden Homicides, the Alliance has launched the Justice Project, created a new course called Hidden Homicides: Overcoming the Challenges of Staged Crime Scenes and provides on-going support to family members through VOICES for Victims of Hidden Homicides.

The Justice Project seeks to help professionals (law enforcement, homicide detectives, death investigators, coroners and medical) and families of lost loved conduct a second and independent review at suspicious death cases where there is a history of domestic violence. The Hidden Homicides Course (whether 4 hours or 4 days) seeks to train multi-disciplinary professionals how to overcome the challenges of staged crime scenes by providing evidence-based research, new resources and lessons learned from multiple case studies. And VOICES for Victims of Homicides brings family members together who have lost families members under suspicious circumstances to support each other, help other family members, bring awareness and advocate for new laws and improved protocols and practice.

Crime scene staging research has found that most offenders who stage crime scenes are male, most victims are female, and the most common victim-offender relationship involving staging is intimate partner relationships. Seasoned investigators, medical examiners, and prosecutors can be misdirected by killers and can unintentionally close suspicious cases as accidents, suicides, or an overdose. Even classifying the cause of death as "undetermined" essentially closes a case for all practical purposes. The research also shows that a large percentage of law enforcement officers are not trained in staged crime scenes.

In 2024, the Alliance brought their growing concern about Hidden Homicides to the attention then OVC Director Kris Rose who conducted a Listening Session with Family Members of VOICES for Victims of Hidden Homicides.

In this presentation, the Instructors will discuss:

The findings of the Listening Session,

The gaps of the criminal justice system in addressing Hidden Homicides

The classic signs of a staged crime scenes in domestic violence cases

The new evidence-based 10 Factors of Staged Crime Scenes in Intimate Partner Cases

Lessons learned from handling multiple staged suicides and accidents

The need to interview family members

the need for MDTs to conduct post-mortem lethality and suicidal assessments

the need for improved federal and state law and protocols to address suspicious death cases with a history of domestic violence, and

How the Alliance has been helping law enforcement and family members to reopen cases for families of lost loved ones

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Gael Strack

CEO & Co-Founder | Alliance for HOPE International



Robin Altman

Founding Member & Advocate | Voices for Victims of Hidden Homicides (VVHH)



Kris Rose

Senior Research Associate | National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center

From Survivor to Advocate: Redefining Masculinity to Prevent Power-Based Violence

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM | Location: Salon VII

SEXUAL & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

This workshop explores the critical role men and boys play in preventing power-based violence by redefining masculinity. Henry Lliguicota-Lema, a child survivor of domestic violence, uses his personal story and experiences to advocate for change and educate his community. Participants will examine the societal norms and expectations, known as the "Man Box," that limit men's emotional expression and contribute to violence. Through Henry's personal story, statistical insights, and interactive discussions, attendees will learn about traditional masculinity's impact on perpetrators and victims. The workshop will also highlight the significance of addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and the importance of peer and school-based programs as primary interventions. Drawing on Henry's experience educating teen and college students on violence prevention, this session aims to foster an inclusive and empathetic understanding of "manhood," creating a safer and more supportive environment for all.

BREAKOUT

Speaker



Henry Lliguicota-Lema

Systems Engineer | Honeywell Aerospace Technologies

Exploring Tactics and Choices: An Interactive Approach to Understanding and Overcoming Abusive Tactics In Intimate Relationships

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM | Location: Salon VIII

SEXUAL & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Conversations about intimate partner violence (IPV) often center on survivor safety—and rightly so. However, to achieve true community safety and break cycles of harm, we must also address those who perpetrate violence. What resources and interventions exist for them? How can accountability and education play a role in prevention?

This session introduces Tactics and Choices, a pioneering two-hour program originally created by Men Stopping Violence and now implemented in New York City's Supervised Release Program. Designed for individuals arraigned on IPV-related offenses, the program focuses on unpacking power dynamics. This session also explores how emotional intelligence, paired with cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), serves as a powerful tool for crime prevention.

Participants will learn how building self-awareness, emotional regulation, and reframing harmful thought patterns can break cycles of harm and foster safer communities while planting seeds for behavioral change. Participants will learn about the program's structure, its innovative approach to addressing harmful behaviors, and the unique challenges of delivering complex, emotionally charged content in a short timeframe. The session will also explore the critical role of facilitators in navigating resistance and encouraging engagement. To bring these concepts to life, attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a hands-on mock class session, experiencing firsthand the program's core components.

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Raquel Pittman

Senior Program Manager, Gender and Family Justice--Tactics & Choices Program | Center for Justice Innovation



Katherine Cepeda

Facilitator, Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) | Center for Justice Innovation



Jessica Resnick

Senior Program Associate | Center for Justice Innovation

A Different Approach to the Most Important Part of the Trial: Jury Selection

1:00 PM – 1:45 PM | Location: Salon IV-V

NCVBA

Let's be honest—the way many of us conduct jury selection is not effective. Why? Because we walk into the courtroom looking for people to kick off, already rejecting the very people we need to trust us. We stereotype based on questionnaires, professions, or demographics before giving jurors a chance. And it doesn't work...

This session offers a practical approach to jury selection with three goals in mind: (1) Earn Credibility, (2) Explore Concerns, and (3) Frame Issues.

You'll learn how to shift from interrogation to conversation, uncover honest answers despite socially desirable response bias, and focus on what truly matters. Because when you accept jurors for who they are, stop fearing them, and genuinely value their perspectives, voir dire becomes one more opportunity to help your client get the justice they deserve.

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Sharif Gray

Attorney | Broughton Injury Law



Nael Abouzaki

Judge | Commonwealth of Virginia

Working with Men and Boys who are Victims/Survivors of Crime

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM | Location: Narcissus/Orange

SEXUAL & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

This workshop covers a variety of ways in which advocates can support and assist boys and men who are victims/survivors of crime. There is an emphasis on intimate partner violence and sexual assault crimes. The workshop also covers societal obstacles when it comes to men and boys asking for help and/or reporting crimes committed against them.

BREAKOUT

Speaker



Emmanuel DeJesus

Community Outreach and Training Coordinator/ Junior Supervisor | Kings County District Attorney's Office

Litigating a Case with Non-Party Witnesses Who are Minors

1:45 PM – 2:30 PM | Location: Salon IV-V

NCVBA

Litigating a case involving a minor with non-party, minor witnesses presents unique challenges. Privacy and confidentiality shields do not often extend to non-parties. Securing the cooperation of non-party minor witnesses requires a delicate approach through the minor and their parents, guardians or counselors. Once the minor witness agrees to testify, protection of their privacy and their wellbeing throughout the process can be tested by defense positions and requires a measure of advocacy for unrepresented minors.

BREAKOUT

Speaker



Devin McNulty

attorney | Chandler McNulty LLP

Break

2:30 PM – 2:45 PM

Transforming Response: Cross-Disciplinary Strategies for Supporting Domestic Violence Survivors

2:45 PM – 4:15 PM | Location: Salon I

SEXUAL & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic Violence is a pervasive issue affecting millions of individuals. Survivors often face complex challenges as they seek safety especially when physical violence hasn't been used yet. Kris will share her own experience of coercive control, stalking, and trying to get the justice system to help without success. This sadly concluded in the murder of her three year old daughter, the offenders new girlfriend, and his death by police.

This session will show the missed opportunities the system had to intervene and the critical importance of multi-disciplinary communication. Justin will narrate, prompt questions, and help explain where these missed opportunities were.

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Kris Barney

Founder/Survivor/Advocate | Miranda Faith Memorial Foundation



Justin Boardman

Consultant/Educator | Boardman Training and Consulting

Survivor-Led Perspectives: Restorative & Transformative Justice in Response to Harm

2:45 PM – 4:15 PM | Location: Salon II

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

This panel-style workshop will provide survivor-led perspectives on making the case for expanding education and accessibility around justice alternatives in the wake of harm. This workshop will largely focus on a diverse range of survivors' lived experiences and personal story-telling, which will include stories of our experiences with having or seeking restorative justice processes and navigating the criminal legal system. This presentation will include most recent data around rates of sexual violence, which have not decreased in the last few decades (some studies have indicated an increase), will advocate for alternative justice options, such as restorative justice/transformative justice processes, and will explain why these processes may align with survivors' needs after trauma from an intersectional feminist lens. The workshop will also include an offering of tangible calls to action and ways to get involved in supporting the work of survivors advocating for justice pathways that truly catalyze healing.

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Kage Johnson

Maine Chapter Representative | Survivors 4 Justice Reform



Marlee Liss

Social Worker, Speaker, Author, Founder of Survivors for Justice Reform | Survivors 4 Justice Reform



Jemm Merritt-Feder

Public Health Specialist + Certified Peer Support Specialist | Survivors 4 Justice Reform + One Day at A Time NC



Priscilla María Gutiérrez

Author, Certified Trauma Recovery Coach, Mental Health Speaker | Survivors for Justice Reform (S4JR)

Supporting Male Survivors of Gender-Based Violence and Human Trafficking

2:45 PM – 4:15 PM | Location: Salon III

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

This workshop, led by Dr. Shobana Powell and Cristian Eduardo, provides multidisciplinary service providers with essential training on supporting child, youth, and adult male survivors of gender-based violence and human trafficking. By combining Dr. Powell's expertise in mental health and multidisciplinary team development with Cristian Eduardo's lived experience and insights as a male survivor, advocate, and international expert, participants gain a comprehensive understanding of the complex issues surrounding male survivorship. The workshop offers practical guidance and strategies for service providers to enhance their support and care for this underserved population.

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Shobana Powell

Shobana Powell Consulting | CEO, Founder, & Human Trafficking Consultant



Cristian Eduardo

Survivor & Human Trafficking Consultant | Independent Consultant

Advocacy in Antarctica: Confidential support for survivors and bystanders - on and off the ice

2:45 PM – 4:15 PM | Location: Salon VIII

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

This session will explore the unique role of confidential victim advocates in the most remote continent on the Earth, including insights from the presenter's own deployment to Palmer Station, Antarctica. Attendees will learn more about life at the United States Antarctic Program research bases and review findings from NSF's 2022 Needs Assessment and 2024 Climate Survey. Schwartz will provide an overview of the unique correlations between community-based advocacy and on-ice/remote advocacy, highlighting the need for strong privacy and confidentiality, bystander support, and the application of a public health and multi-disciplinary lens.

BREAKOUT

Speaker



Michele Schwartz

Senior Director of Programs | National Center for Victims of Crime

Connecting with Purpose: Social Media for Victim Advocacy

2:45 PM – 4:15 PM | Location: Narcissus/Orange

MEDIA

It's no secret that there's power in connection — but getting the word out about critical services can be a challenge. Advocates and organizations of all sizes can use social media to reach broader audiences and form genuine connections that lead to more victims getting the support they need. In this session, you'll learn best practices for growing your reach and creating content that's both victim-centered and trauma-informed.

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Deidre Watford

Consultant



Dashiell Coleman

Communications Manager | National Center for Victims of Crime

Navigating Justice: Maritime Sexual Assault Cases

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: Salon IV-V

NCVBA

Maritime sexual assault cases, particularly those occurring on cruise ships, present a unique and challenging legal landscape. This presentation will provide a focused examination of the key maritime laws governing these incidents. We will explore applicable laws, practical considerations, potential theories of liability and defenses, reporting requirements applicable to vessels on navigable waterways, important statistics, and recent updates on the legal landscape of maritime sexual assault.

Beyond the legal framework, this presentation will offer practical guidance on handling these sensitive cases, from immediate steps for victims and effective evidence preservation. We'll delve into the nuances of cruise ship liability, differentiating between crew member assaults and passenger-on-passenger incidents. The aim is to equip plaintiff lawyers with the knowledge and strategic insights necessary to effectively represent victims of maritime sexual assault and pursue accountability in this complex area of law.

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Thomas Graham

Attorney | Mausner Graham Injury Law PLLC



Megan Arnold

Law Office of Megan Arnold

Restoring the Lives of Human Trafficking Survivors

2:45 PM – 4:15 PM | Location: Salon VI

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

This session focuses on minors and young adults who have experienced and overcome human trafficking. It will cover the factors, dynamics, and impacts of human trafficking and draw upon Kristi House's 17 years of experience providing its Project GOLD human trafficking program. The session shares what has been learned about what survivors need to fully leave lives of exploitation and restore their lives, and how the community can support them on their paths to healthy futures.

BREAKOUT

Speakers



Amanda G. Altman, Esq.

CEO | Kristi House



Amanda Altman

Chief Executive Officer | Kristi House