

2025 MIDWEST TRAFFIC SAFETY CONFERENCE



NTLC
NATIONAL TRAFFIC LAW CENTER



**WESTIN HOTEL
CHICAGO-NORTHWEST
NOVEMBER 4-6, 2025**

Sessions are subject to change



EXPECT *something* MORE™



JUSTICE

by STEPMOBILE



FEDERAL SIGNAL



MANUFACTURED IN AMERICA



Measurably Superior®

MADD
ILLINOIS

IMPAIRED DRIVING
ENDS HERE.



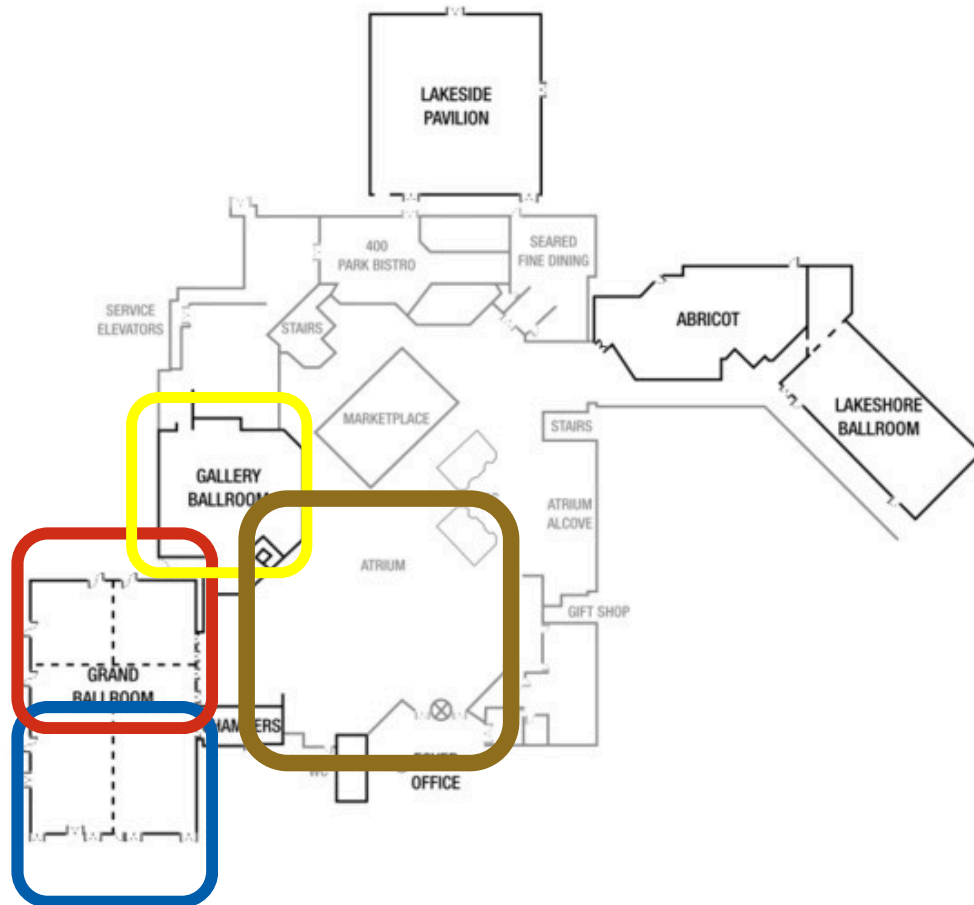
Intoximeters
EXPERIENCE SERVICE INTEGRITY



**DIVERSIFIED SERVICES
NETWORK, INC.** | SINCE 1989



MEETING ROOMS



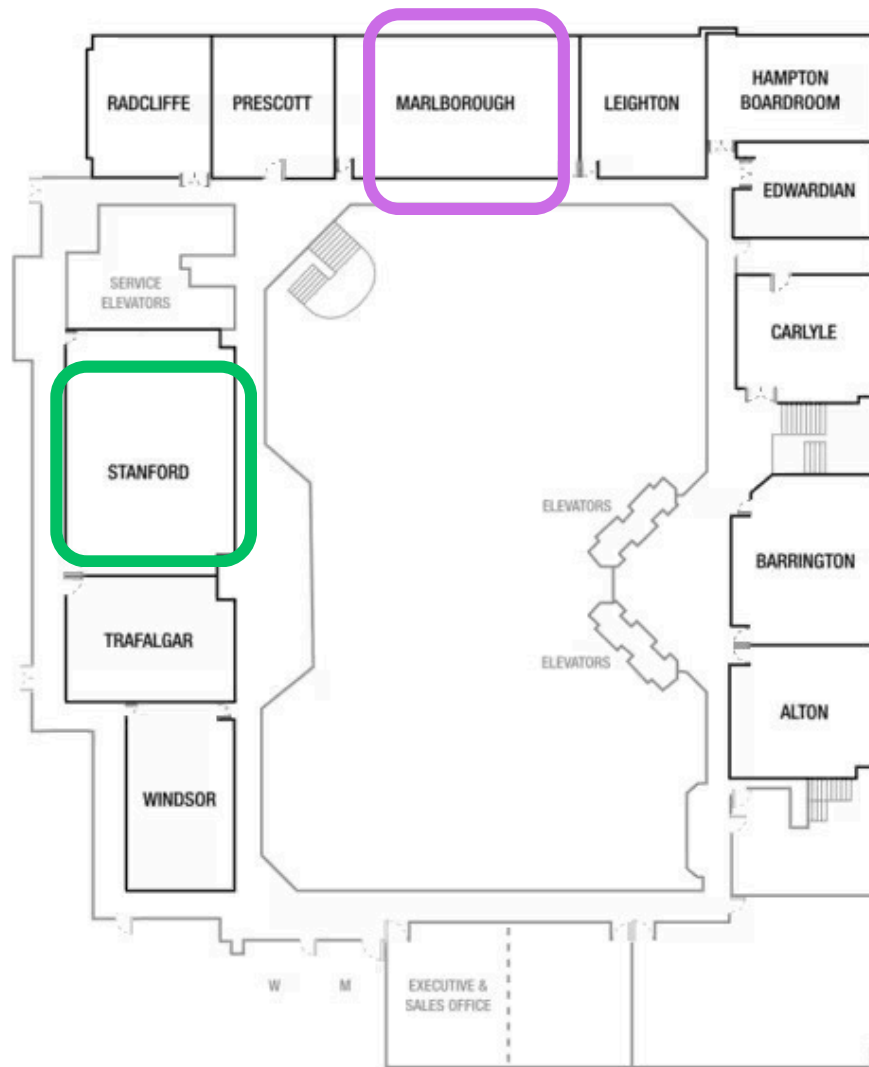
MAIN FLOOR CONFERENCE LAYOUT

BALLROOM A

BALLROOM B

GALLERY

**VENDORS/CHECK IN/LUNCH AND
NETWORKING HOUR**



SECOND FLOOR CONFERENCE LAYOUT

STANFORD

ACTAR TEST (MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2025) MARLBOROUGH

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2025

	Ballroom A (500 seats) Impaired Driving	Ballroom B (200 seats) Crash Investigation	Stanford (200 seats max) Transportation Industry	Gallery (200 seats) DUI Fundamentals for Prosecutors
	DAY 1 - Tuesday November 4, 2025			
7:00 - 8:00	Check in			
8:00 - 8:10	Honor Guard, Welcome			
8:00 - 8:30	Opening Remarks, Jennifer Homendy			
8:30 - 10:00	"People v. Rebecca Grossman" - LA District Attorney's Office			
10:00 - 10:15	Break			
10:15 - 11:30	"DUI/CDL Silver Bullets"	"Enhancing Evidence Documentation Through Body-Worn Camera Mapping Techniques"	"Ready & Resilient: First Responder Wellness Essentials"	"Voir Dire with Purpose: Selecting Jurors to Serve Justice"
11:30 - 12:30	Lunch			
12:30 - 1:45	"Beyond the Manuals: Why We Do What We Do"	"Navigating the Pitfalls of Video Evidence in Traffic Crash Investigations"	SMART Lighting for Emergency Vehicles	"Setting the Stage: Crafting Effective Opening Statements in Impaired Driving Cases"
1:45 - 2:00	Break			
2:00 - 3:15	"Unmasking, Combating and Quashing Red Herrings – Fortifying Impaired Driving Investigations"	CRASH TESTING-Buses leave at 2:00		"Closing for Conviction: Tips for Successful Closing Arguments"
3:15 - 3:30	Break			
3:30 - 4:45	"From Scooters to Speedboats: Don't Drive Any Vehicle While Impaired!"	CRASH TESTING		"Firsthand and Vicarious Trauma Considerations"
5:00-6:00	Hospitality Event			

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2025

	Ballroom A (500 seats) Impaired Driving	Ballroom B (200 seats) Crash Investigation	Stanford (200 seats max) Transportation Industry	Gallery (200 seats) Impaired Driving
7:30 - 8:30	<i>Check in</i>			
8:15 - 8:30	Preview of Midwest Center for Traffic Safety 2026 Programs			
8:30 - 10:00	"Alcohol + Anything= Everything"			
10:00-10:15	Break			
10:15-11:30	"A Mile High & Selling 'Shrooms-Preparing for the Sale of Hallucinogens"	"Uncovering Insurance Fraud and Vehicle Crime Trends: Insights from the NICB"	"Illinois Department of Revenue"	"Common Defenses in DUI Cases: Strategies for Prosecutors" -
11:30-12:30	LUNCH			
12:30 - 1:45	"Speaking the Same Language: Communication in Criminal Justice"	"From Crash Scene to Courtroom: A Three-Part Case Study on High-Speed Collisions and Expert Testimony"	"Illinois Department of Transportation Oversize Overweight Updates"	"Debunking Breathalyzer Myths and Laying a Proper Foundation"
1:45 - 2:00	Break			
2:00 - 3:15	Live Green Lab Ari Briskman, DRE Instructor	"The Courtroom Test: Practicing Expert Testimony and Legal Preparedness"		"Every Trial Is Won Before It Begins" Garrett Dameron and the LA DA team
3:15 - 3:30	Break			
3:30 - 4:45	Live Green Lab Ari Briskman, DRE Instructor	"Testify with Technology: A Mock Trial " Experience for Modern Experts	"Large Truck Crash Causation: Data from 30 years of Industry Research" Matt Camden, Director, Division of Freight, Transit, & Heavy Vehicle Safety, Virginia Tech	"Direct Examination of a Forensic Toxicologist in Impaired Driving Cases" Amy Miles, Forensic Toxicologist and M. Kimberly Brown, NTLC
5:00-6:30	Hospitality Event			

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2025

	Ballroom A (500 seats) Impaired Driving	Ballroom B (200 seats) Crash Investigation	Stanford (200 seats max) Transportation Industry	Gallery (200 seats) Impaired Driving
8:15 - 8:30	<i>Check in</i>			
8:30 - 10:00	"The Science of Eye Movements: A Closer Look at HGN and Other Eye Tests in Impaired Driving Investigations"	Crash Test Review		
10:00 - 10:15	Break			
10:15 - 11:30	"Beyond Consumption: The Significance & Importance of the HGN Test in Impaired Driving Cases"	"Occupant Kinematics and Injury Patterns in Crash Investigations" Dr. Kevin Adanty	"Strengthening Data quality" Jannet Okazaki, National center for state courts	"Grant Opportunitites and NTLC Resources" Scott Kristianson and Erin Inman
11:30 - 12:30	LUNCH			
12:30 - 1:45	"High Alert: Tracking Today's Drug Trends"	"Unraveling the Scene: Fundamentals of Hit-and-Run Crash" Mr. Andrew Thomas	"Illinois Secretary of State CDL division" Chuck Geiser, cdl Administrator	"Perfecting the Art of PowerPoint in the Courtroom" En-Chi Lin, Champaign County SAO
1:45 - 2:00	Break			
2:00 - 3:15	"Investigating and Prosecuting Alcohol Impairment Cases Using Science: Mellanby Effect, Homeostasis, and Retrograde Extrapolation"	"Inside the Dashboard: Using Digital Forensics in Modern Collision Investigations"	"Commercial Vehicle Registration" Stephanie Prindle, ILSOS	

Opening Remarks

JENNIFER HOMENDY

CHAIRWOMAN, NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD



The Honorable Jennifer Homendy Chairwoman, National Transportation Safety Board Jennifer Homendy is the 15th Chairwoman of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant events in other modes of transportation, including rail, transit, roadway, marine, pipeline, and commercial space. Chairwoman Homendy has served at the NTSB since 2018. She was first nominated by President Trump and unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate in 2018 (to serve a one-year vacancy) and again in 2019 (for a full five-year term) to be a Board Member. In 2021, she was nominated by President Biden and unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate to be Chairwoman. Homendy was re-nominated as Chairwoman and Board Member and unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate in 2024. Her three-year term as Chairwoman expires on August 10, 2027; her five-year term as Board Member expires on December 31, 2029. See 49 U.S. Code §1111. As Chairwoman, Ms. Homendy serves as the agency's chief executive officer and chief administrative officer, managing an annual budget of \$145 million and 445 full-time employees across the country, including the NTSB's regional offices located in Anchorage, Alaska; Seattle, Washington; Denver, Colorado; and Washington, DC. From 2004 to 2018, Chairwoman Homendy served as the Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I Committee) of the U.S. House of Representatives. During her time on Capitol Hill, she served as a Senior Fellow in the 115th Congress for the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service, a bipartisan, bicameral leadership development experience for senior staff members of the U.S. Congress. Prior to her more than 20 years in public service, Chairwoman Homendy served as Legislative Representative for the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT), where she represented the interests of working families before Congress and the Executive Branch, focusing on transportation (trucking, rail, and aviation) and international trade issues. While at the IBT, Chairwoman Homendy was a proud member of Teamsters Local 70 in Oakland, California. From 1997 to 1999, she was a legislative representative for the Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO, specializing in motor carrier, rail, hazardous material, and nuclear waste transportation safety. Chairwoman Homendy also held previous roles at the National Federation of Independent Business and the American Iron and Steel Institute. Chairwoman Homendy completed her undergraduate studies at the Pennsylvania State University at Harrisburg and obtained her Master of Transportation Safety Administration degree from the Institute for Global Road Safety and Security from Clemson University.



EXPECT *something* MORE™



JUSTICE
by STEPMOBILE

KEYNOTE

THE REBBECA GROSSMAN CASE

Gain insight into the Grossman trial that captured national and international attention, shaking a Los Angeles suburb to its core. The Grossman trial involved a high-profile socialite defendant who tragically ran over and killed two young boys. Explore the backgrounds of both the victims and the defendant, and the events leading up to the incident.

Obtain a detailed account of the investigation, highlighting the tools and techniques that proved beneficial, as well as the mistakes that could have been avoided. Learn the details of the entire trial, including the shocking, headline-grabbing details that dominated the news cycle, while gaining insights into the tactics and strategies employed by the prosecutors, noting which were effective and which fell short. This engaging and informative presentation offers investigators and prosecutors valuable lessons and ideas for future cases.



Presented By



Mike Takacs,
Detective, Los
Angeles District
Attorneys Office



Garrett Dameron
Deputy In Charge D.U.I.
Training And
Prosecution Section
(DTAPS) Los Angeles
County District
Attorney's Office



Brittany Vannoy,
Deputy District
Attorney Los
Angeles District
Attorney's Office



Jamie Castro,
Los Angeles
County, Deputy
District Attorney
III



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

BIOGRAPHIES

Garrett Dameron Deputy In Charge D.U.I. Training And Prosecution Section (DTAPS) Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Garrett Dameron has been a Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorney for 25 years. As a trial deputy, Garrett has tried nearly 100 jury trials to verdict, including complex murders and capital cases. He spent six years in the Crimes Against Peace Officer Section (CAPOS) where he prosecuted defendants for murders of peace officers. Prior to CAPOS, Garrett prosecuted gang members for murders in the Hardcore Gang Unit where he was assigned for seven years. Among his high-profile cases, Garrett obtained convictions and death verdicts against serial killers and cop killers. Garrett is currently the Deputy-in-Charge of the DUI Training and Prosecution Section (DTAPS) which is a unit that prosecutes the most high-profile and legally and factually complex vehicular murders in Los Angeles. The attorneys in DTAPS also specialize in training DDA's and law enforcement throughout Los Angeles County and the State of California on the unique challenges in prosecuting vehicular homicides and DUIs.

Mike Takacs, Detective, Los Angeles District Attorneys Office

Detective Takacs has been with the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office (LADA) for nearly six years. He is currently assigned to the Cyber Crimes Investigation Unit, as well as the DUI Training and Prosecution Section (DTAPS). Prior to the LADA, he worked as a Police Officer with the Monrovia Police Department for eight years (patrol division for four years, followed by the gang/narcotics unit for four years). He has been a certified Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) for 11 years, and has testified as an expert in court numerous times in various topics such as drug/alcohol impairment, drug sales, and gangs. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry, and spent 5 years as a development scientist for a biomedical instruments company before making the logical jump to law enforcement.

Brittany Vannoy, Deputy District Attorney Los Angeles District Attorney's Office

Brittany Vannoy has been a Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorney for 12 years. Prior to joining the District Attorney's Office, she worked in private practice representing the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department in Federal section 1983 actions. Since the summer of 2019, Ms. Vannoy has been assigned to the DUI Training and Prosecution Section (DTAPS). As a member of DTAPS, she vertically prosecutes vehicular homicides involving drugs and alcohol with an emphasis on Watson murders. She also trains prosecutors, law enforcement officers, and other justice system partners throughout the state on topics ranging from Courtroom Testimony and Report Writing to Proving Watson Murders and Cannabis-DUIs at Trial.

Jamie Castro, Los Angeles County, Deputy District Attorney III

Jamie Castro has been a Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorney for 13 years. Jamie has spent the majority of her career as a felony trial DDA during which time she has handled a large caseload primarily consisting of violent assaults, murders and attempt murders. Jamie is currently assigned to the DUI training and prosecution section (DTAPS) where her focus is on handling complex vehicular homicide cases and providing training and assistance to DDA's and law enforcement officers on DUI and vehicular homicide related issues. While assigned to DTAPS, Jamie has attended multiple DUI and Vehicular Homicide centric courses including Standardized Field Sobriety Test (SFST) School, Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) and Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) School. She also keeps herself up to date on all the latest advances in the field by attending relevant conferences and training seminars. Most recently in 2024, Jamie successfully tried The People v. Rebecca Grossman case in which the defendant was convicted of murdering two young boys, Mark and Jacob Iskander. This was a high-profile case, which garnered widespread media attention. Jamie received the 2024 ALADS Award for Exemplary Performance, the 2024 ADDA Special Operations Prosecutor of the Year Award and the 2025 MADD Los Angeles, Prosecutor of the Year Award, for the prosecution of the Rebecca Grossman case.

IMPAIRED DRIVING ENFORCEMENT AND INVESTIGATION



**THESE COURSES WILL BE RESTRICTED TO SWORN LAW ENFORCEMENT AND
PROSECUTORS EMPLOYED BY A STATE'S ATTORNEY.**



EXPECT *something* MORE™



JUSTICE

by STEPMOBILE

Unmasking, Combating and Quashing Red Herrings – Fortifying Impaired Driving Investigations

Chuck Matson, Former DRE Section Chair- SD LET

In our Hallowed Halls of Justice, defense attorneys will ask irrelevant queries about our processes to divert a witness's efforts to provide actual evidence and facts. These "red herrings" are deliberate efforts to change the focus to immaterial matters. They are designed to confuse and divert attention.

These 'muddying the water' techniques are powerful tools in the defense counselor's arsenal. They create confusion, and seed doubts in the minds of the trier of fact and potentially weaken the prosecution's case.

This fresh and dynamic session offers inciting innovative information that provides approaches to better debunk, resist and nullify red herrings. It will allow the trier of fact to be vigilant and better focused on relevant evidence and testimony.



Chuck Matson South Dakota DECP Training

Chuck Matson is an often-sought speaker and instructor on subjects related to drug impairment and courtroom testimony.

During the last three decades he has provided nearly a thousand trainings for groups of law enforcement officers, criminal justice professionals, educational institutions, government agencies, medical personnel, and businesses on reliable techniques for evaluating individuals who display signs and symptoms of alcohol and drug impairment. He has been a faculty member for sixty-one (61) Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) schools and hundreds of DRE update trainings for thirty-nine states and two Canadian Provinces. Chuck's numerous entertaining programs supply listeners with scientifically based information on the indicators of abuse, and damage caused by psychoactive drug use. And most importantly, nobody has ever fallen asleep during one of his presentations.



EXPECT *something* MORE™



JUSTICE

by **STEPMOBILE**

Live Green Lab Ari Briskman, DRE Instructor

For decades, we have known alcohol to be a predictable drug that causes readily identifiable signs and symptoms of impairment. The effects of cannabis are often overlooked or misunderstood. When alcohol and cannabis are paired for consumption, the impairing effects on the body are magnified greatly. These effects are often present despite low blood alcohol concentrations and low Delta-9-THC concentrations in the body.

In *When 1 + 1 = 5: Magnified Impairment from Cannabis and Alcohol Consumption*, officers and prosecutors will watch Drug Recognition Expert – Instructors administer Standardized Field Sobriety Tests and additional field sobriety tests from the NHTSA curriculum and the Seated Standardized Field Sobriety Tests from the NASBLA curriculum to persons impaired by alcohol, cannabis, and a combination thereof. This presentation will provide officers and prosecutors with valuable information when investigating and prosecuting DUI combination cases. DRE Instructors will discuss the volunteers' performance during the tests with the attendees. The DRE Instructors and the volunteers will also be available to answer questions at the end of the presentation.

Ari Briskman, Impaired Driving Enforcement Training Coordinator, Midwest Center for Traffic Safety



Ari Briskman has served as a law enforcement officer in northern Illinois for nearly two decades. Early in his career, Ari understood the value of traffic safety. Ari honed his skills by becoming one of the few law enforcement officers recognized as a Drug Recognition Expert, followed a few years later by becoming a Drug Recognition Expert – Instructor. Additionally, Ari was selected by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) to be a Seated Standardized Field Sobriety Test Instructor. In over a decade, Ari has provided impaired driving training to thousands of police officers and prosecutors throughout the country, and he continues to do so as the Impaired Driving Enforcement Training Coordinator for the Midwest Center for Traffic Safety. Ari has been recognized in numerous courts in Illinois as a subject matter expert in impairment caused by alcohol and other drugs. Additionally, Ari is a certified traffic crash reconstructionist. He has been heavily involved in the investigation and prosecution of many fatal and serious injury crashes, during which he has seen firsthand the devastation caused by impaired drivers. Ari's efforts have been recognized by state and national traffic safety and impaired driving enforcement organizations. In addition to his work in education, investigation, and enforcement, Ari advocates for the victims of impaired and distracted driving crashes as the Vice President of the Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists.



EXPECT *something* **MORE™**



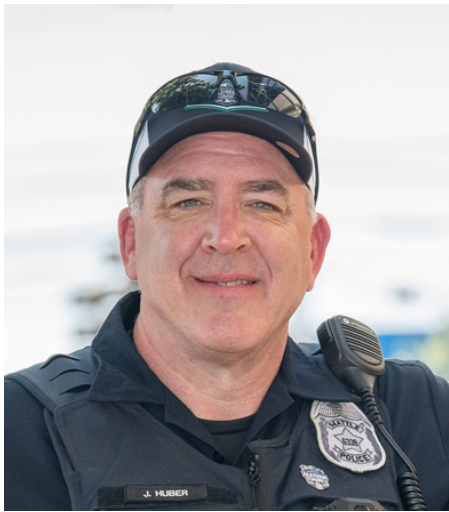
JUSTICE

by STEPMOBILE

Beyond the Manuals: Why We Do What We Do

Jonathon Huber, Seattle Police, Impaired Driving Coordinator

This session will explore the physiological and scientific foundation of the Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFSTs) as presented in the DRE, SFST, and ARIDE training curricula. We will delve into how the Walk and Turn and One Leg Stand tests are not arbitrary exercises, but are directly tied to the skills required for safe vehicle operation. Attendees will gain an understanding of how these tests assess key functions such as divided attention, balance, and coordination. Through discussion and live demonstrations, we will examine how vision, the vestibular system, and proprioception work together to maintain balance—and how impairments in these systems compromise driving ability. Special emphasis will be placed on why consistent instruction and administration of these tests is critical to their validity and reliability in both roadside assessments and courtroom testimony.



Jonathon Huber Impaired Driving Training Coordinator

Officer Jon Huber, Huber to his friends & coworkers, started his career in November of 1998. His early police work was done in downtown Seattle, making 100's of drug arrests and processing DUIs as found and needed by his fellow patrol officers. By June of 2004 he was assigned to the SPD DUI/DRE Squad where he worked until August 2012. During that time, he became a DRE as well as an instructor for all things DUI.



Jacob Masterson, DRE Instructor

Officer Jacob Masterson has been a police officer for 13 years, having previously worked in Arizona before joining the Seattle Police Department in 2015. He has been certified as a DRE since 2018 and a DRE instructor since 2023. Officer Masterson is currently certified as an EMT and M.A. Phlebotomist He is currently assigned to patrol and frequently serves as an instructor at local and statewide trainings.

Beyond Consumption: The Significance & Importance of the HGN Test in Impaired Driving Cases

Dr. Karl Citek

Dr. Karl Citek, one of the most world-renowned experts in the field of the HGN Test and also a key expert witness in the Illinois McKown Frye hearing, will be partnering with Chuck Matson, a legend in the national traffic safety field, to bring you this informative session. They will review and discuss the key points of the McKown decision, allowing officers in Illinois to testify about the Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus (HGN) Test. They will break down how the results relate directly to driving impairment, not merely consumption of alcohol. Other popular alternative theories and myths, including optokinetic nystagmus and caloric nystagmus, also will be addressed.

The Science of Eye Movements: A Closer Look at HGN and Other Eye Tests in Impaired Driving Investigations

Dr. Karl Citek

This session will provide an in-depth exploration of eye movements for law enforcement officers, especially DREs, and how they might be affected by alcohol and other drugs. Dr. Citek and Chuck Matson will entertain the audience with an informative and engaging presentation on a deeper dive into each of the administrative procedures, explaining the significance of staying in step with the way the test should be conducted.



Dr. Karl Citek, Professor Pacific University College of Optometry

Dr. Karl Citek is a Professor of Optometry at Pacific University College of Optometry in Forest Grove, Oregon. He has been involved in teaching about eye movements and effects of intoxicants since 1995. Dr. Citek is a DRE Ambassador and member of the Technical Advisory Panel of the DRE Section of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Alcohol + Anything= Everything Joseph Jones, PhD

In Alcohol + Anything = Everything, forensic toxicologist Dr. Joseph O. Jones takes attendees on an eye-opening journey into the complex world of alcohol and impairment. With decades of expertise, Dr. Jones reveals how alcohol interacts with the human body and mind, unraveling its role as a sedative, hypnotic, anesthetic, and potentially lethal substance. This session goes beyond the numbers, delving into the profound effects alcohol has when combined with other drugs and medications. This session is packed with compelling case studies, personal anecdotes, and scientifically backed insights, it provides a clear, relatable framework for understanding impairment. Whether you're a legal professional, law enforcement officer, forensic scientist, or simply curious about the hidden dangers of alcohol's synergy with other substances, this session equips you with the knowledge to navigate this critical topic. Discover the science behind impaired driving cases, retrograde extrapolation, and the power of understanding alcohol's role in the courtroom and beyond. Alcohol + Anything = Everything is a must-attend session for anyone seeking clarity on a subject that affects lives every day.

Joseph O. Jones, Ph.D. System Director North Louisiana Criminalistics Laboratory



Dr. Jones has dedicated his career to forensic science since 2006, currently serving as System Director at the North Louisiana Criminalistics Laboratory. In this role, he manages the operations of two forensic laboratories and an evidence hub, serving the 29 northern parishes of Louisiana. As an experienced forensic toxicologist, he plays a pivotal role in supporting law enforcement and legal professionals in cases of impaired driving by providing expert toxicological interpretation.

Dr. Jones earned his Ph.D. in Forensic Sciences from Oklahoma State University's Center for Health Sciences, specializing in forensic toxicology and impaired driving policy. He holds a Master of Science in Forensic Medicine from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, obtained in 2007, and a Bachelor of Science in Forensic Science from Baylor University, completed in 2004.

He is a member of several esteemed organizations, including the National Safety Council's Alcohol and Drug Impaired Driving division (NSC-ADID), the Society of Forensic Toxicologists (SOFT), and the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD). His commitment extends through his supporting roles for the Louisiana Governor's Drug Policy Board and the Louisiana DWI Task Force, where he emphasizes education and works diligently to improve public safety.

A Mile High & Selling 'Shrooms-Preparing for the Sale of Hallucinogens

Jennifer Knudsen

In Colorado's ongoing drug legalization experiment, voters approved Proposition 122, which decriminalized certain psychedelic plants and fungi for personal use by individuals aged 21 and older. It also established the Regulated Natural Medicine Access Program for licensed healing centers to provide natural medicine services. Since its approval, Colorado has been dealing with the consequences of this measure, including the establishment of a regulated therapeutic system and the decriminalization of specific psychedelics. Drawing from the experience of marijuana legalization in the state, prosecutors and LEOs anticipate potential unintended consequences, such as a rise in illegal markets, impaired driving, and community impacts. This presentation will analyze Proposition 122, legislative responses, immediate effects, and the potential outcomes of Colorado's latest drug legalization experiment, offering insights for other states considering similar measures.

Setting the Stage: Crafting Effective Opening Statements in Impaired Driving Cases

Jennifer Knudsen

This session explores the critical role of opening statements in impaired driving trials. Participants will learn strategies to construct compelling, persuasive openings that set the tone for the entire case. The session will cover:

- The objectives and structure of an effective opening statement
- Common pitfalls and how to avoid them in impaired driving prosecutions and defenses
- Practical examples and tips tailored to impaired driving scenarios

Attendees will leave with actionable insights and tools to enhance their advocacy skills from the very first moments of trial.



Jennifer Knudsen Colorado Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor

Luckily, I had family and mentors who taught me to adopt a strong work ethic. Growing up in a small town outside Rocky Mountain National Park, in Colorado, I became a first generation student at the University of Denver then University of Colorado Law School.

Working for two trial court judges in Colorado's First Judicial District, representing the People as a Deputy District Attorney in the Eighteenth Judicial District District Attorney's

Office, and litigating for the Colorado Attorney General impressed upon me the importance of having mentors. I attempt to give back by working with young people and mentoring new attorneys.

I lead a team which collaborates with traffic safety professionals from across the globe on

hot topics daily as the Colorado District Attorneys' Council's (CDAC) Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor. The best part of my position is participating in learning conversations

with participants in trial technique, train the trainer, testimony, and many other National Traffic Highway Safety Administration and CDAC courses.

Writing has been a passion since publishing a poem, Suspicion in the Side Pocket, in 1994. I continue to produce material on a variety of topics related to the enforcement and prosecution of intoxicated driving offenses.

In a perfect world, I would be growing flowers for rescued animals at my mountain ranch;

enjoying the world's best green chile cheeseburger at the Original Owl Bar and Cafe in San Antonio, New Mexico with my son and boyfriend; or scrapbooking while watching Yellowstone because impaired drivers would not exist.



Firsthand and Vicarious Trauma Considerations

Mark Honzel, Responder Resources

This session will examine the psychological impacts of acute and repeated exposure to fatal crashes, DUI incidents, critical events, and death investigations. We will explore how cumulative exposure to trauma can affect investigative performance, preparation for testimony, and personal well-being in both professional and private life.

Led by Mark Honzel, mental health counselor and retired police officer, the session will provide strategies to recognize, mitigate, and manage the effects of traumatic incidents over the course of a career. Participants will learn to identify patterns of thought and behavior that signal the need for support, as well as practical pathways to access it. The session will also introduce daily measures and coping mechanisms that promote resilience, emotional health, and sustainable professional practice.

Mark Honzel, Responder Resources

We Are Specialized Backup When You Need It Mark Honzel is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor in the State of Illinois, certified in Critical Incident Stress Debriefing and trained in EMDR. A lifelong resident of Rockford, he graduated from Boylan Central Catholic High School, Rock Valley College, Western Illinois University, and earned a Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Argosy University. Before becoming a mental health professional, Mark served 21 years with the Rockford Police Department, where he worked as a K9 handler, housing authority officer, and field training officer. Like many in law enforcement, he experienced the trauma and stress that come with the job—experiences that ultimately led him to his second calling: helping others heal. Today, Mark specializes in trauma and PTSD in first responders. His clients include law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMS personnel, dispatchers, corrections staff, nurses, veterans, and members of local, state, and federal agencies, including prosecutors and judges. He understands firsthand the unique challenges of these roles. In our professions, we have no problem calling for backup—whether it's for more equipment, additional units, specialized teams, or medical support. But when it comes to our own mental health, asking for help can be much harder. Think of Mark as specialized backup. Help yourself—so you can be healthy enough to keep helping others.



Every Trial Is Won Before It Begins Garrett Dameron

A detailed look at various strategies, motions, and decisions to consider in anticipation of trial in order to increase your chances of a successful prosecution. We will discuss issues you should discuss with prospective jurors. What do jurors need to know and how to introduce them to concepts and ideas some jurors may be reluctant to accept. We will discuss what evidentiary issues need to be litigated before trial, in order to educate your bench, and curtail interruptions and the general flow of your case, and wasting of your jurors time. Motions and pretrial litigation will encompass the following subject areas and include the pros and cons of litigating these issues early or even whether to introduce the evidence at all: the People's experts, does the court need to be aware of any issues that it may need to be educated about; defense experts, do you want to limit the scope or is it strategically advantageous to allow the defense expert to proceed; social media and cell phones, are there any foundational or sensitive issues that need to be addressed; jail calls/jail visits/jail recordings - foundational issues, is it advantageous to play or not to play; EDR data and infotainment systems, make sure you are prepared to present this evidence and properly display it; other areas will include: witness/suspect interviews, DMV/government agency record, and hospital records.

Garrett Dameron Deputy In Charge D.U.I. Training And Prosecution Section (DTAPS) Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office



Garrett Dameron has been a Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorney for 25 years. As a trial deputy, Garrett has tried nearly 100 jury trials to verdict, including complex murders and capital cases. He spent six years in the Crimes Against Peace Officer Section (CAPOS) where he prosecuted defendants for murders of peace officers. Prior to CAPOS, Garrett prosecuted gang members for murders in the Hardcore Gang Unit where he was assigned for seven years. Among his high-profile cases, Garrett obtained convictions and death verdicts against serial killers and cop killers. Garrett is currently the Deputy-in-Charge of the DUI Training and Prosecution Section (DTAPS) which is a unit that prosecutes the most high-profile and legally and factually complex vehicular murders in Los Angeles. The attorneys in DTAPS also specialize in training DDA's and law enforcement throughout Los Angeles County and the State of California on the unique challenges in prosecuting vehicular homicides and DUIs.

HIGH ALERT: TRACKING TODAY'S DRUG TRENDS
AMY MILES, FORENSIC TOXICOLOGIST, M. KIMBERLY BROWN, SENIOR ATTORNEY

THIS PRESENTATION EXPLORES A CUTTING-EDGE, MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO IDENTIFYING AND RESPONDING TO EMERGING DRUG TRENDS IN FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY. BY INTEGRATING EAGLE FANG, A REAL-

TIME DRUG SURVEILLANCE PLATFORM, WITH FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY DATA AND PUBLIC HEALTH SURVEILLANCE, WE CAN DETECT SHIFTS IN SUBSTANCE USE PATTERNS FASTER AND MORE ACCURATELY THAN EVER BEFORE. IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING DRUG TREND TRACKING RESOURCES, THIS PRESENTATION WILL DISCUSS SOME OF THE TOP TRENDING DRUGS IN DETAIL.



Amy Miles, Forensic Toxicologist

Amy Miles is a Program Project Manager at the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) and serves as a Regional Toxicology Liaison for the Midwest, supporting MI, OH, IN, IL, WI, MN, SD, ND. Amy has over 25 years of experience in forensic toxicology. In addition to her work with the RTL program, Amy is involved in public health as it relates to forensic toxicology. She is the co-chair of the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) Overdose Biosurveillance Task Force. Offering resources to public health laboratories performing non-fatal overdose surveillance testing. Amy partners with the University of Wisconsin on research projects focusing on impaired driving and drugs and human performance.

Amy has given hundreds of presentations on the topic of drugs, alcohol and human performance, and public health at state and national conferences and in-service trainings and has contributed several articles to national publications. She is a member of several professional organizations and committees that pertain to alcohol, drugs and human performance, and public health. Amy is the Past President of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists and is a National Judicial College faculty member. In 2020, Amy received the IACP DRE Ambassador Award, and in 2023 the Association of Public Health Laboratories' Gold Standard Award, the Governor's Highway Safety Association's Kathryn JR Swanson Public Service Award, and the SOFT Teaching and Mentoring Award. In 2025, Amy received the Robert F. Borkenstein Award, conferred by the National Safety Council's Alcohol, Drugs and Impairment Division.

Sarah Riley, PhD, DAB(CC, TC), F-ABFT



Dr. Riley is Professor of Pathology and Pediatrics at St. Louis University School of Medicine. She is the Director of the St. Louis University Forensic Toxicology Laboratory and the Chief Forensic Toxicologist for St. Louis County. Dr. Riley is also the Director of the Clinical Toxicology Section of the St. Louis University Hospital Core Laboratory, serving both adult and pediatric patients. She is the founder and Chair of the St. Louis Toxicology Community of Practice, a regional network of drug chemists, poison control, and toxicologists. Dr. Riley regularly teaches undergraduate students, medical students, medicine residents and fellows, and medicolegal death investigators. She lectures in national and international conferences and events. Dr. Riley regularly consults with physicians, medical examiners, attorneys, and law enforcement, and provides testimony in State and Federal Court proceedings.

Voir Dire with Purpose: Selecting Jurors to Serve Justice
Stacy Graczyk, National Traffic Law Center
Jason Samuels, Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia

This training focuses on the essential skills prosecutors need to conduct effective and ethical voir dire. Topics include identifying potential biases, framing meaningful questions, and engaging jurors in a way that builds rapport while safeguarding the integrity of the case. The course also covers strategies for uncovering juror attitudes, using challenges appropriately, and avoiding common pitfalls. Through discussion and real-world examples, prosecutors will learn tips for selecting fair and impartial juries that support a just trial process.

CLOSING FOR CONVICTION: TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL CLOSING ARGUMENTS

Stacy Graczyk, National Traffic Law Center
Jason Samuels, Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia

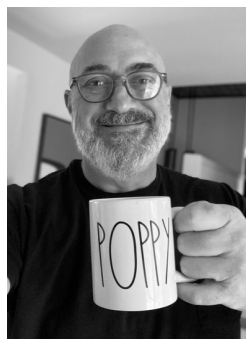
THIS TRAINING ADDRESSES THE SKILLS NECESSARY TO DELIVER PERSUASIVE, ETHICAL, AND EFFECTIVE CLOSING ARGUMENTS. TOPICS INCLUDE CRAFTING COMPELLING NARRATIVES, HIGHLIGHTING KEY EVIDENCE, ANTICIPATING AND COUNTERING DEFENSE STRATEGIES, AND CONNECTING WITH JURIES. THE COURSE ALSO EXPLORES COMMON PITFALLS—SUCH AS IMPROPER APPEALS TO EMOTION, MISSTATEMENTS OF LAW, AND OVERREACHING—AND HOW TO AVOID THEM WHILE MAINTAINING CREDIBILITY AND PROFESSIONALISM. IDEAL FOR PROSECUTORS AT ANY LEVEL, THE SESSION FEATURES DISCUSSIONS AND REAL-WORLD EXAMPLES TO ENHANCE COURTROOM ADVOCACY.

Stacy Graczyk, Staff Attorney National Traffic Law Center



Stacy Graczyk is a Staff Attorney at the National Traffic Law Center. Prior to this role, Stacy served as one of Vermont's Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutors since 2018. She has a wealth of experience in prosecuting complex impaired driving cases involving fatalities and serious bodily injury. She also has experience in the training of and outreach to traffic safety partners, including law enforcement, prosecutors, high school students, and other community groups. Prior to becoming one of Vermont's TSRPs, Stacy served as a prosecutor in two state's attorneys' offices in Vermont and as a staff attorney for Prisoners' Legal Services of New York. She has a penchant for teamwork, a passion for saving lives on America's roadways, and an excellent sense of humor.

Jason Samuels Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia



Jason is a Senior Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor for the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia. He provides training and support to prosecutors and peace officers throughout Georgia.

Jason earned his BA in Political Science from Purdue University and his Master of Public Administration and Juris Doctor degrees from the University of Georgia. He is currently pursuing a PhD in Criminal Justice and Criminology at the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University.

Jason began his law enforcement career in 1990 as a police officer with the Los Angeles Police Department. He served the communities of Watts, Van Nuys, and Hollywood, and is a veteran of the 1992 LA riots.

He continued his career with the Alpharetta (Georgia) Police Department, where he served as a field training officer and patrol sergeant.

DUI/CDL Silver Bullets

James Camp, National Traffic Law Center

This session equips prosecutors and law enforcement with the tools to build stronger DUI cases through strategic roadside interviews, thorough investigations, and effective courtroom techniques. Participants will learn how to enhance trial outcomes by mastering the timing and structure of roadside questioning and utilizing suggested question strings at trial. Special emphasis will be placed on the unique legal and procedural considerations when prosecuting DUI cases involving Commercial Driver's License (CDL) holders, including:

- Federal and State CDL Disqualification Rules: Including mandatory one-year disqualification for a first offense and lifetime bans for subsequent violations.
- Prohibition on Masking Violations: Understanding federal regulations that prohibit masking, deferring, or diverting CDL-related traffic offenses to ensure accurate reporting to state and federal databases.

This session is ideal for prosecutors seeking to sharpen their DUI litigation strategies and for law enforcement professionals aiming to enhance their investigative and reporting techniques. It also provides a deeper understanding of the legal and professional consequences of DUI offenses involving Commercial Driver's License (CDL) holders, including the strict federal prohibition on masking violations



JAMES CAMP, SENIOR ATTORNEY, NATIONAL TRAFFIC LAW CENTER

A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED AUTHORITY ON TRAFFIC SAFETY, JIM FOCUSES ON COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE RELATED TOPICS AS SENIOR ATTORNEY WITH THE NATIONAL TRAFFIC LAW CENTER. BORN AND RAISED IN EAST CENTRAL WISCONSIN, JIM HAS PRACTICED LAW FOR OVER 43 YEARS INCLUDING 9 YEARS AS A CIVIL LITIGATOR. HE SPENT 2 YEARS AS ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY AND WAS ELECTED TO 9 TERMS AS DISTRICT ATTORNEY THERE. JIM THEN SPENT 9 YEARS AS ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL AND TRAFFIC SAFETY RESOURCE PROSECUTOR IN TENNESSEE. WHILE TSRP IN TENNESSEE JIM'S OFFICE WAS AT THE TENNESSEE HIGHWAY PATROL TRAINING CENTER WHERE HE ALSO TAUGHT IN-SERVICE AND CADET SCHOOL CLASSES AND ACTED AS A LIAISON WITH THE HIGHWAY PATROL.

JIM IS A RECIPIENT OF THE KEVIN E. QUINLAN NATIONAL EXCELLENCE IN TRAFFIC SAFETY AWARD, THE TENNESSEE GOVERNORS HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE LIFESAVERS AWARD, AND THE TENNESSEE DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERALS CONFERENCE PRESIDENT'S AWARD. HE IS A PAST BOARD MEMBER OF THE WISCONSIN ACADEMY OF TRIAL LAWYERS, PAST BOARD MEMBER AND CHAIR OF THE TENNESSEE MADD BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND IS CURRENTLY A MEMBER OF THE MADD NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE.

HE RESIDES OUTSIDE OF NASHVILLE, TN, IS A LIFELONG DRUMMER, ENTHUSIASTIC GUITAR PICKER, AVID TURKEY HUNTER, PROUD HUSBAND, FATHER OF TWO AND IS THE WORLD'S GREATEST GRANDPA TO HIS EIGHT GRANDCHILDREN.

Speaking the Same Language: Communication in Criminal Justice

Jason Samuels and James Camp

Justice is a team effort, and effective communication is its lifeblood. When communication breaks down, teams break down. In this session, we will explore common obstacles to effective communication among justice system partners—police, prosecutors, and other stakeholders—and identify practical strategies for overcoming those barriers. Our goal is to strengthen collaboration by fostering clarity, trust, and shared understanding.



JAMES CAMP, SENIOR ATTORNEY, NATIONAL TRAFFIC LAW CENTER

A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED AUTHORITY ON TRAFFIC SAFETY, JIM FOCUSES ON COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE RELATED TOPICS AS SENIOR ATTORNEY WITH THE NATIONAL TRAFFIC LAW CENTER. BORN AND RAISED IN EAST CENTRAL WISCONSIN, JIM HAS PRACTICED LAW FOR OVER 43 YEARS INCLUDING 9 YEARS AS A CIVIL LITIGATOR. HE SPENT 2 YEARS AS ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY AND WAS ELECTED TO 9 TERMS AS DISTRICT ATTORNEY THERE. JIM THEN SPENT 9 YEARS AS ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL AND TRAFFIC SAFETY RESOURCE PROSECUTOR IN TENNESSEE. WHILE TSRP IN TENNESSEE JIM'S OFFICE WAS AT THE TENNESSEE HIGHWAY PATROL TRAINING CENTER WHERE HE ALSO TAUGHT IN-SERVICE AND CADET SCHOOL CLASSES AND ACTED AS A LIAISON WITH THE HIGHWAY PATROL.

JIM IS A RECIPIENT OF THE KEVIN E. QUINLAN NATIONAL EXCELLENCE IN TRAFFIC SAFETY AWARD, THE TENNESSEE GOVERNORS HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE LIFESAVERS AWARD, AND THE TENNESSEE DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERALS CONFERENCE PRESIDENT'S AWARD. HE IS A PAST BOARD MEMBER OF THE WISCONSIN ACADEMY OF TRIAL LAWYERS, PAST BOARD MEMBER AND CHAIR OF THE TENNESSEE MADD BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND IS CURRENTLY A MEMBER OF THE MADD NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE.

HE RESIDES OUTSIDE OF NASHVILLE, TN, IS A LIFELONG DRUMMER, ENTHUSIASTIC GUITAR PICKER, AVID TURKEY HUNTER, PROUD HUSBAND, FATHER OF TWO AND IS THE WORLD'S GREATEST GRANDPA TO HIS EIGHT GRANDCHILDREN.

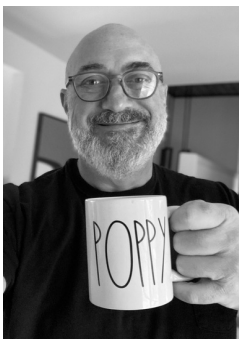
Jason Samuels Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia

Jason is a Senior Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor for the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia. He provides training and support to prosecutors and peace officers throughout Georgia.

Jason earned his BA in Political Science from Purdue University and his Master of Public Administration and Juris Doctor degrees from the University of Georgia. He is currently pursuing a PhD in Criminal Justice and Criminology at the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University.

Jason began his law enforcement career in 1990 as a police officer with the Los Angeles Police Department. He served the communities of Watts, Van Nuys, and Hollywood, and is a veteran of the 1992 LA riots.

He continued his career with the Alpharetta (Georgia) Police Department, where he served as a field training officer and patrol sergeant.



Investigating and Prosecuting Alcohol Impairment Cases Using Science: Mellanby Effect, Homeostasis, and Retrograde Extrapolation

This session explores the scientific principles underlying alcohol impairment and their application in legal contexts. Participants will gain a deep understanding of the Mellanby Effect, which explains the disparity between rising and falling blood alcohol concentrations and perceived impairment; homeostasis, the body's regulatory response to alcohol; and retrograde extrapolation. The course emphasizes the integration of science with investigative techniques to enhance the accuracy and credibility of alcohol-related prosecutions.

Erin Inman

**Director, National Traffic Law Center
National District Attorneys Association**

Erin Inman has dedicated her career to public service, with a focus on educating criminal justice professionals about the dangers of impaired driving and their critical role in reducing injuries and fatalities on America's roadways. She currently serves as the Director of the National Traffic Law Center (NTLC) at the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA), where she leads a team in developing training programs and resources to support Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutors (TSRPs) and prosecutors nationwide.



Earlier in her career, Erin was elected as the County Attorney for Prairie County, Montana. She prosecuted a wide range of criminal cases—from traffic violations to homicide while under the influence—and played a key role in child and adult protection teams. Her leadership extended to collaboration as a member of the Eastern Montana Drug Task Force. Following her time as Prairie County Attorney, she served as an Assistant Attorney General at the Montana Law Enforcement Academy, where she developed and delivered training to public safety professionals, including prosecutors, law enforcement officers, corrections officers, and public safety communicators. She then became Montana's first TSRP, where she built and implemented the state's TSRP program from the ground up. In this pioneering role, she significantly enhanced the capacity of prosecutors to effectively handle traffic safety cases involving serious injury, death, and impaired driving. Her work was instrumental in shaping Montana's response to emerging issues such as cannabis-impaired driving and Bakken boomtown related commercial motor vehicle crashes in rural communities.

Erin began her career in the health sector and military service, including work as a pharmacy technician in the U.S. Army Reserves. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Soil and Crops Science from Colorado State University and graduated cum laude from Pepperdine Law School.

Direct Examination of a Forensic Toxicologist in Impaired Driving Cases

M. Kimberly Brown, Senior Attorney, National Traffic Law Center

This presentation offers a focused and practical look at the direct examination of forensic toxicologists in impaired driving (DUI) prosecutions. Designed primarily for prosecutors, the session will guide attendees through the essential components of presenting toxicological evidence clearly, credibly, and effectively in court. Participants will learn how to:

- Lay a solid foundation for expert testimony, including establishing qualifications and methodology.
- Explain and defend the chain of custody to ensure the integrity and admissibility of evidence.
- Clarify complex toxicological terminology for judges and juries in accessible language.
- Interpret and present toxicology reports, including blood alcohol concentration (BAC) and drug levels.
- Understand the contents of a DUI kit in Illinois and how each component supports the case.
- Navigate the legal and scientific considerations for admitting hospital blood results into evidence.

Real-world examples and courtroom strategies will illustrate how forensic toxicologists play a pivotal role in establishing impairment and supporting successful DUI prosecutions. By the end of the session, attendees will be equipped with practical tools and insights to strengthen their courtroom presentations and enhance the impact of expert testimony.

M. Kimberly Brown

Senior Attorney, National Traffic Law Center

M. Kimberly Brown is a Senior Attorney at the National District Attorneys Association's National Traffic Law Center in Arlington, Virginia. She regularly serves as a presenter and faculty member at state, regional, and national conferences, focusing on impaired driving and traffic safety. She also helps develop and revise trial advocacy curricula and creates resource materials for prosecutors and law enforcement.

Previously, Ms. Brown was Chief of the Criminal Section at the District of Columbia Office of the Attorney General, where she led the prosecution of adult traffic misdemeanors and quality-of-life offenses.

She played a central role in addressing impaired driving challenges, including breath test equipment miscalibration, procedural failures, and legislative changes—ultimately helping to establish a new breath testing program. She also collaborated with law enforcement and prosecutors across jurisdictions to tackle complex criminal justice issues.

Earlier in her career, Ms. Brown prosecuted felony cases at the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office in Michigan and completed a fellowship with the Michigan Attorney General's High-Tech Crime Unit, gaining expertise in technology-driven offenses. Her legal background also includes civil litigation at Covington & Burling and criminal defense work in both Michigan and Washington, DC.



From Scooters to Speedboats: Don't Drive Any Vehicle While Impaired!

Jennifer Cifaldi, Illinois Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor, Ari Briskman, Impaired Driving Enforcement Coordinator, Midwest Center for Traffic Safety, Kate Huffman, National Judicial Fellow

The purpose of this presentation is to provide a review of the vehicles, other than a traditional car or truck, that a driver may not operate while impaired - from scooters to speedboats, lawnmowers, and more, empowering traffic safety stakeholders with knowledge of the non-traditional means of transportation that could result in impaired driving. The presentation will discuss how a driver/operator and a vehicle are defined, how implied consent laws and other traffic safety laws may be affected by the type of vehicle driven, SFSTs and boating cases, probable cause, and issues for policy makers to consider when revising impaired driving statutes along with the relevant case law and statutes. The presentation will conclude with a discussion of the hurdles to be overcome in efforts to combat impaired driving in a variety of non-traditional vehicles and environments.

Jennifer Cifaldi

Illinois Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor



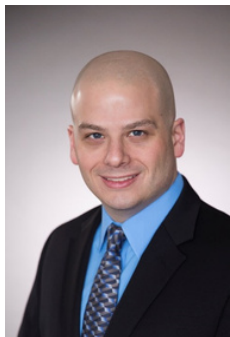
Jennifer Cifaldi currently serves as the Illinois Senior Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor and is employed by the University of Illinois, Springfield through a traffic safety grant. She previously spent 20 years as an ASA. She is a nationally recognized expert and speaker on impaired driving and presents regularly at national conferences. She also serves on the Speaker's Bureau for the Marijuana Impact Group and has trained thousands of officers, prosecutors, probation officers, victim advocates, and judges both in her state of Illinois and nationwide.

As a passionate advocate for traffic safety, Jennifer has assisted the National Traffic Law Center with various projects.

She has presented for them on the topic of "Masking" as well as contributing to a number of their outstanding monographs. She has also helped with NHTSA training modules. Her article on the odor of cannabis as probable cause to search a vehicle was published in the ABA's "Highway to Justice" Winter 2023 edition newsletter.

In addition to being a presenter and resource for law enforcement, Jennifer is an Indirect Instructor for the Seated Standardized Field Sobriety Tests. She has recognized the use of these validated tests originally designed for maritime use as a promising and reliable way to identify impaired drivers on the roadways. These tests are especially useful when impaired drivers are unable to perform the standing SFSTs. She discussed this in detail in her article "Seated Standardized Field Sobriety Tests: An Added Tool for the Roadside Officer" which was published in the ABA "Highway to Justice" Spring 2025 newsletter.

Ari Briskman, Impaired Driving Enforcement Training Coordinator, Midwest Center for Traffic Safety



Ari Briskman has served as a law enforcement officer in northern Illinois for nearly two decades. Early in his career, Ari understood the value of traffic safety. Ari honed his skills by becoming one of the few law enforcement officers recognized as a Drug Recognition Expert, followed a few years later by becoming a Drug Recognition Expert – Instructor. Additionally, Ari was selected by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) to be a Seated Standardized Field Sobriety Test Instructor. In over a decade, Ari has provided impaired driving training to thousands of police officers and prosecutors throughout the country, and he continues to do so as the Impaired Driving Enforcement Training Coordinator for the Midwest Center for Traffic Safety. Ari has been recognized in numerous courts in Illinois as a subject matter expert in impairment caused by alcohol and other drugs. Additionally, Ari is a certified traffic crash reconstructionist. He has been heavily involved in the investigation and prosecution of many fatal and serious injury crashes, during which he has seen firsthand the devastation caused by impaired drivers. Ari's efforts have been recognized by state and national traffic safety and impaired driving enforcement organizations. In addition to his work in education, investigation, and enforcement, Ari advocates for the victims of impaired and distracted driving crashes as the Vice President of the Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists.

Kate Huffman, National Judicial Fellow



KATE HUFFMAN served for twenty-one years as a General Division Judge on the Montgomery County Common Pleas Court and was elected to the Second District Court of Appeals in 2022. During her trial court tenure she presided at various times over the Drug Court and the Women's R.I.S.E. court. Judge Huffman teaches as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Dayton School of Law and on the faculty of the National Judicial College. She currently serves as the American Bar Association Judicial Fellow, providing peer-to-peer training on a variety of topics associated with impaired driving.

Perfecting the Art of PowerPoint

En-Chi Lin, States Attorney, Champaign County

This session focuses on ways prosecutors can effectively use PowerPoint and technology to assist in trial preparation, evidence presentation, closing arguments, and sentencing recommendations. The course will cover how PowerPoint can be used to walk jurors through complex jury instructions and apply them to key visual exhibits in the case. It will show how recordings from traffic devices, drones, surveillance videos, body camera, squad cars, 911, and jail calls, can be integrated with aerial maps, scene photos, and other visual cues to help put jurors at the scene of important events in the case, and make complex fact patterns clear. PowerPoint can also be used both to outline closing and sentencing arguments and to control the pace at which the audience goes through it. Finally, this training will touch on how to anticipate opposing counsel's arguments for rebuttal and address potential objections.

En-Chi Lin

Assistant States Attorney, Champaign County



En-Chi Lin is an Assistant State's Attorney in Champaign County, Illinois. She started her career as a prosecutor in McLean County before joining the Champaign County State's Attorney's office in 2022. She has extensive trial experience, including traffic offenses, drug prosecutions, and general felony matters. Over the course of her career, she has handled a wide range of high-profile cases, including homicides, drug trafficking, traffic fatalities, and sex offenses, and she served as lead traffic attorney for several years in both counties. In addition to her trial work, En-Chi has been actively involved in problem-solving courts, including Drug Court, Veterans Court, and Mental Health Court, reflecting her commitment to addressing the root causes of crime by stressing both accountability and rehabilitation. Beyond the courtroom, En-Chi is dedicated to training the next generation of attorneys. She has judged student competitions in client counseling, negotiations, mock trial, and moot court, and she has guest lectured on PowerPoint in the Courtroom at the University of Illinois College of Law. En-Chi helps coordinate the internship program at the Champaign County State's Attorney's Office, where she supervises and mentors several law student and undergraduate interns. En-Chi earned her J.D. from the University of Illinois College of Law in 2015. Before law school, she pursued her passion for science, completing a B.S. in Chemistry from SUNY Stony Brook in 2007 and an M.S. in Chemistry from the University of Illinois in 2009. En-Chi then served in the United States Marine Corps from 2009 to 2011 before beginning her legal training. Outside the courtroom, En-Chi is a leader in the Central Illinois Argentine tango dance and music community as a tango dance instructor and organizer.

Debunking Breathalyzer Myths and Laying a Proper Foundation

Desiree Sierens, Illinois Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor

Matthew Reents, Illinois State Police

A DUI defendant's submission to a certified breath test is only part of the battle. The prosecutor has to be able to meet foundation requirements for this crucial evidence to be admitted. Attendees will learn current guidelines for the admission of breath alcohol evidence. They will hear about attacks on foundation and how to overcome those issues. Sgt. Matt Reents from the Alcohol and Substance Testing Section will discuss how to debunk the common myths purported by defendants and explain the value of testimony from someone within their BAO unit.



Matthew Reents
Sergeant, Illinois State Police

Matthew Reents is a Sergeant with the Illinois State Police, serving since 2017. He is currently assigned to the Alcohol and Substance Testing Section as the Southern Breath Alcohol Analysis Coordinator. Sergeant Reents is a certified Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) and serves as an instructor for DRE, Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE), and Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST), playing a key role in impaired driving enforcement and training across the state.

Desiree Sierens
Illinois Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor



Desirée Sierens is the Deputy Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor for Illinois. Desirée graduated from the University of Illinois in 2002 and graduated Cum Laude from Northern Illinois University College of Law in 2006, where she was Managing Editor of Law Review. In 2006, Desirée started her career as a misdemeanor and traffic prosecutor in Boone County, Illinois. She left for a brief period to prosecute in Winnebago County, Illinois, but returned to Boone County in 2016. Throughout her career, Desirée has prosecuted a wide variety of crimes, from ordinances to murder, but her passion is prosecuting felony traffic offenses. She is honored to work with victims, their families, advocates, law enforcement, and fellow prosecutors to hold impaired drivers accountable for their crimes.

Common Defenses in DUI Cases: Strategies for Prosecutors
Emily Thompson, Tara Jenswold, Wisconsin Traffic Safety Prosecutors

This presentation provides new prosecutors with a practical overview of the most common defenses raised in DUI cases and strategies to effectively anticipate and respond to them. The session will also discuss how to handle common expert witness tactics, including offering tips for cross examination.



Emily Thompson
Wisconsin Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor

EMILY THOMPSON is an Assistant Attorney General and Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor (TSRP) in the Criminal Litigation Unit at the Wisconsin Department of Justice. She joined the DOJ in April of 2016. Before that, she worked as a prosecutor in the Dane County District Attorney's Office for nine years. As TSRP, Ms.

Thompson provides training and technical assistance to prosecutors and law enforcement. She also prosecutes serious and complex vehicular crimes throughout the state. Ms. Thompson is a graduate of Northwestern University, Boston University, and the University of Wisconsin Law School.



Tara Jenswold
Wisconsin Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor

TARA JENSWOLD has served as the Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor for the State of Wisconsin since 2003, and an Assistant Attorney General in the Criminal Litigation Unit at the Wisconsin Department of Justice since 2009. In this role, Ms. Jenswold provides training and technical assistance to prosecutors and law enforcement. In addition to her training and outreach responsibilities, Ms. Jenswold prosecutes complex vehicular homicide cases throughout the state. She is a graduate of UW-La Crosse and the University of Wisconsin Law School.

Utilizing Grants to improve your traffic safety programs and prosecutor's office

Scott Kristiansen, Illinois Law Enforcement Liaison

Erin Inman, National Traffic Law Center

Are you hoping to grow the traffic safety enforcement program at your department but don't know how that can be funded? Come and learn about the availability of IDOT Highway Safety grants for enforcement, equipment and community outreach programs. This session will explore the grant funding opportunities for local law enforcement, how to apply and participate in the IDOT grant program.

This session provides an overview of the resources offered by the National Traffic Law Center (NTLC), a division of the National District Attorneys Association. Attendees will explore NTLC's extensive library of resources, including the following:

- Training curricula and monographs
- On-demand and live training seminars
- Technical assistance and expert consultation services

The session will include examples of how to use these resources effectively in practice, helping participants understand how to integrate NTLC offerings into their work to improve traffic safety enforcement and prosecution outcomes.

Erin Inman

**Director, National Traffic Law Center
National District Attorneys Association**

Erin Inman has dedicated her career to public service, with a focus on educating criminal justice professionals about the dangers of impaired driving and their critical role in reducing injuries and fatalities on America's roadways. She currently serves as the Director of the National Traffic Law Center (NTLC) at the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA), where she leads a team in developing training programs and resources to support Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutors (TSRPs) and prosecutors nationwide.



Earlier in her career, Erin was elected as the County Attorney for Prairie County, Montana. She prosecuted a wide range of criminal cases—from traffic violations to homicide while under the influence—and played a key role in child and adult protection teams. Her leadership extended to collaboration as a member of the Eastern Montana Drug Task Force. Following her time as Prairie County Attorney, she served as an Assistant Attorney General at the Montana Law Enforcement Academy, where she developed and delivered training to public safety professionals, including prosecutors, law enforcement officers, corrections officers, and public safety communicators. She then became Montana's first TSRP, where she built and implemented the state's TSRP program from the ground up. In this pioneering role, she significantly enhanced the capacity of prosecutors to effectively handle traffic safety cases involving serious injury, death, and impaired driving. Her work was instrumental in shaping Montana's response to emerging issues such as cannabis-impaired driving and Bakken boomtown related commercial motor vehicle crashes in rural communities.

Erin began her career in the health sector and military service, including work as a pharmacy technician in the U.S. Army Reserves. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Soil and Crops Science from Colorado State University and graduated cum laude from Pepperdine Law School.

CRASH INVESTIGATION



Topics

THESE COURSES ARE OPEN TO ALL ATTENDEES



EXPECT *something* MORE™



JUSTICE

by STEPMOBILE

Enhancing Evidence Documentation Through Body-Worn Camera Mapping Techniques Deputy Chief Stan Taylor, Lake County Sheriff Auxiliary

Over the past decade, significant advancements in electronic mapping and measurement technologies have transformed investigative procedures at crash and crime scenes. The integration of drone technology has further enabled investigators to document and preserve evidence with enhanced precision.

Despite these innovations, challenges remain—fatalities may occur days or weeks after an incident, and critical evidence can be missed or obscured during initial investigations. In response, a cutting-edge method has been developed that leverages body-worn camera footage to accurately locate, map, and document evidence after the fact.

This presentation will explore this innovative approach, detailing the procedures involved, showcasing real-world applications, and presenting case studies that illustrate its effectiveness and impact on modern investigative practices.

STAN TAYLOR AERIAL METRICS



AUXILIARY DEPUTY CHIEF TAYLOR CURRENTLY SERVES WITH THE LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE (LCSO) AND IS CO-FOUNDER OF THE FORENSIC PHOTOGRAMMETRY FIRM AERIAL METRICS. DEPUTY CHIEF TAYLOR IS CURRENTLY THE FORENSIC PHOTOGRAMMETRY AND DRONE FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR FOR NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY'S CENTER FOR PUBLIC SAFETY (NUCPS). HE CO-DEVELOPED THE CURRICULUM FOR EDUCATING POLICE OFFICERS ON ALL ASPECTS OF THIS NEW OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY, INCLUDING LEGAL AND REGULATORY ISSUES, PROCEDURES, PUBLIC MEDIA MANAGEMENT, EQUIPMENT USAGE AND MAINTENANCE, FLIGHT SKILLS, HIGH VALUE OPERATIONAL PROTOCOLS AND SAFETY MEASURES. DEPUTY CHIEF TAYLOR HAS PERFORMED PHOTOGRAMMETRIC ANALYSIS AND FORENSIC EVIDENCE MAPPING FOR OVER 500 TRAFFIC CRASHES AND CRIME SCENES FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

Navigating the Pitfalls of Video Evidence in Traffic Crash Investigations Amped-FIVE

As video recording devices—such as dashcams, surveillance cameras, and mobile phones—become increasingly common on public roadways, they are playing a more significant role in traffic crash investigations. Video footage can offer valuable insight into vehicle speeds, paths of travel, and the actions of drivers and pedestrians. However, while video evidence can be powerful, it also presents unique challenges. Poor video quality, misinterpretation of perspective, timing inconsistencies, and data compression can all lead to inaccurate conclusions if not properly understood and analyzed.

This session will provide attendees with the essential foundational knowledge required to approach video forensics with confidence and accuracy. Topics will include the basic principles of video analysis, how to identify and correct for distortions or limitations in footage, and the importance of frame rate, resolution, and camera placement in determining reliable results. Participants will also learn how to follow a structured analysis process, use specialized video analysis software effectively, and avoid common mistakes that can compromise investigations. Real-world case studies will illustrate best practices and demonstrate how properly interpreted video evidence can play a crucial role in crash reconstruction and legal proceedings. Whether new to video forensics or seeking to strengthen existing skills, attendees will leave with a solid understanding of the tools, techniques, and thought processes required to extract meaningful insights from video data.

Brandon Sailer

Technical Sales and Support Specialist



Brandon began his career in law enforcement in 1998 with the Dallas Police Department as a Police Intelligence Research Specialist in the Gang Unit. In 2004 Brandon joined the Plano Police Department as a Crime and Intelligence Analyst. During his time in Crime Analysis, Brandon focused on offenses related to property crime, crimes against persons, and intelligence gathering and dissemination. He also participated in analyzing traffic offenses and traffic related data to provide monthly analysis reports for traffic safety and enforcement meetings. In 2017 Brandon transferred to Crime Scene Investigation as a Digital Media Forensic Specialist where his focus was on collecting and processing surveillance video related to offense reports. In 2022 Brandon was promoted to Digital Media Forensic Supervisor and oversaw the growth of the Digital Media Unit and the team members. Brandon retired from the Plano Police Department in 2025 and soon afterward joined Amped Software as a Technical Sales and Support Specialist where he helps those in law enforcement and private sector security learn about the Amped Software tools and how he used them with investigations during his time in law enforcement.

EXIT "STAGED" LEFT - A DISCUSSION OF STAGED, CAUSED, AND PAPER COLLISION INVESTIGATIONS.

THIS PRESENTATION DELVES INTO THE COMMON MOTIVATIONS, SCHEMES AND METHODS AS THEY RELATE TO STAGED AND CAUSED MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISIONS. THIS BLOCK OF INSTRUCTION WILL PROVIDE KEY INDICATORS AS WELL AS INVESTIGATIVE INSIGHTS INTO THESE CRIMES. BEST PRACTICES AND INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES WILL BE DISCUSSED WITH THE GOAL OF PROVIDING THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR ADDITIONAL TOOLS TO BE USED IN THESE INVESTIGATIONS.

Special Agent Ian Levy, National Insurance Crime Bureau



Special Agent Ian Levy is assigned to the Midwest Region of NICB. SA Levy works with NICB member insurance companies and law enforcement to investigate a wide variety of claims related to staged accidents, identity theft, vehicle theft, cargo theft, and property damage losses. SA Levy is BERLA certified. Prior to joining NICB, SA Levy spent 23 years with the Winnetka Police Department. The last 6 years of SA Levy's career with Winnetka were spent in the Investigations Unit, primarily investigating financial and property related crimes. SA Levy was assigned to the NORTAF Burglary Task Force unit. SA Levy held numerous certifications and specialty assignments during his career such as CFE, FTO, SRO, Evidence Technician, Juvenile Officer, and was a tactical driving instructor at NIPSTA.

Special Agent Charles Becket, National Insurance Crime Bureau



Charles Becket is a Special Agent with the National Insurance Crime Bureau assigned to the Chicago Auto Theft / Property Team. Prior to onboarding with the NICB in 2018, Charles retired from law enforcement after 32 years of service. From 2007 to 2015, Charles served as a task force member and team leader with the Illinois State Police Greater Metropolitan Auto Theft Task Force known as "GMAT." GMATTF was responsible for the investigation of auto theft and related insurance crimes in and around the Chicago Metropolitan area. During that time, Charles assisted in developing auto theft training curriculums and provided instruction for the Illinois State Police Academy in conjunction with the Motor Vehicle Theft (MVT) grant training program in Illinois. During his assignment with GMATTF, Charles worked closely with the NICB and assisted in several successful prosecutions arising from organized staged collision ring activity in Chicago. In his off time, Charles enjoys barbecuing, taking cross-country motorcycle trips with his wife, and tinkering with old cars.

FROM CRASH SCENE TO COURTROOM: A THREE-PART CASE STUDY ON HIGH-SPEED COLLISIONS AND EXPERT TESTIMONY

THIS DYNAMIC THREE-PART SERIES WILL GUIDE ATTENDEES THROUGH THE FULL LIFECYCLE OF A REAL-WORLD CRASH INVESTIGATION, BEGINNING WITH A HIGH-SPEED COLLISION IN GURNEE, ILLINOIS. IN PART ONE, PARTICIPANTS WILL EXAMINE THE INITIAL CASE: A STOPPED VEHICLE STRUCK BY A SPEEDING CADILLAC AT A TRAFFIC SIGNAL, RESULTING IN SERIOUS INJURIES AND CRIMINAL CHARGES. THE SESSION WILL COVER EVERY STAGE OF THE CASE—FROM THE INITIAL CALLOUT AND ON-SCENE INVESTIGATION TO THE FINAL PROSECUTION.

PART 2: THE COURTROOM TEST: PRACTICING EXPERT TESTIMONY AND LEGAL PREPAREDNESS

PART TWO TRANSITIONS INTO A MOCK CRIMINAL TRIAL, WHERE THE INVESTIGATION WILL BE BROUGHT INTO THE COURTROOM. THIS SESSION WILL FOCUS ON EXPERT WITNESS PREPARATION, INCLUDING PREDICATE QUESTIONS, THE VOIR DIRE PROCESS, AND EXAMINATION BY BOTH PROSECUTION AND DEFENSE. ATTENDEES WILL GAIN FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCE IN COURTROOM DYNAMICS AND LEAVE WITH A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE QUALIFIED AND QUESTIONED AS AN EXPERT WITNESS.

PART 3: TESTIFY WITH TECHNOLOGY: A MOCK TRIAL EXPERIENCE FOR MODERN EXPERTS

PART THREE WILL ADDRESS THE ROLE OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS IN PRESENTING ELECTRONIC EVIDENCE. THIS INCLUDES THE INTRODUCTION AND EXPLANATION OF DATA FROM EVENT DATA RECORDERS (EDRS), BERLA INFOTAINMENT SYSTEMS, AND OTHER SOURCES. THE SESSION WILL ALSO TOUCH ON CIVIL LITIGATION PROCEDURES, HIGHLIGHTING KEY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CIVIL AND CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS WHEN PRESENTING EXPERT TESTIMONY AND ELECTRONIC EVIDENCE.

SEE PRESENTERS ON NEXT PAGES



DAVID CANTILLON, TRAFFIC INVESTIGATOR, SCHAUMBURG POLICE

DAVID CANTILLON HAS BEEN A POLICE OFFICER WITH THE SCHAUMBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT SINCE 2019 AND IS CURRENTLY ASSIGNED AS A TRAFFIC INVESTIGATOR WITHIN THE TRAFFIC UNIT. HE SPECIALIZES IN INVESTIGATING SERIOUS INJURY AND FATAL TRAFFIC CRASHES AND ALSO SERVES AS AN INVESTIGATOR AND RECONSTRUCTION SPECIALIST WITH THE MAJOR CASE ASSISTANCE TEAM (MCAT) SERIOUS TRAFFIC ACCIDENT RECONSTRUCTION (STAR) TEAM, WHERE HE ADDITIONALLY HOLDS THE ROLE OF TRAINING COORDINATOR.

TARA JENSWOLD, ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



TARA JENSWOLD HAS SERVED AS THE TRAFFIC SAFETY RESOURCE PROSECUTOR FOR THE STATE OF WISCONSIN SINCE 2003, AND AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL IN THE CRIMINAL LITIGATION UNIT AT THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE SINCE 2009. IN THIS ROLE, MS. JENSWOLD PROVIDES TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO PROSECUTORS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT. IN ADDITION TO HER TRAINING AND OUTREACH RESPONSIBILITIES, MS. JENSWOLD PROSECUTES COMPLEX VEHICULAR HOMICIDE CASES THROUGHOUT THE STATE. SHE IS A GRADUATE OF UW-LA CROSSE AND THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN LAW SCHOOL.



BELINDA STECKENRIDER, COMMANDER, LAKE COUNTY MAJOR CRASH ASSISTANCE TEAM

LIEUTENANT BELINDA STECKENRIDER HAS PROUDLY SERVED THE LIBERTYVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR NEARLY 28 YEARS AND CURRENTLY HOLDS THE POSITION OF AFTERNOON SHIFT LIEUTENANT. SHE ALSO SERVES AS THE COMMANDER OF THE LAKE COUNTY MAJOR CRASH ASSISTANCE TEAM (MCAT), A REGIONAL TASK FORCE SUPPORTING 37 MUNICIPALITIES THROUGHOUT LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, AND COMPRISED OF 56 HIGHLY TRAINED MEMBERS.

IN ADDITION TO HER OPERATIONAL LEADERSHIP ROLES, LIEUTENANT STECKENRIDER IS AN ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR WITH THE NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR PUBLIC SAFETY, WHERE SHE TEACHES CRASH INVESTIGATION COURSES AND CONTRIBUTES TO THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF INVESTIGATORS NATIONWIDE.

LIEUTENANT STECKENRIDER BRINGS EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN THE INVESTIGATION OF SERIOUS INJURY AND FATAL TRAFFIC CRASHES, ALONG WITH A STRONG COMMITMENT TO ADVANCING TRAINING, TECHNOLOGY, AND OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE WITHIN THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNITY.



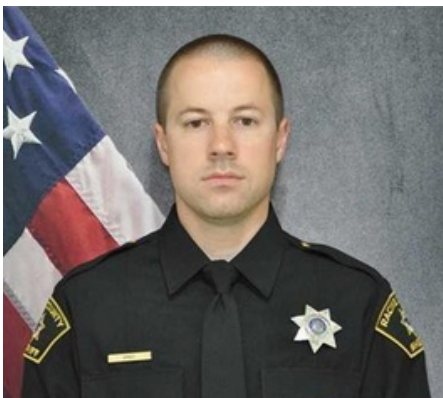
EMILY THOMPSON, WISCONSIN TRAFFIC SAFETY RESOURCE PROSECUTOR

EMILY THOMPSON IS AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL AND TRAFFIC SAFETY RESOURCE PROSECUTOR (TSRP) IN THE CRIMINAL LITIGATION UNIT AT THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. SHE JOINED THE DOJ IN APRIL OF 2016. BEFORE THAT, SHE WORKED AS A PROSECUTOR IN THE DANE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR NINE YEARS. AS TSRP, MS. THOMPSON PROVIDES TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO PROSECUTORS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT. SHE ALSO PROSECUTES SERIOUS AND COMPLEX VEHICULAR CRIMES THROUGHOUT THE STATE. MS. THOMPSON IS A GRADUATE OF NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, BOSTON UNIVERSITY, AND THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN LAW SCHOOL.



April Prete, Deputy Commander, Lake County Major Crash Assistance Team

I have been a Police Officer with the Highland Park Police Department for 24 years and currently serve as one of the Deputy Commanders of the Lake County Major Crash Assistance Team. I am a State Certified Crash Reconstruction Specialist, bringing extensive expertise in investigating complex vehicle crashes and providing leadership in crash investigations throughout Lake County, Illinois.



Joe Arndt, Crash Reconstructionist, Racine County Sheriff

Joe Arndt is an Investigator with the Racine County Sheriff's Office in Racine, WI. He has been a member of the Racine County Sheriff's Office Major Crash Assistance Team (MCAT) since 2016 and currently serves as MCAT's Assistant Team Leader and Crash Reconstructionist. He has experience investigating and reconstructing serious injury and fatal traffic crashes.

OCCUPANT KINEMATICS AND INJURY PATTERNS IN CRASH INVESTIGATIONS
DR. KEVIN ADANTY

UNDERSTANDING THE MOVEMENT OF VEHICLE OCCUPANTS DURING A COLLISION IS CRITICAL, ESPECIALLY IN CASES WHERE OCCUPANT POSITIONING OR DRIVER IDENTIFICATION IS IN QUESTION. UNRESTRAINED OCCUPANTS FOLLOW DISTINCT TRAJECTORIES INFLUENCED BY COLLISION DYNAMICS AND VEHICLE BEHAVIOR. ACCURATE ANALYSIS OF THESE MOVEMENTS, COUPLED WITH THOROUGH DOCUMENTATION OF PHYSICAL EVIDENCE AND INJURY PATTERNS, PLAYS A VITAL ROLE IN BOTH INVESTIGATIONS AND LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

IN THIS SESSION, DR. ADANTY WILL EXPLORE THE BIOMECHANICS OF CRASH-RELATED INJURIES, REVIEW COMMON INJURY MECHANISMS AND PATTERNS, AND DISCUSS INJURY MAPPING TECHNIQUES. REAL-WORLD CASE STUDIES WILL BE PRESENTED TO HIGHLIGHT INVESTIGATIVE STRATEGIES AND ILLUSTRATE HOW DETAILED INJURY ANALYSIS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO SUCCESSFUL LITIGATION OUTCOMES.



DR. KEVIN ADANTY, FORENSIC EXPERT IN BIOMECHANICS

KEVIN ADANTY, PH.D., IS A BIOMECHANIST WITH A MULTIDISCIPLINARY BACKGROUND IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING. HE HOLDS A B.SC. AND M.SC. IN HUMAN KINETICS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA AND A DOCTORATE IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA. HIS GRADUATE RESEARCH FOCUSED ON HEAD BIOMECHANICS, EMPHASIZING SPORTS-RELATED INJURIES (CYCLING, EQUESTRIAN, AMERICAN FOOTBALL, HOCKEY), SKULL FRACTURES, AND SURROGATE MODELING. HE HAS AUTHORED OVER 20 PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS, ABSTRACTS, AND CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS, AND HAS PRESENTED AND TAUGHT INTERNATIONALLY ON INJURY BIOMECHANICS.

AS A BIOMECHANICAL EXPERT, DR. ADANTY HAS CONSULTED AND TESTIFIED IN CIVIL AND FEDERAL CASES INVOLVING AUTOMOTIVE COLLISIONS, SLIPS, TRIPS, AND FALLS, PEDIATRIC TO ELDERLY INJURIES, HOMICIDES, AND ASSAULTS. HE ALSO PROVIDES BIOMECHANICAL EXPERTISE IN COMPLEX CRIMINAL MATTERS AND HAS TESTIFIED AT BOTH STATE AND FEDERAL LEVELS. BEYOND HIS FORENSIC WORK, DR. ADANTY REMAINS ACTIVE IN HEAD AND SPINE BIOMECHANICS RESEARCH AND HAS SERVED AS A PEER REVIEWER FOR JOURNALS SUCH AS JOURNAL OF BIOMECHANICS, CLINICAL BIOMECHANICS, AND ANNALS OF BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING.

UNRAVELING THE SCENE: FUNDAMENTALS OF HIT-AND-RUN CRASH

MR. ANDREW THOMAS

INVESTIGATING SERIOUS INJURY OR FATAL COLLISIONS PRESENTS NUMEROUS CHALLENGES FOR COLLISION INVESTIGATORS AND THEIR AGENCIES—BUT WHEN A VEHICLE FLEES THE SCENE, THOSE CHALLENGES ESCALATE DRAMATICALLY. THE ABSENCE OF AN AT-FAULT DRIVER ADDS URGENCY AND COMPLEXITY, REQUIRING A METHODOICAL AND STRATEGIC APPROACH TO UNCOVER THE TRUTH.

THIS SESSION WILL EQUIP INVESTIGATORS WITH THE FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS NECESSARY TO EFFECTIVELY HANDLE HIT-AND-RUN CASES. TOPICS WILL INCLUDE ESSENTIAL TECHNIQUES FOR IDENTIFYING AND LOCATING FLEEING VEHICLES, COLLECTING AND PRESERVING PHYSICAL AND DIGITAL EVIDENCE, AND LEVERAGING WITNESS STATEMENTS AND SURVEILLANCE DATA. EMPHASIS WILL BE PLACED ON LINKING THE SUSPECT VEHICLE TO THE CRASH SCENE AND, ULTIMATELY, CONNECTING THE DRIVER AND OCCUPANTS TO THE VEHICLE INVOLVED.

THROUGH CASE EXAMPLES AND PRACTICAL INSIGHTS, ATTENDEES WILL GAIN A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF HOW TO MANAGE THESE COMPLEX INVESTIGATIONS FROM THE MOMENT OF RESPONSE THROUGH TO POTENTIAL PROSECUTION.

Andrew Thomas, Principal Reconstructionist, Collision Analytics



Andrew began his career with the McHenry County Sheriff's Office (IL) in 2006. During his tenure, he specialized in all things traffic, including motor officer, heavy vehicle enforcement, and collision investigation and reconstruction. After 15 years, he left the department at the rank of Sergeant to focus on the continued growth of Collision Analytics, a Midwest-based collision reconstruction consulting company he founded in 2017. Andrew has had the privilege of instructing collision reconstruction for Northwestern University's Center for Public Safety since 2016. Andrew also holds accreditation with ACTAR and has recently completed his Associate in Engineering Science.

INSIDE THE DASHBOARD: USING DIGITAL FORENSICS IN MODERN COLLISION INVESTIGATIONS

SERGEANT PATRICK MURRAY

AS IN-VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY CONTINUES TO EVOLVE, THE AMOUNT AND QUALITY OF DIGITAL FORENSIC DATA AVAILABLE FROM MODERN VEHICLES HAS BECOME A TRANSFORMATIVE ASSET FOR CRASH INVESTIGATORS AND LEGAL PROFESSIONALS ALIKE. INFOTAINMENT SYSTEMS, ONBOARD VIDEO CAMERAS, ADVANCED DRIVER-ASSISTANCE FEATURES, AND CONNECTED VEHICLE TECHNOLOGIES NOW RECORD AND STORE CRITICAL DATA THAT CAN ILLUMINATE THE EVENTS BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER A COLLISION. THIS WEALTH OF INFORMATION HAS OPENED NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO RECONSTRUCT CRASHES WITH GREATER ACCURACY AND SUPPORT INVESTIGATIVE AND LEGAL EFFORTS WITH CONCRETE, TECHNOLOGY-BASED EVIDENCE.

THIS SESSION WILL DELVE INTO THE FAST-MOVING WORLD OF VEHICLE-BASED DIGITAL FORENSICS AND ITS PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS IN BOTH CRIMINAL AND CIVIL CASES. ATTENDEES WILL LEARN WHAT TYPES OF DATA ARE TYPICALLY CAPTURED BY INFOTAINMENT AND TELEMATICS SYSTEMS, HOW TO LEGALLY AND FORENSICALLY ACCESS AND PRESERVE THAT INFORMATION, AND WHAT TOOLS—SUCH AS THE BERLA SYSTEM—ARE COMMONLY USED FOR DATA EXTRACTION. REAL-WORLD CASE EXAMPLES WILL HIGHLIGHT HOW DIGITAL VEHICLE FORENSICS HAVE PLAYED A DECISIVE ROLE IN CRASH ANALYSIS AND LITIGATION. WITH TECHNOLOGY ADVANCING RAPIDLY, UNDERSTANDING HOW TO OBTAIN AND INTERPRET THIS DATA HAS BECOME A CRITICAL SKILL FOR ANYONE INVOLVED IN MODERN-DAY CRASH INVESTIGATIONS.



Sergeant Patrick Murray, Crash Investigator, Gurnee Police Department

Patrick Murray has served as a police officer in Lake County Illinois for 22 years and is currently a Sergeant with the Gurnee Police Department. Patrick has been a member of the Lake County Major Crash Assistance Team (MCAT) for 9 years where he has served as an investigator, team leader, and deputy commander. Patrick is an Illinois certified Traffic Crash Reconstruction Specialist and ACTAR accredited. Patrick is an adjunct instructor for Northwestern University Center for Public Safety, teaching crash investigations. Patrick specializes in vehicle data systems including event data recorders, advanced driver assistance systems, and infotainment data.

CRASH TESTING 2025

GET READY FOR AN EXCITING AND EDUCATIONAL HIGHLIGHT OF THE CONFERENCE! A SPECIALIZED CRASH TEST TEAM FROM CRASH DATA SPECIALISTS WILL BE ON-SITE TO CONDUCT MULTIPLE LIVE VEHICLE-TO-VEHICLE CRASH TESTS, OFFERING

A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO WITNESS HIGH-SPEED COLLISION DYNAMICS IN REAL TIME.

THANKS TO THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE VILLAGE OF SCHAUMBURG AND THE SCHAUMBURG BOOMERS, THE LIVE TESTING WILL TAKE PLACE IN A SECURED, LARGE-SCALE PARKING LOT JUST A SHORT BUS RIDE FROM THE CONFERENCE CENTER. THIS DYNAMIC DEMONSTRATION IS SCHEDULED FOR THE CONCLUSION OF DAY ONE OF THE CONFERENCE AND WILL SHOWCASE CONTROLLED HIGH-SPEED IMPACTS DESIGNED TO REPLICATE REAL-WORLD CRASH SCENARIOS.

ATTENDEES WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO:

- OBSERVE TEST PROCEDURES AND VEHICLE PREPARATION
- SEE THE FORCES OF COLLISION AND RESULTING DAMAGE UP CLOSE
- LEARN ABOUT DATA COLLECTION FROM EVENT DATA RECORDERS (EDRS) AND OTHER ONBOARD SYSTEMS
- INTERACT WITH THE CRASH TEAM AND ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT METHODOLOGY AND FINDINGS
- THIS IS AN UNFORGETTABLE, HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE THAT BRINGS THE SCIENCE OF CRASH INVESTIGATION TO LIFE. DON'T MISS IT!
- THE DATA OBTAINED FROM THE TESTING WILL BE PRESENTED AT 8:30 AM ON THE THIRD DAY OF THE CONFERENCE!

CRASH TESTING IS PERFORMED BY CRASH DATA SPECIALISTS



TRANSPORTATION SAFETY



Topics

THESE COURSES ARE OPEN TO ALL ATTENDEES



EXPECT *something* MORE™



JUSTICE
by STEPMOBILE

LARGE TRUCK CRASH CAUSATION: DATA FROM 30 YEARS OF INDUSTRY RESEARCH

MATT CAMDEN, DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF FREIGHT, TRANSIT, & HEAVY VEHICLE SAFETY, VIRGINIA TECH

THIS PRESENTATION WILL WEAVE TOGETHER NEARLY THREE DECADES OF RESEARCH EXPLORING THE CAUSES OF LARGE TRUCK CRASHES. IT WILL FEATURE INSIGHTS FROM VTTI'S LANDMARK RESEARCH EXPLORING DRIVER DISTRACTION, FATIGUE, AND RISKY DRIVING, ALONG WITH A FOCUS ON THE CONTRIBUTING FACTORS OF PASSENGER VEHICLES IN LARGE TRUCK CRASHES.



MATT CAMDEN, DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF FREIGHT, TRANSIT, & HEAVY VEHICLE SAFETY

MATT CAMDEN IS A SENIOR RESEARCH SCIENTIST AND SERVES AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF FREIGHT, TRANSIT, & HEAVY VEHICLE SAFETY AT THE VIRGINIA TECH TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE (VTTI). HE IS AN EXPERT IN OCCUPATIONAL DRIVING SAFETY WITH OVER 17 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE SOLVING COMPLEX CHALLENGES TO IMPROVE VEHICLE AND DRIVER PERFORMANCE. MR. CAMDEN IS SKILLED IN ALL PHASES OF RESEARCH FROM CONCEPTUALIZATION TO RESULTS DISSEMINATION WITH A CONCENTRATION ON CONDUCTING HIGH-QUALITY RESEARCH AND OUTREACH INITIATIVES TO REDUCE CRASHES, PREVENT INJURIES, AND ELIMINATE OCCUPATIONAL DRIVING FATALITIES. WITH A BACKGROUND IN INDUSTRIAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY, MR. CAMDEN'S RESEARCH FOCUSES ON ENHANCING OPERATOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING, STRENGTHENING ORGANIZATIONAL SAFETY CULTURE, REDUCING DRIVER DISTRACTION AND FATIGUE, ACCELERATING ADVANCED VEHICLE SAFETY SYSTEMS, AND PREVENTING OPERATOR IMPAIRMENT. HE HAS BEEN A PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR OR PROJECT MANAGER ON MORE THAN 65 PROJECTS TOTALING OVER \$23.1 MILLION AND HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO 14 OTHER PROJECTS (TOTALING OVER \$15.1 MILLION). THESE INCLUDE FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL, FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION, NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION, AAA FOUNDATION FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY, TRANSPORT CANADA, NORTH AMERICAN FATIGUE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, CLEAR ROADS, NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH CENTER, INC., NATIONAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION SAFETY CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE, AND NUMEROUS PROPRIETARY COMPANIES. MR. CAMDEN HAS OVER 130 PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS AND MORE THAN 60 PUBLICATIONS AND TECHNICAL REPORTS. ALTHOUGH MUCH OF HIS RESEARCH FOCUSES ON COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVERS, HIS RESEARCH PORTFOLIO ENCOMPASSES ALL TYPES OF OCCUPATIONAL DRIVERS AND THE INDIVIDUALS THAT SHARE THE ROAD WITH THEM.

ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE CDL DIVISION
CHUCK GEISER, CDL ADMINISTRATOR

ASSISTING CDL APPLICANTS WITH BASIC CDL KNOWLEDGE INCLUDING CLP & CDL PROCESSING, ENDORSEMENTS, RESTRICTIONS, DOT MEDICAL CARDS.



CHUCK GEISER CDL ADMINISTRATOR

30+ YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN ADMINISTERING CDL TESTING FOR ILLINOIS RESIDENTS TO OBTAIN A CDL LICENSE. CURRENTLY THE CDL ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE, ALEXI GIANNOULIAS, OVERSEEING 450 CDL EMPLOYEES AT 48 DMV LOCATIONS. I HELD VARIOUS POSITIONS PRIOR, FACILITY AND REGIONAL MANAGER, CDL TRAINER FOR BOTH INSIDE PROCESSING AND OUTSIDE TESTING.

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OVERSIZE OVERWEIGHT UPDATES
GENO KOEHLER, TAMMY HOVEY

THIS PRESENTATION WILL EXPLORE THE EVOLVING LANDSCAPE OF OS/OW REGULATIONS, COMMON CHALLENGES FACED BY CARRIERS AND PERMIT WRITERS, AND THE COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS THAT MAKE SUCCESSFUL ROUTING IN ITAP POSSIBLE. I WILL COVER THE UPCOMING CHANGES TO THE MODERNIZED ITAP SITE.



GENO KOEHLER, PERMIT CHIEF, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

GENO KOEHLER HAS BEEN THE PERMIT UNIT CHIEF FOR THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE LAST 14 YEARS. HE OVERSEES FACILITATING OVERSIZED/OVERWEIGHT MOVEMENT IN ILLINOIS. IN THAT CAPACITY HE IS ALSO IN CHARGE OF MAINTAINING AND IMPROVING THE ILLINOIS TRANSPORTATION AUTOMATED PERMIT SYSTEM (ITAP) AND REPRESENTING ILLINOIS' POSITION ON LAWS, REGULATIONS AND POLICIES PERTAINING TO TRUCK FREIGHT MOVEMENT. HE HAS BEEN THE MAASTO SCOHT CO-CHAIR, THE MAASTO MOTOR CARRIER COMMITTEE CHAIR AND IS CURRENTLY THE AASHTO CTSO CO-CHAIR. HE HAS RECENTLY ACCEPTED A POSITION WITH THE TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD, STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRUCKING INDUSTRY RESEARCH. MR. KOEHLER PARTICIPATES ON SEVERAL COMMITTEES REGARDING TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT, SIZE/WEIGHT, AUTOMATION, HARMONIZATION, TECHNOLOGY, VERTICAL CLEARANCES, BRIDGE HITS AND A FEW OTHER. HE IS ALSO PAST PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN BUSINESS CLUB-SPRINGFIELD AND CURRENTLY CENTRAL REGION DIRECTOR FOR NATIONAL AMBUCS.



TAMMY HOVEY, ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN IV - ANALYSIS TECHNICIAN
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

WITH OVER 23 YEARS AT THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION—AND 20 OF THOSE FOCUSED SPECIFICALLY ON OVERSIZE/OVERWEIGHT PERMITTING—TAMMY HOVEY BRINGS A WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE, INSIGHT, AND DEDICATION TO THE WORLD OF FREIGHT MOBILITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY.

TAMMY'S JOURNEY BEGAN WITH A SIMPLE GOAL: TO HELP KEEP ILLINOIS MOVING. OVER THE YEARS, SHE'S BECOME A GO-TO EXPERT IN NAVIGATING THE COMPLEX REGULATIONS THAT GOVERN LARGE AND HEAVY VEHICLE TRANSPORT. HER WORK ENSURES THAT COMMERCE FLOWS SMOOTHLY WHILE PROTECTING THE INTEGRITY OF OUR ROADS AND BRIDGES.

BUT BEYOND THE TECHNICAL SIDE, TAMMY IS PASSIONATE ABOUT COLLABORATION. SHE'S WORKED CLOSELY WITH CARRIERS, ENGINEERS, AND FELLOW PERMIT WRITERS TO FIND PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS THAT BALANCE EFFICIENCY WITH SAFETY. HER DEEP INSTITUTIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND APPROACHABLE STYLE HAVE MADE HER A RESPECTED VOICE IN THE TRANSPORTATION COMMUNITY.

STRENGTHENING DATA QUALITY

JANNET OKAZAKI, NATIONAL CENTER FOR STATE COURTS

PRESENTED BY THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR STATE COURTS (NCSC), THIS SESSION WILL EXPLORE PRACTICAL STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING DATA QUALITY. PARTICIPANTS WILL REVIEW BUSINESS PROCESS (BP) SWIM LANE CHARTS TO VISUALIZE WORKFLOWS AND IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT, FOLLOWED BY AN ENGAGING DISCUSSION ON OPTIMIZING DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENTS. THE SESSION WILL ALSO INTRODUCE A RANGE OF NCSC RESOURCE GUIDES AND TRAINING MATERIALS, INCLUDING TOOLS DESIGNED TO SUPPORT ACCURATE AND EFFICIENT CASE MANAGEMENT FOR COMMERCIAL DRIVING CASES.

JANNET OKAZAKI, DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR, NATIONAL CENTER FOR STATE COURTS

WITH OVER 40 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN TECHNOLOGY, JANNET HAS BUILT A DISTINGUISHED CAREER SPANNING NUMEROUS PROFESSIONAL AND LEADERSHIP ROLES. BEFORE JOINING THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR STATE COURTS (NCSC), SHE RETIRED FROM THE STATE OF FLORIDA, WHERE SHE PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN BOTH THE EXECUTIVE AND JUDICIAL BRANCHES. HER WORK INCLUDED A WIDE ARRAY OF IMPACTFUL PROJECTS FOCUSED ON INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT, SYSTEM INTEROPERABILITY, SOFTWARE STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATION, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, COURTROOM TECHNOLOGY, VIDEO CONFERENCING, POLICY AND GOVERNANCE, AND ELECTRONIC SERVICES SUCH AS AFIS FINGERPRINTING, E-FILING, CASE MANAGEMENT, AND DATA EXCHANGES



AT NCSC, JANNET CONTINUES TO BRING HER EXPERTISE TO THE FOREFRONT, WORKING CLOSELY WITH COURTS ON TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENTS, CYBERSECURITY INITIATIVES, AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE PROJECTS, INCLUDING PROOF-OF-CONCEPT EFFORTS. SHE ALSO LEADS EFFORTS IN TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND OVERSEES THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING FOR THE COURT TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE (CTC) AND ECOURTS.

JANNET HOLDS A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION WITH A SPECIALIZATION IN MANAGEMENT AND IS A CERTIFIED PROJECT MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONAL (PMP).

AREAS OF EXPERTISE: TECHNOLOGY, ASSESSMENTS, POLICY AND GOVERNANCE, STANDARDS, DATA/DATA EXCHANGE



Ready & Resilient: First Responder Wellness Essentials

This course provides a broad introduction to the core concepts of first responder wellness, focusing on the unique physical, emotional, and psychological challenges faced in public safety careers. Participants will explore the foundations of resilience, stress management, healthy coping strategies, and available support systems.

Meg Krase 100 Club of Illinois



Meg Krase is the Program Outreach Director for the 100 Club of Illinois and serves as the Clinical Director of the organization's Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Team. A Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Meg has dedicated her career to supporting the first responder community through trauma-informed care, crisis intervention, and wellness programming. Her professional background includes clinical roles with the McHenry County State's Attorney's Office, the McHenry County Child Advocacy Center, and the Carpentersville Police Department. Meg holds certifications as a Certified Clinical Trauma Professional (CCTP), an EMDR-trained clinician, and in Critical Incident Stress Management (CCISM). She is a passionate advocate for the mental health and wellness of those who serve and protect, and one of her most effective tools in the field is her Therapy K9, Walter, who assists in both crisis response and ongoing emotional support.

SMART Lighting for Emergency Vehicles

Thomas Brengel, Illinois State Police

Flashing lights on police and emergency vehicles is the primary method used to communicate to the motoring public about our presence. We expect motorists to respond to our lights accordingly, but are our flashing lights communicating effectively, or are they working to our detriment? This presentation will explore the “Wild West” of emergency lighting and how the brightness of LEDs, flash patterns, and lighting creates problematic situations. It will examine research and operational practices to “Tame the Wild West” and explore how technology can be leveraged to improve the effectiveness of emergency vehicle lights and enhance officer safety.

Thomas Brengel

Master Sergeant, Illinois State Police



Master Sergeant Thomas Brengel of the Illinois State Police began his law enforcement career in 2010 and is currently assigned to the Division of Statewide 9-1-1 as the program coordinator for the department’s body-worn camera program. He serves on the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) National Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Committee and is a subject matter expert on emergency vehicle lighting. He has played a key role in legislative changes affecting Illinois traffic laws and improvements to the Move-Over law. Master Sergeant Brengel holds a Bachelor of Science in Administration of Criminal Justice



EXPECT *something* MORE™

Illinois Motor Fuel Use Tax Enforcement: IFTA & Dyed Fuel

Tyler Gregory, Special Agent, Illinois Department of Revenue

This Presentation is about the Illinois Department of Revenue's Motor Fuel Use Tax Enforcement Program. IDOR-BCI has various duties in enforcing the States Tax Code. One of those duties is enforcing the Motor Fuel Use Tax Laws for the State. Those Laws include IFTA and Dyed Diesel Fuel Laws as covered in Chapter 35 Section 505 of the Revenue Laws. In 1991 the federal government came up with the International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) to assist states or providences with collecting fuel taxes to repair their roads. The federal and state governments were seeing commercial motor vehicles traveling through states with higher fuel costs, or taxes, and not buying fuel in those states. THUS... avoiding paying those taxes to these states despite using and damaging that state's roadways. So, under this agreement Commercial Motor Vehicle and their companies are required to report to their states taxing authority all of the mileage and fuel they are either traveling or purchasing in other states. This type of taxation makes for even and fair distribution of collected motor fuel funds. Under the Federal Guidelines of IFTA, the funds collected from the Motor Fuel Tax Laws must go directly to maintaining that States roadways.



Tyler Gregory
Special Agent, Illinois Department of Revenue

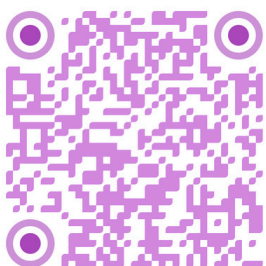
Senior Special Agent Gregory began his career in state law enforcement 2010 and has worked in his current role as IFTA Deputy Coordinator since 2016. He is both Illinois State Police and Illinois Law Enforcement Standards Board Certified Control and Arrest Tactics/ Officer Survival Instructor, as well as, PPCT Use of Force Instructor. He is also a member of our Bureau's Rifle Cadre and a Field Training Officer (FTO). He is currently a member of the national IFTA Law Enforcement Committee. Through his role as the Bureau's Motor Fuel Enforcement Team leader, he has set up both State and Federal jurisdiction enforcement, trainings, and experience. He assists in putting together large-scale enforcement operations across the state which utilize a large volume of agents and other law enforcement personnel set up in strategic locations across the state operating in enforcement details for multiple days at a time.



THE MIDWEST CENTER FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY IS HOSTING NORTHWESTERN'S CORE CRASH CLASSES! SPRING 2026

The Core Sequence

Northwestern University Center for Public Safety offers the most respected series of crash investigation and reconstruction courses available for aspiring and experienced professionals. Our five-course sequence begins with an immersive introduction of essential investigative procedures, advances through crucial math and physics concepts and formulas, and concludes with unmatched reconstruction concepts and hands-on techniques. Each course is a prerequisite for the next in the series and is offered in on-ground and online formats. This sequence also is a prerequisite for many of our advanced reconstruction courses. Students who successfully complete the five-course sequence qualify for our NUCPS Traffic Crash Reconstruction Professional email signature logo.



www.midwesttrafficsafety.org/northwestern
**REGISTER FOR MULTIPLE CLASSES
AND RECEIVE A DISCOUNT**
SCAN TO LEARN MORE AND REGISTER

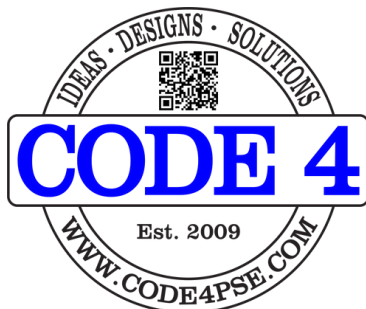


EXPECT *something* MORE™



JUSTICE

by STEPMOBILE



FEDERAL SIGNAL



MANUFACTURED IN AMERICA



Measurably Superior®



TRANSPORTATION^{LLC}



THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THE MIDWEST TRAFFIC SAFETY CONFERENCE

JOIN US AGAIN, NOVEMBER 10-12,
2026, AT THE WESTIN HOTEL
ITASCA, ILLINOIS

TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT A DISCOUNTED
RATE. REGISTER NOW, AND WE CAN INVOICE
YOU AFTER THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINS.

WWW.MIDWESTTRAFFICSAFETY.ORG

