

THE SECOND ANNUAL

Southwest

CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN

CONFERENCE



OCTOBER 15, 16 & 17, 2024



AGENDA

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2024

- 4:00pm – 7:00pm** **Early Check-In**
Santa Ana Star Casino and Hotel Ballroom
{Pre-Function Area}
- 5:30pm – 7:00pm** **Informal No-Host Meet and Greet**
Juniper Bar

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2024

- 7:30am – 9:00am** **Conference Check in**
Ballroom Pre-Function Area
- 9:00am – 12:00pm** **Opening Session**
Ballroom
- Color Guard**
James Madison Middle School
- National Anthem**
- Opening Prayer**
- Breakfast Served**
- Welcome**
Bradley Barton
Master of Ceremonies
- Welcome**
District Attorney Barbara Romo,
13th Judicial District of New Mexico

AGENDA

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2024

District Attorney Barbara Romo
Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Keynote: Eliza Sultan
Author of *Children on the Frontlines of Justice: Report Sexual Abuse and Survive the Criminal Trial*

Eliza Sultan is the mother of two children who went through a criminal trial and testified against their father at ages 4 and 7. Ms. Sultan will cover how the process of the case being adjudicated created much unnecessary trauma, compounded with the trauma of the abuse. Ms. Sultan's case was assigned to a judicial district that was overwhelmed and not properly staffed with prosecutors trained or prepared to handle this type of case with such small children. After over a year of inaction by the judicial district, Ms. Sultan began pursuing the then Attorney General's Office (Hector Balderas) to take over the case. At the time Ms. Sultan and her family were also being stalked by the offender and had to relocate nine times during the nearly 2.5 years that it took to get to trial. The offender was convicted of violating the Order of Protection during this time.

The purpose of sharing this story is to bring awareness to the professionals involved in prosecuting these types of cases in hopes of improving the systems that retraumatize victims and to bring awareness to how the holes in the justice system are retraumatizing the victims, many of whom are too scared to testify.

Ms. Sultan is the author of a recently released book – *Children on the Frontlines of Justice* – written to help these children and their caregivers understand the magnitude of the task of having to testify in open court. The books will be available for sale and signing after Ms. Sultan's address.

Q & A
Wrap Up – Bradley Barton

AGENDA

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2024

12:00 – 1:30

12:00

Lunch on Own

Book Sale and signing with Eliza Sultan

Outside Ballroom

1:30pm – 3:00pm

AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSION I

Barbara Romo

Corroboration of Evidence

Sacramento West **PROS, LE**

When a child discloses our job begins. Successful prosecutions hinge on finding corroborating evidence from a child's disclosure. This presentation will teach students how to find corroborating evidence in every investigation. Attendees will learn how to see corroborating evidence that is almost always present but is often missed.

Anne Kelly

Legal Updates

Manzano **PROS**

Appellate case update focusing on crimes against children.

J. Michael Thomas

Jury Instructions for Child Abuse Cases

Sacramento East **PROS**

We will be reviewing the use of jury instructions in child abuse cases. Topic includes a review of uniform and use of nonuniform instructions, UJI charge reference charts, about essential elements, instructions on lesser included offenses, and about navigating the use of child abuse jury instructions, and more.

AGENDA

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2024

Mark Munro

The Suspect Interview- Sexual Assault Cases

Cimarron LE

The most challenging aspect of a sexual assault investigation is the interview with the suspect. As a large portion of sexual assault cases often have no physical evidence, an admission or confession may be the deciding factor in prosecuting the offender. This presentation will introduce a framework and practical guidelines for sexual assault offender interviews that can improve your confession rate.

3:00pm – 3:15pm

Break

3:15pm – 4:45pm

AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSION II

Dr. Karen Campbell

Child Physical Abuse and Neglect Potpourri

Manzano PROS/LE

Presentation to include:

- Understanding medical records
- How to interpret medical records in cases of suspected child maltreatment (i.e. what to look for)
- What entails an abuse/neglect medical workup
- Basic findings in Child Physical Abuse and Neglect:
 - o External and internal injuries
 - o Accidental/unintentional vs. nonaccidental/abusive injuries
 - o Determination of accidental vs. nonaccidental
 - o Examples of child neglect
 - o Safe/unsafe sleep
 - o Drug exposures
- A non-medical investigator's approach to infant and child deaths including Cause of Death (COD) and Manner of Death (MOD) and how COD and MOD relate to child

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2024

welfare and CYFD cases

- A (very) quick overview of CART and PLN, with contact information included

Don Moore and Lacey Jay Cheney

Victim Advocate Roundtable

Sacramento West VA

This roundtable is a forum and an open style discussion opportunity for Victim Advocates and those working with victims to come together and freely discuss issues, concerns and resources related to victim centered work. The roundtable will offer the opportunity to share information, problem solve and exchange resources.

Rebekah Reyes and Det. Felicia Maggard

Manzano PROS,LE

In 2020, an 8-year-old girl disclosed being sexually abused by her second-grade teacher. A thorough investigation revealed a disturbing pattern of grooming and multiple other victims. Participants will learn how to look for signs of grooming in their cases, how to handle a high-profile case without compromising the investigation and prosecution, and how the Prosecutor, Investigator and the MDT can work together to protect Children and bring about a just resolution.

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2024

9:00am – 10:30am A.M. SESSION I

1. Dr. Shaina Smith

The impacts of trauma on memory in victims of crime

Sacramento West PROS, LE

Trauma exposures impact every part of a person, and very significantly impact their cognitive functioning, both immediately and long term. In this session, Dr. Smith will address the neurological impacts of trauma, especially on memory. Understanding memory consolidation and other neurological impacts of trauma is key to evaluating the credibility of witness and victim statements and to approach witnesses and victims in a manner in which to get the most accurate and helpful information.

2. Dr. Maxanne Schwartz and Benjamin A. Fuller

Sex Offender Psychology, Competency and Recidivism

Sacramento East PROS, LE

The psychology of a sex offender specifically as it relates to child sex crimes; possible rehabilitation of a sex offender; diagnoses of a sex offender; and rate of recidivism.

3. Dianna Luce, 5th Judicial District Attorney

Baby Boy: A Case Study-Prosecuting a case that is live-streamed around the world

Cimarron ALL

This case will examine the prosecution of Alexis Avila. A case where a newborn baby was found in a trash bag in a dumpster. We will examine how the surveillance video released to the world on social media exposed the defendant committing the crime. We will review the charging decision, the experts retained, the jury instructions and the live stream worldwide coverage of every hearing and the trial.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2024

10:30am – 10:45am

4. Dr. David Lisak

Taking Care of Ourselves in the Face of Our Exposure to Trauma

Manzano ALL

This very interactive session will focus on the short- and long-term impact of “secondary trauma” among professionals whose work exposes them to crimes against children. After a brief discussion of what we know about “secondary trauma,” we will delve into the signs that we are being affected by it, and how we can mitigate its impact on our careers and our personal well-being.

10:45am – 12:15pm

Morning Break

A.M. SESSION II

1. Dr. Shaina Smith

Proactive and practical ways to manage trauma exposure and compassion fatigue.

Manzano ALL

The effects of exposure to trauma are often seen as permanent and unavoidable, with excessive information portraying the debilitating and lifelong consequences of these exposures. There is often a lack of information on the growth, resilience, and choice involved in how these experiences are managed. Dr. Smith will break down the differences between trauma exposure, secondary or vicarious trauma exposure, burnout, and compassion fatigue, and the audience will learn not only to recognize these experiences but will also learn how to combat them in proactive and practical ways.

2. Carla Romero / Vanessa Holguin

Working with Particularly Vulnerable Victim Populations

Cimarron VA

The focus of this session will be on identifying what challenges and barriers exist and their importance when providing Victim Support. Case examples on how to overcome

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2024

12:15pm – 1:30pm

some of these challenges will be shared.

3. Donalyn Sarracino and Grace Nailor
Promoting Cultural Connectedness and Understanding
Though Effective Collaboration

Sacramento East ALL

This session will focus on acknowledging and understanding the historical foundations contributing to the racial disparities which exist in the child welfare system. Recognizing the need for honest discussions of how child welfare practices negatively impact Indigenous children, youth, families, and communities; and how these practices have the potential to impact the outcome of prosecution of crimes against a Native child victim. Understanding cultural differences and courageously envisioning a family-affirming child welfare community which honors, respects, and supports cultural connectedness will lead to more successful case outcomes and help to reduce the prospect of adding additional trauma from the criminal justice process to an already traumatized child and family. Accepting the belief of strengthening the family unit as a vital part of the healing process, and intentionally establishing meaningful relationships through on-going communication, positive collaborative, and meaningful consultation, to better support children, youth, and families.

4. Barbara Romo
Corroboration of Evidence

Sacramento West PROS,LE

When a child discloses our job begins. Successful prosecutions hinge on finding corroborating evidence from a child's disclosure. This presentation will teach students how to find corroborating evidence in every investigation. Attendees will learn how to see corroborating evidence that is almost always present but is often missed.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2024

1:30pm – 3:00pm

AFTERNOON SESSION I

1. Aaron Salas

Enhancing Collaboration

Sacramento West ALL

Strategies for increased collaboration between Survivor Advocates and CYFD Protective Services team members when working on cases that cross both systems.

2. Sarah Tafoya

Child Sexual Abuse & Assault:

Psychosocial Stages of Development

Cimarron PROS, LE

Navigating the challenges of working with a child who has experienced sexual abuse or assault can be particularly complex. This presentation will explore how understanding a child's psychosocial development stage can enhance communication, build rapport, and improve interactions. Additionally, a sexual assault nurse examiner will outline the medical forensic examination process for pediatric and adolescent patients. Gaining insight into a child's developmental stage can significantly improve your ability to provide effective support and care for those who have experienced violence.

3. Anne Kelly

Legal Updates

Manzano PROS

Appellate case update which will of course focus on crimes against children.

4. Bert Parnall, Amy Martuccio-Whitsell, Brian Murray

Practical Justice: Helping Children Rebuild their Futures through Civil Claims

Sacramento East ALL

We will look at what Civil Justice is for Victims of Crime? Including Sources of Compensation: Such as umbrella coverage, Crime Victim Reparation, children's settlements and the reasons for crime victims to file a lawsuit. We will

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3:00pm – 3:15pm

also discuss the role of the civil justice system's role in crime victim compensation the stages of a Crime Victim claim: Investigation, Negotiation, Litigation (Compliant and Answer, Discover, Pretrial Motions, Trial, and Judgment and Enforcement).

Afternoon Break

3:15pm – 4:45pm

AFTERNOON SESSION II

1. Henry Valdez

Effective Cross Examination

Cimarron PROS

We will explore how to use cross examination to advance your case and discredit. The defense's case

2. Dr. Leslie Strickler

Child Sexual Assault Exams

Sacramento East PROS, LE

As a child abuse pediatrician, this session will provide an overview of medical evaluations for both child sexual abuse and assault. We will review the clinical services provided at UNM, in addition to reviewing how child abuse pediatricians collaborate with SANE programs. We will also discuss strangulation in pediatric patients.

3. Dr. David Lisak

The Dynamics of Grooming

Manzano PROS, LE

The vast majority of sex crimes are preceded by a systematic grooming of the victim. Understanding the dynamics of grooming is essential to fully understanding the crime, the modus operandi of the offender, and the impact of the crime on the victim. This presentation will focus on the specific grooming tactics used by offenders, and their impact on the victim, both immediately and in the months and years after the crime.

AGENDA

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2024

9:00am – 2:00pm

CLOSING GENERAL SESSION AND LUNCH

Quezadas Comedy Club

9:00am – 9:45am

General Business

Bert Parnall

Barbara Romo

9:45am – 10:00am

Break

10:00am – 11:30am

***Three Native Judges in Conversation:
Perspectives and Possibilities***

Three noted judges, come together to share their unique perspectives as members of the judiciary, and as Native women. Bringing their cultural knowledge and awareness to the conversation we will explore the nature of the Adversarial Judicial System versus a more community based restorative justice system, the pros and cons of both and how to incorporate the best of both worlds, when possible, to better serve child victims of crime and reduce the trauma of the court system for all children, especially Native children and their families. All three have worked in various capacities to protect the rights of child victims and with the same goal in mind, seeking a better outcome no matter who the child is. A Question-and-Answer session will follow the conversation.

11:30pm – 12:00pm

Buffet Lunch Served

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2024

12:00pm – 2:00pm

Multi-Disciplinary Team Panel and Q & A

The MDT panel will be an opportunity for the State's leading experts in child abuse to come together and discuss their experiences handling child abuse cases. Conference attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions of the panel and seek advice on how to better investigate, prosecute and mentally cope with these types of cases.

Moderator:

Jessica Martinez
Chief Deputy District Attorney,
13th Judicial District of NM

Panelists:

Barbara Romo
District Attorney, 13th Judicial District of NM

Judge Catherine Begaye
Presiding Children's Court Judge
Division VIII New Mexico 2nd Judicial District Court

Mark Munro
Principal, CTI Services

Scott Patterson-Alatorre
Director, CYFD

Sandi Martinez
Director of Forensic Services, Valencia Shelter Services

District Attorney Barbara Romo

Closing Remarks

END OF CONFERENCE

A NOTE ABOUT DESIGNATIONS

All of the classes are open to everyone in attendance.

Some classes are specifically geared toward Prosecutors, Law Enforcement and Victim Advocates.

PROS = Prosecutors

LE = Law Enforcement

VA = Victim Advocates

A NOTE ABOUT CREDITS

To receive CLE's You must check in at the CLE Desk.

For Law Enforcement Credits you must check in at the Law Enforcement Desk.

We are not affiliated with any agency to provide official Credits for Victim Advocates. You can leave your name, agency affiliation and mailing address and we will send a Certificate of Your Attendance post conference.

WI-FI

SASCH - Guest (no password required)

DINING OPTIONS

The Santa Ana Star Casino and Hotel has several dining options available for Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

JUNIPER STEAK HOUSE

Sunday/Monday

4pm – 9pm

(closed Tuesday/Wednesday)

Friday/Saturday

4pm – 10pm

PRAIRIE STAR

Wednesday/Thursday

5pm – 8pm

Friday/Saturday

5pm – 8:30pm

(reservations recommended)

THE ORIGINAL MESA GRILL

Sunday to Thursday

11am – 12am

Friday/Saturday

11am – 2am

QUEZADA'S CANTINA

Thursday to Sunday

4pm – 12am

PERKS

Premium Coffee and Gifts

Daily 6am – 8pm

THE HOME PLATE BAR & GRILL

Sunday to Thursday

breakfast 8am – 11am

lunch/dinner 11am – 9pm

Friday/Saturday

breakfast 8am – 11am

lunch/dinner 11am – 10pm

Bar Hours

Sunday to Thursday

11am – 10pm

Friday/Saturday

11 am – 11 pm