



Holding Offenders Accountable from Dispatch to Disposition, Pt. 1 & 2

Thursday, November 5

10:30am-12:00pm (Pt. 1); 1:00pm-2:30pm (Pt. 2)

Pt. 1: Effective On-Scene Response

Intimate partner violence incidents are among the most dangerous and complex calls law enforcement officers encounter. Expert manipulation by perpetrators—combined with the complexities of abusive relationship dynamics, trauma responses from the victim, and common intersections with other crimes—often leads to frustration for officers, distrust of the system for victims, and reinforcement for offenders that their abuse will continue to go unchecked. The presenters will review best practices for every aspect of patrol response, from safely approaching the scene, to routinely conducting lethality assessments, to determining pre-dominant aggressor. Additional considerations, such as routinely screening for co-occurring crimes and the importance of victim-centered, offender-focused policies and procedures, will also be discussed.

Pt. 2: Working Together to Prosecute without the Victim

What do you do when your chief witness is unavailable, recants, or testifies for the defendant? Survivors of intimate partner violence are often unable or unwilling to participate in the criminal justice process—often due to intimidation and manipulation. However, there are tangible ways to move forward and hold offenders accountable regardless of whether or how the victim testifies. The presenters will discuss the importance of supporting the victim throughout the criminal justice process, understanding the legal requirements for introducing the out-of-court statements of a non-testifying witness, emphasizing the importance of identifying and documenting the victim's nontestimonial statements, preserving the victim's testimony at a proceeding that affords an opportunity for cross-examination, and establishing grounds for forfeiture by wrongdoing.

Accreditation will be available!

Presenters

Dave Thomas is an IACP Program Manager, who retired from the Montgomery County Police Department in December of 2000 on full disability after 15 years of service. During his law enforcement career Mr. Thomas taught at the Police Training Academy, served on the S.W.A.T. team, was a Hostage Negotiator, and a member of the Domestic Violence Unit. In addition to his teaching duties, Mr. Thomas worked with community stakeholders in the spirit of the coordinated community response to deliver training and technical assistance on issues pertaining to violence against women and violence against women crimes. Just prior to joining the staff of the IACP, Mr. Thomas served as the Senior Advisor, Highly Qualified Expert Law Enforcement, SES, to the U.S. Air Force Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office out of the Pentagon.

John Wilkinson is an Attorney Advisor with AEquitas, and presents on trial strategy, legal analysis and policy, and ethical issues related to violence against women at the local, state, national, and international level. Mr. Wilkinson has presented extensively on the investigation and prosecution of domestic violence, sexual violence, stalking, and human trafficking both in the U.S. and abroad. Prior to working with AEquitas, John was the Program Manager for the Gun Violence Prosecution Program, Homeland Security Program, and Southwest Border Crime Program where he traveled extensively throughout the U.S. presenting on gun and gang violence and homeland security issues.

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This free training is presented by the Institute for Coordinated Community Response, a program of the National Conference on Crimes Against Women.