



## 2025 Domestic Violence Conference

October 7-9, 2025  
San Diego, California  
Wyndham San Diego Bayside

*Attendees must wear their name tags to all events.  
Please turn off cell phones during all sessions.*

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### AGENDA

#### **DAY 1: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 – General Session**

*Coffee and tea provided throughout the day.*

7: 5 – 8:30 AM      **Check-in**

8:30 – 8:45 AM      **Housekeeping**

8:45 – 9:00 AM      **Welcome Remarks**

9:00 – 10:00 AM      **Successful Prosecution Through a Trauma Informed Lens**  
*The term “success” in prosecution looks differently based upon who is using it. We don’t get to choose our victims or their circumstance. Therefore, we learn ways to support them under the circumstances of the re-traumatizing criminal justice process.*

*District Attorney Dalia Racine and Director of Victim Services Dr. Rita Davis - Cannon facilitates this victim-centered presentation that takes a deep dive on how we process, prosecute, and protect our victims who are impacted by trauma.*

*Facilitators will explore the impact of trauma and how it can show up in your interactions with your victims. In addition, this training will offer guidance on trauma informed interviewing and best practices that empower and restore a victim/survivor’s sense of agency and trust in our criminal justice systems.”*

10:00 – 10:15 AM      **Break**

10:15 –11:45 AM      **Trauma Informed Prosecution**  
*This training equips legal professionals with practical strategies for engaging survivors of trauma in a compassionate and effective manner. Through a review of trauma-informed interview frameworks, trauma informed meeting practices, and experiential learning scenarios, participants learn to recognize the impacts of trauma, foster safety and trust, and apply sensitive and empowering communication techniques. The training emphasizes the importance of validation, transparency, and survivor input throughout the prosecutorial process while addressing challenges like emotional regulation, myths and stereotypes, and system limitations.*



11:45 – 1:15 PM

**Lunch (on your own)**

1:15 – 2:45 PM

**Reduce Intimate Partner Homicide**

*This session examines how immediate, coordinated community response can reduce the risk of intimate partner homicide. Drawing on current case examples, research and tools, this session highlights how lethal the period immediately following a domestic violence incident is for the victim. It emphasizes the importance of a coordinated community response between law enforcement, domestic violence agencies, health care providers and the courts. It will explore evidence-based practices, including high risk factors, lethality assessments, strangulation worksheets and report writing, that have proven to save lives. Assessing the level of danger, sharing information and acting immediately can reduce the risk of intimate partner homicide. The session will also address barriers to immediate response and offer ways to improve response.*

2:45 – 3:00 PM

**Break**

3:00 – 4:30 PM

**Making the Unbelievable Understandable: Using Expert Testimony to Explain Counterintuitive Victim Behavior**

*Even seasoned prosecutors know that jurors often misinterpret victim behavior—and that the right expert testimony can turn that perceived liability into a strength. This advanced 90-minute session, taught by a veteran DA and forensic psychologist, focuses on strategically using generalized expert testimony in domestic violence, sexual assault, and child sexual assault and abuse cases to help factfinders understand counterintuitive trauma responses such as recantation, delayed reporting, flat affect, and returning to the perpetrator ... without vouching.*

*Drawing from real case examples and research, participants will learn how to:*

- *Identify key counterintuitive behaviors common in trauma survivors*
- *Lay a strong legal foundation for the admissibility of expert testimony in these complex cases, including disclosures under Rule 16 and Daubert/Frye arguments*
- *Prepare and collaborate with expert witnesses effectively*
- *Anticipate and respond to challenges from defense*
- *And receive trial-tested language for direct examination.*

*This session will strengthen abilities at all levels in presenting compelling evidence-based explanations of victim behavior in complex interpersonal violence cases. Participants will leave with practical strategies for turning victim credibility challenges into opportunities for education and justice.*

Adjourn for the Day

**DAY 2: Wednesday, October 8, 2025**

*Coffee and tea provided throughout the day.*



8:30 – 10:00 AM

**Jury Selection in the Domestic Violence Case**

*Many cases are won or lost before any evidence is ever admitted during a trial. It is therefore crucial that prosecutors master the art of selecting a jury, particularly in the uphill battle of a domestic violence case. In this lecture, the faculty member will discuss strategies for figuring out who prosecutors want serving on their DV jury, and who would instead be a better fit for a different type of case. After explaining why and how they are effective, specific questions/scripts will be introduced for attorneys to try out in their cases. The speaker will cover how to use preemptory strikes, how to get potential jurors talking and how to really listen to them, and ultimately how a prosecutor can select the best group of jurors for success in their DV case.*

10:00 – 10:15 AM

**Break**

10:15 – 11:45 AM

**Family Violence and Animal Cruelty: Considerations for District Attorneys**

*There is a significant relationship between animal cruelty and other violence, including organized crime, human trafficking, gangs, and intimate partner/child abuse. Largely because of this link, acts of animal abuse are now tracked alongside felony crimes like arson, assault, and homicide in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's criminal database. Join Erin Aiello, an Assistant District Attorney in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and a Law Enforcement Trainer with the Humane Society of the United States, as she focuses on interpersonal violence prosecutions and reviews unique considerations in animal abuse cases and strategies for a multidisciplinary approach to help keep people and their pets safe.*

11:45 – 1:15 PM

**Lunch (on your own)**

1:15 – 2:45 PM

**Recanting Survivors - How to Prevent Them; How to Work with Them.**

*It is a fact of domestic violence work that most survivors will recant and/or minimize the version of events they initially tell the police after an assault. Prosecutors should not be surprised when this happens, nor should they automatically dismiss their case. Since we know this behavior is likely to occur, shouldn't we be planning for it? In this lecture, the speaker will discuss counter-intuitive victim behavior and the cycle of recantation. Strategies for practitioners to use to prevent a possible recant from ever occurring will be covered. Additionally, the faculty member will explore the ethical obligations triggered when a survivor does recant, as well as how to salvage the criminal case when a recant occurs pre-trial or during the trial itself.*

2:45 – 3:00 PM

**Break**

3:00 – 4:30 PM

**Crossing the Line from Domestic Violence to Elder Abuse...a Gray Area?**

*Former career prosecutor Paul Greenwood will draw upon his 22 years of prosecuting serious felony elder abuse cases to highlight what is often described as a hidden crime. Many older victims are abused, neglected or exploited by a family member, a partner, or a trusted individual. Greenwood will delve into this often overlooked and under investigated crime to offer practical tips on how to address such cases. He will tackle common misconceptions that frequently result in investigations being closed without prosecution.*



Adjourn for the Day

**DAY 3: Thursday, October 9, 2025**

*Coffee and tea provided throughout the day.*

8:30 – 9:30 AM      **Family Justice Center**  
*Description Forthcoming.*

9:30 – 9:45 AM      **Break**

9:45 – 10:45 AM      **Breaking Through the Noise – How to Use the Local Media to Speak to Your Audience and Change Public Opinion!**  
*With 40 years' experience as a TV News reporter and anchor Pat Dooris will share what it is really like behind the scenes in a news operation. He will identify the gaps in communication and identify opportunities to engage the community in a meaningful way.*

*He will also address how to connect with the local media- whether it's traditional news or newer media- how to prepare for tough interviews and how to anticipate challenging questions- also when to pivot.*

*He will encourage DA offices to communicate like never before. There is a lot they can say without violating Bar Guidelines- and they should use their powers of communication to inform their communities. It's good for them and the public and the time to do it is now.*

10:45 – 11:00 AM      **Break**

11:00 – 12:00 PM      **Generative AI and the Future of Cyber Harassment**  
*Generative AI can be misused in several ways to exploit individuals such as phishing and social engineering. It can create highly convincing phishing emails and messages, making it easier to trick people into revealing sensitive information. This can include information necessary to identify passwords and other biometric information that could allow them access to your social media. AI can also be used to create deepfakes. Realistic audio and video deepfakes, which can be used to impersonate someone else. This can lead to everything from harming someone's reputation to extortion and exploitation. AI can also be used to create realistic fake social media profiles, which can be used to scam people, such as romance scams or other types of fraud. These profiles can be highly convincing, making it difficult for victims to detect deception. "Nudifying" or "De-clothing" sites can take publicly available photos off social media and create exploitive content. These images and videos can be used to extort vulnerable populations both financially and physically. This session will explore the new future of cyber harassment.*

**Course Concludes**



***\*Please note that this is a tentative schedule. Course titles and content may be subject to change.***

*No part of this schedule may be duplicated by any means. No audio or videotaping of any presentation is allowed during this course.*

*Statements, points of view or opinions stated during this course or in publications distributed during the course are those of the speakers or authors and do not represent the official position of the National District Attorneys Association. Information dealing with a specific legal matter should be researched in original and current sources of authority.*