



# ACHIEVING JUSTICE

## for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Victims

November 12-14, 2024 • The Gettysburg Hotel  
Gettysburg, PA

### Course Information

This course will prepare you to handle complex legal issues using a trauma-informed approach as you pursue justice for the special victims that you serve in domestic violence and sexual assault cases. You will learn how to spot legal issues early in the process, present stronger cases and enhance your communication with victims and investigators. In this victim-centered, offender-focused approach to prosecution, you will gain a better understanding of how crime victims respond to trauma while also recognizing the risk of vicarious trauma in your own work.

### Tuesday, November 12, 2024

**9:00 AM** *Breakfast Buffet/  
Course Registration*

**10:00 AM** *Victim Impact Statement*  
Jill Myhre  
Domestic Abuse Survivor

Brianna Ringwood, Esquire  
Chief of Professional Standards  
Montgomery Co. DA's Office

**10:30 AM** *Strengthening Your Case*  
Kristen McElroy, Esquire  
Chief, Adult Special Victims Unit  
Bucks Co. DA's Office

**12:00 PM** *Lunch Buffet*

**1:00 PM** *Charging Decisions in DV  
and Sexual Assault Cases*  
Kristen McElroy, Esquire  
Chief, Adult Special Victims Unit  
Bucks Co. DA's Office

Matthew Lannetti, Esquire  
Chief, Adult Special Victims Unit  
Bucks Co. DA's Office

**2:45 PM** *Working with Victims*  
Moderator:  
Honorable Seán McCormack  
District Attorney, Cumberland Co.

Panel Members:

Hon. Jennifer Schorn  
District Attorney, Bucks Co.

Jennifer Gettle, Esquire  
Chief Deputy District Attorney  
Dauphin Co. DA's Office

Edward McCann, Esquire  
First Assistant District Attorney  
Montgomery Co. DA's Office

Jill Myhre  
Domestic Abuse Survivor

**4:00 PM** *Adjourn*

### Wednesday, November 13, 2024

**8:00 AM** *Breakfast Buffet/  
Course Registration*

**9:00 AM** *Plea Negotiations and  
Trial Issues*  
Edward McCann, Esquire  
First Assistant District Attorney  
Montgomery Co. DA's Office

Honorable Jennifer Schorn  
District Attorney, Bucks Co.

**10:45 AM** *Providing Context:  
Introducing Expert Testimony  
in Domestic Violence and  
Sexual Assault Cases*  
Jonathan Kurland, Esquire  
Attorney Adviser  
AEquitas

**12:00 PM** *Strangulation*  
Lauren Marvel, Esquire  
Assistant District Attorney  
Montgomery Co. DA's Office

**1:00 PM** *Lunch Buffet*

**2:00 PM** *Utilizing a Forensic Nurse*  
Jennifer Gettle, Esquire  
Chief Deputy District Attorney  
Dauphin Co. DA's Office

Nicole Baselj, MSN, RN SANE-A  
Unit Director - UPMC  
Forensic Nursing Department

**3:30 PM** *Human Trafficking*  
Erin Varley, Esquire  
Sr. Deputy District Attorney  
Dauphin Co. DA's Office

**4:30 PM** *Adjourn*

### Thursday, November 14, 2024

**8:00 AM** *Breakfast Buffet/  
Course Registration*

**9:00 AM** *Going Forward Without the  
Victim: Weighing Lethality  
and Impact on the Victim*  
Brianna Ringwood, Esquire  
Chief of Professional Standards  
Montgomery Co. DA's Office

**10:15 AM** *Prosecutor Well Being:  
Recognizing and Addressing  
Vicarious Trauma*  
Honorable Seán McCormack  
District Attorney, Cumberland Co.

**11:30 AM** *Adjourn*



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## Registration

Registration for this conference is restricted to prosecutors currently employed in Pennsylvania by a county district attorney's office or the Office of Attorney General. The PDAI reserves the right to decline registrants who do not meet the criteria. Attendance is limited to 60 prosecutors. Registrations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. To register, please complete and return the attached registration form, along with your \*food and beverage fee to the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Institute, no later than **October 4, 2024 at 4:30 PM**. You can also email your registration form to [pdaa@pdaa.org](mailto:pdaa@pdaa.org) or register online [here](#).

## Accommodations

PDAI will pay for single occupancy accommodations (room and tax only) on the nights of November 11<sup>th</sup>, November 12<sup>th</sup> and November 13<sup>th</sup>. Overnight rooms will be reserved for attendees at [The Gettysburg Hotel](#), where the course will be held. **PDAI will make all hotel reservations; you should not contact the hotel directly to make your reservations.**

## Cancellation Policy

Those who cancel on or before **October 25, 2024 by 4:30 PM** will be refunded the full fee. To cancel, please email Támara Heagy at [theagy@pdaa.org](mailto:theagy@pdaa.org). No refunds can be issued for cancellations received after **October 25, 2024 by 4:30 PM**. Those who have not paid will still be required to send payment. As always, substitutions are allowed for persons who have to cancel after the cancellation date. **If you are a no-show, you will be invoiced for any applicable hotel charges or fees.**

## CLE Credit

This course is worth 1 ethics and 11 substantive CLE credits.

**The Gettysburg Hotel**  
1 Lincoln Square, Gettysburg, PA 17325  
717-337-2000

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*This form is interactive. Please fill out the spaces below return it via email to [pdaa@pdaa.org](mailto:pdaa@pdaa.org).*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Attorney ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

County/Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Accessibility Requirements:  
\_\_\_\_\_

## \$300 Payment Enclosed

*\*Food and beverage fee.*

I will need a room for the following nights:

Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>

I do not require accommodations.

“By signing below, I understand that if I am a no-show, I will be invoiced for any applicable hotel charges or fees.”

**Please return this form and your payment, no later than October 4, 2024 by 4:30 PM to the PDAI, 2929 North Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110, to the attention of Támara Heagy.**