



ASSOCIATION OF  
PROSECUTING  
ATTORNEYS

# 6th National APA Domestic Violence Prosecution Conference

*Excellence in Domestic Violence Investigation, Prosecution, and Partnerships*

March 12-14, 2025 | Brooklyn Law School, 250 Joralemon St., Brooklyn, NY 11201

## Day 1: Wednesday, March 12, 2025

**8:00 – 9:00 AM**      **Continental Breakfast & Registration**

**9:00 – 9:30 AM**      **Welcome Remarks**

**Moot Court Room**  
(7<sup>th</sup> Floor)

*Hon. Eric Gonzalez, District Attorney,  
Kings County District Attorney's Office, Brooklyn, NY*  
*Hon. Alvin Bragg, District Attorney  
New York County District Attorney's Office, New York, NY*  
*Marlene Biener, Chief Operating Officer  
Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, Washington, DC*

**9:30– 10:00 AM**  
**Moot Court Room**

**Keynote Address: Defining Excellence and Success in Addressing Domestic Violence**

*Bea Hanson, Director, New York State Office of Victim Services, Albany, NY*  
*Tracy Tefertiller, Supervising Deputy District Attorney, Felony Team  
Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office, San Jose, CA*

**10:00 - 11:00 AM**  
**Moot Court Room**

**Morning Plenary: Translating Risk Factors for Your Case and the Court: Effective Strategies**

*Michelle Kaminsky, Chief, Gender Based Violence Division  
Kings County District Attorney's Office, Brooklyn, NY*  
*Hilary Weinberg, Assistant City Prosecutor III  
Phoenix City Prosecutor's Office, Phoenix, AZ*

This plenary will examine risk factors and their application across diverse jurisdictions. The speakers will discuss the contrast between jurisdictions with legislative mandates and those without, using Arizona and New York as case studies. This session will also explore the historical development of risk assessments and their current use in areas such as charging decisions, bail applications, pleas, motion practice, judicial training, sentencing enhancements, and coordinated community responses.

**11:00 – 11:15 AM**      **Break**

**11:15 - 12:15 PM**      **DV Prosecution Case Study**

**Moot Court Room**

*David Martin, Chair, Domestic Violence Unit, Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney  
King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Seattle, WA*

**12:15 – 1:15 PM**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Floor Cafeteria**

**Lunch**  
*provided*

**1:15 – 2:25 PM**

**Room 601**  
(6th Floor)

**Breakout Sessions**

***Advanced Practices: Victim Mapping Tool:  
Identifying System Gaps and Needs***

*Nela Kalpic, State Director, National Victim Rights Advocate  
Marsy's Law for Wisconsin, Madison, WI  
Hon. Eric Sparr, District Attorney  
Winnebago County District Attorney's Office, Winnebago, WI*

Navigating the criminal and juvenile justice system is overwhelming for victims, who must cope with trauma while engaging with a complex and often fragmented process. This session will explore innovative victim rights mapping, a powerful tool for identifying gaps in services, strengthening collaboration, ensuring a more victim-centered approach and enhancing coordination among law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, and victim advocates. Speakers will share insights on how this innovative strategy can transform the justice system to better serve victims.

**Room 603**  
(6th Floor)

***Fundamental Skills: Starting Strong: Interviewing Witnesses and Victims  
and Assessing the Strength of Your Case***

*Melanie Fields, Assistant District Attorney  
East Baton Rouge District Attorney's Office, Baton Rouge, LA  
Vanessa Puzio, Deputy Chief, Sex Crimes Unit  
New York County District Attorney's Office, New York, NY*

When making a charging decision, prosecutors should consider a wide range of information, including the strength of the evidence, the history of the defendant, the frequency and severity of the abuse, lethality indicators, and the safety of the victim. This session will focus on building trust, the initial interview, and victim safety (post-arrest). Attendees will have an opportunity to share best practices and materials such as check lists will be provided to help in assessing cases.

**2:25 – 2:40 PM**

**Break**

**2:40 – 2:45 PM**  
**Moot Court Room**

**APA Domestic Violence Prosecution Committee Welcome**

*Emily Janes, Administrative Coordinator/DV Court Support  
Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, Los Angeles, CA  
Michelle Kaminsky, Chief, Gender Based Violence Division  
Kings County District Attorney's Office, Brooklyn, NY*

**2:45 – 3:30 PM**  
**Moot Court Room**

**A Survivor's Experience**

*Facilitator: Emily Janes, Administrative Coordinator/DV Court Support  
Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, Los Angeles, CA  
Renata Strashnaya, Taconic Fellow, Sanctuary for Families  
Pratt Center for Community Development, Brooklyn, NY*

Excellence in prosecution means more than knowing the correct charges to file and best ways to present evidence to a jury. The most effective domestic violence prosecutors and advocates are able to connect with the human behind the case and they understand the life of a case from the perspective of their main witness. In this Q & A session, a survivor of domestic violence will discuss her experience within the criminal justice system and offer tips and considerations for achieving excellence in working with victims.

3:30 – 3:45 PM

Break

3:45 – 4:45 PM

Moot Court Room

## Technology in the Courtroom: Enhancing Your Case

*Christina Johnson, Assistant District Attorney, DV Team Lead*

*Office of the District Attorney General, Davidson County, Nashville, TN*

*Sara Kurtzberg, Chief, Bureau of Litigation and Technology (BOLT)*

*Kings County District Attorney's Office, Brooklyn, NY*

Technology can assist in the presentation of domestic violence cases; from PowerPoint to video editing software to presenting dry materials such as cellphone records or autopsy diagrams in engaging ways. These materials can be introduced as evidence, used as a demonstrative aid, assist with witness testimony or used on summation. Learn some examples of how to effectively use technology from two offices doing so, the Nashville District Attorney's Office and the Kings County District Attorney's Office.

4:45 PM

## Optional Wellness Activities

Prioritizing wellness is critical to individual and organizational health. The following optional wellness events will be offered for those interested in taking part and connecting with other conference participants:

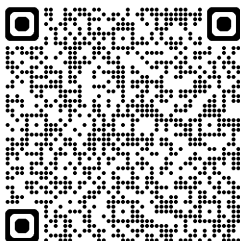
- **Chair Yoga - 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Student Lounge**

We would like to thank *Exhale to Inhale* for leading this event. Located in Brooklyn, Exhale to Inhale was founded in honor of survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, providing a powerful, body-based resource for healing from trauma.

- **Walk across the Brooklyn Bridge - Details Forthcoming**

- **Craft and Relax - 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Cafeteria**

Misc. crafting options including learning to crochet, coloring (which relieves stress, calms the brain and helps the body relax) and use of massage chairs.



Please use the QR Code to the left to complete your Day 1 Survey

<https://forms.office.com/r/pEd50ST1Lc>

## Day 2: Thursday, March 13, 2025

8:30 – 9:00 AM

Continental Breakfast & Registration

9:00 – 9:20 AM

Introduction of Hypothetical Case

9:20 – 10:15 AM

Moot Court Room  
(7<sup>th</sup> Floor)

## Domestic Violence: Identifying & Addressing Exploitation

*Emily Hyde, Program Supervisor, Victim Assistance Program*

*Multnomah County District Attorney's Office, Portland, OR*

*Jill Hollander, Deputy District Attorney,*

*Fulton County District Attorney's Office, Atlanta, GA*

This plenary session will delve into the multifaceted nature of exploitation, examining its various forms and the impact it has on both victims and legal cases. Attendees will receive practical tools to recognize exploitative practices originating from abusers, societal influences, or the justice system itself. By understanding these harmful

behaviors and their consequences, prosecutors and advocates can develop the skills necessary to effectively address the challenges they encounter in their work.

**10:15 – 10:30 AM      Break**

**10:30 – 12:00 PM      Breakout Sessions**

**Room 601**  
(6th Floor)

***Advanced Practices Panel: Trauma-Informed Strategies for Supporting Prosecutor Well-Being and Resilience***

*Rena Paul, Founder, Founder, The Paul Firm, New York, NY*  
*Hannah Pennington, Deputy Chief for Gender-Based Violence Policy, Special Victims Division, New York County District Attorney's Office, New York, NY*  
*Tracy Tefertiller, Supervising Deputy District Attorney, Felony Team Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office, San Jose, CA*  
*Dr. Alison Trenk, DSW MA LCSW, New York, NY*

Prosecutors and advocates working with survivors of domestic violence may experience burnout, stress, and trauma as a result of repeated exposure to accounts of traumatic events. These impacts can affect staff retention, case outcomes, morale, and wellbeing. This panel will discuss challenges and provide examples of successful practices being implemented.

**Room 603**  
(6th Floor)

***Fundamental Skills: Recantation***

*Kate Loudenslagel, Bureau Chief, Family Violence West Bureau Maricopa County Attorney's Office, Phoenix, AZ*  
*Kindra Szymanski, Assistant City Attorney Minneapolis City Attorney's Office, Minneapolis, MN*

This breakout session will explore the various ways in which a victim or a witness may recant, strategies to prepare for it pre-trial, and techniques for addressing different types of recantation at trial. In addition, this session will provide guidance on conducting compassionate, trauma-informed examinations of victims and witnesses while maintaining effectiveness. Lastly, using the provided case study, this breakout will include an example direct examination where recantation occurs.

**Room 605**  
(6th Floor)

***Victim Advocate Roundtable***

*Beverly Gilchrist, Chief, Survivor Services New York County District Attorney's Office, Manhattan, NY*  
*Emily Janes, Administrative Coordinator/DV Court Support Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, Los Angeles, CA*

This session will offer an opportunity for advocates from across the country to come together to discuss current trends, challenges and solutions in DV advocacy in the criminal justice system. An open format facilitated by advocates for advocates, the discussion will invite system and non-system-based staff to network, share resources, and exchange ideas about best practices for Victim Advocacy and Community Partnerships.

**12:00 – 1:00 PM**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Floor Cafeteria**

**Lunch**  
*provided*

**1:00 – 2:15 PM**

**Breakout Sessions**

**Room 601**  
(6th Floor)

***Advanced Practices: Trial-Ready:  
Sharpening Skills Through Virtual Moots***

*Niki Blumberg, Chief, Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Bureau  
New York County District Attorney's Office, Manhattan, NY  
David Martin, Chair, Domestic Violence Unit, Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney  
King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Seattle, WA*

This session will explore how regular moot court exercises with deputy prosecutors can become a key component of trial preparation, transforming practice into confidence. By normalizing high-pressure scenarios through consistent, structured rehearsals in front of colleagues (the hardest audience of all), these exercises build skill, resilience, and readiness for real-world prosecution. This approach highlights the value of practice in fostering professional growth and improving outcomes in domestic violence cases.

**Room 603**  
(6th Floor)

***Fundamental Skills: Jail Calls and Digital Evidence***

*Jill Hollander, Deputy District Attorney,  
Fulton County District Attorney's Office, Atlanta, GA  
Kindra Szymanski, Assistant City Attorney  
Minneapolis City Attorney's Office, Minneapolis, MN*

This session will focus on jail call fundamentals and enhancing victim safety: how to get access to jail calls, why it is important to listen to jail calls, and how to admit jail calls. The discussion will also highlight jurisdictions that use AI in jail call review.

**2:15 – 2:30 PM**

**Break**

**2:30 – 3:30 PM**

**Breakout Sessions**

**Room 601**  
(6th Floor)

***Advanced Practices: Grant Writing***

*Emily Hyde, Program Supervisor, Victim Assistance Program  
Multnomah County District Attorney's Office, Portland, OR  
Alison Brand, Senior Deputy District Attorney  
Domestic Violence Acute Response Team Lead  
Boulder County District Attorney's Office, Boulder, CO*

Obtaining funding for new projects or initiatives is difficult. In this breakout session, we will discuss how to locate funding, tips on how to effectively fill out applications, and creative solutions for when funding opportunities are not available.

**Room 603**  
(6th Floor)

***Fundamental Skills: Forfeiture by Wrongdoing and Avoiding  
Revictimization***

*Jeanine Launay, Chief, Elder Abuse Unit  
New York County District Attorney's Office, Manhattan, NY  
Hilary Weinberg, Assistant City Prosecutor III  
Phoenix City Prosecutor's Office, Phoenix, AZ*

This session will provide an overview of the doctrine of Forfeiture by Wrongdoing and its application in criminal cases. The presenters will highlight federal and local case law explaining the standards for applying this doctrine. This session will also address the relationship to hearsay and confrontation clause issues, how to prepare for related hearings, including which witnesses to call, what to anticipate, and how the doctrine can help protect victim safety.

**Room 604**  
(6th Floor)

### ***Fatal Peril: Accounting for IPV When Women are Charged with Homicide***

*Andrea Cimino, Research Associate, Danger Assessment Training and Technical Assistance Center at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD*  
*Debbie Mukamal, Executive Director, Stanford Criminal Justice Center*  
*Stanford Law School, Stanford, CA*

This session will present findings from a groundbreaking study of women incarcerated for homicide offenses in California. Key topics include the prevalence of intimate partner violence and homicide risk, and the incidence of probable traumatic brain injuries among respondents. Attendees will gain insight into the multiple pathways that lead survivors to incarceration and discuss strategies for prosecutors to approach cases involving survivor-defendants with greater understanding and equity.

**3:30 – 3:45 PM**

**Break**

**3:45 – 5:00 PM**

### **Breakout Sessions: Effectively Using Expert Witnesses**

**Room 601**  
(6th Floor)

#### ***Advanced Practices: Finding & Training Experts***

*Alison Brand, Senior Deputy District Attorney*  
*Domestic Violence Acute Response Team Lead*  
*Boulder County District Attorney's Office, Boulder, CO*  
*Justin McNabney, Executive Assistant District Attorney*  
*Chief of the Special Victims Division*  
*New York County District Attorney's Office, Manhattan, NY*

Expert witnesses provide juries with much needed context and understanding in domestic violence cases. Similarly, experts are necessary to describe the serious lethality risks associated with strangulation. While experts can make or break a case at trial, finding experts to testify in domestic violence cases can be difficult. Different cases call for different kinds of expertise and, even when you have identified the right experts, you need to train them to testify effectively. This session will provide guidance and discussion on how to locate, pay for, and train potential experts in your community. We will also address training ideas to ensure attorneys in your office effectively utilize the experts you have.

**Room 603**  
(6th Floor)

#### ***Fundamental Skills: Enhancing Expert Testimony***

*Christina Johnson, Assistant District Attorney, DV Team Lead*  
*Office of the District Attorney General, Davidson County, Nashville, TN*  
*Jeanine Launay, Chief, Elder Abuse Unit*  
*New York County District Attorney's Office, Manhattan, NY*  
*Michelle Welch, Senior Assistant Attorney General*  
*Office of the Attorney General of Virginia, Richmond, VA*

This session will address how to effectively use expert witnesses to address misconceptions about domestic violence and how they can provide context and information about the dynamics of power and control and trauma responses. Tactics for choosing experts and deciding what to focus on in prep and at trial will be highlighted.

**5:30 – 7:00 PM**

### **Reception - O'Keefe's Bar & Grill**

62 Court St, Brooklyn, NY 11201



Please use the QR Code to the left to complete your Day 2 Survey  
<https://forms.office.com/r/nXb6CNR27s>

## Day 3: Friday March 14, 2025

**8:00 – 8:30 AM**      **Continental Breakfast & Registration**

**8:30 – 9:30 AM**      **Heal the Healers: Wellness in Action**

**Moot Court Room**  
(7<sup>th</sup> Floor)

*Hon. Kym Worthy, County Prosecutor*  
*Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, Detroit, MI*

This session will explore how the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office is addressing wellness, involving staff and slowing staff turnover. Attendees will also hear about the Joyful Heart Foundation Heal the Healers Fund which provides support to professionals working directly with survivors who wish to support their colleagues who are grappling with the effects of vicarious trauma.

**9:30 – 10:30 AM**      **Community Partnerships: Pathways to Safety**

**Moot Court Room**

*Jayna Marie Jones, Executive Director, Help Roads, Brooklyn, NY*  
*Michelle Kaminsky, Chief, Gender Based Violence Division*  
*Kings County District Attorney's Office, Brooklyn, NY*

Access to guns in homes where there is domestic violence increases a domestic violence survivor's risk of homicide. At times survivors may feel unable to disclose information about abuse and firearms out of fear for their safety. This presentation will explore community tools and resources to support survivors and provide pathways to safety.

**10:30 – 10:45 AM**      **Break**

**10:45 – 11:45 AM**      **Ethical Issues in Domestic Violence Prosecution**

**Moot Court Room**

*Melanie Fields, Assistant District Attorney*  
*East Baton Rouge District Attorney's Office, Baton Rouge, LA*  
*Kate Loudenslagel, Bureau Chief, Family Violence West Bureau*  
*Maricopa County Attorney's Office, Phoenix, AZ*

Prosecutors handling domestic violence cases must be aware of the ethical challenges inherent in the investigation, prosecution, and victim services processes to ensure justice is being achieved. Ethical considerations may include confirmation bias, pressure on victims to testify, risk of false accusations, challenges of balancing victim autonomy with the government's need for protection, and Brady/disclosure obligations. This session will explore these issues and provide practical guidance on how to effectively address ethical situations as they arise.

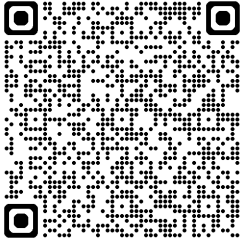
**11:45 – 12:00 PM**      **Closing Remarks**

**1:00 – 2:30 PM**      **Optional: Tour of the Kings County Courthouse Tech Courtroom and Option to Tour the Kings County District Attorney Tech Lab**

*Meet at 320 Jay*  
*Street, 2nd floor*

**Led by:** *Sara Kurtzberg, Chief, Bureau of Litigation and Technology (BOLT)*  
*Kings County District Attorney's Office, Brooklyn, NY*

As evidence becomes more digital it has become incumbent for Prosecutors to present digital evidence seamlessly. The Kings County District Attorney's Office and the NYS Office of Court Administration has invested resources into upgrading the Kings County courthouses. Kings County has 15 tech courtrooms in the Supreme Court and 1 in the Criminal Court. Assistant District Attorneys are taught how to use this courtroom technology and present evidence by the members of the Bureau of Litigation and Technology (BOLT). BOLT has also trained the defense bar and the judiciary on these courtrooms. In these courtrooms we have monitors for the jury, the witness, the parties, the defense and the spectators.



Please use the QR Code to the left to complete your Day 3 Survey  
<https://forms.office.com/r/8nNHvGq3dQ>

## CLE credit

**New York:** Content of this program will be appropriate for new and experienced attorneys. 18 hours of New York CLE Credit is pending final approval by the New York County District Attorney's Office, which has been certified by the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board as an Accredited Provider of continuing legal education. The amount of CLE credit hours attendees receive will be based on the actual running time of each lecture/breakout session.

**California:** APA is qualified as a Multiple Activity Provider for the state of California. This training presumptively qualifies for 12.75 Continuing Legal Education Credits including 1 hour of Ethics for attendees from this state

**Self-Reporting:** Participants from other states are welcome to submit independently to their licensing body for continuing education credit. Certificates of attendance will be sent out to attendees post-event that will list the presumptive total number of CLE hours earned based on submissions received.