

Subject: Check out our featured webinars!

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From: AEquitas

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FEATURED WEBINARS

First, Do No Harm: Trauma Informed Interviewing

Presented by David Thomas, Program Manager, International Association of Chiefs of Police and John Wilkinson, Attorney Advisor, AEquitas

This presentation identifies barriers to successful interviews and explores techniques for overcoming them. The presenter explains how a traditional fact-gathering approach to interviewing can be counterproductive or even harmful to the victim and to the investigation. Alternative approaches to interviewing and questioning are identified and analyzed for their potential to minimize re-traumatization and enhance our ability to recreate the reality of the crime at trial. [Watch here!](#)

Identifying the Predominant Aggressor and Evaluating Lethality

Presented by David Thomas, Program Manager, International Association of Chiefs of Police and John Wilkinson, Attorney Advisor, AEquitas

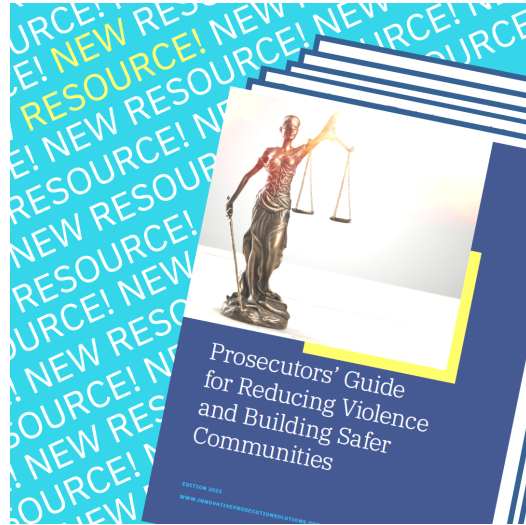
This presentation emphasizes the importance of contextual analysis in evaluating criminal responsibility at the arrest, charging, pre-trial, and sentencing phases of domestic violence prosecutions. Such analysis ensures that the dynamics of domestic violence are properly factored into decisions about arrest, charging, plea negotiations, and sentencing, and will enhance the quality of justice for those who have been victims of abuse. The presentation also discusses the importance of danger assessments and best practices in lethality evaluation. [Watch here!](#)

FEATURED RESOURCE

[The Prosecutors' Guide for Reducing Violence and Building Safer Communities](#)

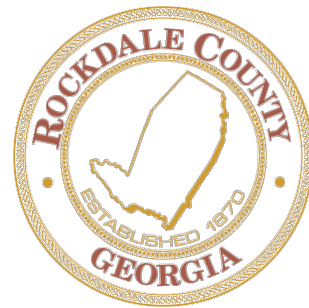
Informed by a roundtable of experienced prosecutors from around the country, this Guide provides a systematic way for prosecutors' offices to evaluate their practices with respect to the key elements of a successful violent crime reduction strategy.

This Guide is intended to enable the executives responsible for operating a prosecutor's office to identify policies and practices that can be readily implemented, as well as those that represent actionable goals to work toward. It suggests practices that are customizable and scalable, from foundational to enhanced, depending on an office's available resources and experiences, as well as jurisdiction-specific needs and challenges.



STRATEGIES IN FOCUS

Rockdale County District Attorney's Office



Through IPS, the [Rockdale County District Attorney's Office](#) is developing the Comprehensive Homicide Initiative, led by a dedicated domestic violence prosecutor and a dedicated domestic violence advocate, to identify and target the area's most violent offenders. The DA's Office has strengthened collaboration with local probation, parole, and law enforcement agencies through the creation of a Domestic Assault Response Team (DART). The DART meets once a month to discuss how team members can preemptively identify dangerous individuals, provide enhanced services to victims of potentially lethal offenders, and increase the investigation and prosecution of both domestic violence incidents and domestic violence homicides. The DA's Office has also provided trainings to prosecutors and law enforcement to provide the tools and knowledge necessary to

reduce domestic violence recidivism, prevent future homicides, and enhance offender accountability.

For more information on Rockdale County's project, please visit our IPS website [here](#).

CASE HIGHLIGHT

[State v. Jensen, 957 N.W.2d 244 \(Wisc. 2021\)](#)

In 2007 the defendant, Mark Jensen, was tried for killing his wife. Prior to her death, the victim made several statements that her husband should be investigated should she die. The case was remanded for a new trial in which the victim's statements were inadmissible. The State appealed to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. The Wisconsin Supreme Court affirmed the Court of Appeals' decision. The State filed a [Petition for Writ of Certiorari](#) to the Supreme Court of the United States and presented two questions: (1) Whether a person's statement expressing fear about a possible future crime is testimonial under the Sixth Amendment's Confrontation Clause; and (2) whether, when a person reports ongoing psychological domestic abuse and expresses fear about future physical harm, the person's statement aimed at ending an ongoing emergency is non-testimonial. The defense's response to the State's petition is due on November 9, 2021.

Prior to the State filing a Petition for Writ of Certiorari, the case was appealed and remanded multiple times. While one appeal was pending, the Supreme Court decided *Giles v. California*, in which the forfeiture by wrongdoing doctrine was narrowed to apply only when the defendant causes the witness's unavailability with the specific intent of preventing the witness from testifying. The Court of Appeals and the Circuit Court analyzed the forfeiture by wrongdoing doctrine as it applied to the defendant's case. On another appeal, the federal courts held that admitting the victim's statements was not harmless error and violated the Confrontation Clause because the State did not prove that the defendant killed the victim with the intent to prevent her from testifying.

UPCOMING TRAININGS

November 2, 9, 16 and December 2, 2021, 3 PM ET: The Forum on Prosecution Innovation — [This four part virtual forum series](#) will focus on a particular prosecutorial topic, bringing together prosecutors from BJA's National Public Safety

Partnership's current and alumni sites, Innovative Prosecution Solutions sites, the National District Attorneys Association membership, members of the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys Major County Prosecutor's Council, AEquitas, and Vera. [Register for any or all of the forum's here!](#)

November 15, 2021, 11 AM ET: Transparency in Prosecution (Yolo County, CA) — This webinar spotlights Yolo County's new [criminal justice transparency portal](#), an innovative website created by the District Attorney's Office, the Yolo County Multi-Cultural Council, and Measures for Justice (an organization that uses accurate criminal justice data to spur reform). The portal was developed to help the office analyze prosecution data and enhance trust with the community through transparency and accountability. It allows citizens an intimate glimpse into the prosecutorial process in Yolo County—including crime trends that are affecting their community; law enforcement resources in the area; and detailed case statistics pertaining to referrals, charging, diversion, and sentencing decisions. During this webinar, presenters will give a live walkthrough of the portal, chronicle the process behind publicizing this data, and discuss their aspirations and policy goals driving this project. [Register here.](#)

November 18, 2021, 2 PM ET: AEquitas' Office Hours — Join AEquitas on the third Thursday of every month to discuss your questions regarding the prosecution of intimate partner violence, sexual violence, human trafficking, and stalking with experienced prosecutors and other participants in the field. [Register here.](#)



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

[W.E.B. Du Bois Program of Research on Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Justice System](#)

This program supports investigator-initiated research examining how observed racial and ethnic disparities in the justice system might be reduced through public policy interventions at any point during the administration of justice. Applications are accepted until January 13, 2022.

[2022 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Community Awareness Projects Funding Opportunity](#)

The National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators (NAVAA), in cooperation with the Office for Victims of Crime, is seeking proposals for innovative and collaborative approaches to promoting community-wide public awareness of the rights and available services for victims of all types of crimes during National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW), April 24-30, 2022.



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