



**INNOVATIVE  
PROSECUTION  
SOLUTIONS**

## STRATEGIES IN FOCUS



### **Macon Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office**

The District Attorney's Office in Georgia's Macon Judicial Circuit (comprised of Bibb, Crawford, and Peach Counties) is using its funding from the Smart Prosecution - Innovative Prosecution Solutions Grant to improve its office's approach to and prosecution of domestic violence cases. The jurisdiction, as well as many others

across the nation, struggle with lengthy case lives, and the slow march to justice often frustrates victims and impacts their willingness to be involved in the prosecution. The [Macon Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office](#) (MJCDAO) has also recognized that victims sometimes do not have the resources necessary for participating in an extended investigation, trial, and appeals process. Even those who have the resources and capacity to participate in cases can be missed due to their lack of engagement, connection, and communication with the local community.

To tackle these barriers, the MJCDAO hired a dedicated domestic violence prosecutor and investigator to work with victims. The office is also working steadily in collaboration with several community partners to establish a Family Justice Center (FJC). The FJC will serve victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder and dependent adult abuse, and human trafficking by co-locating prosecution and wrap-around services in a centralized building.

Additionally, the MJCDAO is using grant funds to increase its community engagement efforts for domestic violence issues. The office is striving to make connections that will support victims, provide them with resources, and prevent future victimization. Ongoing strategies to increase engagement include partnering with [Camp Hope America](#) to create a week-long sleepaway camp for local children who have experienced abuse or the secondary victimization of violence and engaging in outreach to campus communities concerning opportunities for education on domestic and sexual violence.

The MJCDAO is tracking the numbers for domestic violence arrests and prosecutions over the grant period and will endeavor to use this information to measure the effectiveness of this enhanced approach.

## CASE HIGHLIGHT

[Glossip v. Oklahoma](#)

Decision Below: 529 P.3d 218

Docket Number: 22-7466

Issues: (1) Whether the state's suppression of the key prosecution witness' admission that he was under the care of a psychiatrist and failure to correct that witness' false testimony about that care and related diagnosis violate the due process of law under *Brady v. Maryland* and *Napue v. Illinois*; (2) whether the entirety of the suppressed evidence must be considered when assessing the materiality of *Brady* and *Napue* claims; (3) whether due process of law requires reversal where a capital conviction is so infected with errors that the state no longer seeks to defend it; and (4) whether the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals' holding that the Oklahoma Post-Conviction Procedure Act precluded post-conviction relief is an adequate and independent state-law ground for the judgment.

Upon granting cert in this case, the justices added another question for the parties to address: Whether the Supreme Court has the power to review the decision by the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals at all, or whether it is instead barred from doing so because the decision rests on an "adequate and independent state ground."

Arguments Heard: October 9, 2024

Facts: In 1997, Barry Van Treese was murdered in the room of an Oklahoma City motel that he owned. Defendant Glossip was the manager of the motel. Another employee, Justin Sneed, confessed to murdering Van Treese while under the influence of methamphetamines but stated he did so because Glossip paid him \$10,000 to do so. At the original trial, which took place nearly three decades ago, Sneed testified against Glossip in exchange for a promise that he would not face the death penalty. Glossip was convicted and sentenced to death and has been on death row ever since. His conviction relied solely on Sneed's testimony, but prosecutors failed to correct falsehoods in that testimony and neglected to turn over exculpatory evidence to the defense.

In 2022, a law firm hired by Oklahoma legislators issued a report where it concluded that there was "grave doubt as to the integrity of Glossip's murder conviction and

death sentence.” Additionally, the Oklahoma Attorney General appointed an independent counsel to review the case. That investigation affirmed that there were significant issues which deprived Defendant of a fair trial and thus mandated a new trial. The Attorney General joined Defendant’s appeal for the conviction to be set aside as well as his plea for clemency from Oklahoma’s Pardon and Parole Board. Even with the Attorney General’s support, both requests were denied. The Supreme Court agreed to stay the Defendant’s scheduled execution and review the case. Because the State joined the case in support of the Defendant, SCOTUS appointed a third party to defend the lower court’s decision to leave the conviction and death sentence in place.

The third-party contended at oral argument that the Court could not consider the Defendant’s claims because they were resolved by the state court on adequate and independent state grounds. The defendant countered that the state courts actively relied on both *Brady v. Maryland* and *Napue v. Illinois*, both of which dealt with prosecutorial misconduct. The State added that the Attorney General could waive the application of state laws when necessary to ensure that justice is done. The two opposing sides disagree on the adequacy of the Attorney General’s waiver throughout all the Defendant’s proceedings.

Both the State and the defense agree that the original trial was fraught with errors and misconduct and undoubtedly not just or fair. Both are in favor of halting the death sentence and, at the very least, ordering a new trial. The Court and its third party, though, are hesitant to intervene in this criminal procedure in such a way. The third-party stated at argument that requests for the Court to intervene and invalidate criminal convictions would create “serious” concerns about the division of power between the branches of government.

This decision will not be made by a full bench because Justice Gorsuch recused himself from the proceedings. It is believed that the recusal stems from his involvement in an earlier appeal while he was serving as a judge for the 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit. Thus, it is possible that this case could end in a 4-4 deadlock, and that result would mean that the Defendant’s conviction and death sentence would be upheld.

# UPCOMING TRAININGS

**December 11 – 12, 2024, 11:00am – 4:30pm ET / 8am – 1:30pm PT:  
Guns in the United States: Criminalization, Consequences, and Innovative  
Responses**

*Presented by: the [Vera Institute of Justice](#) and the [Institute for Innovation in Prosecution at John Jay College](#)*

The Vera Institute of Justice Reshaping Prosecution Collaborative Justice Network is hosting a free two-day virtual symposium on **Guns in the United States: Criminalization, Consequences, and Innovative Responses** in partnership with the Institute for Innovation in Prosecution (IIP) at John Jay College.

**Day 1** includes three panel discussions exploring the proliferation of guns in the United States, the over-criminalization and impact of guns on communities of color, and promising alternative pathways to advancing public safety. Panels will feature leaders in the field like Kim Foxx, Cook County State's Attorney; Larry Krasner, District Attorney of Philadelphia; Matt Epperson, Co-Director of the Smart Decarceration Project at University of Chicago and many more!

**Day 2** offers four immersive workshops for attorneys, judges, system decision-makers, community members, and advocates from around the country to come together to share resources, strategies, and experiences.

Workshop topics will include:

- Implementation of Gun Diversion Programs
- Crafting Compelling Messaging In Addressing Guns and Public Safety
- Data Collection and Securing Resources

Attendees also are invited to participate in **a virtual restorative discussion** on the need for alternative strategies centering the perspectives of people who have been impacted by the trauma of gun violence and over-criminalization in their

communities. Spots are limited.

This event is free to attend. Please reach out to Amy Dallas ([adallas@vera.org](mailto:adallas@vera.org)) or Rachel Marsha ([rmarshall@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:rmarshall@jjay.cuny.edu)) with questions.

[Register Here](#)



**UPCOMING WEBINAR**

*From Stats to Solutions:*  
**DATA-DRIVEN RESPONSES  
TO BATON ROUGE'S OPIOID  
CRISIS**

**EAST BATON ROUGE**  
District Attorney's Office

December 12, 2024  
11:00 AM Eastern

Register at [AEquitasresource.org/trainings](https://AEquitasresource.org/trainings)

**AE**

**December 12, 2024, 11:00am – 12:30pm ET / 8:00am – 9:30am PT:**  
**From Stats to Solutions: Data-Driven Responses to Baton Rouge's Opioid Crisis**


East Baton Rouge has been ravaged by the opioid crisis that has affected much of America. With hundreds of overdose deaths within the parish each year, the majority of which involved opioids in some capacity, the East Baton Rouge District Attorney's Office (EBRDA) sought to combat this epidemic. The office applied for and was awarded a Smart Prosecution grant under Innovative Prosecution Solutions with the goals of reducing the number of overdose deaths and enhancing prosecutions of individuals who contribute to those deaths. EBRDA has used its grant to produce data which in turn is used to develop innovative, economical, and effective strategies and programs.

Presenters will examine the EBRDA's IPS project and describe its success and challenges. They will focus on how other jurisdictions can use their information and data to create similar programs that will provide lasting impacts in the community. This presentation will provide insight into different strategies that offices can pursue as they work to combat the opioid overdose epidemic.

[Register Here](#)

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This project was supported by Grant No. 15PBJA-23-GK-00708-JAGP awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the SMART Office. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.





**UPCOMING OVC-FUNDED ECM HTTF TRAINING OPPORTUNITY**

**BEYOND THE BASICS**  
*Advancing Human Trafficking Investigations and Prosecutions*

**January 28 – 30, 2025 San Diego, CA**

**What is Beyond the Basics?**  
A free, in-person, 3-day advanced human trafficking training taking place in San Diego, CA. This OVC funded event is offered as part of the OVC Enhanced Collaborative Model (ECM) Task Force to Combat Human Trafficking training series for ECM task forces. The highly interactive and scenario-based training will provide innovative, practical, and trauma-informed strategies to enhance victim-centered responses, and offender-focused investigations and prosecutions.

**Who is this training for?**  
Law enforcement, prosecutors, and analysts who are members of a collaborative, multidisciplinary team and of have experience investigating and prosecuting human trafficking.

**What will you get out of Beyond the Basics?**  
At the end of this training, participants will be better able to:

- Identify of victims of all forms of human trafficking
- Leverage partnerships, public data, and technology to better identify and investigate human trafficking;
- Meaningfully integrate trauma-informed practices; and
- Implement strategies to hold offenders accountable when victims are unable to participate.

**APPLY HERE**

**Priority Application Deadline: January 3, 2025**

*This training is pending OJP conference approval .  
No travel should be booked until registration is confirmed.*

**AE AEQUITAS**

These trainings will be developed and delivered by AEQUITAS under 15POVC-23-GK-00907-HT, awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in the trainings are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

**January 28 – 30, 2025:**

**Beyond the Basics (BTB): Advancing Human Trafficking Investigations and Prosecutions**




Beyond the Basics (BTB): Advancing Human Trafficking Investigations and Prosecutions” is a free 2.5-day training designed for ECM HTTF investigators, analysts, and prosecutors with significant experience responding to human trafficking. This highly interactive training uses a buildable case file to highlight emerging trends and to share resources and promising practices to advance investigations and prosecutions of sex and labor trafficking. AEquitas expects to deliver the training January 28 – 30, 2025, in San Diego, CA.

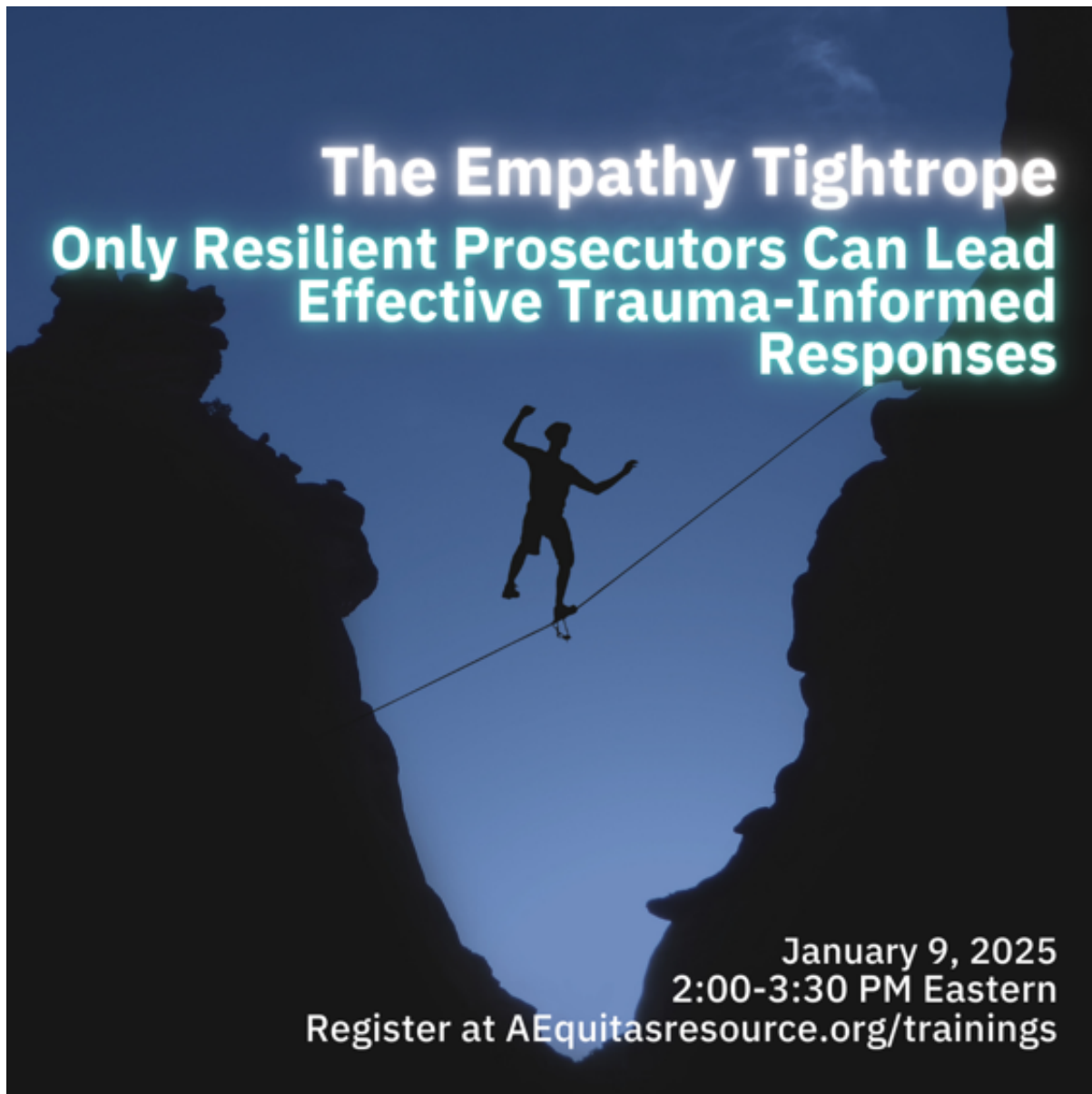
Priority Application deadline is **January 3, 2025**. Do not make any travel plans prior to official notice of acceptance.

[Apply Here](#)

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This training will be developed and delivered by AEquitas under 15POVC-23-GK-00907-HT, awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in the trainings are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.





**January 9, 2025, 2:00pm – 3:30pm ET / 11:00am – 12:30pm PT:**  
**The Empathy Tightrope: Only Resilient Prosecutors Can Lead Effective Trauma-Informed Responses**

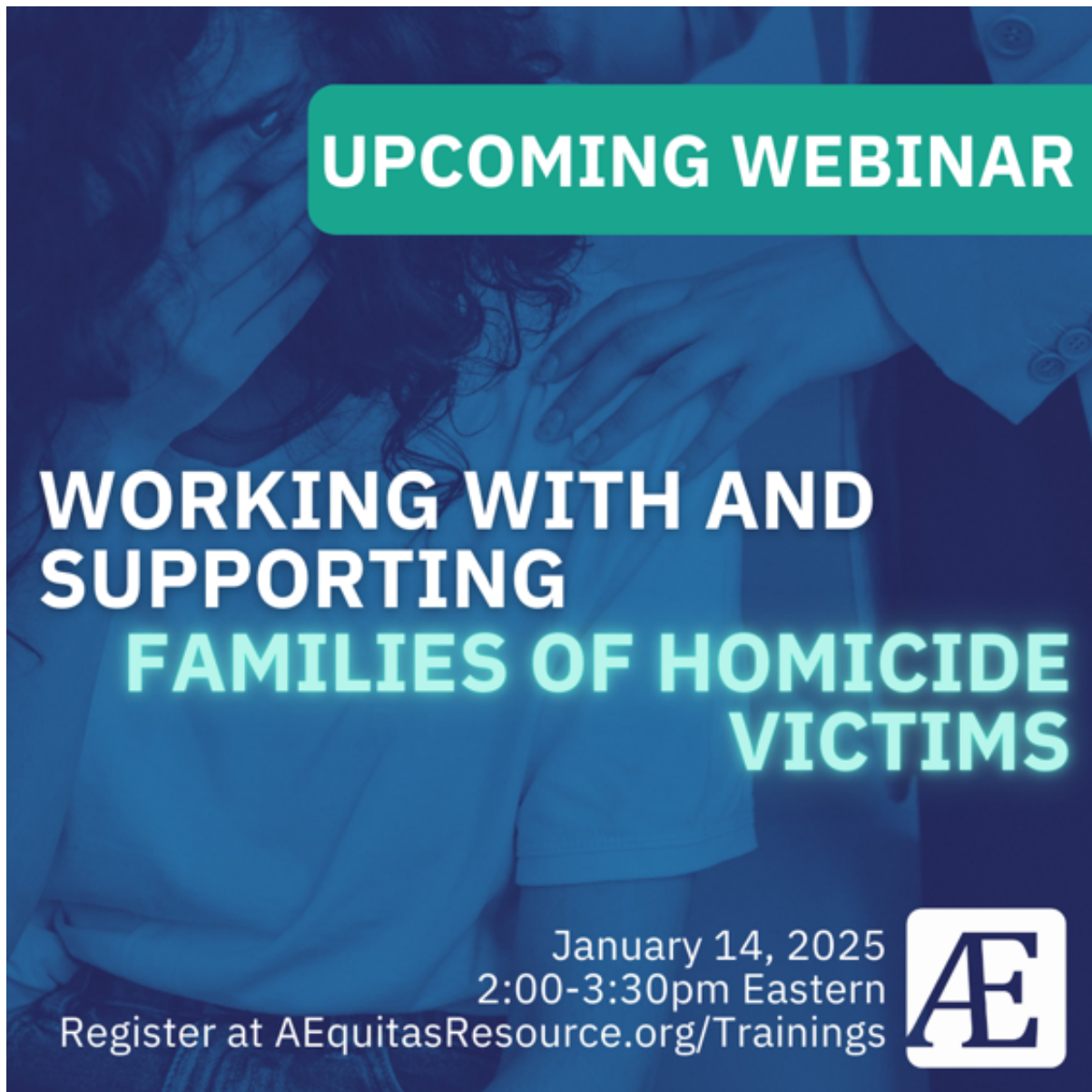
The prosecution of human trafficking requires prosecutors who are highly skilled, have a deep understanding of complex dynamics, and are dedicated to working with victims and survivors who have undergone severe trauma. Prosecutors handling sex and labor trafficking cases are faced with high volumes of complex evidence that is often graphic, violent, or disturbing in nature. Trauma-informed approaches require prosecutors to lead with empathy, while being watchful that secondary trauma does not negatively impact job performance and personal well-being.

This presentation will address wellness as a critical aspect of any response to human trafficking, with a specific focus on prosecutors who lead trauma-informed responses to sex and labor trafficking cases. The presenter will provide strategies to identify early signs of burnout and secondary trauma and will facilitate interactive discussions around healthy coping mechanisms and proactive stress management. Such skills are crucial not only for personal well-being, but also for sustaining prosecutors' ability to seek justice for trafficking victims and hold offenders accountable.

[Register Here](#)

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**January 14, 2025, 2:00pm – 3:30pm ET / 11:00am – 12:30pm PT:  
Working with and Supporting Families of Homicide Victims**

Being assigned a homicide case is one of the greatest responsibilities given to an individual prosecutor. While these cases invite tremendous scrutiny and demand intense preparation, one aspect that prosecutors rarely receive any formal training in is how to work with the family and friends of the deceased victim. Even though prosecutors are in the business of helping, this gap can sometimes lead to misunderstandings and unnecessary frustrations in an often opaque and stressful process.

This presentation will focus on strategies a prosecutor can use to work with the family and friends of homicide victims by looking for ways to increase education about the system generally, as well as explain in a trauma-informed way the strengths and challenges of an individual case. Focus will also be given to exploring the legal obligations and limitations that may arise in working with a homicide victim's family.

[Register Here](#)

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Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.





**January 23, 2025, 2:00pm – 3:30pm ET / 11:00am – 12:30pm PT:**

**Context is Key: Recognizing and Responding to Stalking**

*Presented by: [Stalking Prevention, Awareness, & Resource Center \(SPARC\)](#) of [AEquitas](#)*

Stalking is criminal, traumatic, dangerous, and often misunderstood. This webinar provides an introduction to the crime of stalking, focusing on the definition, prevalence, dynamics, behaviors, and intersections with other victimizations (including intimate partner violence). This recurring webinar is offered periodically to provide foundational knowledge on the crime of stalking.

[Register Here](#)



This webinar is supported by Grant No. 15JOVW-22-GK-03986-MUMU awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.



## **Law Enforcement-Based Victim Services 2025 Webinar Series**

*Presented by: [Justice Clearinghouse](https://mailchi.mp/aequitasresource.org/ips-september-updates-trainings-and-more-15722384)*

Law enforcement agencies can hire victim services personnel to help crime victims stay engaged in the investigative process and navigate multiple complex systems to


meet their needs. Join Justice Clearinghouse to discuss practical strategies to enhance victim services in your agency!

- **Part 1, Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 1:00pm ET – Considerations for Recruitment and Retention of VSU Personnel:** Securing and retaining qualified and suitable law enforcement-based victim services personnel are essential components of effective agency responses to victims and co-victims of crime.
- **Part 2, Tuesday, April 22, 2025, 1:00pm ET – Incorporating Interns and Volunteers into VSU Responsibilities:** Effective incorporation of interns and volunteers can positively contribute to VSU responsibilities and relies on assignment of suitable tasks, understanding of risks and liabilities, and active oversight that aligns with agency standards.
- **Part 3, Thursday, May 22, 2025, 1:00pm ET – VSU Supervision Considerations and Strategies:** The direct supervisor of the VSU is critical to effective services to victims and co-victims, efficient operational decisions, and comprehensive planning for VSU expansion.
- **Part 4, Thursday, June 26, 2025, 1:00pm ET – Developing Policies for Effective Response to Victims and Co-Victims:** Written guidance that is founded on ethical standards is a key component of managing professional conduct related to assigned responsibilities that can support victim-centered, trauma-informed, and culturally sensitive practices and long-term VSU sustainability.
- **Part 5, Thursday, July 31, 2025, 1:00pm ET – Practical Access to Victims' Rights:** Ensuring practical access to victims' rights during law enforcement contact can be an effective gateway to meeting the unique needs of victims and co-victims.
- **Part 6, Thursday, August 28, 2025, 1:00pm ET – VSU Response to Victims and Co-Victims of Violent Crime:** Law enforcement-based victim services personnel often represent the most effective response to address the rights and needs of victims and co-victims of violent crime – many violent victimizations involve non-intimate partner relationships between victims/co-victims and offenders and a small percentage of victims and co-victims currently receive assistance from victim services providers.

[Register Here](#)

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This resource was produced by the OVC ELERV Fellow under 15POVC-22-GK-01519-NONF, awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this resource are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.



The poster features a blue background with a faint image of a New Orleans street scene. At the top, the text 'SAVE THE DATE' is in large, bold, white letters. Below it, 'The National Institute on Labor Trafficking in the Illicit Cannabis Industry (NILTIC)' is written in a smaller, teal font. In the center is a white line-art illustration of the New Orleans skyline, including the Mississippi River, the French Quarter, and the Garden District. Below the illustration, 'NEW ORLEANS' is written in a large, white, serif font. Underneath that, the dates 'April 29 – May 1, 2025' are displayed in a bold, white font. Two paragraphs of white text describe the course, and at the bottom, 'Registration Link Coming Soon' is written in a bold, teal font.

# SAVE THE DATE

The National Institute on Labor Trafficking  
in the Illicit Cannabis Industry (NILTIC)



## NEW ORLEANS

**April 29 – May 1, 2025**

The NILTIC is a 2 ½ -day highly interactive course designed to challenge participants to re-evaluate their approach to identifying, investigating, and prosecuting labor trafficking within the illicit cannabis industry. The curriculum, facilitated by a multidisciplinary faculty, is grounded in evidence-based prosecution, equipping prosecutors and investigators with the skills and strategies to hold offenders accountable regardless of offender tactics intended to obfuscate criminal wrongdoing within illicit industries.

In addition to practical case building, assessment, and litigation skills, the NILTIC focuses on trauma-informed interviewing, forced criminality, documenting evidence of forced labor in the illicit cannabis industry, investigating and prosecuting organized criminal activity, co-occurring crimes, presentation of evidence at trial, and ethical considerations. Through a combination of hypothetical case scenarios, participant exercises, small group discussions, and interactive lectures, participants will re-examine their own beliefs about labor trafficking and consider proactive strategies for combatting forced labor. At the end of the NILTIC, participants will be armed to use this information to refine their investigative and prosecution practices.

**Registration Link Coming Soon**

**April 29 – May 1, 2025:**

**The National Institute on Labor Trafficking in the Illicit Cannabis Industry  
(NILTIC)**

**OFFICE** **HOURS**

**December 19, 2024, 2:00pm – 4:00pm ET / 11:00am – 1:00pm PT**

Join us on December 19, 2024, to discuss **the Investigation and Prosecution of**

**Translate** ▼

If your office has been successful in investigating and prosecuting intimate partner sexual violence or has faced challenges doing so, then this is the Office Hours for you! This is NOT a webinar, but a chance to meet our experts to converse, brainstorm, and share best practices or challenges in a national conversation.

[Register Here](#)



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Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.



### **Traffick Report: Conversations with the Field**

**January 22, 2025, 3:00pm – 4:00pm ET / 12:00pm – 1:00pm PT**


Are you tired of navigating complex human trafficking cases with limited resources? Join us for "*The Traffick Report: Conversation with the Field*," an online discussion





held on the last Wednesday of each month.


Professionals from various disciplines, including law enforcement, victim services, and medical professionals, come together to share insight, challenges, and successes in the fight against human trafficking.

The Traffick Report provides a platform for collaborative problem-solving and support. Here's what you can expect:

 **Highlights and Successes:** Learn from the successes of your peers.

 **Promising New Practices:** Discover innovative strategies that make a difference in combatting trafficking.

 **Lessons Learned:** Reflect on past experiences and lessons learned to improve approaches.

 **Ongoing Challenges:** Discuss challenges with like-minded professionals.

Traffick Report is a dynamic, interactive online conversation designed to foster collaboration and support among professionals dedicated to combatting human trafficking.

Mark your calendars for the last Wednesday of each month and join us for *Traffick Report: Conversation with the Field* at 12:00pm – 1:00pm PT; 3:00pm – 4:00pm ET. Together, we can make a difference in the fight against human trafficking. Register now at the link below.

[Register Here](#)

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This presentation was produced by AEquitas with grant funding from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this presentation are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the position or opinions of the Howard G. Buffett Foundation.

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### [OVW Fiscal Year 2024 Resource Center on Workplace Responses to Assist Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence](#)

With this solicitation, the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) seeks to fund the creation of a Violence Resource Center on Workplace Responses to Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence in order to provide information and assistance to employers, labor organizations, and victim service providers to aid in their efforts to develop and implement workplace responses to assist victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and sexual harassment, including addressing the needs of underserved communities. Eligible applicants are limited to nonprofit nongovernmental entities or tribal organizations. Applications are due **December 10, 2024 (Grants.gov)** and **December 12, 2024 (JustGrants)**.

### [OVW Fiscal Year 2025 Justice for Families Program](#)

With this solicitation, OVW seeks to fund the creation of a Justice for Families Program in order to support activities to improve the response of the civil and criminal justice system to families with a history of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, or in cases involving child sexual abuse. Activities should improve the capacity of courts and communities to respond to families through court-based and court-related programs; supervised visitation and safe exchange by and between parents; training for people who work with families in the court system; and civil legal assistance. Applications are due **January 17, 2025 (Grants.gov)** and **January 22, 2025 (JustGrants)**.

For more available funding opportunities, please visit [grants.gov](https://grants.gov).



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