



# **Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council Winter Conference**

**December 8-10  
Sheraton Indianapolis Hotel  
at Keystone Crossing**



# Monday, December 8

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| 7:45 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.   | <i>Registration and Breakfast</i>   |
| 8:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.   | <b>Welcoming Remarks</b><br><b>Chris Naylor</b><br><i>Executive Director, IPAC</i>  |
| 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.  | <b>Negotiating with Defense Attorneys</b><br><b>Melissa Campbell</b><br><i>Chief Deputy, Washington County</i><br>With over 90 percent of criminal filings resolving via plea agreement, prosecutors and criminal defense attorneys engage in regular negotiations. Literature surrounding negotiation skills, be it legal or otherwise, focus on strategies for hiding your bottom line and wrangling the best deal possible from the other side. But how does that translate to the criminal legal world? The speaker, who has significant experience both as a prosecutor and as a defense attorney, will discuss how negotiations are affected when one side is mandated to turn over all relevant information, both good and bad, and what defense attorneys are focused on when negotiating with prosecutors amongst other issues pertinent to criminal case negotiations. She will further discuss pertinent skills such as effective communication, active listening, and emotional intelligence. |
| 10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. | <i>Break</i>  |
| 10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. | <b>Digital Evidence</b><br><b>Andre Miksha</b><br><i>Deputy Director, IPAC</i><br>Evidence of a digital nature is becoming more routine even in less serious cases. Knowing how to read, search, and present evidence from digital information is a skill of increasing importance. The presenter will detail and show how a few common pieces of evidence can be reviewed and lawfully prepared, including a jail phone call and text messaging and geolocation data from a forensic extraction from smartphone. The resources of time and money are limited; the presenter will focus on free, inexpensive, or common office products to assist in the development of trial exhibits.   |
| 11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  | <i>Lunch</i>  |
| 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.   | <b>Evidence Beyond the Foundations</b><br><b>Courtney Curtis</b><br><i>Assistant Executive Director, IPAC</i><br>The lecturer addresses evidence questions for trial that often come up during IPAC case consultations. Varied questions will be answered such as what is admissible from the DCS investigation in a criminal trial, 404(b), issues pertaining to co-defendants, when the defendant has opened the door, the rule of completeness and more.   |

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| 2:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. | <i>Break</i>  |
| 2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. | <p><b>When Working Harder Isn't Working (Ethics Credit)</b><br/> <b>Dr. Kevin Coss</b></p> <p>This presentation builds off this Summer Conference's lecture on vicarious trauma by addressing burnout. Burnout and vicarious trauma are related but distinct conditions. Burnout is a state of emotional, physical, and mental exhaustion caused by prolonged or excessive stress and is an unfortunate byproduct for prosecutors who are handling relentless court dates and ever ballooning caseloads. The presenter, a medical physician, works with hospital medical providers in the Indianapolis area to address burnout with techniques designed to increase your resilience to the unique pressures of prosecutors that are so similar to the pressures doctors experience.</p> |
| 3:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. | <i>Break</i>  |
| 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. | <p><b>Prosecuting Neglect Cases for Use of Firearms: A Case Study</b><br/> <b>Elyse Madigan</b></p> <p><i>Deputy Prosecutor, Tippecanoe County</i></p> <p>When their five-year-old son shot and killed their one-year-old with a Glock that was kept unsecured, Deonta Johnson and Shatia Welch were charged and ultimately convicted of Neglect causing Death, and Neglect Causing Serious Bodily Injury respectively in addition to Dealing charges. The presenter will address the importance of timeline in neglect and child death investigations, as well as drug screen evidence, surveillance video, and digital records that can help with charging decisions as well as in trial.</p>   |
| 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. | <b>Dinner Reception and Awards Ceremony – Please join us!</b>   |



## 2025 Winter Conference Dinner



### Reception and Awards Ceremony

**You're invited! *All county offices are welcome.***

6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Monday, December 8

The Sheraton in the Clearwater Ballroom

Dinner stations, drinks and an awards presentation.

**To attend, RSVP on the online conference registration.**

*We invite you to come support your fellow prosecutors, advocates, administrators, and law enforcement officers. This is a chance for your colleagues to be recognized and celebrated. Help make it a special evening for them and their guests! Cocktail attire suggested.*

# Tuesday, December 9

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| 7:15 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.  | <i>Breakfast</i>  |   |
| 8:15 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.  | <b>Breakout 1</b> | <p><b><u>Breakout 1 and 2 Topics</u></b></p> <p><b>PERF and PARF: Preparing for Retirement (no CLE credit)</b><br/><b>Jeremy Haggard</b><br/><i>Indiana Public Retirement System</i><br/><b>Bill Hartley</b><br/><i>Prosecuting Attorney, Wabash County</i><br/>An overview of the PERF and PARF retirement programs, but with a specific emphasis for those who may be finishing their public service terms in either of these pension plans between now and January 1, 2027, and money moves you could be making in preparation. This is also a fantastic opportunity to meet prosecutors' new point of contact at INPRS, Jeremy Haggard.</p> <p><b>Financial Fraud</b><br/><b>Stephanie Caraway</b><br/><i>Deputy Prosecutor, Johnson County</i><br/>Financial fraud cases, such as securities or mortgage fraud, are record intensive and require a unique attention to detail and timeline. This presenter will discuss how to "follow the money" in order to make the correct charging decisions, how not to be intimidated by the records, and tips and techniques to ensure your jurors can digest and understand your evidence.</p> <p><b>Become a Better Leader and Improve Your Wellbeing</b><br/><b>Ann Ostrum</b><br/><i>Community Health</i><br/>Leadership is a journey with many tests along the way. Leaders are not born; they are made through recognizing "failures" as opportunities to learn and improve. In a follow-up from the Monday wellbeing presentation, this presenter who partners with Dr. Coss in his work with hospital medical providers, will provide resilience factors to enhance emotional intelligence, which has shown benefits in leadership within office settings as well as prosecutor interactions with victims and community partners. Opportunities will be provided to discuss questions submitted anonymously after the Monday presentation.</p> |
| 9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.  | <i>Break</i>      |   |
| 9:15 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. | <b>Breakout 2</b> |   |

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| 10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. | Break      |   |
| 10:15 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. | Breakout 3 | <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Breakout 3 and 4 Topics</u></b></p> <p><b>Changes in the IV-D Program</b><br/> <b>Karla Mantia</b><br/> <i>Title IV-D Policy Liaison, IPAC</i><br/>           An overview of what to anticipate in the IV-D program from IPAC and our partners in the Child Support Bureau.</p> <p><b>Failure to Register Cases: Navigating the World of SORA in Adult &amp; Juvenile Courts</b><br/> <b>Amy Blackett</b><br/> <i>Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Resource Prosecutor, IPAC</i><br/> <b>Tracy Fitz</b><br/> <i>Juvenile Resource Prosecutor, IPAC</i><br/>           The Sex Offender Registry requirements can bring headaches to law enforcement and prosecutors alike when it comes to charging and proving Failure to Register cases. This lecture will cover the various criminal charges that prosecutors can file when sex offenders don't follow the rules, and the technical differences between them. The speakers will explain the scenarios in which juveniles can be required to register, what actions prosecutors need to take in those cases, and if/how any registrant can end up getting off the registry. Trial strategies for Failure to Register cases, as well as practice tips for navigating through these statutes and complicated fact scenarios will be explored.</p> <p><b>Criminal Organization Prediction</b><br/> <b>Commander Bryan Harper</b><br/> <i>Indiana State Police</i><br/>           The purpose of the Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center is to collect, integrate, evaluate, analyze, and disseminate information and intelligence to support local, state, and federal agencies in detecting, preventing, and responding to criminal and terrorist activity. IIFC is operated by the Indiana State Police. Come listen to this ISP speaker discuss how the Fusion Center detects criminal activity and can assist you in your communities.</p> |
| 11:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. | Break      |   |
| 11:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Breakout 4 |   |
| 12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.  | Lunch      |   |

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| 1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. | <p><b>Alcohol + Anything = Everything</b><br/> <b>Dr. Joseph O. Jones, Ph.D.</b><br/> <i>System Director, North Louisiana Criminalistics Laboratory</i></p> <p>Forensic toxicologist Dr. Joseph O. Jones takes attendees on an eye-opening journey into the complex world of alcohol and impairment. With decades of experience, Dr. Jones reveals how alcohol interacts with the human body and mind, unraveling its role as a sedative, hypnotic, anesthetic, and potentially lethal substance. This session goes beyond the numbers, delving into the profound effects alcohol has when combined with other drugs and medications. This session is packed with compelling case studies, personal anecdotes, and scientifically backed insights, providing a clear, relatable framework for understanding impairment. This session will equip you with the knowledge to navigate this critical topic. Discover the science behind impaired driving cases, retrograde extrapolation, and the power of understanding alcohol's role in the courtroom and beyond. A must attend session for anyone seeking clarity on a subject that affects lives daily.</p>  |
| 2:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. | <i>Break</i>  |
| 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. | <p><b>Law and Order in LA – A Case Review: People v. Rebecca Grossman Garrett Dameron</b><br/> <i>Deputy in Charge, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office</i><br/> <b>Ryan Gould and Jaime Castro</b><br/> <i>Deputy District Attorneys, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office</i><br/> <b>Mike Takacs</b><br/> <i>Drug Recognition Expert, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department</i></p> <p>Gain insight into the Grossman trial that captured national and international attention, shaking an LA suburb to its core. The Grossman trial involved a high-profile socialite defendant who tragically ran over and killed two young boys. Explore the backgrounds of both the victims and the defendant, and the events leading up to the incident. Obtain a detailed account of the investigation, highlighting the tools and techniques that proved beneficial, as well as the mistakes that could have been avoided. Learn the details of the entire trial, including the shocking, headline-grabbing details that dominated the news cycle, while gaining insights and strategies employed by the prosecutors, noting which were effective and which fell short. This engaging and informative presentation offers prosecutors valuable lessons and ideas for future cases.</p> |
| 4:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. | <i>Break</i>  |
| 4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. | <p><b>Reckless Homicide Crashes and Causation</b><br/> <b>Chris Daniels</b><br/> <i>Senior Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor, IPAC</i></p> <p>This presenter will take the lessons from the Grossman trial and look at them through the lens of Indiana law. This session will look at statutes and caselaw regarding causation in regards to Criminal Recklessness, Reckless Homicide, and Operating a Vehicle While Intoxicated Causing SBI or Death. From charging considerations to trial presentation, this lecture will focus on the legal hurdles that can make prosecuting major crash cases some of the most difficult cases for which to obtain a conviction.</p>  |

# Wednesday, December 10

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| 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.   | <i>Breakfast</i>  |
| 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.  | <b>Navigating the Civil Litigation Minefield: How Not to Blow Yourself Up and What To Do When Things Go Wrong</b><br><b>Joby Jerrels</b><br><i>Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Indiana Attorney General</i><br><b>Adrienne Pope</b><br><i>Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Indiana Attorney General</i><br>When lawsuits are filed against prosecutors or deputy prosecutors, the Office of the Attorney General provides our legal representation in those matters. Drawing from their experience in the civil litigation division the Office of the Attorney General, these presenters will discuss tips, advice, and strategy pertaining to civil cases filed against Prosecutors and Deputy Prosecutors in the course of their duties. Come learn how to do your job in a way that doesn't invite litigation, and how not to lose your mind when you receive notice of a tort claim. |
| 10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. | <i>Break</i>  |
| 10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. | <b>Caselaw Update</b><br><b>Jim Oliver</b><br><i>Deputy Director, IPAC</i><br>Your pal and IPAC mascot, Jim Oliver, is back to tell you all the relevant appellate cases from the last 6 months.  |

**Safe travels and happy holidays!**

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# Plan Your Trip to Indy



## **Christkindlmarkt**

Outdoor German Christmas market in Carmel, roughly 15 minutes from the Sheraton. Ice skating, shopping, food and Gluhwein. Admission is free.

## **Christmas at the Zoo**

Twinkling lights and animals. This is open nightly at the Indianapolis Zoo. Downtown. Tickets required.

## **Christmas Nights of Lights at the State Fairgrounds**

This is open nightly, no matter the weather. It's Indy's largest drive-thru light show synchronized to music. Tickets required.

## **Winterlights at Newfields**

Bundle up and walk through a million (yes, a million) of Christmas lights decorated on the grounds of Newfields. Tickets required.