Bringing Justice to Cold Case Sexual Assault Survivors Symposium

September 19 + 20, 2024

Speaker Bios

**Estella D. Patterson** was appointed Chief of the Raleigh Police Department on August 1, 2021. As

Raleigh’s senior law enforcement official, Chief Patterson leads the capital city’s police

department of over 900 sworn and civilian employees. With a goal of making Raleigh the safest

city in the nation, Chief Patterson’s priorities are to reduce violent crime, increase community

engagement, and ensure employee wellness.

Before joining the Raleigh Police Department, Chief Patterson served with the Charlotte-

Mecklenburg Police Department from 1996-2021 in numerous capacities including patrol officer,

instructor, Recruitment Director, Internal Affairs commander, and Patrol Services Deputy Chief.

Aside from serving her community as a public safety professional, Chief Patterson served her

country as a member of the U.S. Army Reserve from 1996-2005. Her service included combat

tours to Kosovo in support of Operation Joint Guardian and to Iraq as part of Operation Enduring

Freedom.

Chief Patterson currently serves as a Commissioner for the Commission on Accreditation for Law

Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). She is also a Commissioner on the N.C. Criminal Justice

Education and Training Standards Commission which regulates the training, certification, and

policy making for all police officers in the state of North Carolina. Additionally, she is the

immediate past president of the N.C. Police Executives Association. Chief Patterson is a member

of the Eastern NC chapter of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives

(NOBLE).

Chief Patterson earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from the University of

North Carolina at Charlotte and her Master of Science in criminal justice from the University of

Oklahoma. She is a graduate of the 245th session of the FBI National Academy.

As a law enforcement professional and dedicated public servant, Chief Patterson’s passions lie in

building strong and collaborative partnerships in the community and engaging the youth through

positive mentoring initiatives.

**Jeffrey B. Welty** is an expert in the area of criminal law and procedure. His research interests include the law of policing, search and seizure, digital evidence, and criminal pleadings. Welty joined the School of Government in 2008. He founded and contributes regularly to the *North Carolina Criminal Law Blog*, an award-winning resource visited by approximately 100,000 users each month. He has written for, appeared on, or been quoted in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *TIME*, *Newsweek*, National Public Radio, Bloomberg News, *Lawyers’ Weekly*, the Raleigh *News and Observer*, and many other media outlets. His books about capital punishment and digital evidence are widely-used legal references. Welty previously served as the director of the North Carolina Judicial College, which provides training and education to the state’s judicial officials.

Welty completed a federal judicial clerkship and worked in private practice before coming to the School. He has taught police, prosecutors, and judges in the United States, Mexico, Canada, Nigeria, Ghana, and Zambia. From 2020 to 2021, he spent two years on leave from the School at the North Carolina Department of Justice, where he led the Special Prosecutions and Law Enforcement Section. Welty earned a J.D. from Duke University School of Law with highest honors

**Jamie Markham** joined the School of Government faculty in 2007. His area of interest is criminal law and procedure, with a focus on the law of sentencing, corrections, and the conditions of confinement. Markham earned a bachelor's degree with honors from Harvard and a law degree with high honors from Duke, where he was editor-in-chief of the *Duke Law Journal*. He is a member of the North Carolina Bar. Prior to law school, Markham served five years in the United States Air Force as an intelligence officer and foreign area officer.

**Angela Garcia-Lamarca** is a Senior Assistant District Attorney in the Durham District Attorney’s Office. She is the SAKI cold case prosecutor and Team Lead for the Special Victims Unit. Garcia-Lamarca was a Mary Dowd Scholar at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she earned a bachelor’s degree with honors in History and Music Performance. Several years later she returned to UNC-Chapel Hill to complete the JD/MSW dual degree program. Garcia-Lamarca was an Ilene Nelson Fellow, a Bergstrom Child Welfare Fellow, and recipient of the North Carolina Child Welfare Collaborative Scholarship. At UNC, she served as a staff writer for the First Amendment Law Review Journal, Law-Related Education Coordinator on the Pro Bono Board of Directors, Guardian ad Litem Coordinator for the Child Action Student Group, and co-founded the Latino Legal Initiative. As an ADA who has served in both Mecklenburg and Durham counties, she has prosecuted primarily domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse. In April 2023, she received the Victim Services Award for Distinguished Prosecutor from the U.S. Attorney’s Offices for the Eastern and Middle Districts of North Carolina and the Victim Services Interagency Council of North Carolina. Garcia-Lamarca’s area of interest is prosecuting complex, violent crimes because it presents an opportunity to provide meaningful interaction with and advocacy on behalf of those who survive them.

Sergeant **Troy Armstrong** retired in 2020 from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department with 30 years of service. For 17 years he was assigned to the Felony Investigations Bureau working in the Sexual Assault and Homicide Units. Sergeant Armstrong began locating and working Sexual Assault Cold Cases on his own in 2002. In 2005 he proposed and implemented a Sexual Assault Cold Case Unit. He worked tirelessly for 9 years as the unit’s full-time detective, building a team and pursuing justice for victims and their families. The unit worked on over 2200 Cold Case Sexual Assaults, clearing over 230. The unit was cutting edge and was one of only a handful of its kind in the 2000’s. Sergeant Armstrong is featured in the book, “Delayed Justice, Inside Stories from America’s Best Cold Case Detectives”. During his service Sergeant Armstrong was awarded CMPD’s highest award, the Medal of Valor. He also received the NCCASA Legislative Award and CMPD Chief’s Award of Excellence for his work on creating the NC Sexual Battery Law. In 2011 he was awarded the “Excellence in Policing Award” for his successful investigation and prosecution of a prolific serial rapist from the 1990’s. In 2015 he was presented the Mecklenburg County DA’s Office first ever “Above and Beyond Award” for his work on a complicated Cold Case Rape prosecution. In 2024 he was commended by the Attorney General for his work on the NC backlog of Sexual Assault Kits. Troy has assisted numerous agencies begin their cold case work including units in The Netherlands and Canada. Troy currently works with the NCDOJ as a Cold Case Investigations Specialist**.**

**Roger Crosby** graduated from Appalachian State University in 2004, started working as a patrol officer at the Granite Falls Police Department in 2005 and was promoted to Detective in 2008. In 2012 he was hired by the Caldwell County Sheriff's Office to be that agency's only SVU detective. Was the primary SVU detective for the Caldwell County Sheriff's Office from 2012 to 2023 when the agency added two more SVU detective positions. Currently Roger Crosby is Sergeant over the SVU division of the Caldwell County Sheriff's Office. He is also assistant team leader of the Caldwell County SWAT team and in charge of the Caldwell County Sheriff's Office Drone Team. When not working he likes to attend as many shooting matches as he can, and travel to Walt Disney World with his family. FYI, I spend 25-30 days a year at Walt Disney World.

**Ronald Dorman** is a Garner native who entered public service 29 years ago in California with the U.S. Border Patrol. In 2009, he transferred to ICE as a deportation officer in Cary. Since 2019, he’s led Operation False Haven, a national ICE initiative designed to aggressively identify and prosecute child molesters who fraudulently obtained U.S. citizenship. He holds a masters degree in security studies from the Naval Postgraduate School’s Center for Homeland Defense and Security. He is not a homeland security expert and believes anyone claiming that title should be poked with a stick until they stop.

**Melissa Lanning** has been an Assistant Chief Counsel with Office of the Principal Legal Advisor in Charlotte, NC for 7 years.  As an ACC, she is current Team Lead of the Denaturalization/Operation False Haven Team and the Labor Exploitation Team.  Prior to joining the Department of Homeland Security, ACC Lanning served as an Assistant District Attorney for 9 years with the Mecklenburg Country District Attorneys Office.  ACC Lanning graduated from the University of Miami in 2002 and received her Juris Doctorate from New England School of Law in 2005.

**Lindsey Wade** served as a Tacoma Police Officer for twenty-one years. She has an impressive track record of utilizing her keen investigative instincts to solve violent crimes. During her fourteen years as a detective, she investigated sexual assaults, child abuse, missing persons, and homicides. In 2010, Lindsey first became aware of the issue known today as *Lawfully Owed DNA* when she discovered that serial killer Ted Bundy was not in CODIS. She worked with authorities in Florida to track down a sample of Bundy’s DNA and it was finally entered into the national DNA database in 2011. In 2012, Lindsey’s work on collecting DNA from convicted sexual predators in Washington state who’d slipped through the cracks, led to an arrest in the 1980 homicide of a teenaged girl. Lindsey helped to create the Tacoma Police Department’s Child Abduction Response Team (CART) which was the first CART certified by DOJ in the state of Washington in 2013. Lindsey was the lead investigator on several child abduction cases and was also asked to assist with child abduction cases in other jurisdictions. In 2018, Lindsey, along with Tacoma Police Detectives and the FBI, solved two 32-year-old cold case child homicides thanks to advances in DNA technology, Forensic Genetic Genealogy, and good old fashioned police work. Lindsey retired in 2018 as the Tacoma Police Department’s cold case detective. After retiring from the Tacoma Police Department, Lindsey joined the Washington State Attorney General’s Office as a Senior Investigator assigned to the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative to pursue her passion—using DNA to solve cold cases. Lindsey worked on Purpose Area 1 (SAK Backlog) and Purpose Area 3 (Lawfully Owed DNA). In 2019, Lindsey worked with state legislators to pass a new DNA law in Washington known as Jennifer & Michella’s Law. Lindsey published an article on Lawfully Owed DNA for Forensic Magazine and the International Homicide Investigators Association. She also published an article on Forensic Genetic Genealogy for Officer.com Magazine. Lindsey provided her knowledge and expertise as a contributor to the National Institute of Justice National Best Practices for Implementing and Sustaining a Cold Case Investigation Unit. She was also a contributor to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children’s Long-term missing child guide for law enforcement. Lindsey was a member of the National Institute of Justice Cold Case Working Group, the International Homicide Investigators Association, and in 2017, she created the Washington State Cold Case Working Group. She is a former member 4

**Amy Sweatt** is the DNA Collection Coordinator with the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department. She was hired as the project coordinator 4 years ago when the agency received their first grant to pursue lawfully owed DNA samples. She has worked with over 35 law enforcement agencies across the state of NC to collect DNA to be entered into the CODIS database. Prior to her current position, Amy graduated from UNC-Charlotte with a BA in Psychology and worked for Adult Probation and Parole for 16 years.

**John Somerindyke** earned a Bachelor’s degree in political science from North Carolina State University. He then joined the Fayetteville Police Department in 1992 and served in several different capacities during his time there. He was a patrol officer for three years, including two years as a K-9 officer and one year as a field training officer. He also served two years as a burglary detective, seven and a half years as a crimes against persons/homicide detective, five years as a patrol sergeant, three years as an internal affairs sergeant, and fifteen months as a watch commander. He ended his career as the Special Victims Unit Commander, which he did for his last five years. This included supervising the Cold Case Sexual Assault Unit for his last four years and serving as the Site Coordinator for the City of Fayetteville Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Grant. John retired from the Fayetteville Police Department after 27 ½ years of service on December 1st, 2019. He now does consulting work with the National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Training and Technical Assistance Team.

Samantha Pendergrass has been an Assistant District Attorney in the Mecklenburg County District Attorney’s office for over 27 years. She has prosecuted homicide, sexual assault, child physical and sexual abuse, domestic violence, and juvenile crime. She teaches sexual assault law, cross examination, evidence-based prosecution, and expert testimony to police departments, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners, and prosecutors across the state. Pendergrass graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill with majors in History and Philosophy. She also completed her Juris Doctor at UNC. She enjoys the challenges that cold case sexual assaults present, and the deep satisfaction gained from seeing survivors finally achieve justice. Pendergrass currently supervises the Misdemeanor Special Victims Team and serves on the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team and the Domestic Violence High Risk Team.

**Heather Waleski** is a Family Nurse Practitioner for the Atrium Health Child Protection team and Dove House Children’s Advocacy Center. In this role Heather conducts Child Medical Evaluations for children who may have experienced child maltreatment in the forms of neglect, physical or sexual abuse. Heather was previously the Forensic Program Coordinator at Atrium Health Union in Monroe, North Carolina for 7 years. Heather has been a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner since 2008 and has been teaching SANE training courses since 2011. Heather is currently one of the lead SANE content experts for Fayetteville State University’s SANE training. Prior to becoming a Family Nurse Practitioner, Heather was an Emergency Department Nurse for 17 years working in several different emergency departments and level one trauma centers in Charlotte and New York City.

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**Michelle Hannon** has been with the NC State Crime Laboratory since 2004 assigned to the Forensic Biology section. Michelle is currently a supervisor in Forensic Biology, coordinating the outsourcing of sexual assault kits, the STIMS Administrator and assists the NCSBI Cold Case Investigator Unit.

**Amanda Overman** has been with the lab for over 20 years.  Her first experience was as an intern in the Forensic Biology Section.  After graduating from UNC Chapel Hill with a B.S. in Clinical Laboratory Science, she was hired by the lab as a DNA Database Analyst.  Amanda processed Convicted Offender samples for CODIS in this role.  She then pursued a position in the casework section.  As a Casework DNA Analyst, Amanda worked a wide variety of cases and testified to the results in court when needed.  Amanda has served as a Supervisor and the CODIS Administrator for North Carolina during her tenure with the lab.

Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) **Nathaniel Thompson** is the current supervisor of the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (NCSBI) Cold Case Investigation Team. ASAC Thompson has been employed with the NCSBI for 26 years. During his law enforcement career, he has investigated numerous homicides, high level drug trafficking organizations, fraud, and corruption investigations throughout the state of North Carolina. From 2006 to 2009 ASAC Thompson was assigned to the Raleigh Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) as a task force officer assisting with numerous domestic and international terrorism cases in North Carolina.