



Attorney General

Jeff Jackson

Bringing Justice to Cold Case Sexual Assault Survivors:

2025 Cold Case Symposium

December 4-5, 2025 | Raleigh, NC

Thursday, December 4, 2025 – Day 1

7:00am - 8:00am	Participant Registration
8:00am – 8:30am	Welcome Remarks <i>Jeff Jackson, North Carolina Attorney General</i>
8:30am – 9:00am	TBA
9:00am – 9:15am	Break
9:15am – 10:45am	Unlocking Cold Cases: How Federal SAKI and Solving Cold Cases Grants Helped Identify <i>Shannon Hodder, Senior Assistant District Attorney, DeKalb County District Attorney's Office</i> <i>Matt McLendon, Supervising Investigator, DeKalb County District Attorney's Office</i>
10:45am – 11:45am	Foundation for Successful Cold Case Investigations <i>Sgt. Troy Armstrong, (ret) CMPD, NCDOJ Cold Case Investigations Specialist</i>
11:45am – 12:45pm	Lunch
	Working with Victims of Cold Case Sexual Assault <i>Angela Garcia-Lamarca, Senior Assistant District Attorney, Durham District Attorney's Office</i> <i>Tammy Tavarez, Victim Advocate, Durham Police Department's Cold Case Unit and Victim Services Unit</i>
2:15pm – 2:30pm	Break
2:30pm – 3:45pm	Medical Professionals & Cold Case Prosecutions <i>Samantha Pendergrass, Assistant District Attorney Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Office</i> <i>Heather Waleski, Family Nurse Practitioner, Atrium Health Child Protection Team and Dove House Children's Advocacy Center</i>
3:45pm – 4:00pm	Wrap - Up



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Friday, December 5, 2025 – Day 2

7:00am - 8:00am	Participant Sign In
8:00am – 9:30am	Forensic Genetic Genealogy: Practical Guide and Working with the SBI <i>Nate Thompson, retired SAIC SBI Cold Case</i> <i>Destinie Denny, Special Agent NCSBI</i>
9:30am – 9:45am	Break
9:55am – 11:15am	Covert DNA collection & the 4th Amendment <i>Ruffin Sykes, Assistant City Attorney, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's Cold Case Unit</i> <i>Michael Melendez, Veteran & Cold Case Detective, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department</i>
11:15am – 12:15pm	Lunch
12:15pm - 1:15pm	Historic Statutes, Sentencing and Cold Case Guidance <i>Jeff Welty, Professor of Public Law and Government; Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs, UNC School of Government</i> <i>James Markham, Professor of Public Law and Government</i>
1:15pm – 1:30pm	Break
1:30pm – 3:30pm	Lab/Latent/DNA <i>Michelle Hannon, Forensic Biology Supervisor, NC State Crime Laboratory</i> <i>Amanda Overman, Supervisor and the CODIS Administrator, NC State Crime Lab</i> <i>Karen Morrow, Forensic Scientist Manager/Special Agent Latent Evidence Section NC State Crime Laboratory</i>
3:30pm – 3:45pm	Wrap - Up