

Hiding in Plain Sight - Unmasking Human Trafficking

October 14, 2021

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual & In-Person

2 Ethics Credits

Widener Law Commonwealth

3737 Vartan Way, Rm A180

Harrisburg, PA 17110

WELCOME: Dean Michael Hussey

4:00 PM Ethics Rules, Act 105 Statute – PA’s Anti-Trafficking Law, Trafficking 101
Steve Turner and Heather Castellino

5:15 PM Forensic Nurse and Rape Kit
Nicole Baselj

5:35 PM Trafficking Investigation and Law Enforcement Perspective
PSP Trooper Cachara

5:55-6:00 PM Q&A

Featured speaker Steven V. Turner retired from the Pennsylvania Governor’s Office of General Counsel (OGC) service in August 2015. Prior to that time he served in a number of OGC positions, most recently as Chief Counsel to the Department of State. In that capacity, Steve advised the Secretary of the Commonwealth and Department staff on legal and administrative matters. Steve’s tenure at OGC also included service as Chief Counsel to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency; Chief Counsel to the Office of Inspector General; and Deputy General Counsel in the OGC Main Office. Steve also served as a Prosecuting Attorney for the Department of State’s Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs, where he prosecuted professional misconduct cases; and as a Senior Deputy Inspector General for the Office of Inspector General. Before joining OGC, Steve served as an Assistant City Solicitor in the Philadelphia City Solicitor’s Office, as Deputy Chief Counsel to the Pennsylvania Crime Commission, as a Special Assistant United States Attorney in the United States Attorney’s Office in Pittsburgh, and as a Member Attorney of the law firm of Cozen and O’Connor in Philadelphia. Steve received his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Redlands in Redlands, California in 1979, and his Juris Doctor from Temple University School of Law in 1984.

Steve has volunteered in programs serving children, both in the Philadelphia area and in Harrisburg. He received the 1992 Philadelphia Bar Association Craig M. Perry Community Service Award for his volunteer work performed at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. Steve was featured on the cover of the spring 1996 issue of Philadelphia Lawyer magazine and in a corresponding article entitled “the New Face of Pro Bono – Enhancing the Lawyers Image.” Since moving to Harrisburg, he has volunteered at the Hershey Medical Center Children’s Hospital Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and also the Ronald McDonald House in Hershey. Steve is a volunteer with the Gift of Life Organ Donor Program and Caring Hearts Pet Therapy Program. He has served as a domestic violence advocate, trainer and pro bono

PFA attorney for the YWCA of Greater Harrisburg's Domestic Violence Legal Clinic, a co-founder of YWCA's Men Against Domestic Violence Program and a member of the Dauphin County Domestic Violence Task Force. Steve has received the 1997 Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA) Young Lawyers Division Michael K. Smith Excellence in Service Award and PBA Government Lawyer of the Year Award in 2006. Steve recently received the Dauphin County Bar Association's Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year Award for 2016, and a Pennsylvania Bar Association Pro Bono Award for 2016.

Steve worked for the YWCA of Greater Harrisburg in the Violence Intervention and Prevention Program from February 2016 until December 2017. He served as a Crisis Advocate Coordinator and Training Specialist focusing on human trafficking, sexual assault and domestic violence victims and survivors. He currently is an independent contractor providing human trafficking victim advocacy and training.

Heather Castellino is a career prosecutor and has served in the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General since 2000. She has worked as a Senior Deputy Attorney General in the Organized Crime Section since 2005. From 2000 to 2005 she worked as a Deputy Attorney General in the Environmental Crimes Section. Prior to that she worked as a Senior Deputy District Attorney in the Bucks County Office of the District Attorney where she prosecuted and tried a wide variety of crimes from misdemeanors to felonies, including dozens of jury trials. She was also responsible for federal habeas petitions where she was admitted to United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

While working in the Organized Crime Section, Heather is responsible for investigating and prosecuting organized crime activities through the use of all forms of electronic surveillance, undercover operatives and statewide investigating grand juries. The types of cases include state and federal LCN RICO prosecutions, multi-county and multi-state sex trafficking organizations; large scale illegal drug trafficking organizations; organized retail theft; identity fraud rings; elder fraud and large scale auto theft rings.

Since 2008, she has been the primary prosecutor for cases involving human trafficking at the Attorney General's office. Heather has coordinated and prosecuted numerous human trafficking cases with the Pennsylvania State Police Organized Crime Unit, agents from the PA Office of Attorney General, local municipality police departments and the Department of Homeland Security Investigations. These cases have resulted in several convictions in both State and Federal court.

These cases include the conviction of a trafficker who was found guilty after a trial in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas after an investigation conducted by PSP into sex trafficking of both adults and minors. This trafficker is currently serving a sentence 37 to 74 years incarceration.

After an initial state prosecution lead by Heather at the PA Office of Attorney General, another trafficker is serving a 30 year sentence in federal prison after a jury trial in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. This case was a result of an investigation conducted by the Pennsylvania State Police and the Department of Homeland Security Investigations into sex trafficking of both adults and minors throughout many states throughout the country.

In 2019, Heather worked with the Pennsylvania State Police Organized Crime Unit to convict two traffickers after 8 survivor/victims testified a jury trial in Lancaster County. This case was a result of an investigation by the PSP that uncovered the sex trafficking organization led and operated by these defendants throughout several counties in both Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey. These traffickers are serving sentences of 39 ½ years to 146 years and 55 ½ years to 141 years incarceration.

Prior to her career as a prosecutor, Heather received her degree from Temple University in Political Science in 1992 and her JD from Villanova Law School in 1995.

Nicole Baselj, MSN, RN, SANE-A, SANE-P is the Unit Director at UPMC Forensic Nursing Department. The Forensic Nursing Department provides 24/7 medical forensic care to patients of any age and gender who have experienced sexual abuse and/or assault, intimate partner violence, strangulation, elder abuse, and human trafficking. The forensic nursing services are provided at all UPMC hospital in the central PA region.

Nicole's nursing career began in emergency nursing in 2012, followed by forensic nursing in 2013. She had the opportunity to expand her nursing skills in Hospice and interventional Radiology, but always continued to explore her passion in forensic nursing. Nicole holds a Master of Science in Nursing from Chamberlain University and received her undergraduate nursing degree from Penn State University. Nicole is certified as both a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Adult/Adolescent (SANE-A) and Pediatrics (SANE-P). She is a member of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the International Association of Forensic Nurses. Nicole serves on numerous multidisciplinary teams in four counties. She is also the chair of the Cumberland County Sexual Assault Response Team. Nicole serves as an adjunct instructor for the UPMC SANE-A Course. She is deemed an expert witness in Dauphin, Cumberland, Perry, and York County. Nicole provides education and training on topics ranging from sexual violence, intimate partner violence, strangulation, and human trafficking.

Tpr. Jason Cachara has been employed by the Pennsylvania State Police since 1999. He has been assigned to the following stations: Avondale (Chester County), Uniontown (Fayette County), and Chambersburg (Franklin County) before moving into the Troop H criminal investigative unit (CIU) in 2005. From that point, he worked in various criminal investigative assignments in Troop H: York (York County), Carlisle (Cumberland County), Chambersburg (Franklin County) and Gettysburg (Adams County). He has primarily focused his years in criminal investigations on child abuse cases and death investigations.