

Instructor Biographies

Child Homicide Investigations

Brian Killacky

Senior Consultant, Amber Alert Technical Assistance Program National Criminal Justice Training Center

Brian Killacky has had direct investigative and supervisory experience in the resolution of such cases as serial, mass and spree killing, child kidnapping and murder, gang, narcotic and organized crime related murders as well as domestic, sexually motivated, robbery related and child homicide. During his 33-year law enforcement career, he served as Detective with the Chicago Police Department, Investigator with Cook County State's Attorney Cold Murder Unit, and as Sergeant with Cook County State's Attorney Investigation Bureau. Since his retirement in 2013, Killacky has since been focusing on instructional and investigative issues associated with cold case and crimes against children. Over the past few years, he developed curriculum on Cold Case, Unidentified Human Remains, Long Term Missing, and Child Homicide in over twenty U.S. states and has lectured to several thousand personnel.

Tom Biesty

Supervisor Cold Case Homicide Unit Cook County State's Attorney's Office Chicago, Illinois

Tom Biesty is the Supervisor of the Cold Case Homicide Unit for Cook County State's Attorney's Office in Chicago, IL. Tom supervises a team of eight attorneys and four investigators who specialize in developing strategies to solve homicides more than 1 year old. Some of his responsibilities include, but are not limited to, coordinating investigations among various law enforcement agencies and applying new methods and science to solve cold case crimes. He investigated and prosecuted some of Chicago's most infamous criminals, namely: Daniel Escobedo, Kenneth Hansen, Frank Jayne and the Brown's Chicken Massacre defendants James Degorski and Juan Luna. Prior to his current assignment, Tom worked for the Cook County State's Attorney's Office on the Gang Crimes Unit, where he prosecuted over 20 jury trials, including capital murder offenses, and the Felony Trial Division and Felony Review Unit. He served as a Felony Trial Assistant with the Narcotics Bureau, where he was involved in the prosecution of narcotics cases and in the investigation, trial, and sentencing of major narcotics offenders. He also served as a Trial Attorney specializing in parental custody hearings involving abused and neglected children.

Candace H. Schoppe, M.D.

Medical Examiner Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences, Dallas, Texas

Candace H. Schoppe, MD, is a forensic pathologist at the Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences and Assistant Professor of Pathology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, Texas. Dr. Schoppe began her career in forensic science as a laboratory technician/ forensic examiner at Forensic Consultant Services in Fort Worth, Texas while attending college at Austin College in Sherman, Texas. She attended medical school at the University of Texas – Houston Medical School in Houston, Texas and completed a pathology residency at Wake Forest University/ Baptist Medical Center in Winston Salem, North Carolina. Following her residency, she completed a forensic pathology fellowship and a neuropathology and cardiac pathology fellowship at the New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner in New York, New York. Dr. Schoppe is board certified in anatomic, clinical, and forensic pathology. During the course of her career, Dr. Schoppe has conducted independent research, published and presented papers, and co-presented workshops at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences annual meetings on topics relevant to child death investigation. Dr. Schoppe currently serves on the multidisciplinary Child Death Review Committee for Dallas County where she participates in a monthly review of all child fatalities occurring in Dallas County.