

# COMPASS

Moving Forward Together



## Ashley Johnson-Barr Day

March 12 - A day across the nation to honor the memory of a bright, 10-year-old girl from Kotzebue whose life was taken too soon. Ashley’s legacy isn’t just a date on the calendar—it is a movement toward justice and safety for all our children.

The MMIP crisis in Alaska continues to affect our families at disproportionate rates, but we stand together to say: **No more.**

[Read and share this letter](#) written exclusively for *The AMBER Advocate* by Ashley’s father, Walter “Scotty” Barr. The letter movingly commemorates what would have been his daughter’s 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## Child Sex Trafficking Investigations: Strategies to Increase Prosecutions of Traffickers of Missing Children

An incredible learning session in Newport News, Virginia! We want to give a huge shout-out to Heidi Refre, Blaine Phillips, Jessika McKee, and Brooke Grona Robb for their hard work and dedication during our "Child Sex Trafficking Investigations" course. This team is doing vital work to increase prosecutions and protect missing children.

Want to join us next? **We are heading to Ashland City, TN on April 30–May 1!** If you are in law enforcement or a related field, there is still time to register and gain the strategies needed to bring traffickers to justice.

Learn more and register [HERE](#)



## Upcoming AMBER Alert Training

Don't wait any longer - these seats are filling fast for high-demand classroom training!

### [911 Telecommunicators and Missing & Abducted Children](#)

April 14 | Live Online  
July 14 | Rancho Cordova, CA

### [Child Sex Trafficking Investigations for Law Enforcement](#)

May 12 | Live Online

### [Initial Response Strategies and Tactics When Responding to Missing Children Incidents](#)

May 27 | Douglas, WY

### [Investigative Strategies for Child Abduction Cases](#)

August 18-19 | Elkhorn, WI



### [Responding to the Abduction of Ashley Johnson Barr: Community and State Collaboration](#)

May 19 | 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm CT

## IN THIS EDITION:

- ✓ AMBER Alert
- ✓ Court Safety Conference Highlights
- ✓ NCJTC Snapshots
- ✓ Criminal Justice Month

## Upcoming Events

### Don't Miss NCJTC at these April & May Events

#### National Missing and Unidentified Persons Conference (MUPC)

April 21-23 | Las Vegas, NV

The search for missing and unidentified persons requires collaboration, innovation, and the right tools. Join professionals from across the country at our 2026 Conference.

[Learn more and Secure Your Spot](#)

#### National CyberCrime Conference

April 28-30 | Norwood, MA

Hosted by MA Attorney General's Office, the National Cyber Crime Conference is a premier training event that brings together law enforcement and digital forensic professionals to learn cutting-edge strategies, tools, and techniques for investigating and combating cybercrime.

NCJTC is proud to have 2 speakers sharing their expertise.

#### (NA DEC) National Drug Endangered Childrens Conference

May 5-7 | Las Vegas, NV

Visit our booth at this national conference, which focuses on education, collaboration, and action, equipping attendees with strategies and best practices to identify, respond to, and prevent situations involving drug-endangered children.

# CSS Highlights

## Another great turnout for our Court Safety and Security Conference!

*Real cases, core security principles, courthouse overview and residential security, social media awareness, and travel risk management. CSS brought together court leaders and public safety professionals together to address emerging threats and strengthen court security nationwide.*

180 participants gathered in Appleton, Wisconsin to attend our 2026 Court Safety and Security Conference. This year's event was full of skill-building, networking and collaboration. Attendees spent 2-days learning from subject-matter experts through breakout workshops and training sessions designed to help build their knowledge, services and skills to better keep their courts and communities safe. Timely conversations around AI-driven risks facing courts, including doxing, phishing, and deepfakes, along with a live demo showing just how easily public information can be misused.

CSS also brought thoughtful discussion on court security and practical leadership strategies to support resilience, retention, and performance in demanding environments.

**2 days** of networking, collaboration and training

**180** attendees committed to keeping their courts and communities safe

**18** subject-matter experts that analyzed real cases and new strategies, techniques and tools needed to address the most current (and critical threats) to courtroom safety



Registration is NOW OPEN for 2027!

March 23-25, 2027  
Appleton, WI

Learn More and Register [HERE](#)

## Conference Highlights



Opening Plenary John Muffler, Principal, Aquitas Global Security, LLC



Shay Cleary, Wendy Patrick and Program Manager Jason Sterling



Honorable Audrey Skwierawski (Director of State Courts, WI Court System)



Special thanks to our CSS Conference Committee  
**Back Left to Right:** Mike Neimon, Jason Sterling, Judge Steven Gibbs, Judge Andrew Voigt. **Front Left to Right:** Shay Cleary, Andrea Sailer, Greg Moen, Mike Smith. **Not pictured:** Raeann Skenandore, Tammy Johnson, Chad Strasburg, Judge Angeline Winton-Roe, Mark Hoyne, Judge Mark Sanders



**Left:** K9 Hawk **Top:** Smiles from NCJTC Associates registering attendees **Bottom:** Conference Sponsor, Ironwall by Incogni, networking with attendees



## Key Partner Recognition

Conference Sponsor



Exhibitors



# NCJTC Snapshots & Expertise

## 42nd International Symposium on Child Abuse

NCJTC was proud to have 3 associates present at the National Children's Advocacy Center (NCAC) International Symposium on Child Abuse (ISCA).

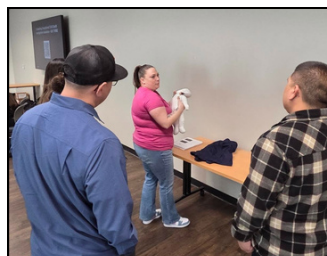


Program Manager Jason Sterling, Deputy Administrator Julie Kenniston and Program Coordinator Jessica Heimann



Day 2 NCJTC Deputy Administrator, Julie Kenniston on Forensic Interview Practices

## Conducting Unexplained Child Death Investigations



Led by NCJTC subject matter experts: Chris Kolcharno | Andrea Zaferes | Allyson Cordoni | Matt Lindemeyer, M.S. | Brad Graham

### San Jose, CA – Behind the scenes shots and participant feedback from March training

Thank you to our instructors and attendees for the focused, detailed work that supports accurate findings and sound investigative decisions. The course centers on thorough documentation, cross-disciplinary coordination, and careful decision-making in complex cases.

#### Upcoming opportunities:

[July 28-31 | Massillon, OH](#)

[September 22-25 | Fayetteville, AR](#)

[November 10-13 | Del Valle, TX](#)

## Subject Matter Experts dive into NEW Training Opportunities

Did you know your suspect's Apple Watch could be the key to your case? Most investigators look at the phone but ecosystem goes much deeper. From Stolen Device Protection to hidden iCloud data, we're showing you how to find the evidence others miss. [Hear from Wayne Nichols](#) a few class takeaways and why you should secure your seat for this training!

**Investigative Considerations with iPhone® and Other iOS® Devices** - starting April 8.

[Training details and registration.](#)

[Advanced Peer Review for Child Trafficking Cases](#), a BRAND NEW training on April 9.

[Hear directly from Julie Kenniston](#), one of the experts leading this course about how this 3-hour interactive session helps experienced forensic interviewers review interview strategies, talk through challenges in trafficking cases, and strengthen the role interviews play in investigations and prosecution.

Participants will also have the opportunity to present an interview and receive expert feedback.



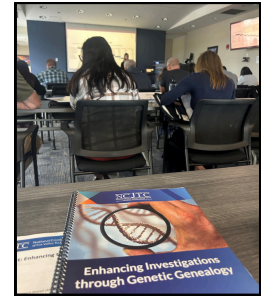
# Wrapping up March

## National Criminal Justice Month

This National Criminal Justice Month, we recognize the dedication of criminal justice professionals and the impact of training that helps them do their jobs safely and effectively.

Take a look at NCJTC in action—trainings, events, and experts dedicated to your safety and success.

View ALL Training Opportunities [HERE](#).



TELL US  **YOUR STORY**

**Episode 04**  
COMING SOON

Get ready for another powerful story of impact, innovation, and collaboration. Stay tuned. You won't want to miss this one.

Can't wait for the next episode - [Take a look back at our 2025 stories](#)

**YOUR STORY**  
**COULD BE NEXT.**

Have a success story to share?  
[Submit it here](#) and be part of  
Tell Us Your Story



## Did You Know?

We can come directly to YOUR facility to [host](#) our most highly-sought after training courses!



Did you miss the last issue of the NCJTC Compass? [Read the February issue!](#)



Scan the QR code to subscribe to our newsletter or visit [ncjtc.org/signup!](https://ncjtc.org/signup)

## Connect With Us

info@ncjtc.org | ncjtc.org | (855) 866-2582  
7:00 am - 5:00 pm CT (M - F)

