

# Homicide Investigators of Texas

2023 Conference Agenda

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## 2023

## Homicide Investigators of Texas



## Annual Conference March 27– 30, 2023

Drury Plaza Hotel

105 S. St. Mary's Street

San Antonio, TX 78205

Telephone: 210-270-7799

Website: [www.druryhotels.com](http://www.druryhotels.com)

\$300.00 for non-life members

\$200.00 for life members

Conference cost includes one-year membership for non-life members

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Visit: [www.hitx.org](http://www.hitx.org) to register online or to obtain further information

TCOLE Credit awarded for Training Hours

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**Conference Registration – March 27, 2023 – 8:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**Monday - March 27, 2023; Session 1; 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm**



**Erick Whitlock – North Richland Hills Police Department  
Tenacity-Technology-Teamwork**

The Tenacity-Technology-Teamwork led by Detective Erick Whitlock led to the charging and long fall of a suspect in a 19-year-old cold case involving the shooting of Motorcycle Officer Jeff Garner and a string of Bank Robberies.

The intricate investigation involved North Richland Hills Police, Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Dallas and Oklahoma City field offices. Officer Jeff Garner was shot on March 3, 2003, after attempting to stop a man who, unknown to Garner, had just robbed a bank in Watauga, Texas. Since the incident, the suspect has remained at large.

After the case sat cold for many years, in 2015, North Richland Hills Police Detective Erik Whitlock was assigned to the investigation. He began examining the evidence related to the incident. Based on the analysis, the suspect in the shooting of Garner was believed to be linked to seven bank robberies from 1998 to 2003.

He will present on the techniques he used to pull the team together to solve the case.

**Monday - March 27, 2023; Session 2; 3:00 PM-5:00 PM**



**Abbey  
Abbondandolo**

**Detective Abbey Abbondandolo – Cold Justice – TIPS**

For ten years Cold Justice has been one of the top true-crime shows with an impressive number of arrests and convictions. As of July 2021, the team has helped to generate 49 arrests and 21 convictions, in addition to four confessions, three guilty pleas and three murder convictions. This session will go over how a team of detectives looks at a cold case and how they conduct an intense investigation over a short period of time aiding local law enforcement.

Detective Abbey Abbondandolo spent 21 years in Houston Homicide is retired from the force and currently serves as a Security Director for St. Luke's Health System in The Pacific Northwest. He was recently appointed by Texas Governor Abbott to review the Uvalde School Shooting.

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**Tuesday - March 28, 2023; Session 1-2; 8:00 am – 5:00 pm**



David Crain

## **Detective Crain and Detective Quintanilla - Harris County Sheriff's Office**

Detective's Crain and Quintanilla from the Harris County Sheriff's Office – Homicide Division will present multiple investigations on Capital Murders, Murders, and Officer-involved shootings with particular emphasis on investigative methods, case preparation, and the importance of relationship-building amongst agencies across the state/country. The cases to be reviewed

include:



Mario Quintanilla

The Capital Murder of a 4-year-old who, along with her family members, were all shot by a group of suspects committing serial aggravated robberies;

The murder of a transient female (meth addict) who willingly went with the suspect and was later found deceased in another jurisdiction;

The Capital Murder of a mother and her friend, both of whom were being stalked by her estranged husband;

The Capital Murder of a homeowner during residential burglary (following the Fed-Ex);

The Capital Murder of an infant by the care-giving boyfriend of the mother; Car-jacking and Kidnapping / Capital Murder of female by MS-13 gang members; Case studies of numerous Officer-involved shootings by LEOs in Harris County

**Wednesday - March 29, 2023; Session 1; 8:00 am – 12:00 pm**



Richard Duggan

## **Richard G. Duggan – Denton County District Attorney's Office Investigating a Cold Case – The Murder of Phillip Washington**

Phillip Washington, aged 50, was an ex Dallas Constable and at the time of the murder a private security guard working for several night clubs, delivering the nightly cash deposits to the bank. Some nights he worked with a partner. This night he worked alone. It would be his last.

In the early morning hours of January 6, 2008, three masked men ambushed and shot Phillip Washington dead at a bank night deposit box in North Dallas. The suspects made off with over \$100,000 in cash, and then vanished, one of them in the victim's pickup truck. The initial investigation produced no suspects and the case soon turned cold. Over two years later a phone call changed everything.

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**Wednesday, March 29, 2023; Session 2 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM**



Gary Sweet

## **Detective Gary Sweet – Garland PD (Ret.) – Crimes Against Persons Bogeyman Child Serial Killer case study**

Gary Sweet retired from the Garland (TX) Police Department with 38 years of service. The last 25 years, he worked in the Crimes Against Persons Unit, where he investigated homicides and cold case homicides. During his long tenure in the Capers Unit, Gary trained many detectives in homicide and cold case investigations. Additionally, he was the primary departmental instructor for homicide investigation and use of force in the Garland Police Academy for 25 years. A well know instructor, Gary has been the featured speaker in many national and state conferences. Several of Gary's cases have been featured on true crime television shows such as Snapped, Fatal Attraction, Diabolical, Most Evil, and Pandora's Box. His work on the child serial killer case of David Elliot Penton is featured in the book "Bogeyman" by Steve Jackson.

**Thursday - March 30, 2023, Closing Session; 8:00 am – 12:00 pm**



Sean Miguez

## **Lt. Sean Miguez – Galveston Police Department Underwater Homicide Scenes**

This session will go over the underwater recovery process and will outline the investigative process, composition of the underwater recovery team, and the search. The strategy used by underwater search teams involves the temporal and geographical plotting of evidence, and using a grid system. How to preserve evidence such as automobiles, lights, filaments, firearms, vessels, ignitors, and explosives. The session will deal with medicolegal aspects of underwater death, the use of recovered evidence in the courtroom, and future directions for underwater investigation. Lt. Miguez will use several case studies to highlight the teaching points.