

Homicide Investigators of Texas

2024 Conference Agenda

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2024

Homicide Investigators of Texas



Annual Conference March 25– 28, 2024

Drury Plaza Hotel

105 S. St. Mary's Street

San Antonio, TX 78205

Telephone: 210-270-7799

Website: 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 to register online or to obtain further information

TCOLE Credit awarded for Training Hours

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Conference Registration – March 25, 2024 – 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Monday - March 25, 2024; Session 1; 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Jason White – Tulsa Police Homicide/First 48



Det. Jason White is a 25-year veteran of the Tulsa Police Department. Throughout his career he has worked in uniform patrol, along with serving as a member of the Street Crimes Unit, undercover investigator in the Special Investigations Division Narcotics Unit, School Resource Officer, and Crime Scene Detective.

Det. White currently is assigned to the Homicide Unit where he has served for more than 14 years and has been featured in several episodes of The First 48 on A & E.

Det. White was also assigned to the Special Operations Team as a Crisis Negotiator where he served for over 10 years, and is a current member of the Critical Incident Response Team where he has served for the past 16 years.

Over the course of his career, Det. White has received multiple commendations including a Citation of Recognition from the State of Oklahoma House of Representatives in 2022 and 2012, Medal of Valor in 2011, and the Chief's Unit Award in 2022 and 2009 along with several additional commendations.

Det. White has a B.S. Degree in Professional Law Enforcement from Oklahoma City University, and an A.S. Degree in Police Science from Oklahoma State University.

Finally, Det. White is a sought after presenter who has spoken throughout the country, and Canada.

Topic: Det. White will discuss a no-body case that he inherited in 2010 and eventually was able to get charges filed in 2018 which ultimately led to a successful conviction. This was the first successful no body case conviction to recent decades if not the first in Tulsa, OK. history.

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Tuesday - March 26, 2024; Session 1; 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
Captain Clair Barnes – Little Elm Police Dept./Texas Ranger Ret.



Clair is a proud U.S. Army veteran (Scouts Out!) who began his law enforcement career in 1994 with the Amarillo, Texas Police Department. Clair served as a field training officer while with APD and was a member of the World-famous TAC Squad.

In July 1998, Clair began the A-98 All Field Service Recruit School at the Texas Department of Public Safety Training Academy. Clair was commissioned as a Trooper in January 1999 and stationed at Denton. Clair was promoted to Highway Patrol Sergeant in 2005 and served at McAllen, Austin, Hurst, and Trophy Club before returning to Denton in 2008.

In May 2013, Clair was promoted to Texas Ranger and stationed in Hurst. In that role, Clair assisted smaller agencies with major felony investigations, including unsolved crimes. Clair transferred to Denton in 2015 to continue Ranger service, investigating murder and questioned deaths with local agencies and leading Officer Involved Shooting investigations.

Clair retired from DPS in 2020 and served with the University of North Texas Police as a Lieutenant leading the criminal investigations unit before accepting a position with the Little Elm Police Department in August 2023 as Captain of the Support Services Division. In this role, Clair leads the criminal investigations, training, hiring/recruiting efforts, and property and evidence section.

Clair holds a BAAS from Midwestern State University and has completed coursework toward a Master of Science in CJ Leadership and Management. Clair also holds a Master Peace Officer and Instructor license from TCOLE.

Clair and his wife, Genena, have three children. Alexa will be commissioned as a Field Artillery Lieutenant from the University of Oklahoma next May, McKane is a sophomore at the University of Arkansas and is the baseball team mascot, RIBBI. Mason is the youngest and is considering a career in the fire service or IT.

Clair enjoys fly fishing and golf, cigars, and distilled spirits.

Topic: Captain Barnes will present on Multidisciplinary Team Investigations

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Tuesday - March 26, 2024; Session 2 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Steve Spingols - retired Milwaukee PD homicide lieutenant, author, cold case investigator, & presenter of the Psychology of Homicide



Topic: Steve will present on Jeffrey Dahmer and the Kyle Rittenhouse trial.

Wednesday - March 27, 2024; Session 1; 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Ashleigh Berg – Denton County Sheriff's Office Forensic Investigator



Ashleigh Berg is the Senior Forensic Investigator for the Denton County Sheriff's Office in Denton, TX, where she has served since 2013. Prior to coming to DCSO, she spent 3.5 years serving as a Crime Scene Investigator with the Wise County Sheriff's Office where she was responsible for creating and building both the Crime Lab and the in-house AFIS system. Ashleigh holds a Master Peace Office License and is a TCOLE Instructor who holds a Bachelor's degree with a split major in Forensic Science and Criminal Psychology and a Master's degree in Forensic Psychology. Ashleigh is a Certified Latent Print Examiner and Certified Bloodstain Pattern Analyst by the International Association for Identification. She has been qualified as an expert in the areas of crime scene investigation, latent print identification, bloodstain pattern analysis, shooting incident reconstruction, and crime scene reconstruction in multiple Texas district and federal courts and consults on major cases in multiple jurisdictions. She also serves as an adjunct instructor and course-content developer for the Texas A&M Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) Texas Forensic Science Academy, and is fortunate enough to get to travel across the state teaching various forensic topics to law enforcement. She is a former member of the Board of Directors of ACSR, and a member of the IABPA, the IAI, and the TDIAI.

Topic: Equivocal Death Investigation - In death investigations, many times the manner of death is obvious from the beginning. But what happens to an investigation when things are not so clear? Is a death a homicide, a suicide, or something else? This is the definition of an Equivocal Death Investigation.

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Using multiple case examples, this image-based, interactive training incorporates the forensic principles of death investigation, wound dynamics, bloodstain pattern analysis, shooting reconstruction, and behavioral analysis of the crime scene environment to equip the investigator with practical techniques for evaluating equivocal death scenes with the ultimate goal of answering the homicide versus suicide question before the investigator leaves the crime scene.

Wednesday, March 27, 2024; Session 2 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Sergeant Larry Hallmark – Denton County Sheriff's Office/Grapevine PD Ret.



Sgt. Hallmark is a veteran with 35 years of law enforcement experience. Sgt. Hallmark has spent the majority of his career in Criminal Investigations as a detective, a sergeant, lieutenant, and investigator. As the major case detective in Crimes Against Persons, Hallmark successfully investigated several high profile murder cases, including a serial murder case. As a sergeant, Hallmark supervised the Crimes Against Persons Unit. As a lieutenant, Hallmark commanded the Crimes Against Persons Unit, Property Crimes Unit, and Special Investigations Unit. After retiring from the Grapevine Police Department as a lieutenant, Investigator Hallmark took a position with the Denton County Sheriff's Office, helping them form a new Human Trafficking Unit. Sgt. Hallmark has been featured on such television shows as Snapped, Forensic Files, 48 Hours, The Killing Season, and America's Most Wanted. Sgt. Hallmark received his law enforcement instructor license from the State of Texas in October 1996 and has instructed at numerous law enforcement academies, as well as state, national, and international conferences, on a range of topics all related to criminal investigations. Sgt. Hallmark is a regularly scheduled speaker at the FBI Highway Serial Killings Meetings, where he addresses issues specific to investigating Truck Stop Serial Murders. Investigator Hallmark served on the National Advisory Board for the FBI's VICAP (Violent Criminal Apprehension Program) from August 2007 – September 2012. Videos of interrogations Investigator Hallmark has conducted have been used for instructional purposes at various academies, including the Pennsylvania State Police Academy and FBI Academy. From February 2016 to March 2022, Sgt. Hallmark taught for Fox Valley Technical College and the National Criminal Justice Training Center. Sgt. Hallmark holds a master peace officer certification from the State of Texas and is a graduate of the 268th session of the FBI National Academy.

Topic: Case study of John Robert Williams, A Serial Killer

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Thursday - March 28, 2024, Closing Session; 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

John Wilkerson – TMPA/Bell County Sheriff's Office



John “JW” Wilkerson entered public service at the age of 17 by enlisting in the United States Army. After serving in the Army, JW attended and graduated from the Alamo Area Council of Governments Law Enforcement Academy in San Antonio Texas in 2004. JW holds a Master Peace Officer license and is an advanced TCOLE instructor. JW frequently teaches firearms and intoxicated driver courses to law enforcement.

Since becoming a Peace Officer, JW has worked with both municipal and county law enforcement, currently commissioned as a deputy Sheriff. JW came to work for TMPA in 2012 as an instructor for a grant funded training program. Soon thereafter, he was promoted to grant manager, where he remained until joining the field services division in 2015. While in the field services division, JW worked to provide support to TMPA members through disaster response, critical incident response, training Texas Peace Officers in various disciplines, contract negotiations and local association start-up and support.

In 2020, JW was assigned to the Government affairs division, where he works to ensure the Texas Legislature is informed on Law Enforcement and labor related issues that affect the profession.

Topic: