

# 2026 GATLINBURG LAW ENFORCEMENT CONFERENCE



*The Premier Training Event for U.S. Law Enforcement Professionals in the southeast region*



**Agenda May 4-7, 2026**

**“Enhancing Public Safety through Law Enforcement Excellence”**

## Monday May 4, 2026

**2:00pm – 5:30pm** **Conference Registration Check-In– Embassy Suites Hotel**  
**5:00pm – 7:00pm** **Welcome Reception - Embassy Suites**

Tuesday May 5, 2026 Georgia Executive Credit classes are indicated by GEAC in the class location

**7:30am – 8:30am** **Registration – Gatlinburg Convention Center**  
**8:30am – 5:00pm** **Program – Mills Auditorium & Mills Room 2**

**Victim Services Track** sessions indicated by a **light purple background** will deliver targeted training and resources for professionals engaged in direct support of crime victims. These sessions emphasize best practices, effective victim support strategies, and emerging trends in victim advocacy, enabling participants to strengthen their expertise and capabilities within this essential sector. All sessions are open to all registered attendees.

Time	Conference Opening					Location
8:30 AM						
9:00 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tribute to Fallen Officers – Mrs. Beverly Razor, Louisville, KY</li> <li>Invocation: Officer Brian Huff, Chaplain, Gatlinburg Police Department</li> <li>Presentation of Colors, Gatlinburg Police Department Honor Guard</li> <li>National Anthem: Naomi O’Shea, Dispatcher, Sevierville Police Department</li> <li>Welcoming Remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ronnie Barrett, Chief of Police, Gatlinburg Police Department</li> </ul> </li> </ul>					Mills Auditorium
9:00 AM	<b>Keynote – Honorable Todd Blanche</b>					Mills Auditorium
10:00 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deputy Attorney General, United States Department of Justice</li> </ul>					
10:00 AM	<b>Break</b>					
	Class and Instructor		Time	Class and Instructor		Location
10:30AM	<b>Responding and Investigating Hoax</b>	Mills	10:30AM-	<b>Professional Ethics in Victim Services</b>		
12:00 PM	<b>Bomb Threats and Swatting</b>	Auditorium	12:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alejandro Palacios, Victim Advocacy Training Manager, National Organization for Victim Advocacy (NOVA)</li> </ul>		Mills Room 2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brian LaBlanc, Supervisory Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Field Office</li> </ul>	<u>GAEC</u>				
12:00 PM	<b>Lunch on your own</b>					
1:30 PM						
1:30 PM	<b>Drug-Related Death Investigations</b>	Mills	1:30 PM-	<b>Technology Safety for Victims of Crime</b>		
3:30 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lt. Josh Shaffer, Knoxville Police Department</li> </ul>	Auditorium	3:30 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alejandro Palacios, Victim Advocacy Training Manager, NOVA</li> </ul>		Mills Room 2
3:30 PM	<b>Break</b>					
4:00 PM						
4:00 PM	<b>Emerging Threats in Terrorism: Nihilistic Violent Extremism</b>	Mills	4:00pm-	<b>Emerging Topics in Victim Services Roundtable Discussion</b>		
5:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Max Wooten, Veteran Law Enforcement Officer and Expert Investigator, Winston Salem North Carolina</li> </ul>	Auditorium	5:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alejandro Palacios, NOVA</li> <li>Jenny Parker, Victim Witness Coordinator, USAO-EDKY</li> <li>TBA</li> </ul>		Mills Room 2
5:00 PM	<b>Evening Reception</b>					
7:00 PM	Embassy Suites					
6:30PM	<b>Conference Networking Cookout</b>					
8:30 PM	Embassy Suites					

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**Wednesday, May 6, 2026**

Georgia Executive Credit classes are indicated by GEAC in the class location

7:30am – 8:30am      **Late Registration Check- In – Gatlinburg Convention Center**

8:30am – 5:00pm      **Program – Mills Auditorium & Mills Room 2**

**Featuring Scott Payne, Author of *Code Name: Pale Horse, How I went undercover to expose America's Nazis***

New York Times bestseller • *Code Name: Pale Horse* tells the true story of Scott Payne, an undercover FBI agent who infiltrated the dangerous neo-Nazi group *The Base*. Payne, known as “Hillbilly Donnie Brasco,” also worked against the Outlaw Motorcycle Club, tackled the opioid crisis, and infiltrated the Ku Klux Klan. Despite the risks, he balanced his career with family and faith. This book offers a timely look at threats facing America, sharing an honest account of one agent’s dedication to justice.

Time	Class Title and Instructor	Location		
8:30 AM	<b>Undercover Stressors, 1% Motorcycle Clubs, and mental health</b>			
10:00 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scott D. Payne, FBI - Retired (JTTF/Gangs/CEI, Undercover Coordinator, Principal Tactical/Active Shooter/ Defensive Tactics Instructor), ALERRT Adjunct Instructor and Former Deputy, Greenville County Sheriff's Office (South Carolina)</li> </ul>			Mills Auditorium
10:00 AM	Break			
10:30 AM	<b>Undercover Stressors, 1% Motorcycle Clubs, and mental health</b>			
12:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scott D. Payne, Retired (JTTF/Gangs/CEI, Undercover Coordinator, Principal Tactical/Active Shooter/ Defensive Tactics Instructor), ALERRT Adjunct Instructor and Former Deputy, Greenville County Sheriff's Office (South Carolina)</li> </ul>			Mills Auditorium
12:00 PM	Lunch on your own			
1:30 PM	Class and Instructor	Location	Time	Class and Instructor
1:30 PM	<b>Safety Through Mental Health and Resilience</b>	Mills Auditorium	1:30 PM – 3:30 PM	<b>Department of Homeland Security Resources, Programs &amp; Partnerships for Victims</b>
3:30 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ret. Capt. Brandon Post, Provo, Utah PD, VALOR Program</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clarissa Whaley, Victim-Witness Program Manager, USAO-SC</li> <li>Robin G. Chapman, DSW, LCSW, National Victim Assistance Program Manager, HSI</li> <li>Eia Richardson, Victim Assistance Specialist, HSI</li> </ul>
4:00 PM	Break			
4:00 PM	<b>Cracking Cold Cases: How AI is Transforming Investigations</b>	Mills Auditorium	4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	<b>The VINELink.com Experience: Delivering Resources to All Victims!</b>
5:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jim Penrose, CEO, Tranquility AI</li> </ul>	GAEC		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brad Jeffries, Kevin McKinney, &amp; Karen Adams, Equifax Workforce Solutions</li> </ul>
7:00 PM	<b>Evening Reception</b> <b>Embassy Suites</b>			



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**Thursday, May 7, 2026**

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7:30am – 8:30am      **Late Registration Check- In – Gatlinburg Convention Center**

8:30am – 5:00pm      **Program – Mills Auditorium & Mills Room 2**

Time	Class Title and Instructor	Location	Time	Class & Instructor	Location
8:30 AM	<b>Tren de Aragua (TDA): A Brief History, Tactics, Techniques, Procedures, and Recent Activity</b>	Mills Auditorium	8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	<b>Helping the Helpers: Fostering resilience and reducing trauma in victim service professionals</b>	Mills Room 2
9:30 AM	<b>Leveling up your leadership, 1 Degree; by LIVING your legacy, not leaving one.</b>	Mills Auditorium	9:30 AM – 10:45 AM	<b>Trauma-Informed Victim Services &amp; Interviewing</b>	Mills Room 2
10:45 AM	• Michael Walters, Special Agent, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation	<u>GAEC</u>		• Angela Moreland, Ph.D., Associate Director, National Mass Violence Center (NMVC)	
10:45 AM	• Chris Cowan, Executive Director of the Excellence in Policing and Public Safety Program at the University of South Carolina's Rice School of Law and Director of Professional Development, Jim Hudson Automotive Group. Former Chief of Police in Cayce, SC			• Angela Moreland, Ph.D., Associate Director, NMVC	
11:00 AM	• Cassidee Carlson, C3 Strategies, LLC			• Cassidee Carlson C3 Strategies LLC	
11:00 AM	<b>Break</b>				
12:00 PM	<b>From Chaos to Control: Critical Incidents and Officer involved Shootings</b>	Mills Auditorium	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	<b>Victim Service Responses in Mass Violence Incidents</b>	Mills Room 2
12:00 PM	• L.S. Miller Law, Scott Miller	<u>GAEC</u>		National Mass Violence Center	
1:15 PM				• Angela Moreland-Johnson, Ph.D., NMVC	
1:15 PM	<b>Integrated Response: A Case Study of the Laguna Woods Mass Shooting</b>			• Cassidee Carlson C3 Strategies LLC	
2:30 PM	• Scott Dierdoff, Orange County Fire Authority (SLATT Program)			• Clarissa Whaley, Victim-Witness Program Manager, USAO-SC	
2:45 PM					
2:45 PM	<b>The Impact of Transnational Organized Crime on National Cargo Theft Trends</b>				
3:45 PM	• Steve Hall, Supervisory Special Agent, National Insurance Crime Bureau				
3:45 PM					
4:45 PM	<b>Inside the Digital Hunt for Darknet Child Sex Offenders</b>				
4:45 PM	• Ryan Heethuis, Investigative Analyst, United States Secret Service				
5:00 PM					
5:00 PM	<b>Conference Closing</b>				

The agenda for this event is finalized; however, session times, classes, and presenters remain subject to revision. All presentations and speakers are currently confirmed. We extend our gratitude to all presenters for their dedication to upholding the distinguished standards of this training event. The Gatlinburg Law Enforcement Conference is sponsored, organized, and funded by the Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police.