

2026 GLEC Course Descriptions



Tuesday, May 6, 2026

10:35 a.m.- 12:05 p.m. **Responding and Investigating Hoax Bomb Threats and Swatting**

Brian LaBlanc, Supervisory Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Field Office

This 90-minute training offers a summary of bomb threats, swatting hoaxes, related statistics, and nationwide trends. The training will also cover the characteristics of hoax calls, law enforcement best practices for assessment and response, and the decision-making process for evacuation or sheltering in place.

1:30 p.m.- 3:30 p.m. **Drug-Related Death Investigations**

Lt. Josh Shaffer, Knoxville Police Department

This block of instruction introduces attendees to overdose and drug related deaths investigations and prosecutions. The course would focus on how drugs effect the body and cause death, many ways in which these deaths can be investigated, as well as benefits to investigating them. It would also provide information on building a prosecutable for court, the types of cases that can be prosecuted, and current law and case laws related to prosecutions.

Objectives include:

1. List the state and federal statutes that pertain to drug related death prosecutions.
2. Name the three parts that must be proven for prosecuting a drug related death.
3. Name the U.S. Supreme Court case that dealt with proof in drug related death investigations and list the standards that they described that needed to be met.
4. List five different levels of drug related death investigations.
5. Name the major organ systems of the body that are acutely affected by drug use.
6. Name the most critical piece of evidence in a drug related death investigation.

4:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. **Emerging Threats in Terrorism: Nihilistic Violent Extremism**

Max Wooten, Veteran Law Enforcement Officer and Expert Investigator, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

This presentation provides an overview of the emerging threat of nihilistic violent extremists operating online for the purpose of targeting and exploiting minors. These predators, often minors themselves, communicate across multiple encrypted social media platforms and applications to befriend, coerce, and extort innocent victims to engage in sadistic and violent behavior, up to and including self-torture, sexual exploitation, and suicide. This presentation will focus on 764, a loosely organized network of online violent extremists, who's primary goal is to sow chaos, cause destruction, and accelerate the downfall of society, beginning with minor victims. A brief case study will be discussed involving a 764 individual that terrorized victims domestically and internationally. This case was investigated and prosecuted in the Middle District of North Carolina.

Wednesday, May 7, 2026

8:30 a.m.- 12:05 p.m.

Undercover Stressors, 1% Motorcycle Clubs, and Mental Health

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)

This course, led by Retired Special Agent Scott D. Payne, provides an in-depth exploration of the cumulative stress experienced by undercover officers during long-term assignments, particularly those targeting outlaw biker groups. Drawing from real-world experiences, the curriculum guides students in identifying a wide range of stressors—such as adverse events, frequent travel, oversight pressures, family absence, operational support gaps, technical challenges, and the anxiety of high-risk operations. It emphasizes the inherent dangers of undercover work and the critical importance of recognizing and managing the adverse effects of accumulated stress. Students learn to set personal “tripwires” to detect stress build-up, develop individualized decompression strategies, and adopt effective coping mechanisms to maintain mental health and resilience. Instruction is delivered through multimedia presentations and recordings, equipping participants with practical tools to safeguard their well-being in demanding law enforcement environments.

1:30 p.m.- 3:30 p.m.

Safety Through Mental Health and Resilience

Ret. Capt. Brandon Post, Provo, Utah PD, VALOR Program

The VALOR Officer Safety and Wellness Program, funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice, provides high-quality training, direct assistance, and resources to law enforcement agencies nationwide. This training focuses on addressing suicide as the leading cause of officer death and highlights the importance of mental wellness for law enforcement professionals. Participants will learn strategies to take control of their health, improve work-life balance, and support agency goals through enhanced personal well-being.

Led by Captain Brandon Post, a retired 20-year law enforcement veteran and former SWAT Team Leader of the Provo, Utah, Police Department, this course offers firsthand insights into building resilience and responsibility for one's wellness. Captain Post shares his experience developing the Provo Police Department's first comprehensive wellness program, which prioritizes holistic approaches and supportive resources to improve officers' quality of life.

4:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.

Cracking Cold Cases: How AI is Transforming Investigations

Jim Penrose, CEO, Tranquility AI

This course explores the transformative role of artificial intelligence (AI) in solving cold cases within law enforcement and forensic investigations. Through an in-depth examination of real-world case studies, participants will learn how cutting-edge AI technologies, including data mining, predictive analytics, and pattern recognition—are leveraged to analyze evidence, uncover new leads, and revisit unsolved crimes. The curriculum highlights both the practical applications and ethical considerations of AI, offering insights into its current capabilities and future potential in criminal justice. By the end of the course, students will gain a comprehensive understanding of how AI is reshaping investigative strategies and improving outcomes in cold case investigations.

Thursday, May 7, 2026

8:30 a.m.- 9:30 a.m. **Tren de Aragua (TDA): A Brief History, Tactics, Techniques, Procedures, and Recent Activity**

Michael Walters, *Special Agent*, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation

This presentation provides a comprehensive examination of the Tren de Aragua organization, starting with its history and origins. It discusses TDA's official designation as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO), other groups with FTO status, and recent international law enforcement actions targeting such organizations. The structure and leadership of TDA are outlined, along with its sub-organizations, allies, and adversaries. The presentation explores TDA's presence and expansion throughout Central and South America, as well as its activities in the United States, including Tennessee. It highlights the phases of TDA's growth, lists the various illicit activities it engages in, and examines both member and victim tattoo indicators. Intelligence-led indicators, such as commercial sex advertisements and their distinguishing features, are addressed. Recent encounters with TDA in Tennessee, along with common tactics, techniques, and procedures, are reviewed, including recruitment strategies and modes of victimization. The presentation also covers other criminal activities beyond human trafficking—such as ATM jackpotting and involvement in theft groups—providing a review of their methods and local incident statistics. Additionally, it offers helpful resources for investigators and statistical evidence that proactive law enforcement can reduce criminal activity. The session concludes with a Q&A section.

9:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m. **Leveling up your leadership, 1 Degree; by LIVING your legacy, not leaving one.**

Chris Cowan, *Executive Director*, 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

Police leadership and management start with understanding the difference between success and significance and the difference between living a legacy and leaving a legacy. So, what is your strategic and dynamic readiness to leveling up your leadership? Water boils at 212 degrees. It can cook at 211 degrees; it is successful at 211. What will it take for you to go from success to significance and level up your leadership that one degree. This professional development session will take you out of your comfort zone and challenge your thinking. We will help you build your capacity, your passion and purpose, your effectiveness as a leader and a clearer understanding of being a predictive and preparative leader. The presentation includes an interactive power point and session that will provide you with practical, applicable skills to being an executive who is better today than you were yesterday. Focusing on passion, purpose and the profession.

Thursday, May 7, 2026-continued

11:05 a.m.-12:05 p.m.

From Chaos to Control: Critical Incidents and Officer involved Shootings

L.S. Miller Law: L. Scott Miller and Aaron Ann Cole

This training session, led by Honorable Scott Miller, focuses on critical incidents that officers encounter in the field and the legal challenges that follow. It provides law enforcement personnel with essential knowledge and strategies to navigate high-risk situations, protect their legal rights, and ensure proper procedural response.

The session begins by defining critical incidents, including officer-involved shootings, high-speed pursuits, use-of-force encounters, and other high-liability events. Miller outlines key legal principles that govern law enforcement actions, emphasizing constitutional rights, departmental policies, and case law precedents that impact officers' decisions in the field.

Attendees will explore best practices for responding to critical incidents, including proper documentation, securing evidence, and engaging legal counsel early in the process. The session also discusses the role of internal investigations and prosecutorial discretion, addressing how officers can proactively mitigate legal risks while maintaining public trust.

Additionally, Miller provides insights into courtroom procedures, depositions, and defense strategies for officers involved in civil lawsuits or criminal investigations. He shares real-world case examples to illustrate how officers can navigate legal challenges, reduce their liability exposure, and ensure their actions are legally justified.

The session concludes with a Q&A discussion, allowing participants to ask specific questions, review past incidents, and gain practical guidance for handling future high-risk situations.

1:15 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

Integrated Response: A Case Study of the Laguna Woods Mass Shooting

Scott Dierdoff, Orange County Fire Authority (SLATT Program)

A detailed case study of the Laguna Woods mass shooting, highlighting the coordinated response of law enforcement, emergency services, and community stakeholders. This session underscores lessons learned and best practices for managing hate-motivated violence.

Gain executive-level insights into managing complex crisis events through a case study of the Laguna Woods mass shooting. This session emphasizes leadership in coordinating multi-agency responses, fostering community trust, and developing strategic plans to address hate-motivated violence.

Thursday, May 7, 2026, continued

2:45 p.m.-3:45 p.m.

The Impact of Transnational Organized Crime on National Cargo Theft Trends

Steve Hall, *Supervisory Special Agent*, National Insurance Crime Bureau

This course explores the complex nexus between transnational organized crime (TOC) and national cargo theft, providing an in-depth analysis of how international criminal networks orchestrate and profit from the theft of goods in transit. Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of the evolving methodologies used by TOC groups, the vulnerabilities they exploit and how law enforcement can take steps to identify and investigate these crimes and the criminal networks.

Some possible Key Topics Include:

- Understanding Transnational Organized Crime: Examination of the structure, operations, and global reach of major criminal networks involved in illicit trade.
- The Global Supply Chain as a Target: Identification of critical vulnerabilities in maritime, air, road, and rail transport susceptible to criminal exploitation.
- Methodologies of Cargo Theft: Detailed analysis of tactics ranging from sophisticated cyber-attacks on logistics systems to physical hijackings and insider collusion.
- Economic and Security Impacts: Assessment of financial losses to businesses, insurance implications, and the link between cargo theft and the funding of other serious crimes.

3:45 p.m.-4:45 p.m.

Inside the Digital Hunt for Darknet Child Sex Offenders

Ryan Heethuis, *Investigative Analyst*, United States Secret Service

This presentation will focus on dual case studies. The first case will cover a United States Secret Service case that demonstrates how a dedicated group of agents and analysts identified and arrested an unknown child abuser who produced and distributed child abuse videos on the dark web, within five days. The second will outline the 8-year hunt for a prolific traveling child sex offender. This presentation will highlight how outside-the-box-thinking and state-of-the-art forensic analysis allowed USSS investigators and analysts to gain better insight into the case and develop key artifacts that allowed the USSS to ultimately identify the offenders responsible for these crimes. Other topics covered in this presentation will include effective case management techniques, interview strategies, and utilization of partnerships (including both law enforcement and private sector partners), all of which were essential to the overall success of the case. Finally, this case study will also highlight areas that the USSS identified needed improvement and how those changes were made to ensure a more effective response for victim identification cases moving forward.

Victim Services Track Workshops



**VICTIM SERVICES
Track**

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Professional Ethics in Victim Services

Alejandro Palacios, *Victim Advocacy Training Manager*, National Organization for Victim Advocacy (NOVA)

In this 1.5-hour presentation on Professional Ethics in Victim Services, participants will explore the ethical principles and dilemmas commonly encountered in the field. The session will cover core values such as confidentiality, integrity, and impartiality, and discuss how these principles guide daily decision-making when supporting victims. Attendees will learn to recognize potential conflicts of interest, navigate boundary issues, and maintain professionalism under challenging circumstances. The presentation will include real-world scenarios and interactive discussions to help participants apply ethical frameworks to complex cases, equipping them with practical tools and strategies for upholding the highest standards of conduct in victim services.

1:30 p.m.- 3:30 p.m. Technology Safety for Victims of Crime

Alejandro Palacios, *Victim Advocacy Training Manager*, National Organization for Victim Advocacy (NOVA)

In this two-hour session on Technology Safety for Victims of Crime, participants will learn how digital tools and online platforms can impact the safety and privacy of crime victims. The presentation will cover essential topics such as identifying and mitigating risks associated with social media, smartphones, and other connected devices. Attendees will explore strategies for protecting personal information, recognizing common forms of technology-facilitated abuse, including stalking, harassment, and doxing—and responding effectively to digital threats. Practical demonstrations and case studies will help participants understand how to assist victims in securing their communications, managing device settings, and accessing resources for online safety. By the end of the session, attendees will be equipped with actionable knowledge and best practices to empower and safeguard victims in a rapidly evolving technological landscape.

4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Emerging Topics in Victim Services Roundtable Discussion

- **Jenny Parker, *Victim Witness Coordinator*, USAO-EDKY**
- **TBD**

This roundtable provides an open forum for professionals in victim services to discuss new trends, challenges, and innovative practices affecting the field. Participants will engage in collaborative dialogue on current issues—such as evolving technology, legislative changes, and shifting community needs—while sharing insights and strategies to better support victims. The session encourages interactive participation, peer learning, and the exchange of practical solutions, helping attendees stay informed and prepared for emerging developments in victim advocacy.

Victim Services Track Workshops

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

1:30 p.m.- 3:30 p.m. Department of Homeland Security Resources, Programs & Partnerships for Victims

- **Clarissa Whaley, *Victim-Witness Program Manager, USAO-SC***
- **Robin G. Chapman, DSW, LCSW, *National Victim Assistance Program Manager, Homeland Security Investigations***
- **Eia Richardson, *Victim Assistance Specialist, Homeland Security Investigations***

This two-hour instructional block provides an in-depth overview of the Department of Homeland Security's key resources, victim assistance programs, and collaborative partnerships designed to support individuals impacted by crime and trauma. Attendees will learn about federal initiatives aimed at aiding victims, including available services, points of contact, and best practices for connecting victims with critical support. The session also highlights how law enforcement agencies and community organizations can leverage DHS programs to enhance assistance and outreach, fostering coordinated responses that maximize support for victims. Participants will engage with case examples, receive practical guidance, and have opportunities to ask questions, ensuring they leave with actionable knowledge to better serve their communities.

4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. The VINELink.com Experience: Delivering Resources to All Victims!

- **Brad Jeffries, Equifax Workforce Solutions**
- **Joyce Karrfalt, Equifax Workforce Solutions**

Approximately one-third of women and one-fifth of men will become victims of crime. Crime knows no boundaries. There is no age, race, gender, creed, or socioeconomic status that has escaped victimization. Nationwide, fewer than 1 in 10 victims of crime receive resources needed for recovery. As crime survivors seek justice, they deserve access to support, planning, community resources, and technologies that are inclusive of who they are, and what they need. VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday) is a broad platform of web-based products that empowers all victims of crime with access to life-saving resources.

VINE uses innovative, human-centered technology to provide access to centrally located resources, making offender custody, court case, and protective order status information accessible to victims in this digital age, giving crime victims complete control and a choice, along with their families, to identify and work collaboratively with allied professionals. By incorporating self-service functionality and providing the ability to select preferred pathways of communication, VINE is facilitating a greater degree of information sharing between victims, advocates and service providers, law enforcement, and criminal justice personnel.

Objectives include:

- Learn about the history of the VINE service and how VINE, VINE Courts, and VINE Protective Order leverage mobile app technology to provide innovative solutions that allow victims to knowledgeably plan for their safety.
- By incorporating feedback, testimonials and case studies from victims, victim service providers and law enforcement, participants will understand the benefits VINE, VINE Courts, and VINE Protective Order features provide victims, advocates, service providers, law enforcement, and criminal justice professionals.
- Participate in interactive activities to learn how to include the VINE platform of products in local programs, jobs, and communities.

Victim Services Track Workshops

Thursday, May 7, 2026

8:30 a.m.- 9:30 a.m. Helping the Helpers: Fostering resilience and reducing trauma in victim service professionals

Angela Moreland, Ph.D., Associate Director, National Mass Violence Center (NMVC)

Law enforcement officers and victim service professionals routinely respond to individuals impacted by crime and trauma, placing them at increased risk for secondary traumatic stress, burnout, and compassion fatigue. This presentation focuses on supporting the well-being and resilience of professionals who serve victims across all types of crime. The session will examine how repeated exposure to trauma affects helpers cognitively, emotionally, and physiologically, and how unaddressed stress can undermine both professional effectiveness and personal well-being. Participants will learn evidence-informed strategies for self-care, boundary setting, peer and organizational support, and trauma-informed workplace practices. Practical tools for recognizing warning signs of cumulative stress, mitigating secondary trauma, and fostering resilience at both individual and team levels will be shared. The presentation will conclude with an overview of resources and supports to promote sustainable, trauma-informed practice within law enforcement and victim services.

9:30 p.m.-10:45 a.m. Trauma-Informed Victim Services & Interviewing

- **Angela Moreland, Ph.D., Associate Director, NMVC**
- **Cassidee Carlson, C3 Strategies, LLC**

Victims of crime often engage with law enforcement and prosecutorial systems during periods of acute distress, trauma, and vulnerability. This presentation highlights trauma-informed, victim-centered, and culturally competent approaches to victim services and interviewing that promote victim safety, engagement, and effective justice outcomes. Presenters will provide a concise overview of trauma, victimization, and common trauma responses, including the impact of crime across diverse populations and offense types such as gender-based violence, child exploitation, elder abuse, human trafficking, hate crimes, and mass casualty events. The session will examine principles of trauma-informed healing and evidence-based practices, with practical guidance for interacting with highly distressed victims. Strategies for demonstrating empathy, effective listening, de-escalation, and mitigating organizational and provider-level stressors will be discussed. The panel will conclude with a focus on fostering resilience and sustainable practice among professionals working with victims.

11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Victim Service Responses in Mass Violence Incidents

- **Angela Moreland-Johnson, Ph.D., NMVC**
- **Cassidee Carlson C3 Strategies LLC**
- **Clarissa Whaley, Victim-Witness Program Manager, USAO-SC**

Drawing on lessons learned from mass violence incident (MVI) responses over the past two decades, this presentation provides practical guidance for law enforcement professionals and victim advocates working in the immediate aftermath of mass violence. The session will highlight the acute impact of MVIs on victims, families, responders, and communities, with a focus on the critical early response period. Participants will learn best practices for coordinated, trauma-informed response, including the roles of law enforcement, victim services, behavioral health, and government agencies during and following an MVI. The presentation will introduce brief, evidence-informed early interventions designed to reduce the risk of longer-term psychological harm and offer practical strategies to support individuals and communities experiencing acute trauma reactions. Common challenges encountered during MVI responses will be discussed, along with actionable solutions. Participants will also receive an overview of current resources and support available through the National Mass Violence Center to strengthen effective, victim-centered response efforts.