

Missing Person

Jennifer Lester,
Ohio Attorney General
PO Box 365
London, OH, 43140



Bio:

Jennifer Lester has been a Criminal Intelligence Analyst at the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation since 2013 and has been employed by the State of Ohio for over 19 years. Prior to joining the intelligence unit, Jennifer worked in the Ohio BCI communications center as a Fingerprint Technician for many years. Jennifer received her Bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University in 2008, majoring in Criminology.

As an analyst, Jennifer handles all types of criminal offenses but specializes in missing persons and unidentified remains cases. Jennifer provides intelligence support to law enforcement including subject research, cell phone analysis and mapping, link analysis, timelines, case organization, and comprehensive case support. Jennifer holds certifications in Analytics and Intelligence and Cell Phone Investigations by Police Technical and is a Certified Cyber Crime Intelligence Analyst through NW3C.

Jennifer has received many awards since working at the Ohio BCI including the Ohio Attorney General's Office Pride Award, Employee of the Quarter, Superintendent Award and the 2021 and 2022 Distinguished Law Enforcement Group Achievement Award.

One-hour presentation

Class Description:

Ms. Lester will go over missing persons laws, case studies etc. along with what and how the Attorney General can aid agencies in missing person cases

Electronic Financial Investigation Unit

Scott Stranahan

Special Agent Supervisor
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Office of Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost
Special Investigations Unit Northwest
Electronic Financial Investigations Unit



Special Agent Jeff Smith is a member of the Electronic Financial Investigation and Cyber Crime Units of BCI. He investigates both cyber-crime and fraud related cases as well as providing digital forensic and technical assistance to the EFIU. SA Smith has 17.5 years in law enforcement, with time spent in local law enforcement as an investigator.



Special Agent Supervisor Scott Stranahan has over 25 years of law enforcement experience. SAS Stranahan supervises both the Electronic Fraud Investigation Unit as well as the Special Investigations Unit in Northwest Ohio. SAS Stranahan is a graduate of the University of Toledo and has completed leadership programs through the Ohio State University and the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police. SAS Stranahan's law enforcement experience includes local, state and several federal task force assignments.



Special Agent Jason Snyder

Special Agent Jason Snyder is an agent with the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation. He has been with BCI for approximately 12 years. SA Snyder has worked for 30 years in various capacities and with various agencies as a law enforcement officer. SA Snyder has worked numerous criminal investigations and has also received specialized training in criminal investigations from the US Army as well as the Ohio Peace Officers Training Academy. SA Snyder has a BA in business and is a Certified Fraud Examiner and a Certified Cryptocurrency Investigator.



Criminal Intelligence Supervisor Mark D. Hoy

Mark D. Hoy proudly serves both the Criminal Intelligence Unit and Electronic Financial Investigation Unit of BCI. As a graduate of Tiffin University and studying at the University of Toledo, Mark has served within state government for over 22 years while maintaining an active commission as a peace officer.

Class Description:

Will speak about the unit, case studies and what to look for when it comes to digital and cyber-crimes.

How Search & Rescue Teams can aid Law Enforcement and Coroners

Margo Kuderer

Cincinnati Search & Recovery



Bio: Margo is a full-time Ohio Deputy with the Butler County Sheriff's Office and a Certified Death Investigator formerly serving with the Hamilton County Coroner's Office. With nearly 25 years of law-enforcement experience, she has built a distinguished career specializing in Sex Offender Registration and Notification (SORN), death investigations, and search-and-rescue/recovery operations.

Her expertise includes six years conducting medicolegal death investigations and five years working in specialized search and recovery missions. In August 2024, Margo's leadership and operational skill led to her appointment as Chief of Cincinnati Search & Recovery (CSAR), where she continues to advance the region's capabilities in locating and recovering missing persons.

Class Description:

This course provides law-enforcement personnel and coroner's office professionals with a comprehensive understanding of how and when to effectively utilize search and rescue (SAR) teams. Participants will learn the benefits of deploying SAR resources in various situations, including missing-person cases, death investigations, evidence searches, and disaster response. The class will highlight operational capabilities, deployment considerations, and best practices for collaborating with SAR units to enhance investigative outcomes.

30-minute presentation

Veterinary Forensic Sciences: Overview, Case Studies, and Considerations (2-hour presentation)

And

Veterinary Forensics: Documentation of Evidence and Forensic Photography (2-hour presentation)

Susan Underkoffler, MFS,



Susan C. Underkoffler, MFS
Director – Wildlife Forensic Sciences & Conservation
Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences
University of Florida
<https://wildlife.forensics.med.ufl.edu/>

Bio:

Susan Underkoffler, MFS is an expert in wildlife crime scene investigation and holds an Associates of Fine Arts degree, two Bachelor of Arts degrees in Conservation Biology and Scientific Illustration from Arcadia University and a Master of Forensic Science degree from Drexel University College of Medicine. She has spent over ten years applying forensic and criminalistic techniques to the investigation of animal crimes, first as Forensics Manager for the Pennsylvania SPCA, where she developed the first Forensics Unit and handled all forensic responsibilities associated with humane law enforcement animal cruelty cases, and then as a consultant to wildlife, livestock and companion animal organizations. For many years she was an environmental scientist, performing wetland delineations, Phase I site assessments, and wildlife and habitat evaluations and monitoring in both Pennsylvania and Delaware and prior to that she researched vaccine development using molecular biotechnology approaches with plants as vector systems. She is currently Director of the Wildlife Forensic Sciences and Conservation graduate program at the University of Florida.

Susan has traveled nationally and internationally as a professional consultant and educator for wildlife and animal cruelty crime scene investigations and has conducted published international research in several African countries. Her artwork and illustrations have received numerous awards and have been featured in many scientific publications and private collections. A passionate science communicator, she enjoys bringing to life her background, experiences and commitment to conservation through her art. Her first textbook, titled *Wildlife Biodiversity Conservation: Multidisciplinary and Forensic Approaches*, was published by Springer International in 2021.

Class Descriptions:

Veterinary Forensic Sciences: Overview, Case Studies, and Considerations

This presentation will define and explain veterinary forensics through the use of animal welfare and abuse case studies in which particular forensic techniques were used in an effort to secure positive court outcomes.

Veterinary Forensics: Documentation of Evidence and Forensic Photography

General crime scene recognition and awareness will be emphasized in this presentation, along with definitions and explanations of forensic evidence of importance in animal cases. It will explore a variety of forensic evidentiary techniques (with particular emphasis on photography) and how anyone can utilize them to strengthen cases.

Child Abuse

Director, Children at Risk Evaluation Center
Child Abuse Pediatrician (CARE Center)
Akron Children's Hospital



Bio: Dr. McPherson is a child abuse pediatrician and director of the Children at Risk Evaluation Center at Akron Children's. He's been practicing since 2007 and with Akron Children's since 2016. He earned his medical degree from Drexel University College of Medicine (formerly MCP/Hahnemann School of Medicine) in Philadelphia, Pa. and completed a residency in pediatrics at Akron Children's. Dr. McPherson went on to complete a fellowship in child abuse pediatrics at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. He is certified by the American Board of Pediatrics in child abuse pediatrics and is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Ray E. Helfer Society. Additionally, Dr. McPherson is a clinical associate professor of pediatrics at Northeast Ohio Medical University.

Class Description:

Dr. McPherson will present an overview of potential indicators of child abuse, discuss the various types of abuse, and explain appropriate steps for responding to these situations.

Two-hour presentation

How to Report a Death

Justin Benner
Forensic Death Investigator
Summit County Medical Examiner
85 N Summit St
Akron, OH 44308



Bio:

I have been employed as a death investigator for the Summit County Medical Examiner since 2011. I hold a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in criminal justice, a master's degree in forensic science, and am currently pursuing a second advanced degree in business psychology.

Class Description:

A PowerPoint presentation and discussion of how to report a death to a coroner or medical examiner's office. An overview of the questions they may ask and the reasoning behind the questions. This will include a summary of the role and purpose of these agencies.

30-minute presentation

Death Investigations

Amy
Forensic Death Investigator
Summit County Medical Examiner
85 N Summit St
Akron, OH 44308

Class Description:

This presentation examines the legal and scientific framework of death investigations, including scene documentation, postmortem examination, forensic evidence analysis, and the interdisciplinary roles of medical examiners, coroners, and law enforcement in producing accurate and defensible determinations. Death investigations involve the systematic examination of deaths to determine cause, manner, and mechanism, using medical, forensic, and investigative methodologies.

30-minute presentation

Homicide Investigations

Pending Akron Police Department

Class Description:

This presentation addresses advanced investigative methodologies, including crime scene reconstruction, forensic pathology, trauma analysis, trace and biological evidence evaluation, medico-legal documentation, and the integration of investigative and analytical findings to support prosecutorial and judicial processes. In addition to homicide investigation's structure, evidence-driven inquiries aimed at establishing the cause, manner, and mechanism of death resulting from intentional human action.

Internet Crimes Against Children & The Dark Web

Special Agent Jason Kerns, Forensic Analyst
Homeland Security, Columbus Oh Office

Bio:

Special Agent Jason Kearns is a 21-year veteran of HSI and has spent the last 13 working in the forensics unit.

Class Description:

Will go over how Homeland Security investigates internet crimes against children, locating IPN and assist local law enforcement agencies with such crimes

Two-hour presentation

Laura Strader | Program Manager | Alzheimer's Association, Greater East Ohio | office:



Bio:

Laura Strader serves as a Program Manager for the Alzheimer's Association Greater East Ohio Chapter. Before joining the Association, she built a diverse career in both the education and arts sectors. Her first-hand experience as a caregiver shapes her deep commitment to supporting individuals and families impacted by Alzheimer's and other dementias. In her current role, Laura brings the Association's free programs and services to communities throughout Coshocton, Holmes, Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit, Tuscarawas, and Wayne counties, ensuring that constituents across the region have access to vital education, care, support, and resources. Laura is a two-time graduate of the University of Akron, and an alumnus of Leadership Stark County's Signature Program 38th class. Outside of her professional career, Laura enjoys being a wife and mother to her two daughters and several pets. In her free time, she volunteers for Girl Scouts of Northeast Ohio and her local PTA.

Designed for first responders, EMTs and law enforcement, this presentation emphasizes the importance of dementia awareness in public service roles and how to better serve affected individuals and families. Included in the presentation:

- basic introduction to Alzheimer's and dementia,
- current methods for diagnosis and treatment options,
- tips and strategies for maintaining a healthy brain,
- overview of the services provided by the association
- clear, compelling call to action encouraging the audience to take meaningful steps.

Two-hour presentation

Class Description

Crimes Against the Elderly

Homeland Security

Class Description:

Crimes against the elderly encompass a range of offenses that exploit age-related vulnerabilities, including physical abuse, neglect, financial exploitation, and psychological harm. This presentation examines the epidemiology, typologies, and risk factors associated with elder victimization, with emphasis on detection strategies, forensic and medical indicators, investigative challenges, reporting mechanisms, and the legal and ethical frameworks governing prevention, intervention, and prosecution.

Two-hour presentation

Sex Trafficking & Opioids Abuse

Anna Becks, BSN, RN, Manager – Forensic Unit

The MetroHealth System | 2500 MetroHealth Drive, Cleveland, OH 44109



Bio: Anna immigrated to the United States in 1990 and learned English by watching *Rescue 911*, which sparked her commitment to emergency care and advocacy for individuals who often go unheard. She entered the field as an EMT after high school and became a paramedic in 2003. Her drive to deliver a higher level of care led her to pursue nursing, where she found her permanent home in emergency medicine. Anna joined The MetroHealth System seven years ago and, in 2020, discovered a new calling in forensic nursing. She now serves as the Forensic Unit Manager and leads MetroHealth's SANE/SAFE program, working clinically at the Cleveland Heights Emergency Department while directing forensic operations across the system. Under her leadership, the program continues to strengthen its mission: providing coordinated, timely, comprehensive, and trauma-informed care to pediatric and adult survivors of sexual assault and interpersonal violence—24 hours a day, at no cost to the patient. MetroHealth was the first hospital in Northeast Ohio to offer SANE services, and Anna is committed to advancing that legacy. Her priorities include expanding access, elevating practice standards, and increasing community awareness of the program's impact and outcomes. Anna's work centers on one core purpose: ensuring that every survivor feels seen, believed, and supported, while strengthening the system's ability to respond with expertise, compassion, and justice-focused care.

Kristin Hess

Session Description

This presentation examines the intersection of human trafficking and substance use disorder, with a specific focus on how substances are intentionally used as tools of coercion, manipulation, and control of vulnerable individuals. Participants will explore trafficking tactics that leverage addiction to maintain compliance, silence victims, and perpetuate exploitation, as well as the neurobiological and psychological impacts that complicate identification and disclosure. Using real-world clinical and advocacy examples, this session highlights trauma-informed, harm-reduction approaches for identification, intervention, and referral across healthcare, advocacy, and safety settings. Attendees will leave with practical strategies to recognize trafficking indicators within substance-using populations and to respond in ways that reduce stigma, enhance trust, and improve safety outcomes.

Learning objectives:

1. **Identify** how substances are used by traffickers as mechanisms of coercion, control, and exploitation within individuals experiencing substance use disorder.
2. **Recognize** clinical and behavioral indicators of human trafficking in patients with active or historical substance use, using a trauma-informed and harm-reduction lens.
3. **Apply** evidence-based strategies for safe engagement, referral, and multidisciplinary collaboration to reduce stigma and improve outcomes for trafficked individuals with substance use disorder.

4-hour presentation

"Inside the Walls: What First Responders Need to Know about Hospital Emergency Management."

Luke Hall, CHEP | Interim Senior EM Program Manager,
South Submarket | Emergency Management

& Phillip McHugh

Akron General Hospital 1 Akron General Avenue, Akron,
OH 44307, Mercy Hospital 1320 Mercy Drive NW,
Canton, OH 44708 & Union Hospital 659 Boulevard,



Luke Bio: Luke Hall is a dedicated emergency management professional currently serving as an Emergency Manager for Cleveland Clinic's South Submarket. In this role, He has led preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery operations for several hospitals, including Tier I and Tier II trauma centers serving Tuscarawas, Stark, Summit, and Medina Counties. Previously, Luke served as the Director of Holmes County Emergency Management Agency where he coordinated the multijurisdictional response to the COVID-19 pandemic. He has also served in the private sector as a consultant specializing in hazard mitigation, business continuity, and emergency operation strategies and is a combat veteran of the Iraq War.

Luke is a Certified Healthcare Emergency Professional (CHEP), state-certified ICS instructor, and federally-certified Hospital Emergency Response Team (HERT) instructor. He actively contributes to regional preparedness through a variety of boards and committees in Stark, Summit, and Tuscarawas Counties including serving as the Chairman of the Tuscarawas County LEPC. He is a volunteer for the Team Rubicon organization that specializes in disaster response and recovery across the United States. Luke graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor's degree in Homeland Security from Trident University International in Cypress, CA.



Phil Bio:

Phillip McHugh is a mission-driven public safety and security leader with nearly two decades of experience spearheading tactical and strategic operations across law enforcement, emergency management, and the private sector. He currently serves as an Emergency Manager for Cleveland Clinic - one of the world's top-ranked health systems - where he leads preparedness, crisis response, and continuity planning programs. He also operates a national consulting firm specializing in event security, threat assessment, and executive protection.

Previously, McHugh served as Senior Advisor for Public Safety in the City of Cleveland, providing counsel to the Mayor and executive leadership for the Divisions of Police, Fire, EMS, and Emergency Management. Earlier, he spent 16+ years with the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington, DC, advancing to senior roles and directing major crime reduction initiatives, investigations, and public safety technology projects.

McHugh is a Certified Protection Professional (CPP) and Certified Healthcare Emergency Professional (CHEP). He holds a master's degree from American University, a Certificate in Public Sector Leadership from Cornell University, and Google's Project Management Certificate.

Class Description

"Inside the Walls: What First Responders Need to Know about Hospital Emergency Management."

Hospitals are often viewed by first responders as the *end point* of an incident—but inside the walls, a complex emergency management operation is unfolding in parallel with field response. This presentation provides police, fire, and EMS personnel with a practical, behind-the-scenes look at how hospitals plan for, respond to, and operate during emergencies and how prior engagement with local healthcare Emergency Management professionals can pay dividends when it matters most.

Participants will gain insight into hospital incident command, internal communication and decision-making, surge and diversion realities, facility complexity, and how clinical priorities drive operational actions during major incidents. The session also highlights common points of friction between hospitals and first responders, explains why certain hospital decisions are made, and identifies opportunities for stronger coordination before, during, and after incidents.

Designed for frontline responders and supervisors, this presentation aims to build shared understanding, improve interoperability, and strengthen trust between hospitals and public safety agencies—so when the next critical incident occurs, responders know not just *where* to bring patients, but how hospitals are functioning once they arrive.

Two-hour presentation

Trauma / Traumatic Injuries

Dr. Rathna Shenoy

Division Chief of Trauma, Critical Care, and Acute Care Surgery
Summa Health



Bio: Dr. Rathna Shenoy is a member of the Summa Health trauma team. Her special interests include trauma surgery, general surgery and surgical critical care. She attended medical school at Northeast Ohio Medical University, served as Chief Resident of General Surgery at Summa Health System Akron Campus, and completed fellowships in Acute Care Surgery and Trauma/Surgical Critical Care at Carolinas Health Care System in Charlotte, NC.

Class Description:

Dr Shenoy will discuss the different traumas that hospitals deal with and what police and fire should be aware of while at the scene. What to avoid and how to treat, along with questions to ask.

Two-hour presentation

Stop the Bleed

Amy Hirnikl BSN,RN,CCRN

Trauma Program
Education and Injury Prevention Coordinator
Summa Health
55 Arch Street | Suite 2D | Akron, OH 44304



Class Description

The Stop the bleed course is designed to equip participants with life-saving skills to manage bleeding emergencies effectively.

1. Applying Direct Pressure: Learn how to use your hands to apply firm pressure to a wound to control bleeding
2. Wound Packing: Understand how to pack a deep wound to help control blood loss
3. Using a Tourniquet: Gain hands-on experience in correctly applying a tourniquet when necessary.

One-hour presentation

Domestic Violence

Julius Payne

Director of Prevention
974 E Market St
Akron Oh 44305



Class Description

A concise, informative presentation that explains what domestic violence is, highlights common forms of abuse (physical, emotional, psychological, financial), discusses warning signs and impacts on individuals and families, and provides information on prevention, support resources, and how to seek help safely.

One-hour presentation

Introduction to Anthropology

Nicholas Passalacqua

Associate Professor with the Ohio State University
4108 Smith Laboratory 174 W 18th Av
Columbus, Ohio 43210



Areas of Expertise

- Forensic Anthropology
- Forensic archaeology
- Ethics
- Bioarchaeology

I am a forensic anthropologist with numerous research interests, most of which focus on the nature and practice of forensic anthropology as a discipline. As such, much of my research is centered on ethics and professionalism and how forensic anthropology operates within those concepts.

At OSU I am an Associate Professor and the Director of the Forensic Anthropology laboratory at The Ohio State University. I am also a co-founder and a current editor of the journal *Forensic Anthropology*. I have served as the Vice President of the American Board of Forensic Anthropology (ABFA), the Chair of the Anthropology Consensus Body of the American Academy of Forensic Science Standards Board (ASB), and the co-Chair of the Anthropology Subcommittee of the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC).

I was the winner of the 2021 American Academy of Forensic Sciences Outstanding Emerging Forensic Scientist Award and I have co-authored the award-winning textbook: *Forensic anthropology: Current methods and practice*, which is currently in its third edition. I have also co-authored the books: *Ethics and professionalism in forensic anthropology*, and *A laboratory manual for forensic anthropology*, in

addition to numerous publications in such journals as: *Forensic Anthropology*, *The American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, *The International Journal of Osteoarchaeology*, and *The Journal of Forensic Sciences*, as well as chapters in such books as: *Skeletal trauma analysis: Case studies in context*, *The analysis of burned human remains*, *Age estimation of the human skeleton*, and *A companion to forensic anthropology*.

Class Description:

Attendees will get an overview of various bones and what are human or not, along with documentation and how to package the remains

Two-hour presentation

Law Updates

Brian V. LoPrinzi
Chief, Criminal Division
Summit County Prosecutor's Office
53 University Ave. 6th Floor
Akron, Ohio 44308

Bio:

Chief Assistant Summit County Prosecutor Brian LoPrinzi graduated from Baylor University with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. He worked as a circuit court clerk in Virginia for several years before attending the University of Akron School of Law. While attending law school, he worked for the City of Akron Law Department as a legal intern in the criminal division. He joined the Summit County Prosecutor's Office in 1996. He is the Chief Assistant Prosecutor of the Criminal Division.

Class Description:

- Statutory Law Updates
- Case Law Updates

*A Mandatory OPOTA Course

Two-hour presentation

Firearms: Safety, Laws and more

Sgt Ben Taylor, Firearms Instructor
Medina County Sheriff's Office
555 Independence Dr., Medina OH 44256



Class Description:

Sgt Taylor will present on

Class Description

Firearms in criminal and domestic contexts play a significant role in patterns of violence, injury, and mortality. This presentation examines the use of firearms in criminal activity and within the home, with emphasis on firearm typologies, mechanisms of operation, and principles of internal and external ballistics. Topics include gunshot wound analysis, trajectory determination, toolmark and firearms examination, evidentiary value of ballistic evidence, and the implications for forensic investigation, risk assessment, and legal proceedings.

Two-hour presentation