



**NATIONAL DEFENDER INVESTIGATOR ASSOCIATION
2022 REGIONAL CONFERENCE
Austin, TX**



“Ready, Set, Investigate!”

CONFERENCE AGENDA

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm			REGISTRATION	TUESDAY, September 6
8:00 am – 9:15 am			REGISTRATION and Coffee Bar	WEDNESDAY, September 7
9:15 am – 9:30 am			Welcome and Opening Remarks	
			NDIA President	
9:30 am – 10:45 am			PLENARY	
			Cultural Competence and the Importance of Race, Ethnicity, and Culture	
			Adrián de la Rosa, Investigator, Capital Habeas Unit, Federal Defender for Western District of Texas, Austin, TX Pennybacker	
Discussion surrounding cultural competence and the importance of race, ethnicity, and culture, both for meeting required legal standards, but most importantly, approaching and conducting respectful and meaningful investigative work with exceptional proficiency and diligence in diverse communities. The discussion will include strategies for mitigation specialists and fact investigators conducting culturally competent investigations, as well as ways the entire legal team can support a culturally competent investigation to enhance client-centered legal representation. The hope is that although this discussion will support the development of some practical skills and knowledge needed to interact more effectively with people from various backgrounds, it also will serve as a starting point for continued conversations about building awareness, knowledge, and skills related to cultural competency.				
10:45 am – 11:00 am			Networking Break, Exhibits	
11:00 am – 12:15 pm			CONCURRENT SESSIONS	
Touch DNA / Cross Contamination Stacey Deville, M.F.S., Texas Forensic Investigative Consultants, Inc., Bee Cave, TX Mansfield A Session Description	Narrative Investigation Thea Posel, Clinical Instructor, Univ. of Texas at Austin School of Law, Austin, TX Pennybacker Human beings make sense of the world through stories. This session will discuss conceptualizing the task of investigation as encompassing not only the facts of the government's case but also fleshing out the narrative arc of our clients' lives. This approach can help defense teams develop and utilize evidence in ways that are more compelling, presenting decision-makers with stories that are comprehensive and powerfully explanatory, leading to better results for individual clients and expanding the scope of what is "relevant" in criminal legal proceedings.	Financial Records 101 / Forensic Accounting Case Study (Working Title) Edmund Martin, Chief Investigator, Sage Investigations, LLC, Austin, TX Mansfield B Session Description		
12:15 pm – 1:15 pm			Lunch Break on Your Own	
1:15 pm – 2:30 pm			CONCURRENT SESSIONS	
Trial Preparation 101 Leonor Delgado, Administrative Investigator, Travis County Public Defender's Office, Austin, TX Room Session Description	Session Topic Pending Kevin Tully, Chief Public Defender, Mecklenburg County, Charlotte, NC Room Session Description	Handling Difficult/Hostile Witnesses Rashid Abdul-Salaam, Investigator, Federal Public Defender, Northern District AL, Birmingham, AL Room Session Description		
2:30 pm – 2:45 pm			Networking Break, Exhibits	
2:45 pm – 4:00 pm			CONCURRENT SESSIONS	
Unmasking the Anonymous: Internet Investigation Techniques Bonnie Bacarisse, Senior Post-Conviction Investigator and Mitigation Specialist, Office of Capital and Forensic Writs, Austin, TX Room These days, everyone has an online footprint. Under the perceived cloak of anonymity of the web, some users reveal their true selves—selves which they may otherwise conceal in the real world. In this presentation, you will learn techniques to trace a person's digital footprint—spread across many years and across many social media platforms—and how to connect these personas to the same individual. This presentation will be helpful for new and seasoned investigators alike, and will cover the basics of internet investigation, in addition to more advanced techniques. We will also discuss when internet investigations can be helpful to your cases, who to investigate, and tips on how to best preserve your findings and organize your research.	The Modern Defense Investigator: Go Digital! Robert Theis, Investigator, Federal Public Defender, Eastern District of Missouri, St. Louis, MO Room This presentation will provide information to help the modern defense investigator with their transition to digital. This session will cover common pitfalls and provide tips and tricks to making the transition to digital easier. This presentation will provide an overview of current software and hardware that will assist in this digital transition. With emphasis on the iPhone, OneNote and the Remarkable writing tablet as the backbone of this investigators' digital toolkit. The session will follow a case from beginning to end using modern digital techniques from opening the case, working with discovery, working in the community, taking notes, picking a jury and finally, closing the case and archiving. This presentation is geared toward the defense investigator; however, mitigation specialists, paralegals and lawyers will also find this useful in organizing their cases.	Identifying Signs/Symptoms of Mental Health in Clients & Witnesses Miranda Nolen, JD, LMSW, Mitigation Unit Manager, Texas Defender Service, Austin, TX Nayeli Moreno, Mitigation Specialist, Texas Defender Service, Austin, TX Room Session Description		
4:00 pm – 4:15 pm			Networking Break, Exhibits	
4:15 pm – 5:30 pm			PLENARY	
			The Wrongful Conviction of The San Antonio Four	
			Anna Vasquez, Director of Outreach and Education, Innocence Project of Texas, San Antonio, TX Deb Esquenazi, Filmmaker, Austin, TX Pennybacker	
In March 1995, 20-year-old Elizabeth Ramirez and three of her friends were indicted on charges of sexually molesting Ramirez's 7-year-old and 9-year-old nieces in San Antonio, Texas. The girls claimed that Ramirez, 21-year-old Kristie Mayhugh, 19-year-old Cassandra Rivera and 19-year-old Anna Vasquez spent a week in an orgy of molestation. The jury convicted Ramirez of aggravated assault of a child and indecency with a child. She received 37½ years in prison. Mayhugh, Vasquez and Rivera were tried together and convicted. Each was sentenced to 15 years in prison. A film titled "Southwest of Salem" was made about the case by filmmaker Deb Esquenazi of Austin, Texas. In November 2016, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals vacated the convictions of the four women, ruling in favor of them on their actual innocence claim and a faulty science claim. In this session, Anna Vasquez and Deb Esquenazi share Anna's story about being wrongfully convicted, the impact it had on Anna, and what she's doing now to help others. Read more about her story here: https://innocencetexas.org/cases/anna-vasquez				
Networking Reception – Atrium (Lobby Level) – 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm				



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8:30 am – 9:30 am			Coffee Bar / Opening Remarks (9:25 am)	THURSDAY, September 8
NDIA President				
9:30 am – 10:45 am			PLENARY	
Session Pending Name, Title/Office, City, State Pennybacker				
Blurb				
10:45 am – 11:00 am			Networking Break, Exhibits	
11:00 am – 12:15 pm			CONCURRENT SESSIONS	
The More You Know Stacey Deville, M.F.S., Texas Forensic Investigative Consultants, Inc., Bee Cave, TX Room A crime scene consultant's overall analysis of how to process a crime scene properly. Procedures, protocols, and traps to watch for. **Please note this Session contains very graphic content.	Session Pending Name, Title/Office, City, State Room Session Description	Juvenile-Related Session (Title TBD) Emily Schuerman, Mitigation Specialist, Lone Star Justice Alliance, Austin, TX TBD, Lone Star Justice Alliance, Austin, TX Room Session Description.		
12:15 pm – 1:15 pm			Lunch Break	
1:15 pm – 2:30 pm			CONCURRENT SESSIONS	
Tech-Related Session (Title TBD) Eric Hirst, Chief Information Officer, Public Defender Service, Washington, DC Matt Hanna, Supervisory Investigator, Public Defender Service, Washington, DC Room Session Description	Session Pending Name, Title/Office, City, State Room Session Description	Capital Defense Case Investigations Rashid Abdul-Salaam, Investigator, Federal Public Defender, Northern District AL, Birmingham, AL Room Our nation has a long-established tolerance and acceptance for Capital Punishment. This presents extremely difficult challenges for capital defense teams in general, but for the investigators in particular, because we are the initial face of contact with most players in these cases. As of October 1, 2019, the total number of state prisoners on death row is 2,639. California leads the nation with 727, while New Hampshire and Wyoming are tied for the fewest number with 1 each. In total there are 30 states in the U.S. with the death penalty. There are currently 62 federal death row prisoners. These prisoners are from 23 states in the U.S., with Texas having the most (13). The last federal execution was in March 2003. This presenter will discuss compelling, innovative and progressive strategies used in his over 31 years of capital defense experience to achieve an optimum investigative result.		
2:30 pm – 2:45 pm			Networking Break, Exhibits	
2:45 pm – 4:00 pm			CONCURRENT SESSIONS	
‘Case Scenario Speed Dating’ Presenters Pending Room Short (2-3 minute) role playing exercises using cue cards to cover various scenarios that can arise day-to-day within the work that we do. The exercises will include some good and bad examples, with the intent of creating dialogue amongst attendees. Attendee participation is encouraged, as any shared experience(s) help everyone become better advocates for our clients.	Session Pending Name, Title/Office, City, State Room Session Description	Session Pending Name, Title/Office, City, State Room Session Description		