

# PCE NATIONAL BEST PRACTICES COMMITTEE MEETING PROSECUTING AND PREVENTING GUN VIOLENCE PART 2



## NBP

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JULY 17, 2025



# **AGENDA**

**JULY 17, 2025**

**12PM-2PM (ET)**

## **Part Two: New Approaches to Prosecuting Gun Violence**

### **What Works**

Ben Struhl, Executive Director, Crime and Justice Policy Lab (CJP),  
University of Pennsylvania

### **Science-Based Interviewing**

Linda Ford, Counsel to the Legal Training Unit and Senior Trial Counsel,  
New York County District Attorney's Office

### **Intelligence Driven Prosecutions**

Bernadette Safrath, Supervisor; Jordy Burgos, Crime Analyst; and Lara  
Hanley, Crime Analyst, Bronx District Attorney's Office

### **Proving a Non-Fatal Shooting Case without a Victim**

L. Newton Mendys, Chief, Violent Criminal Enterprises Unit, Bronx District  
Attorney's Office

# SPEAKER BIOS

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## **Jordy Burgos**

Crime Analyst

Bronx District Attorney's Office, New York



Jordy Burgos joined the Bronx District Attorney's Office in 2020. He was assigned to the Logistics Unit while attending John Jay College of Criminal Justice and graduated in 2021 with a major in Criminal Justice and a minor in Criminology. Jordy then became a Paralegal at the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office, where he assisted in the prosecution and gathering of discovery for felony assault and firearm cases. In 2022, Jordy returned to the Bronx District Attorney's Office as a Trial Preparation Assistant for the Rikers Island Bureau, where he assisted with cases involving contraband, assaults, and assaults on correctional officers. In 2024, Jordy joined the Crime Strategies Bureau as an Intelligence Analyst where he maintains crime data, timelines of incidents, and helps identify priority offenders from the West Bronx. His daily work includes utilizing OSINT tools to gather information, including social media, to develop a greater understanding of priority offenders and/or prosecutions, with a focus on Trinitario gang violence. During the past year, Jordy has been involved in envisioning and building the Bronx District Attorney's Office Fordham Hot Spot Initiative and implementing strategies to reduce violent crime.

## **Linda Ford**

Deputy Director of Legal Training  
New York County District Attorney's Office, New York



Linda Ford is Counsel to the Legal Training Unit and Senior Trial Counsel at the New York County District Attorney's Office, where she has served as a prosecutor since 1988. She spent thirty years as a homicide prosecutor, handling all aspects of homicide cases from pre-arrest investigations through trial, sentencing, and post-conviction litigation. Her homicide trials have encompassed a wide range of cases, including murder of a NYPD police officer, murder of witnesses, gang-related murders, domestic violence homicides, vehicular homicides, and murders committed during robbery, burglary, arson, kidnapping, and rape. While serving in the Firearms Trafficking Unit, ADA Ford initiated and led long-term, multi-jurisdictional investigations, utilizing techniques such as undercover buy operations, search warrants, electronic surveillance, and confidential informants. More recently, she incorporated Science-Based Interviewing into legal training at DANY, a transformational approach that advances ethical, effective, and fair prosecution. Linda was honored with the 2024 Robert M. Morgenthau Award presented by the District Attorneys Association of the State of New York. She holds a JD from Georgetown University Law Center.



## **Kristine Hamann**

Executive Director  
Prosecutors' Center for Excellence



Kristine Hamann is the founder and Executive Director of Prosecutors' Center for Excellence (PCE). PCE provides consulting, assessments, publications, national meetings, independent case review and research services for prosecutors in offices of all sizes. PCE promotes best practices, spurs innovation and implements solutions on a wide variety of topics. Ms. Hamann chairs the National Best Practices Committee for prosecutors and the Best Practices Committee for the District Attorneys Association of the State of New York. She teaches a prosecutor practicum at Georgetown Law School. From 2013 to 2016, Kristine Hamann was a Visiting Fellow at the United States Department of Justice/Bureau of Justice Assistance pursuing best practices for prosecutors. From 2008 to 2013, Ms. Hamann was the Executive Assistant District Attorney for the Special Narcotics Prosecutor for the City of New York. From 2007 to 2008, Ms. Hamann was the New York State Inspector General. Prior to that Ms. Hamann served as the Executive Assistant DA to DA Robert Morgenthau in the Manhattan District Attorney's Office in New York City. Ms. Hamann held several other positions in that office including Deputy Chief of the Trial Division and Director of Training. She has received many awards for her public service.

## **Lara Hanley**

Crime Analyst

Bronx District Attorney's Office, New York



Lara Hanley joined the Bronx District Attorney's Office as an Intelligence Analyst in the Crime Strategies Bureau in 2023 after graduating with a Certificate of Graduate Studies in Homeland Security from the University at Albany. Lara was assigned to the Crime Strategies Bureau where she works to develop and implement strategies focused on the reduction of violent crime and improvement of public safety, specifically focusing on the West Bronx. Lara maintains crime data, timelines of incidents, and helps identify priority offenders from the West Bronx. Her daily work includes utilizing OSINT tools to gather information, including social media, to develop a greater understanding of priority offenders and/or prosecutions. During the past year, Lara has been involved in envisioning and building the Bronx District Attorney's Office Fordham Hot Spot Initiative and implementing strategies to reduce violent crime.

Lara previously interned at the Nassau County Attorney's Office where she assisted in the approval and implementation of legislative matters and litigation research. She also interned at Planned Parenthood Federation of America as an Intelligence Analyst for the Global Safety and Security team.

## **Newton Mendys**

Assistant District Attorney  
Bronx District Attorney's Office, New York



Newton Mendys has been an Assistant District Attorney in Bronx County, New York since September of 2004. He started his career in the General Crimes Division where he handled and tried a variety of felony cases including, DWI's, robberies, burglaries, home invasions, assaults and attempted murders, kidnappings, and homicides. He managed cooperating witnesses and has experience with expert witnesses in a variety of fields, including medicine, ballistics, latent prints, DNA, gang behavior and activity, forensic pathology and sleep disorders. In 2013, Mr. Mendys was assigned to the Investigations Division where he handled investigations and cases involving assaults on inmates and official misconduct by corrections officers, financial fraud and other crimes committed by public officials, and crimes committed against government agencies. In 2016, Mr. Mendys became supervisor in the Criminal Enterprise Bureau. In 2017, he became a supervisor in the Homicide Bureau, and in 2018, he became Deputy Chief in the Trial Bureau 60. In 2022, Mr. Mendys became Bureau Chief of the Violent Criminal Enterprise Bureau, which focuses primarily on investigating and prosecuting gang violence and firearms trafficking using cutting edge techniques and strategies, all focused on reducing violence throughout the Bronx.

## **Bernadette Safrath**

Supervisor - Crime Strategies Bureau  
Bronx District Attorney's Office, New York



Bernadette Safrath is a Supervisor in the Crime Strategies Bureau at the Bronx District Attorney's Office. After joining the Office in 2017, Bernadette prosecuted a variety of misdemeanor and felony cases in the Trial Division. In 2022, Bernadette joined the Crime Strategies Bureau, where she assists in developing and implementing strategies focused on the reduction of violent crime and the improvement of public safety. From 2022 to 2024, Bernadette was assigned to the East Bronx before she began covering the West Bronx in 2024 with two Intelligence Analysts. Bernadette serves as a liaison to the New York City Police Department covering five precincts, focusing her efforts on violent crime and identifying priority offenders. She also attends law enforcement and community events within the West Bronx to better understand the crime concerns and develop relationships. Bernadette also regularly supervises in the Early Case Assessment Bureau where cases are assessed, charges drafted, and arraigned.

Bernadette previously worked at the Nassau County District Attorney's Office and Bloomberg L.P. She earned her Juris Doctor from the Jacob D. Fuchsberg School of Law at Touro College, where she was also a member of the Law Review, and she received her undergraduate degree from Long Island University C.W. Post.



## **Ben Struhl**

Executive Director - Crime and Justice Policy Lab  
University of Pennsylvania



Ben Struhl is the Executive Director of the Crime and Justice Policy Lab (CJP) at the University of Pennsylvania. In that role, he works with governments and non-profits around the world to promote the use of research evidence in solving health and safety challenges that are facing disadvantaged communities. CJP forms a bridge between science and implementation, with a focus on preventing crime and violence, reforming the criminal justice system, and collaborating with communities to ensure that policy is done in ways that respect and uplift constituents.

At CJP, Struhl oversees the strategy and operations of projects ranging from violence prevention to prosecutorial reform to tracking the sale of illegal guns in the US. Struhl manages major projects in cities including Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston, Oakland, and San Francisco, and engages in national and international policy work with partners such as ATF and USAID.

One significant CJP project that Struhl collaborates on is the lab's innovative partnership with the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office (DAO) to conduct research on the role of prosecutor-driven policies in improving fairness and efficiency in the criminal justice system. The research team supports an overhaul of the DAO's data infrastructure, conducts studies, and applies computational models to promote diversion and better services. Struhl has also worked with several other prosecutor's offices across the US.

Prior to his work at Penn, Struhl launched and was Executive Director of the Center on Crime and Community Resilience at Northeastern University, leading projects in seven US cities and ten countries across the Caribbean and South America. Before Northeastern, Struhl worked at MIT's Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) where he launched and managed the organization's new division on crime research, as well as serving as the policy lead on J-PAL's new North America office.

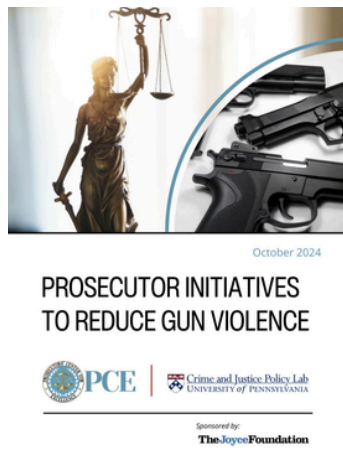
Struhl has also worked for the Mayor of Boston, Boston Public Schools, the Center for American Progress, and as a data analyst for Senator and then President Barack Obama. He has an M.P.P. from Georgetown University, and a B.A. from Brown University.



# RELATED MATERIALS



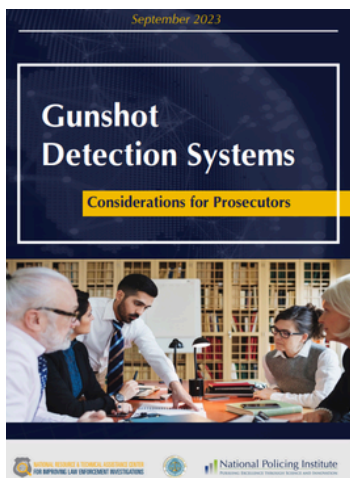
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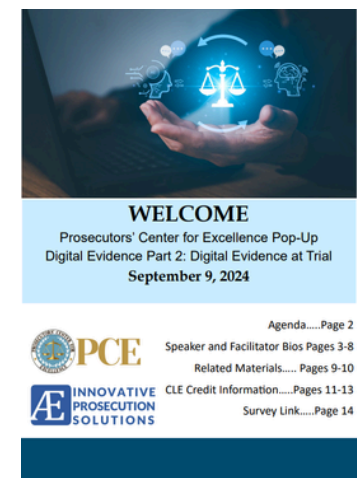
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# RELATED MATERIALS

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Brimbal, L., Roche, S. P., & Martaindale, M. H. (2024). Interviewing and interrogation practices and beliefs, 20 years later: A national self-report survey of American police. *Law and Human Behavior*, 48(4), 247–261.  
<https://doi.org/10.1037/lhb0000570>

Brandon, Susan E., Meissner, Christian A. (2023). In book: Interviewing and interrogation: A review of research and practice since World War II (pp.475-506) Publisher TOAEP.  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1\\_lgrV\\_47oCW9QEBYrXuLcZDjzoovaTVw/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_lgrV_47oCW9QEBYrXuLcZDjzoovaTVw/view?usp=sharing)

Surmon-Bohr, F., Alison, E., Alison, L.J. (2023). Observing Rapport-Based Interpersonal Techniques for Research and Training in Suspect Interviewing. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aqRj4H8KGEDg-qWHk00FTJUBQ9U0bwDX/view?usp=sharing>

PD Non Fatal Shootings Work Plan Template – Orange County District Attorneys Office, New York  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Z6dobEE3-LLze03CWfnWID5ZnX64BWX9/view?usp=sharing>

# CLE CREDIT INSTRUCTIONS

## PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

The Prosecutors' Center for Excellence has **not** requested continuing legal education accreditation for this program. Instead, we will supply you with a **Uniform Certificate of Attendance**. This certificate will include Prosecutors' Center for Excellence (PCE) as the sponsor, the title of this conference, the dates of this conference, the location of this conference as well as a calculation of the CLE Credit Hours under both a 60-minute and 50-minute hour system. We believe that these hours accurately reflect the CLE credit you should receive. However, each state has its own rules on the accrediting process which could affect this calculation.

**At the end of each session, you will receive a conference evaluation. You will need to fill out the survey in order to receive the **Uniform Certificate of Attendance**.**

As part of the meeting materials, PCE will supply you with this meeting's agenda, a description of the various content to be covered throughout this conference, as well as the names and biographies of the speakers.

You will need to apply for CLE credit on your own through your state's specific process. Most jurisdictions have this as an option. Some jurisdictions require members to apply and report within 30 days of the original program date. We hope that the **Uniform Certificate of Attendance** will aid you in this process.

### Sign-In Sheets

To obtain CLE credit, most states require attendees to sign in at the time of the meeting. PCE will maintain a copy of the registration list as well as a record of who attended each session (present at start and end of each session) and send copies upon request.

Here are some specific sign-in rules from a variety of states. There will be no physical sign in sheet, instead PCE will be taking time-stamped log of participants from zoom reports. If you need a copy of our records please contact PCE.

**Delaware Attorneys:** Delaware Attorneys and speakers seeking CLE credits must sign in at each individual session you attend.

**Illinois Attorneys:** Illinois Attorneys and speakers seeking CLE credits must sign in at each individual session you attend. The sign-in documentation is used to verify your total number of CLE hours.

**New York Attorneys:** New York Attorneys and speakers seeking CLE credits must sign in and sign out of each individual session you attend.

**Pennsylvania Attorneys:** Pennsylvania Attorneys must complete the Pennsylvania CLE Credit Request form to report attendance at in-person programs.

**Texas Attorneys:** Texas Attorneys must complete the Texas CLE Course Attendance Form to report attendance at in-person programs





## **UNIFORM CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE**

**SPONSOR:** Prosecutors' Center for Excellence – National Best Practices Committee

**ACTIVITY TITLE:** PCE NBP Meeting: Prosecuting and Preventing Gun Violence Part 2

**DATE:** July 17, 2025

**LOCATION:** Virtual Meeting

**THIS PROGRAM OFFERS A TOTAL OF:**

Full Program: 2 hours of CLE Credit – (0 hour ethics, and 2 hours of professional practice), PENDING STATE APPROVAL.

Please adhere to your state's requirements.

**TO BE COMPLETED BY ATTORNEY** (Please note: If you are required to report to more than one state, complete a form for each state.)

By signing below, I certify that I attended the activity described above and am entitled to claim \_\_\_\_\_ CLE credit hours of which --- hour was in ethics.

\_\_\_\_\_  
ATTORNEY'S NAME (*please print*)

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SIGNATURE

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BAR MEMBERSHIP, REGISTRATION  
OR SUPREME COURT NUMBER

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
STATE WHERE CREDITS ARE TO BE  
REGISTERED

ACKNOWLEDGED BY:

*Kristine Hamann*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kristine Hamann  
Executive Director / Founder  
Prosecutors' Center for Excellence  
Phone: 917.885.9065

**NOTE: PLEASE DO NOT RETURN THIS FORM TO PCE**



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## MEETING SURVEY

The July 17, 2025 PCE NBP Prosecuting and Preventing Gun Violence Part 2 survey will be available at the end of the meeting. If you need proof of your survey for CLE credit please email PCE at [contactpce@pceinc.org](mailto:contactpce@pceinc.org).

## QUESTIONS?

Marissa D'Amore - [mdamore@pceinc.org](mailto:mdamore@pceinc.org)

Kristine Hamann - [khamann@pceinc.org](mailto:khamann@pceinc.org)