From Barriers to Solutions: Investigating and Prosecuting Human Trafficking

Webinar | February 25, 2013 | 2:00-3:30PM EST

Human trafficking thrives in rural, suburban, and urban jurisdictions across the country because it is routinely undetected, overlooked or misidentified. The common misconception that “we don’t have human trafficking in our jurisdiction” leads many criminal justice system professionals to fail to recognize common indicators of human trafficking. Further, a lack of coordination between the criminal justice system and community-based programs results in a lack of victim identification and offender accountability. While our ability to identify offenders and victims has improved, there are still significant gaps in the justice system’s response to human trafficking.

In April 2012, researchers from the Urban Institute and Northeastern University released the report, “Identifying Challenges to Improve the Investigation and Prosecution of State and Local Human Trafficking Cases,” highlighting challenges to — and recommendations to improve —human trafficking investigations and prosecutions. The report addresses complex challenges in addition to offering numerous recommendations following an in-depth study that examined twelve jurisdictions across the United States. Click here to read the full report.

This webinar will highlight key findings from the report and offer solutions for overcoming some of the barriers enhancing victim identification and safety, and increasing offender accountability through the effective investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases.

Allied justice system professionals including but not limited to prosecutors, law enforcement officers, community-based service providers, medical and mental health practitioners, probation and parole officers, judges, etc. are encouraged to attend.

Click here to register.

And Then There Were Three: Multiple Defendant Rape, Witnessed Rape, and Other Complex Cases

Webinar | March 1, 2013 | 2:00-3:30PM EST

Headlines related to multiple offender and witnessed rape cases are becoming more prevalent but experienced sexual violence prosecutors know that these cases are not new. These historically difficult cases are becoming more complex due to the use of technology – including social media – to threaten and intimidate rape victims. In addition, defendants often stick together or point the fingers of blame at one another to manipulate the justice system, cast doubt on the victim’s credibility, and try to avoid accountability. Where multiple defendants are involved, the challenges to prosecution multiply as well and innovative solutions must be employed to protect victim privacy and achieve justice.
This webinar will identify the issues that commonly arise in multiple defendant cases including but not limited to the use of technology, joinder and severance, immunity, principals and accessories, and admissibility of evidence. In addition to identifying these issues, this webinar will focus on innovative solutions to overcome them as well as witness intimidation and common defenses.

Allied justice system professionals including but not limited to prosecutors, law enforcement officers, community-based service providers, medical and mental health practitioners, probation and parole officers, judges, etc. are encouraged to participate.

Click here to register.

Pretrial Motions: Admitting and Excluding Evidence in the Prosecution of Sexual Abuse in Confinement

Webinar | March 14, 2013 | 2:00-3:30PM EST

Experienced prosecutors know that pretrial motions play a critical role in the outcome of sexual abuse cases. Prosecutors must be diligent about anticipating, filing, and responding to a multitude of pretrial motions in every sexual violence case. For cases involving sexual abuse in confinement, many of the same pretrial motions apply, in addition to motions that are directly related to confinement, including, for example, motions involving the criminal records of the defendant or victim, prison files, and other behavior or character evidence. Particularly in sexual abuse cases, prosecutors need to be proactive in filing motions to exclude irrelevant and misleading information and to admit crucial evidence in their case-in-chief.

This webinar will better enable prosecutors and allied criminal justice professionals to anticipate issues and evidence that need to be addressed prior to trial; file and argue pretrial motions; and respond to defense motions.

Prosecutors and allied criminal justice professionals including but not limited to adult and juvenile corrections staff, community-based service providers, faith-based service providers, medical and mental health practitioners, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, probation and parole officers, judges, etc.

Click here to register.

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