

## **Beyond the Basics: Domestic Violence and the Judiciary**

**Friday, April 5, 2024  
2:15 – 3:30 PM**



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This training program is designed to provide judges with a comprehensive understanding of domestic violence and the critical role they play in addressing this pervasive issue within the legal system. The course will delve into the multifaceted dynamics of domestic violence, how it intersects with various legal systems, and the strategies judges can employ to prevent further victimization. By the end of this training, judges will be equipped with the knowledge and tools to effectively navigate the complexities of domestic violence within legal systems, mitigate re-victimization, and contribute to safer and more equitable outcomes for survivors.

### **Learning Objectives:**

1. Understand the dynamics and prevalence of domestic abuse and domestic violence within society.
2. Identify the various forms of domestic abuse and domestic violence, including physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, and financial abuse.
3. Recognize the impact of domestic abuse and domestic violence on victims, families, and communities.
4. Develop skills in conducting risk assessments and safety planning for victims of domestic abuse and domestic violence.
5. Identify potential biases and stereotypes that may impact judicial decision-making in domestic abuse and domestic violence cases and learn strategies to mitigate them.
6. Explore strategies for holding perpetrators of domestic abuse and domestic violence accountable while ensuring due process and procedural fairness.
7. Reflect on the ethical considerations and self-care practices for judges handling domestic abuse and domestic violence cases.

**Speaker: Kelsey McKay**



Kelsey McKay is an attorney and a recognized expert in criminal asphyxiation, interpersonal violence, sexual assault, and homicide prevention. With twelve years of experience as a child abuse and domestic violence prosecutor in Travis County, Texas, Kelsey specialized in prosecuting strangulation-related crimes, including assault, sexual assault, and capital murder. Her expertise led to the development of a widely used strangulation supplement for law enforcement, medical professionals, and other first responders in the community.

She has served as counsel and consultant in cases to assist victims in the criminal system, family court, Title IX, civil cases, and has successfully defended criminalized survivors charged with crimes ranging from assault to murder. She consults for attorneys in numerous systems to improve how they advocate in complex cases and collaborates with institutions, government agencies, and individual practitioners to improve policy and practice in the field of violence and abuse.

Kelsey trains and consults nationally, focusing on implementing sustainable protocols and enhancing community responses to a range of violence and abuse cases. Kelsey has provided training and consultation to tens of thousands of practitioners from diverse industries, including the United States Army, the Pentagon, The Texas Pardon & Parole Board, and numerous others nationwide. Kelsey has developed and contributed to curriculums and policy on topics including expert witnesses, trauma, strangulation, and numerous other topics.

She has been published in various journals, including the Sex Offender Law Report, the Journal of Interpersonal Violence, and the Texas Prosecutor. She serves on the Board of the Forensic Center of Excellence, is an Associate Member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, is on the Advisory Council for the Conference on Crimes Against Women and is the CEO of the non-profit RESPOND Against Violence.