



EVERY SCENE.

2025 DR. DAVID AVOLT
IN-SERVICE TRAINING CONFERENCE

EVERY TIME.

JUNE 19-21, 2025

Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel • 2544 Executive Drive • Indianapolis

Jointly sponsored by: Indiana State Coroners Association
Indiana State Coroners Training Board

Dr. David Avolt In-Service Training Conference



The conference name comes from former Tippecanoe County Coroner, Dr. David Avolt. David died on August 16, 2012, as the result of an auto accident in Dunedin, Florida. The Indiana State Coroners Association looked back at the history of David's dedication, love, leadership, and affiliation with the Association. The board reflected on the growth, positive changes, and guidance that David brought to this fraternal organization. David was an unbelievably valuable part of making the Indiana State Coroners Association and the Coroners Training Board into what they are today by his active involvement and encouragement, and forethoughts of the future and his drive for education and professionalism.

Based on all of this the board unanimously voted to rename our annual conference the Dr. David Avolt In-Service Training Conference. This is in recognition of a man who truly dedicated his life to the betterment of his fellow coroners.

He was elected Tippecanoe County Coroner in 1984 after serving as a deputy under Dr. William Sholty. He served in the coroner's office since then. As Coroner he was instrumental in raising the professionalism of the office, helping to write the legislation in 1993 that required all Coroners and Deputy Coroners to become trained, state certified and requiring continuing education. Dr. Avolt was the first Veterinarian to be elected as a Fellow of the American Academy of Forensics Sciences in 1979. He had served as President of the Coroners Association in 1992 and a longtime board member. He also served as the Executive Director of the Coroners Training Board from 1994-1998.

"Doc" is considered by many as the Dean of Indiana Coroners. His willingness to counsel, assist or advise those seeking his wisdom and experience has been a tremendous asset over the years, not only to coroners but to the families being served as well. His proudest accomplishments are the students and colleagues he has mentored through the years that achieved the great heights "Dr. Dave" knew they were capable of achieving.

Indiana State Coroners | **Dr. David Avolt**

In-Service Training Conference

Schedule of Events

Thursday, June 19th

8:00 am - 5:30 pm	Registration
9:00 am - 9:15 am	Welcome
	Opening Ceremony - Gordon Becher, Knox County Deputy Coroner Presentation of the Colors - Indiana State Police Color Guard National Anthem - Voices of the Indianapolis Fire Department Phil Zahm, Huntington County Coroner, CTB Chairman Dr. Lindsay Weaver, IDOH Commissioner Dr. Jon Brandenberger, Allen County Coroner, ISCA President
9:15 am – 9:45 am	Indiana Law & CTB/ISCA Update Tony Ciriello, CTB Director of Training
	9:45 am – 10:00 am Break
10:00 am – 11:00 am	Fatal Abusive Head Trauma and Radiologic-Pathologic Correlation Dr. Kent Harshbarger, Forensic Pathologist
11:00 am – 11:45 am	Coroner Panel Tony Ciriello, CTB Director of Training Doug Banks, Decatur County Deputy Coroner Alfie McGinty, Marion County Coroner Joe Millspaugh, Jr., Knox County Coroner
11:45 am – Noon	Making Organ and Tissue Donation Possible: Coroner Involvement in a Lifesaving Process Kira Newkirk, Indiana Donor Network
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm	Lunch (provided)
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Coroner Car Cruze In, Sponsored by Clean X-Treme
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	DEATH HARVESTER: How the FBI is Dismembering the Illegal Trade in Human Body Parts Paul Micah Johnson, FBI
2:30 pm – 2:45 pm	Break
2:45 pm – 3:15 pm	Detection Canines and Capabilities Jan Harkner-Abbs, Rebecca Knight, Indiana Search and Response Team
3:15 pm – 5:00 pm	Determination of Intent: Accident, Suicide or Homicide? The Utilization of Social Behavioral Science and Psychological Autopsy in Equivocal Deaths Janet Schnell, Anne Kelly, Brett Harding
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Coroner Car Cruze In Continued (optional)
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Indiana Donor Network Facility Tour & Dinner (optional)
7:30 pm – 11:00 pm	Karaoke/Music/Cornhole Round Robin (optional) DJ Gordon Becher Gathering Room, Sponsored by ISCA and Exhibitors

Friday, June 20th

7:00 am - 4:00 pm	Registration
8:00 am - 8:10 am	Announcements
8:10 am – 8:30 am	Memorial Tribute to Colleagues Lost in the Last Year
8:30 am – 9:00 am	Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors (LOSS) Teams: Postvention Support for the Newly Bereaved Caitlyn Short, Chelcee Hill, Mike Pruitt
9:00 am - 10:00 am	Fantastically Interesting Cases: A Retrospective of 37 Years of Hoosier Forensic Pathology Dr. Scott Wagner, Forensic Pathologist
10:00 am – 11:00 am	One Pill Can Kill: Mobilizing County Resources for Opioid Awareness and Prevention Brandon Butz, Leader of Strategic Partnerships
11:00 am – Noon	Awards Ceremony/Vendor Door prizes
Noon – 1:00 pm	Lunch (provided)
Noon – 1:00 pm	General Business Meeting for Paid Coroners Only or their Proxy (Lunch provided)
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	The Nightstalker, Overview of a serial killer Gil Carillo, LA Retired Sheriff's Department
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm	Dr. Phil O'Shaughnessy Case Studies
7:30 pm – 11:00 pm	Gathering Room Sponsored by ISCA and Exhibitors
8:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Comedy Magic Show Rusty Ammerman, Dimension of Illusion
9:00 pm – 11:00 pm	Karaoke/Music by DJ Gordon Becher

Saturday, June 21st

7:00 am – 10:00 am	Registration
8:00 am – 8:15 am	Announcements
8:15 am – Noon	Fire Investigations Involving Fatalities and Line of Duty Deaths Jason Mardirosian

**** Breaks are given at the discretion of the speaker***

Indiana Law & CTB/ISCA Update Tony Ciriello, MDI is retired after a 34-year career in law enforcement, most recently serving as Chief of Police for the Syracuse Police Department. Ciriello started his law enforcement career as an arson investigator for the State of Indiana before joining the Kosciusko County Sheriff's Department where he served in numerous capacities during his tenure there. Those capacities were patrol officer, supervisor, detective, narcotics officer, D.A.R.E. officer and field training officer.

In addition to his law enforcement career, Ciriello holds a certification as a Medicolegal Death Investigator, is also a Center for Disease Control Certified Infant Death Investigator/Instructor. For the last 25 years Ciriello has served as the Director of Training and Education for the Indiana State Coroners Training Board and for 24 years had been a Deputy Coroner and served as the elected Coroner in Kosciusko County for 8 years. He is currently a deputy coroner in Marshall County and serves on the Kosciusko County Council.

Ciriello is a family care specialist for Mishler Funeral Home and Cremation Center in Milford as well as the Vice-President of Sales for Heritage Monument Company. He holds an Indiana Insurance License in Life Insurance and assists families with funeral pre-planning.

In addition to those activities, he is the Past-President of the Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police and Past-President of the Warsaw Breakfast Optimist Club. Ciriello is a graduate of the Kosciusko Leadership

Academy and the Indiana Police Executive Leadership Academy. He serves numerous local boards and civic organizations.

Ciriello is the recipient of the Excellence in Government Award from the Syracuse/Wawasee Chamber of Commerce, two times Leaders Award from the Indiana Police Executive Leadership Academy and was awarded the William Sudbury Memorial Leadership Award from the Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police. He was honored in 2015 with a Sagamore of the Wabash by Governor Pence. He received the 2020 Government Excellence Award from the Kosciusko Chamber of Commerce.

PRESENTATION ABSTRACT: Legislative/Legal Update: This session will provide details on the latest legislative session and the effectiveness it has on the Office of the Coroner as well as previous legislation. This session will also provide the roles of the Indiana State Coroners Training Board and the Indiana State Coroners Association.

Dr. Kent E. Harshbarger received his Medical Doctorate (M.D.) degree from Southern Illinois University School of Medicine and his Juris Doctorate (J.D.) from Southern Illinois University School of Law. He received his Masters of Business Administration (M.B.A) from Wright State University. Dr. Harshbarger completed an anatomic and clinical pathology residency at Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie, Indiana, and a forensic pathology fellowship at the Montgomery County Coroner's Office in Dayton Ohio. Dr. Harshbarger is also the Chief Forensic Pathologist for the Franklin County Coroner's Office in Columbus Ohio.

Following his training, Dr. Harshbarger was employed for a brief time as a forensic pathologist serving the majority of central Illinois, before returning to Dayton, Ohio to serve as a Deputy Coroner/Forensic Pathologist for Montgomery County in 2002. He was appointed as the Montgomery County Coroner in 2011 and continues to serve in that capacity today.

Dr. Harshbarger also recently retired from the Army Reserve with 36 years of service. He holds appointments as a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Pathology at Wright State University School of Medicine, in the Department of Specialty Medicine at the Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine, and Department of Pathology at The Ohio State University. He also serves as the Chief Forensic Officer of the Ohio State Coroner's Association (OSCA). Dr. Harshbarger has also served as the Chairman of the Ethics Committee for the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) for several years and serves as a board member of that organization.

Coroner Panel - Panelists will include Tony Ciriello – CTB Director of Training (Moderator)

Doug Banks, Decatur County Deputy Coroner, and a certified Medicolegal Death Investigator, with over 24 years of dedicated service in the coroner's office, including 16 years as the elected coroner. In a county with a population of approximately 27,500, he effectively manages around 60 calls per year, providing essential services to the community.

In addition to his role in the coroner's office, Doug has a rich history of community service. He has been a member of the volunteer fire department for 40 years and has served as an Indiana certified EMT for the past 28 years. Doug is actively involved with the Region 9 Child Fatality Review Team, serves on the ISCA board, and has also been a member of the Coroner Training Board, contributing significantly to the enhancement of coroner practices throughout Indiana.

Outside of his professional commitments, Doug has been married for 37 years to his wife, Charity. Together, they operate a successful lawn care business and cherish spending time camping and boating with friends and family.

Jennie Short, Dekalb County Coroner is a dedicated nurse with 33 years of experience, having served with the DeKalb County Coroner's Office for the past 13 years as an Indiana certified Medicolegal Death Investigator. She is currently in her third year as the elected Coroner.

Together with her husband Rick, a K9 officer with the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office, Jennie resides in Auburn. They are enthusiastic about animal welfare and actively volunteer and foster special needs animals for local humane societies and rescues.

In her free time, Jennie enjoys running and is a true crime enthusiast. She takes pride in her work and often shares her appreciation for her outstanding teammates, whom she considers to be the absolute best anyone could hope for.

Alfarena (Alfie) McGinty is the Marion County Coroner, in Indianapolis, Indiana, elected in 2024. Alfarena served as Chief Deputy Coroner for over 18 years and has been with the office for over 27 years as an Indiana certified Medicolegal Death Investigator. As Coroner, she is responsible for the agency operations, including the agency budget of over seven million dollars, over 5 million in grant funds, man-aging staff, and contractors. She oversees over 3000 death investigations annually, coordinates trainings and education and develops policies and procedures. As Chief Deputy Coroner, Alfie has supervised the death scene investigation and management of three mass shootings in Indianapolis in 2021 alone, including the April 15 Incident that involved the Fed Ex Facility where 8 people were killed, and the shooter committed suicide.

Alfie serves on the board of directors of Overdose Lifeline, Mental Health America, Indianapolis, and the International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners. Alfie is an adjunct faculty member at Indiana University. Alfie represents the Indiana State Coroners Association on the Association of Indiana Counties Board of Directors (AIC). She is married with 5 children. She lost her oldest son James, affectionally known as Jimmy, to a fentanyl drug intoxication in 2021 which gives her a unique perspective on the Opioid Epidemic in our community.

Fun Fact: She owns and runs the Gobble Gobble Food Truck which has been a staple at the Indiana State Fair for 24 years with the best smoked jumbo turkey legs at the Indiana State Fair!

Joe Millspaugh Jr. is the Knox County Coroner, first caucused into the position in September 2023 and later elected to serve his first full term in 2024. With over a decade of experience as Chief Deputy Coroner, Joe brings extensive expertise in medicolegal death investigation. In addition to his role as Coroner, he is a paramedic and serves as the EMS Manager for Good Samaritan Hospital EMS.

A dedicated husband, father, and grandfather, Joe enjoys spending his free time on the golf course, cheering on his children in their athletic endeavors and babysitting his grandson.

PRESENTATION ABSTRACT: This panel discussion will feature four coroners from various-sized agencies across the state, offering a unique opportunity for knowledge sharing and problem-solving. The panelists will discuss shared challenges faced in their roles, explore effective strategies for addressing these issues, and provide in- sights into how different agencies manage similar situations. Attendees will have the chance to ask questions and gain practical perspectives from experienced professionals in the field. This session aims to foster collaboration and enhance the effectiveness of coroner services statewide.

Kira Newkirk brings over two decades of healthcare expertise to her role as Vice President of Business Operations at the Indiana Donor Network, where she has been a dedicated leader for the past seven years. With a strategic

focus on strengthening partnerships with coroners and hospitals across Indiana, Kira plays a crucial role in advancing organ and tissue donation efforts statewide. Her work fosters collaboration between forensic and medical professionals, ensuring that donation opportunities are maximized while honoring the needs of donor families and the medicolegal system.

Kira's commitment to donation advocacy is rooted in her extensive healthcare background. She began her career as a Critical Care Registered Nurse, developing a deep understanding of patient care and the lifesaving impact of organ donation. Her leadership and expertise continue to drive innovative approaches to improving donation outcomes and increasing awareness among key stakeholders.

Kira holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from Indiana University and a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) from Indiana University.

PRESENTATION ABSTRACT: Coroners play a key role in the organ and tissue donation process, which saves and heals thousands of lives each year. Indiana Donor Network will share an example of the entire organ donation process — and the many professionals who make it possible — to better inform attendees about where coroners fit in the path of organ and tissue donation.

Paul Micah Johnson, FBI is an FBI Special Agent with 21 years of experience. He currently serves as an Evidence Response Team (ERT) Leader and a Bureau Pilot in the Detroit Field Office. In 2011, while assigned to FBI Detroit's organized crime squad, SA Johnson opened DEATH HARVESTER, the first and largest criminal enterprise investigation in FBI history into the illegal sale of human body parts. For the next 10 years the case took him around the country investigating the whole-body-to-science donation industry. Through this work SA Johnson has been qualified as an expert witness in body donation and is the FBI's Subject Matter Expert on the topic. He holds a PhD in Biology from the University of Washington, an MS in Forensic Science from the University of Florida, and a BS in Marine Biology from the University of Miami. He also serves as Adjunct Faculty for the FBI Laboratory and Critical Incident Response Group, teaching crime scene investigation and management, crime scene photography, and surveillance photography to law enforcement partners in the U.S. and around the world.

PRESENTATION ABSTRACT: This presentation covers the largest investigation in FBI history into the whole-body donation industry. DEATH HARVESTER was opened as an organized crime case by Special Agent Paul Micah Johnson in the Detroit Field Office in 2011 and lasted nearly 10 years. Its purpose was to uncover the illegal sales of human body parts that were taking place through a network of international anatomical supply companies. What started with the finding of severed heads in the back of a rusty van, ultimately resulted in the seizing of thousands of human remains, the closure of four body donation programs in four states, the arrest and conviction of seven individuals, and the identification, cremation, and return of remains to hundreds of victim families across the country.

Jan Harkner-Abbs has been involved as a director of two search teams since 1993 as well as an arson canine handler for the fire department serving the IN-State Fire Marshal's office. She is the current director of the Indiana Search and Response Team. As a member of the Orange Twp Fire Department for the past 27 years, she served as an instructor 3, Officer 2, Rescue Diver, Ropes Technician and EMT.

Jan lives in Noble County, IN, where she operates a 40-acre Search and Rescue Training Facility. She is a retired FEMA K9 handler of the INTF-1 and has served in multiple National Disasters around the country as a disaster generalist. She has trained and certified many search canines and has 3 more currently in training. She holds many certifications and instructor licenses through the National Association for Search and Rescue and the State of IN Fire Service.

Jan has certified canines through the International Police Work Dog Association, FEMA and other organizations in Disaster, Live Find Area Search, Human Remains Wilderness as well as Crime Scene and Water Recovery.

Searches have involved tornado disaster work across nearby states as well as hurricanes, fire scenes, drowning recoveries and cold cases with law enforcement.

Her current canines are Rock, a German Shepherd, who is still certified but entering retirement. Indi, a German Shepherd who is nearing certification as a human remains canine, Jet, a Dutch Shepherd being trained in live find area search and disaster and Mo, a German Shepherd being trained in human remains detection.

Jan is retired from serving 36 years in the Education, Psychology and Neuroscience fields working with special needs children but continues teaching and training handlers and their canines for detection work.

Rebecca Knight a resident of Northeast Indiana since 1998, has been involved in K-9 Search and Rescue as a member of the Indiana Search and Response Team since 2013. She is a NASAR SAR Tech II, a NASAR SAR Instructor, NASAR Initial Actions Instructor, and an emergency medical responder. She has certifications in lost person behavior and managing the lost person incident.

She has managed a human remains detection K-9 for her entire SAR career and is now transitioning her Australian Cattle Dog Helo from working cadaver dog into retirement. Helo has been certified through the International Police Work Dog Association in wilderness cadaver as well as crime scene cadaver work and focused a lot of their search work on fire scenes and explosions.

Rebecca is currently training a Labrador Retriever puppy named "Roslin" in human remains detection. In her job that pays, Rebecca is a career journalist, having worked for newspapers and public radio.

PRESENTATION ABSTRACT: Science is just beginning to understand the capabilities of canine olfaction, though those of us who have managed detection dogs have known how utterly amazing they can be for decades. While the national search and rescue dog teams are often front and center in the aftermath of large-scale natural disasters, many regions around the country have K-9 teams trained to the same standards that can be used in similar and numerous ways to assist area law enforcement and fire services in looking for missing people.

In this presentation you will learn what search dogs can offer in both emergent searches and other investigations, gain insight on how to evaluate the legitimacy of search and rescue teams in your area, and what red flags to look for when choosing a team to work with.

Suicide Prevention/Intervention/Postvention Specialist

Janet Schnell, MSW, LCSW, completed her master's degree in social work in 2010 at the University of Southern Indiana. She is a contractor for AP3SI as a suicide postvention subject matter expert for the Defense Suicide Prevention Office (DSPO). Mrs. Schnell is a founding Retrospective Fatality Analysis Consultant (RFA-C) member. She is an expert in suicide prevention, intervention, and addressing depression, anxiety, and substance abuse following a suicide. Mrs. Schnell has received numerous awards for her activism in suicide prevention from county, state, and federal agencies. She serves as the President of Survivors of Suicide of Dubois County (SOS) and has been honored with the prestigious Torchbearer Award by the Indiana Suicide Prevention Network. As a certified master trainer for the Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) program, Mrs. Schnell also trains individuals in Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). She leads one of the first teams in Indiana in Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors (LOSS), paving the way to offering resources and hope after a suspected suicide death. As a public speaker, Mrs. Schnell shares her personal journey as a suicide loss survivor, which motivated her to become a social worker after her brother's death by suicide.

Anne Kelly, Ph.D. is a Suicide Postvention Technician with over two decades of experience in suicide prevention and postvention. She specializes in program development, evaluation, and strategic leadership, conducting psychological autopsies to understand suicide risk factors and inform targeted strategies. Anne is a Certified QPR and Adult Mental Health First Aid Trainer and serves as Board Chair of the National Association of Retrospective Fatality Analysis. She also chairs the Community Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Coalition in Mitchell, SD, and serves on the Board of Lost&Found, a nonprofit focused on reducing suicide risk among young people. She has participated in state advisory boards and legislative task forces in South Dakota. Previously, Anne was Dean of the College of Business, Education, and Social Science and Chair of the Department of Psychology at Dakota Wesleyan University, where she taught since 2000. She earned her M.A.

and Ph.D. in experimental psychology from the University of Nevada, Reno.

Brett Harding, MBA, F-ABMDI, began his career in Medicolegal Death Investigation in 1988 and now serves as the Chief Deputy Coroner with the Ada County Coroner's Office in Boise, Idaho. Mr. Harding is a Fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators, and the International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners. He is an Affiliate member of the National Association of Medical Examiners and serves on the board of directors for the National Association of Homicide Investigators. Mr. Harding is also a consultant on psychological autopsy investigations (PAI) and is one of only twenty-five certified in PAI.

PRESENTATION ABSTRACT: Suicide Prevention/Intervention Although deaths classified as "undetermined" are relatively rare, accounting for approximately 3% of death certificates in the United States, they pose significant challenges for coroners and medical examiners. These cases arise when available evidence does not conclusively establish whether a death was natural, accidental, suicidal, or homicidal. Without clear findings from autopsies, crime scene details, and witness accounts, investigators are left to navigate ambiguity that can lead to misclassification, impacting legal proceedings, families, and public health data. Coroners and medical examiners must carefully analyze all factors involved in undetermined deaths to avoid wrongful determinations. A lack of conclusive evidence, conflicting witness statements, or the possibility of staged crime scenes can complicate investigations. Additionally, in cases where suicide is a consideration, evaluating the deceased's psychological state is often necessary but difficult, as many forensic professionals lack formal training in behavioral science. Despite the value of expert consultation, access to forensic specialists in postmortem psychological assessment is often limited due to logistical and financial constraints. This presentation introduces Retrospective Fatality Analysis (RFA), a structured investigative approach that builds upon the psychological autopsy method to provide a comprehensive biopsychosocial understanding of an individual's life and circumstances before death. RFA follows a standardized protocol that includes interviews with multiple people who knew the decedent, gathering perspectives from family, friends, colleagues, and others who can provide insight into their mental state, behaviors, and life stressors. In addition to interviews, RFA compiles information from archival records, medical records, law enforcement reports, and other relevant documents into a single, cohesive investigative framework. By integrating multiple data sources, RFA enhances forensic investigations and provides a complete picture of the decedent's history, decision-making patterns, and broader social and community influences. RFA serves as an adjunct to standard forensic procedures, equipping death investigators with the skills to apply the protocol effectively, draw informed conclusions, and provide forensic pathologists with deeper insights into manner-of-death determinations. By incorporating RFA into their investigative process, coroners and medical examiners can strengthen forensic findings, reduce misclassification risks, and improve the accuracy of death determinations, supporting both the integrity of investigations and the needs of affected families.

Indiana LOSS Team

Caitlyn Short, MPH serves as the Youth Suicide Grant Project Coordinator with the Division of Mental Health and Addiction. In her role, she supports 14 different suicide prevention initiatives, including Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors (LOSS).

Chelcee Hill is a full-time volunteer with Upstream Prevention working primarily with the Johnson County Suicide Prevention Coalition and the Assisting Through Loss After Suicide (ATLAS) Response Team. Chelcee lost her stepbrother to suicide back in 2010 and has since been finding ways to help others. Chelcee is one of our AT-LAS Co-Coordination who has assisted getting the response team started in Johnson County, IN and now assists leading this team. Chelcee is also the current treasurer of the Suicide Prevention Coalition.

Mike Pruitt has served as the Johnson County Coroner since 2020. Coroner Pruitt has worked in his role to compassionately meet the needs of his community, engage in overdose and suicide prevention efforts, build local infrastructure, and champion organ donation. His active partnership with ATLAS since 2021 has helped further local efforts to support suicide loss survivors.

PRESENTATION ABSTRACT: This presentation will introduce LOSS as a community-based, active suicide postvention model and discuss the instrumental role of local coroners in LOSS implementation. Information about where LOSS teams exist in Indiana and what support is available to new and existing teams will be shared. Johnson County will share how their local LOSS team, ATLAS, successfully functions and provides immediate support to families and loved ones following a suicide death.

Scott A. Wagner, M.D., F.C.A.P., a native of New Albany, Indiana, received an A.S. in Chemical Technology and B.A. in Biology from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, and M.D. from Indiana University School of Medicine in 1986. After completing his clinical internship and pathology residency at Ball Memorial Hospital, in Muncie in 1991, he completed a fellowship in Forensic Pathology at Indiana University Medical Center in 1992.

Dr. Wagner is Board Certified by the American Board of Pathology in Anatomic, Clinical, and Forensic Pathology. He is a member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, and the National Association of Medical Examiners. He is past Medical Staff President and Laboratory Medical Director for Adams County, Saint Joseph, and Dupont Hospitals. Dr. Wagner previously held a faculty appointment as Volunteer Assistant Clinical Professor and Sophomore Medical Student Pathology Instructor at Indiana University School of Medicine, Fort Wayne Center for Medical Education and is an instructor in forensic pathology with the Indiana Coroner's Training Board. He was appointed by Governor Evan Bayh as a Director on the Indiana Law Enforcement Training Board from 1995 to 1996. Since 1992, he has been in the full-time practice of Pathology and Forensic Pathology in Northeast Indiana.

Currently, Dr. Wagner is Principle at Forensic Pathology Consultants, a Medical Practice devoted to providing consultations to Coroners including autopsies and other assistance with death investigations. Forensic Pathology Consultants also provides Private, and Hospital Autopsy Services see forensicpathconsultants.com. Dr. Wagner is also recognized in pediatric forensic pathology in the State of Indiana. As an author, Dr. Wagner has published Death Investigation, A Field Guide (2023, CRC Press, Taylor Francis Group), Handbook for Death Scene Investigation, A Field Guide (2009 CRC Press, Taylor Francis Group) and Color Atlas of the Autopsy, (First ed 2004) and (Second ed., 2016 CRC Press), and wrote and produced The Autopsy, Chapter One: Unraveling Life's Mysteries, a widely sold training video and DVD focusing on Autopsy and Forensic Pathology. Dr. Wagner races on a local cycling team, plays in a "medical rock band," and enjoys writing.

Brandon Butz, One Pill Can Kill; RemedyLIVE is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing mental health support, crisis intervention, and meaningful conversations around issues affecting individuals and communities. In partnership with the **State Government of Indiana** and the **Allen County Coroner's Office**, RemedyLIVE has launched the extraordinarily successful One Pill Can Kill campaign to combat the opioid epidemic among youth.

Through a **free, 24/7 crisis chat center**, RemedyLIVE serves as a confidential resource for anyone struggling with hopelessness and isolation. Additionally, the organization's events team actively engages **schools, workplaces, and community groups**, facilitating real-time, interactive discussions to raise awareness, provide critical resources, and address the upstream mental health issues that can lead to opioid-related deaths. By fostering open conversations and equipping individuals with tools for mental wellness, RemedyLIVE is committed to addressing the root causes of addiction and overdose in communities across Indiana.

PRESENTATION ABSTRACT: The opioid epidemic continues to claim lives at an alarming rate, and coroners across Indiana stand at the frontlines of this crisis. But what if we could do more than document its impact? This session is designed to ensure that every county has the knowledge and resources needed to act in response to the opioid crisis. Goals of this session:

- Ensure that every county understands how to access and advocate for opioid response funding.
- Equip attendees with strategies to engage commissioners and community leaders in implementing awareness campaigns.
- Empower coroners and community stakeholders to use RemedyLIVE's 24/7 chat service, school out-reach, and adult mental wellness programs to address the underlying factors fueling the opioid epidemic.

With overdose deaths rising, this session will equip coroners with the knowledge, tools, and resources needed to take concrete action—helping to prevent the next fatal overdose in their community.

Gil Carillo entered the US Army at age 17 where he spent one year in combat. Gil holds a bachelor's degree from Cal-State Long Beach. At age 21 he was sworn in as a member of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department where he spent 38 years prior to his retirement in 2009.

During the 38 years he worked custody, patrol, started the first plain clothes Gang team at East Los Angeles. Most of his time on the Department was spent at Sheriff's Homicide where he worked 21 years as an Investigator and his final five years as a team Lieutenant where he supervised 14 Investigators. During his time as a Homicide Investigator Gil was called upon to be the Co-Lead Investigator on the much-celebrated Night Stalker serial killer case. As a result of that case Gil has lectured all over the United States as well as outside the US in Mexico and Panama. Most recently he was the subject of a Netflix 4-part Documentary on the Night Stalker case.

Gil also recently finished 2 years serving as the as Co-Host for the George Lopez OMG HI Podcast. He recently took part in a documentary on the Peacock channel and is awaiting the release of a movie entitled "Hubbard Street."

Rusty Ammerman ENTERTAINER - A Revealing Look at the Maniac behind the Magic. For most adults, the chance of realizing a childhood fantasy is so elusive, it seems like magic. For Rusty Ammerman, it IS magic.

The comic and magician is now a regular, featured performer at the World-Famous Magic Castle in Hollywood, CA, fulfilling a dream he first put on paper back in 1984 when he was asked his goal in the entertainment industry.

"My answer was quick and unequivocal," he says. "I said I want to be on The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson, and I want to perform at the Magic Castle in Hollywood." Carson's Tonight Show is long gone, but the Magic Castle remains a Mecca for magicians. It is to magic, Rusty says, what the Grand Ole Opry is to country music.

So how did he get there? It's magic, Rusty-style

Over a quarter-century and thousands of performances, Rusty has developed his "Dimension of Illusion," creating a personal mix of mystery and maniacal mayhem that has delighted audiences in 43 states and nine countries, including two overseas military tours.

Jason Mardirosian is a 28-year veteran and lieutenant with the Chicago fire department and spent 17 years in their fire & arson investigation unit. Jason has over 20 years' experience in the private sector doing numerous consultations and is currently an investigator for FEC LLC.

Mr. Mardirosian has an extensive background in investigations and is an international contractor specializing in instruction of arson, fire, and explosion scene investigations. He combines both dynamic classroom presentations and hands-on exercises to help the students understand the complexities of such investigations.

Jason has taught independently, as well as in a team setting for various agencies and groups including several IAAI chapters, the 40-hour fundamental class hosted by the IAAI, several ATF task forces, and is a contract instructor for the Justice Department (ICITAP) and he has taught internationally in Algiers, Jamaica, the Virgin Islands and Dubai.

Mr. Mardirosian recently retired after 16 years with the Summit, Illinois Police Department, is a Past-President of the Illinois Chapter of the IAAI and was the 2006 investigator of the year recipient from the IAAI.

PRESENTATION ABSTRACT: The student will learn the fundamentals of completing a fire/arson/explosion scene investigation when there are fatalities involved from different forensic points of view.

We will discuss the different and difficult circumstances of completing such an investigation when it involves the death of a police officer or firefighter.

2025 IN SERVICE TRAINING CONFERENCE

Registration information (Please print or type all information)

REGISTRATION FORM Course Attendee Demographics

Name	Title (Coroner/Deputy Coroner/Other)
County	Phone:
Address	City
Email:	ZIP Code
Will your spouse and/or family be staying with you?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If not, request your roommate:	

Registration Fees (check appropriate category) for Coroner/Deputy Coroner

Full Conference	<input type="checkbox"/>	
1-Day Conference	<input type="checkbox"/>	Date / /2025
2-Day Conference	<input type="checkbox"/>	Date(s) / /2025 & / /2025
3-Day Conference	<input type="checkbox"/>	Date / /2025

The CTB will cover the registration fee for any coroner/deputy coroner that is a Certified Medicolegal Death Investigator and is in good standing with their CEU hours.

Registration Fees (check appropriate category) for Law Enforcement, Physicians, Prosecutors, Nursing, EMS, Other

Full Conference	<input type="checkbox"/>	
1-Day Conference	<input type="checkbox"/>	Date / /2025
2-Day Conference	<input type="checkbox"/>	Date(s) / /2025 & / /2025
3-Day Conference	<input type="checkbox"/>	Date / /2025

Lunch: ISCA will provide a buffet lunch on Thursday and Friday for all attendees. Please indicate the day(s) you would like to eat lunch. *Please only mark if you plan to eat as we are charged for each plate.*

Thursday ☐ Friday ☐

Thursday Menu – Southwest - Build Your Own Fajitas and Taco Bar

Southwestern chicken tortilla soup, grilled chicken, spicy taco meat, refried beans, chopped vine ripened tomatoes, shredded cheddar cheese, crisp iceberg lettuce, diced onion, Pico de Gallo, sour cream, salsa, black bean and corn salad, Spanish rice, warm flour tortillas and taco shells, Tres leches parfaits.

Friday Menu – Italian – Wedding soup, Caesar salad, oven roasted pizza, grilled marinated chicken

marasala, cheese tortellini with roasted peppers, artichoke hearts, spicy Italian sausage and tomatoes, crisp breadsticks, house focaccia, and tiramisu martinis.

Thursday Evening – Indiana Donor Network Facility Tour & Dinner

Spouses are welcome to attend – Transportation is provided

Number to attend _____

Friday Evening Comedy – Comedy Magic Show – Rusty Ammerman

Number to attend _____

Course attendance agreement: I, _____, agree to attend at least 16 hours of the training conference scheduled. Failure to attend the established minimum hours will cause your hotel bill to be your responsibility and not that of the Coroner's Training Board. Exceptions to this sixteen (16) hour requirement are illness, injury, or work-related emergencies which must be approved by the Executive Administrative Assistant of the Coroners Training Board or a designee.

Attendee: _____
(Signature)

Date: _____

Submit registration to
Barker.incoroner@gmail.com

You will be required to scan in each day and upon returning from lunch breaks and at the end of the day. Please remember to bring your ISCA issued ID card. If you have lost yours, a new one will be available for \$5.00.

Breaks are given at the discretion of the speaker. Video and/or audio taping of any sessions or parts thereof is not permitted. Although precautions are taken to prevent schedule changes, speakers and program schedules may change due to unforeseen circumstances.

No one under the age of 18 will be permitted into the lecture area.

Please turn off all electronics or be subject to \$5.00 fine per incident going to the Dr. David Dennis scholarship fund.

A special thank you goes to the Indiana State Coroners Association Board of Directors and the Indiana State Coroners Training Board members for their continued foresight on behalf of the coroners of the state of Indiana.

Indiana State Coroners Association

E. Jon Brandenberger, MD, Allen County Coroner
 Dr. Donna Smith, Parke County Coroner
 Phil Zahm, Huntington County Coroner
 Lisa Barker, Tippecanoe County Deputy Coroner
 Jennie Short, Dekalb County Coroner
 Vacant
 Ed Cripe, Clinton County Coroner
 Charity Banks, Decatur County Coroner

ISCA President
 ISCA Vice President
 ISCA Secretary/Treasurer
 Executive Director
 At-Large
 At-Large
 Immediate Past President
 2nd Past President

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Doug Banks, Decatur County
 Leslie Cook, Adams County
 Kristin Enoch, Carroll County
 Nick French, Clay County
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Gordon Becher, Knox County
 Marian Dunnichay, Tipton County
 Mark Franklin, Lawrence County
 Jeri Good, Fulton County

ISCA Lobbyist

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 Abbi Raben
 Rick Cockrum

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Indiana State Coroners Training Board

Phil Zahm, Huntington Co. Coroner
 Major Sidney Newton
 Dr. Jon Brandenberger, Allen County Coroner
 Vacant
 Vacant
 Vacant
 Lisa Barker, Tippecanoe County Deputy Coroner
 Tony Ciriello, Marshall County Deputy Coroner

ISDH Chairman
 Indiana State Police
 Board Member (Republican) (Vice Chairman)
 Board Member (Democrat)
 Board Member (Republican)
 Board Member (Democrat)
 Executive Administrative Assistant
 Director of Training

**Conference Site
Wyndham Indianapolis Airport
2544 Executive Drive
Indianapolis, IN**

Registration

The CTB will cover the registration fee for any Coroner and Deputy Coroner that is a Certified Medicolegal Death Investigator and is in good standing with their CEU hours.

Other attendees are welcome to attend - \$300.00 full conference, \$100.00 – 1 day conference and ½ day conference - \$50.00

Hotel Accommodations

Planning to attend the 2025 Dr. David Avolt In-Service Training Conference, June 19-21, 2025, at the Wyndham Indianapolis Airport. Reserve your room now for the best selection and before the room block runs out! The reservation deadline is May 20, 2025.

<https://book.passkey.com/e/50954876>

(ctrl + click)

If you want to arrive on June 18th, you will need to call Troy at 317-381-6143 to make your reservation as our reserved block will only allow June 19-21, 2025. The CTB will cover the nights of June 19th & 20th only.

There will be a direct bill established with the Wyndham Hotel to cover the \$133.00 plus tax. The CTB will cover the registration fee and hotel room for any coroner/deputy coroner that is a Certified Medicolegal Death Investigator and is in good standing with their CEU hours. (If the distance from your home or your workstation to Indianapolis is less than 50 miles, we are unable to cover your lodging.)

We do require that if there is more than one (1) person of the same sex coming from the same county that you share a room unless you are bringing your family. If your family is coming, they must register once they arrive in the registration room for the CTB to pay for your room.

All other attendees: tell them you are attending the "ISCA 2025 Annual Conference" as we have a block of rooms held for our group at the state rate of \$133.00 plus tax.

Registration & Coroners Shop

Golden Ballroom 6&7

Thursday, June 19th - 7:30 am-5:00 pm

Friday, June 20th – 7:00 am-5:00 pm

Saturday, June 21st – 7:00 am-12:00 pm

Exhibitors Hours

Hall of Champions

Thursday, June 19th – 7:30 am–5:00 pm

Friday, June 20th – 7:00 am–5:00 pm

Saturday, June 21st – 7:00 am–12:00 pm

Professional Photo Opportunity

We are pleased to announce a professional photo opportunity during the conference! This is a great chance to have your photo taken for the ISCA website, as well as for any deputies who would like their ID updated. We encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity to update your professional images!

Details:

- **When:** During the lunch hours on Thursday and Friday
- **Where:** Hall of Champions Hallway
- **Dress Code:** Please dress professionally, as these will be headshots.

Dress Code: The dress code for the conference is Business Attire. Attendees are expected to dress appropriately to represent their counties in a professional manner. **Please note the following guide-lines:**

- **Acceptable Attire:** Slacks or khakis, collared shirts, blouses (polo-type or button-down), and other professional dress.
- **Not Allowed:** Shorts, sweatpants of any kind, ripped or torn jeans (even if they are manufactured that way), printed T-shirts, or similar casual wear.

While suits and ties, sport coats, or dresses are not required, they are considered appropriate.

As a professional organization, we will have guests attending the conference who are also professionals in their fields. Your cooperation in adhering to this dress code is greatly appreciated. **Any attendee who is not dressed appropriately may be asked to change or leave the conference.**

COVID-19

We recognize that some attendees may wish to observe COVID-19 precautions during the conference. While these measures are not mandated, anyone wishing to take additional precautions is welcome to do so.

General Session Attendance

The General Session is specifically for in-service training for elected coroners and deputy coroners. Therefore, the ISCA & CTB must enforce that only coroners and their deputies who hold a current association ID badge and are certified Medicolegal Death Investigators are permitted in the general sessions. Spouses are welcome to attend any other events held outside of the actual general sessions.

General Business Meeting

The General Business Meeting will be held on **Friday, June 20th** from **Noon – 1:00 PM** in **Golden Ball-room 4&5**. Please note that this will be a working luncheon. This meeting is open to coroners who have paid their membership for 2025. Each county coroner with a paid membership will have one vote during the meeting.

Coroner and Emergency Response Vehicle Cruise In

During this year's conference, we will be showcasing coroner and emergency response vehicles that include:

- Coroner Response and Command Vehicles
- Coroner Transport and Scene Vehicles
- Crime Scene Vehicles
- Biohazard Clean-Up and Response Vehicles
- Specialty and DMORT

June 19, 2025
Noon to 1:30 PM (During the Lunch Break) and 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Back Parking Lot
Wyndham Indianapolis West Airport
Indianapolis, Indiana

Put your vehicle on display. Show your agency's pride, your capabilities, your mobile equipment layout and more. Learn and gain ideas of what is available in our profession and what others are doing. See the capabilities, the equipment and how it's used, and how it's done. It's free to display your vehicle.

Disclaimer-The ISCA and its affiliates; Clean Extreme, and Wyndham Indianapolis West Airport will not be held liable for any injuries, death, damages, or loss of equipment due to accident or theft while attending this event. Attendance and participation in this event are voluntary with no financial benefit and participants and attendees hereby assume all risks of participating.

Comedy Magic Show

Join Us for a Night of Magic and Laughter! ISCA is excited to host comic and magician **Rusty Ammerman** for a fun-filled evening on Friday, June 20, 2025, in Quincy 2.0 from 8pm-9pm. Don't miss this opportunity to experience Rusty's unique blend of comedy and magic. It's sure to be a night to remember!

Awards

The Jeff Stout Service of Excellence Awards and Dr. David Dennis Scholarship Awards will be announced Friday, June 20th during the ceremony awards from 11:00 am-Noon.

Exhibitor Door Prizes

The exhibitors will be in the Hall of Champions during the general session. We encourage you to visit the exhibitors throughout the conference. Door Prizes will be given during the awards ceremony on Friday, June 20th. *You must be in attendance to win.

Brain Bucket Bingo

Don't Forget Your Dollar Bills! Join us for a chance to win exciting daily door prizes, generously donated by the Indiana State Coroners Association Board of Directors, Exhibitors, Coroners, and Deputy Coroners!

How It Works:

- **Bring your dollar bills!** All proceeds will be donated to the Dr. David Dennis Scholarship Fund.
- You are welcome to bring prizes from your county to be given away as well.

Important: You must be present in the room to win! Get ready for some fun and thank you for supporting this worthy cause!

Wyndham Hotel

The Wyndham Hotel will offer a **20% discount** on any meal at their restaurant for members of the coroners group. Please note that this discount does not apply to specials or alcohol. To take advantage of this discount, simply inform your server that you are with the coroners group.

Educational Hours

- **Medicolegal Death Investigators** – This conference is approved by the Coroners Training Board for 20.5 hours for the full conference.
- **Law Enforcement** – This conference is approved by the Coroners Training Board for 20.5 hours for the full conference.
- **EMS/Paramedic** – This conference is approved by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security for 20.5 hours for the full conference.

SPONSORS

Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors

At the Dr. David Avolt In-Service Training Conference, we are grateful for the support of our sponsors. Their contributions play a vital role in making this event successful.

A.D. Valor



Providing lanyards for our attendees.

Indiana Department of Health



Contributing to the conference booklets.

Clean X-Treme



Sponsoring the Dr. Phil O'Shaughnessy Case Presentation & Coroner Car Cruise In

Indiana Donor Network



Supporting us with lunch bags for all attendees.

First Forensic Medical Laboratories



(Dr. Kent Harshbarger) – Donating welcome bags for participants.

SCU Services



Hosting the Gathering Room on Thursday evening.