

Presenter Biographies

Margaret Bodman

Margaret Bodman, J.D., currently serves as the Prosecution and Law Enforcement Senior Resource Attorney for the Children's Law Center, University of South Carolina School of Law. After obtaining her law degree from St. Mary's University School of Law in 1991, she began her career in prosecution with the Bexar County Criminal District Attorney's Office in San Antonio, Texas. During her eight years in that office she prosecuted a wide variety of offenses ranging from DUI cases to murder. She also had the opportunity to handle cases at the appellate level and served for several years in the juvenile division of the office. In 1999, Ms. Bodman came to South Carolina and joined the National College of District Attorneys at the National Advocacy Center. In her capacity as Assistant Director of Programs, she developed and implemented trial advocacy programs and other continuing legal education classes for state and local prosecutors working in offices around the United States. In 2005, she rejoined the ranks of frontline prosecutors in Richland County, South Carolina. There she prosecuted hundreds of violent crime cases, specializing in the prosecution of sexual assaults involving both child and adult victims. In 2013, Ms. Bodman received the Criminal Justice Award from the South Carolina Victim's Assistance Network recognizing her advocacy on behalf of victims.

Patsy Lightle

Patsy Lightle received her Bachelor's degree from Columbia College in Biology, certification in Medical Technology from the American Society of Clinical Pathologists, Class 1 Police Officer Certification from the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy and post graduate hours in Forensic Science from the University of Virginia while attending the FBI in Quantico, Virginia. She has served over 35 years in law enforcement and forensic science to include crime scene, forensic serology and DNA analysis, child abuse, elder abuse, and vulnerable adult abuse investigations. She researched and developed the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division's (SLED's) Adult and Child Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits used for collecting adult and child physical and sexual abuse evidence which the FBI adopted as their training kit. She designed and implemented the Forensic DNA laboratory, SLED's Department of Child Fatalities and Vulnerable Adult Abuse Investigations Units. She was the supervisor over the SLED's Special Victims Unit which investigates suspicious child deaths and vulnerable adult abuse, neglect and exploitation. She joined the Children's Law Center in 2014 where she lectures on child death investigations to various law enforcement agencies, medical personnel, social workers, coroners, victim advocates and academic institutions. She has testified in over 300 homicide and sexual assault cases.

Jennifer Coaxum

Jennifer is currently a Law Enforcement Trainer with the USC School of Law, Children's Law Center. Prior to that, she was an instructor/program coordinator for the Police Science Unit at the SC Criminal Justice Academy. She taught Basic Law Enforcement and Advanced Training to Academy students including courses on sexual assault and child abuse. Prior to teaching, Jennifer has served over 12 years in law enforcement at the Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy, Training Sergeant, and Investigator. She specialized in investigating crimes against children and was also trained as a crisis negotiator and elder abuse instructor.

Jennifer is a graduate of Claflin University with a Bachelor's of Arts in Sociology and Criminal Justice. She has a Master's of Arts Degree in Professional Counseling from South University (2011).