AGENDA

NDAA's 2026 Homicide Conference

The Evidence Framework: Building, Testing, and Presenting Homicide Cases That Hold

Attendees must wear their name tags to all events and turn off cell phones during all sessions.

Tuesday, November 17, 2026
Building the Case

7:45 – 8:45 AM	Breakfast Buffet
8:00 – 9:00 AM	Check-in & Registration
9:00 – 9:15 AM	Welcome & Opening Remarks **Sasha Sencer** Education & Engagement Director National District Attorneys Association
9:15 – 10:15 AM	**The Modern Prosecutor's Challenge** **Sara Kurtzberg** Chief of Prosecutorial Innovation Brooklyn District Attorney's Office, NY
10:15 – 10:30 AM	Networking Break
10:30 – 11:30 AM	**Prosecutorial Judgement: Building the Case Before Building the Theory** **David Greenwald** Assistant District Attorney Wyandotte County District Attorney's Office, KS
11:30 – 1:00 PM	Networking Lunch (on your own)
1:00 – 2:00 PM	**Building Murder Cases When Perfect Evidence Doesn't Exist** **Molly McGuire** Assistant State Attorney – Homicide Trial Unit Office of the State Attorney, 17th Judicial Circuit, FL
2:00 – 2:15 PM	Networking Break

2:15 – 3:15 PM	**Expanding Accountability: Prosecuting Beyond the Immediate Offender** **Dan Cogley** Assistant Prosecuting Attorney – Major Crimes Delaware County Prosecutor's Office, OH **Elizabeth Matune** Assistant Prosecutor, Chief of Juvenile Division Delaware County Prosecutor's Office, OH
3:15 – 3:30 PM	Networking Break
3:30 – 4:30 PM	**The Hardest Decisions You'll Make Before Trial** **Molly McGuire** Assistant State Attorney – Homicide Trial Unit Office of the State Attorney, 17th Judicial Circuit, FL **Melissa Kelly** Assistant State Attorney in Charge - Child Fatality & Abuse Unit Office of the State Attorney, 17th Judicial Circuit, FL
4:30 – 5:30 PM	**The Art of Graceful Defeat: Professional and Ethical Rules** **Wendy Patrick, JD, MDiv, PhD** Deputy District Attorney (Ret.) San Diego County, CA

Wednesday, November 18, 2026
Pressure-Test the Case

7:45 – 8:45 AM	Breakfast Buffet
9:00 – 10:00 AM	**Invisible Evidence: Proving Homicide Without Visible Injury** **Eric S. Aboulafia** Principal Assistant District Attorney - Homicide Bureau Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, NY
10:00 – 10:15 AM	Networking Break

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10:15 – 11:15 AM	**Contested Evidence: Proving Homicide When Experts Disagree** **Melissa Kelly** Assistant State Attorney in Charge - Child Fatality & Abuse Unit Office of the State Attorney, 17th Judicial Circuit, FL
11:15 – 11:30 AM	Networking Break
11:30 – 12:30 PM	**Inferred Evidence: Proving Agreement and Intent Without Direct Proof** **Leila Rosini** Chief - Homicide Bureau Kings County District Attorney's Office, NY
12:30 – 2:00 PM	Networking Lunch (On Your Own)
2:00 – 3:00 PM	**Strategic Evidence Use: How Prosecutorial Decisions Shape Violent Crime Outcomes** **Ivan Bates** State's Attorney Baltimore, MD
3:00 – 3:15 PM	Networking Break
3:15 – 4:15 PM	**Case Study: How to Use Digital Evidence to Implicate Your Suspect and Exclude Alternatives (*State v. Ortiz*)** **Andrew Hanna** Chief Deputy Prosecutor Madison County Prosecutor's Office, IN **Matt Savage** Deputy Prosecutor Madison County Prosecutor's Office, IN
4:15 – 4:30 PM	Networking Break
4:30 – 5:30 PM	**Witness Evidence: Evaluating Credibility, Cooperation, and Risk** **Brad Bloodworth** Chief Prosecutor Summit County, UT

Thursday, November 19, 2026
Presenting the Case

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7:45 – 8:45 AM	Breakfast Buffet
9:00 – 10:00 AM	**Opening Statements: Framing Complex Evidence Clearly and Credibly** **Adrienne Ward Belcher** Assistant District Attorney Jefferson County District Attorney's Office, AL
10:00 – 10:05 AM	Stretch Break
10:05 – 11:05 AM	**Prepare the Direct, Control the Cross: Digital & Multimedia Evidence At Trial** **Sara Kurtzberg** Chief of Prosecutorial Innovation Brooklyn District Attorney's Office, NY
11:05 – 11:10 AM	Stretch Break
11:10 – 12:10 PM	**Human Evidence: From Facts to Meaning in Homicide Prosecution** **(*State v. Moreno De La Cruz*)** **Kimberly Hunley** Chief Deputy County Attorney Pima County Attorney's Office, AZ **Jose Angel Carrillo** Health & Safety Superintendent of Program Development Freeport-McMoRan
12:10 – 12:15 PM	Stretch Break
12:15 – 1:15 PM	**Closing Arguments: Distilling Evidence into Persuasive Proof** **Brad Bloodworth** Chief Prosecutor Summit County, UT **Sam Kerr** Art Director BlueBear Solutions
1:15 PM	Adjournment

Please note: This agenda reflects the program as confirmed. Because prosecutors and other members of the justice system may occasionally face unexpected court obligations or other unforeseen professional responsibilities, rare adjustments to faculty or scheduling may become necessary. If changes are required, NDAA will communicate updates as promptly as possible. *Recording, reproduction, or distribution of any portion of this program is prohibited. Views expressed are those of the speakers and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the National District Attorneys Association. Participants should consult current, authoritative sources when researching specific legal matters.*

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Sara Kurtzberg
Chief of Prosecutorial Innovation
Brooklyn, NY
KURTZBES@BrooklynDA.org

Sara Kurtzberg is Chief of Prosecutorial Innovation at the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office, a position she has held since 2022. She leads a staff of more than 75 paralegals, technicians, analysts, and attorneys and oversees the use of digital evidence and technology in criminal investigations and prosecutions.

Sara joined the Kings County District Attorney's Office in 2007 and has tried more than 35 felony jury trials as lead counsel, including seven homicide cases. She served in the Homicide Bureau and was promoted to Deputy Bureau Chief of Trial Bureau Green in 2019.

A leader in the use of video evidence and digital technology at trial, Sara was selected in 2021 as one of 21 prosecutors nationwide to attend digital evidence training at the National Computer Forensics Institute. In 2022, she completed the Advanced Digital Evidence Training for Prosecutors program presented by the U.S. Secret Service.

Sara has led the implementation of an office-wide case management system, introduced tools including in-program file requests and AI-generated transcription software, and supported the modernization of Brooklyn courtrooms to improve the presentation of digital evidence. She has trained prosecutors, law enforcement, and defense attorneys on digital evidence and technology and has helped establish legal precedent supporting the use of hash values to authenticate digital evidence.

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David Greenwald
Assistant District Attorney
Wyandotte County, KS
dwgreenwald@wycokck.org

David Greenwald is an Assistant District Attorney with the Wyandotte County District Attorney's Office in Kansas, where he leads the Drug Unit. Since 2021, he has focused on drug distribution cases and drug overdose homicides.

David began his prosecutorial career in municipal court prosecuting misdemeanor and DUI cases before joining the Wyandotte County District Attorney's Office, where he prosecuted felony cases with an emphasis on violent crime. As a member of the Violent Crime Task Force, he specialized in gang prosecutions and homicides. He later joined the Johnson County District Attorney's Office in 2019, where he prosecuted traffic crashes and fatalities.

In 2023, David presented to the Kansas County and District Attorneys Association on prosecuting fentanyl overdose cases. David earned his J.D. from the University of Miami School of Law in 2012.

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Molly McGuire
Assistant State Attorney – Homicide Trial Unit
17th Judicial Circuit, FL
MMcguire@sao17.state.fl.us

Molly McGuire has served as a prosecutor with the State Attorney's Office since 2010. She began her career in the County Court Unit prosecuting DUI and misdemeanor cases before moving to the Domestic Violence Unit, where she prosecuted offenses ranging from battery to attempted murder.

Molly later served in the Felony Trial, Sexual Battery, and Career Criminal Units before joining the Homicide Trial Unit in 2017. She has handled 36 jury trials, including 23 homicide trials, and has tried four death penalty cases to verdict, serving as lead counsel in two and co-counsel in two. She also handles the office's overdose murder prosecutions.

Molly regularly provides training to law enforcement officers through a private training company in Florida and teaches misdemeanor prosecutors within her office. In 2024, she was recognized as Florida Gang Prosecutor of the Year.

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Dan Cogley
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney – Major Crimes
Delaware, OH
dcogley@co.delaware.oh.us

Dan Cogley serves as the Major Crimes Assistant Prosecutor with the Delaware County Prosecutor's Office in Ohio. A prosecutor for 14 years, Dan has handled approximately 50 jury trials, including 10 homicide cases. He has prosecuted more than 100 serious felony cases involving offenses such as attempted murder, rape, aggravated robbery, felonious assault, child abuse, aggravated vehicular homicide, and multi-million-dollar financial fraud.

Dan has prosecuted approximately 15 organized crime cases involving robbery rings, human trafficking, and financial fraud. He also serves as his office's representative on Central Ohio's Fraud and Organized Retail Crime Engagement Task Force. As Major Crimes Prosecutor, his cases have resulted in approximately 500 years of prison sentences and seven life sentences in the past two years.

Before joining the Delaware County Prosecutor's Office, Dan served as a Senior Attorney with the City of Lancaster Prosecutor's Office, where he supervised prosecutors, conducted law enforcement training, and handled family violence, mental health court, and drug court cases.

Dan earned his law degree from William & Mary School of Law and is a member of both the Ohio Bar and the United States Supreme Court Bar.

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Elizabeth Matune
Assistant Prosecutor, Chief of Juvenile Division
Delaware County, OH
bmatune@co.delaware.oh.us

Elizabeth Matune is Chief of the Juvenile Division for the Delaware County Prosecutor's Office in Ohio, where she supervises the division's attorneys and serves as the office's primary trainer for prosecutors. She trains and mentors attorneys in case analysis, trial advocacy, courtroom practice, trauma-informed victim engagement, and prosecutorial decision-making.

A prosecutor since 2005, Beth has spent two decades handling matters at the trial, appellate, state supreme court, and federal levels. In addition to leading the Juvenile Division, she previously prosecuted domestic violence, strangulation, and related felony cases in common pleas court. She continues to assist with complex litigation, trials, and legal issues as needed.

Beth began her career with the Delaware County Prosecutor's Office and later served with the Delaware City Prosecutor's Office, where she prosecuted a broad range of misdemeanor offenses. While serving with the Ohio Attorney General's Office, she litigated federal habeas corpus matters involving constitutional criminal law issues, handled appeals before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, and was twice selected to the Attorney General's Major Appeals Group, a small team appointed by the Solicitor General to assist with appellate litigation.

She has presented on trial practice, appellate record preservation, hearsay, witness testimony, domestic violence investigation and prosecution, and vicarious trauma for the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association, the Ohio Attorney General's Office, law enforcement agencies, multidisciplinary child abuse teams, and first-responder audiences. She also participated in prosecutor and justice-sector training programs in Peru.

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Melissa Kelly
Assistant State Attorney in Charge –
Child Fatality & Abuse Unit
17th Judicial Circuit, FL
MKelly@sao17.state.fl.us

Melissa Kelly is Chief of the Child Fatality and Abuse Unit for Florida's 17th Judicial Circuit. In 2021, she established South Florida's first Child Fatality Unit and has focused her career on the investigation and prosecution of complex child abuse and child fatality cases.

Before relocating to Florida, Melissa spent more than 12 years with the Queens County District Attorney's Office, where she investigated and prosecuted a wide range of violent crimes, including homicide, kidnapping, robbery, assault, and the physical and sexual abuse of children.

Melissa emphasizes a multidisciplinary approach to child abuse and child fatality investigations, working with law enforcement, medical examiners, child protection professionals, healthcare providers, and other community partners. She is an active member of Florida's Child Abuse Death Review Committee, Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Committee, Broward County's Drowning Prevention Task Force, Broward's Child Abuse Coordination Committee and Sexual Assault Response Team, and the Non-Accidental Trauma Working Group at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital and Salah Foundation Children's Hospital.

Melissa earned her J.D. from CUNY School of Law.

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Wendy Patrick
Deputy District Attorney (Ret.)
San Diego County, CA
wendypatrickphd@icloud.com

Wendy Patrick has spent more than 27 years prosecuting sex offenders, domestic abusers, sexually violent predators, human traffickers, and child molesters. She has tried more than 165 trials involving offenses ranging from hate crimes and domestic violence to first-degree murder.

Before becoming a prosecutor, Wendy served as a trial attorney and team leader in the San Diego Public Defender's Office. She teaches and trains domestically and internationally on topics related to violent crime, including programs in Hong Kong, South Africa, and South Korea.

Wendy received the California Public Lawyer of the Year Award from the State Bar of California's Public Law Section, was named one of the State Bar of California's 2024 Top Professional Responsibility Lawyers, and received the California District Attorneys Association's 2023 Instructor of the Year Award.

Wendy is the author of Red Flags, co-author of the New York Times bestseller Reading People, and author of Why Bad Looks Good. She also writes the Psychology Today column Why Bad Looks Good.

Outside of her legal work, Wendy is a concert violinist with the La Jolla Symphony and performs professionally on electric violin.

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Eric Aboulafia
Principal Assistant District Attorney - Homicide Bureau
Suffolk County, NY
Eric.Aboulafia@suffolknyda.gov

Eric Aboulafia is a Principal Assistant District Attorney in the Homicide Bureau of the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office. During his 18 years with the office, he has prosecuted cases ranging from possession of child sexual abuse material offenses and rape to murder.

While serving as a Suffolk County prosecutor, Eric was appointed as a Special Assistant United States Attorney to assist in the prosecution of a defendant who possessed more than six million images of child sexual abuse material, resulting in a conviction. He has also received advanced digital evidence training from the United States Secret Service.

Eric regularly trains attorneys on trial practice, including jury selection and opening statements. He has served as a trial attorney for FBI moot court conferences across the country, lectured for the National District Attorneys Association on homicide prosecutions, and served as faculty for the National Institute for Trial Advocacy at Hofstra University Law School.

Eric earned his undergraduate degree, cum laude, from the State University of New York at Binghamton in 2005 and his law degree from Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center in 2008.

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Leila Rosini
Chief - Homicide Bureau
Kings County, NY
ROSINIL@BrooklynDA.org

Leila Rosini is Chief of the Homicide Bureau at the Kings County District Attorney's Office in Brooklyn, New York. For nearly five years, she has led one of the nation's largest homicide bureaus, supervising a team of 35 attorneys, paralegals, analysts, and litigation support personnel. The bureau maintains a caseload of approximately 270 indicted homicides and coordinates with the New York City Police Department on all homicide and suspicious death investigations. In this role, Leila reviews homicide investigations and authorizes homicide arrests in Brooklyn.

A prosecutor for 19 years, Leila has tried approximately 35 cases, including 30 jury trials. More than half of her trials have involved homicide prosecutions, and three involved multiple defendants and simultaneous juries. She continues to maintain a trial caseload while overseeing the bureau.

During her career as an Assistant District Attorney, Leila served in a trial bureau, the Gang Bureau, the Violent Criminal Enterprises Bureau, and the Homicide Bureau, where she prosecuted homicides, complex multi-defendant gang cases, and other serious felonies. Before becoming Chief of the Homicide Bureau, she served as Deputy Chief of the Violent Criminal Enterprises Bureau, supervising long-term gang investigations and prosecutions involving narcotics and gun trafficking.

Leila regularly provides continuing legal education (CLE) training for prosecutors on trial practice, including openings, direct examination, and working with uncooperative witnesses. She also lectures members of the New York City Police Department on court preparation and testimony.

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Ivan Bates
State's Attorney
Baltimore, MD
ZMichal@stattorney.org

Ivan Bates serves as Baltimore City's 26th State's Attorney. He took office in 2023 after being elected State's Attorney for Baltimore City.

Prior to taking office, Ivan spent nearly 30 years as both a prosecutor and defense attorney. He is also a United States Army veteran.

Since taking office, Ivan has prioritized the prosecution of violent repeat offenders and illegal firearm cases. His office also works with law enforcement, city agencies, and community partners as part of Baltimore's broader public safety efforts.

Ivan earned his undergraduate degree from Howard University and his J.D. from William & Mary Law School.

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Andrew Hanna
Chief Deputy Prosecutor
Madison County, IN
ahanna@madisoncounty.in.gov

Andrew Hanna serves as Chief Deputy Prosecutor for Madison County, Indiana, where he has held that role since 2021. He maintains a caseload focused primarily on murder cases and supervises a staff of 59, including 22 deputy prosecutors.

After serving as a police officer with the Elwood and Pendleton Police Departments, Andrew completed a judicial clerkship with Judge Margaret Robb of the Indiana Court of Appeals and joined the Madison County Prosecutor's Office as a Deputy Prosecutor.

Andrew serves as President of the Madison County Community Corrections Advisory Board and elected Chair of the Madison County Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council. In 2023, he received the Indiana Lawyer Up and Coming Lawyer Award.

Andrew earned a Bachelor of Arts in History from Hanover College and a J.D. from the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law.

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Matt Savage
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
Madison County, IN
msavage@madisoncounty.in.gov

Matt Savage is a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney with the Madison County Prosecutor's Office in Indiana, where he prosecutes homicides and other major felony cases, including capital litigation. A prosecutor for 15 years, Matt has handled approximately 135 jury trials, including 15 homicide trials. He has tried a life-without-parole capital case to verdict as co-counsel and currently serves as co-counsel in one of Indiana's pending death penalty prosecutions.

Before joining Madison County, Matt served as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in Marion County, where he handled specialized caseloads involving child sex crimes and habitual offenders. From 2015 to 2017, his caseload focused exclusively on sex crimes and child abuse cases, primarily child molestation prosecutions. He also led a major felony trial team of approximately 40 staff members, including 25 attorneys.

Matt has conducted numerous trainings for prosecutors and law enforcement agencies, presented at Indiana's statewide conference for homicide investigators, and serves as faculty for the Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council. He is certified in the ChildFirst Forensic Interview Protocol and completed the National Computer Forensics Institute's Digital Evidence for Prosecutors program.

Matt earned his undergraduate degree from Butler University in 2006 and his J.D. from the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law in 2009.

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Brad Bloodworth
Chief Prosecutor
Summit County, UT
bbloodworth@summitcountyutah.gov

Brad Bloodworth serves as Chief Prosecutor for Summit County, Utah, which encompasses Park City. He leads an office of five criminal prosecutors and supervises professionals in investigations, children's justice, victim advocacy, and social work.

Brad has prosecuted and defended complex criminal cases for more than 25 years, including murder, rape, child abuse, gang activity, and drug trafficking. Before joining Summit County, he served in the U.S. Army JAG Corps as both a prosecutor and defense attorney, prosecuting offenses under the Uniform Code of Military Justice and representing senior officers in administrative, criminal, and congressional investigations.

Brad also served on a Maryland task force focused on prosecuting repeat violent offenders, including gang members. He later practiced white-collar criminal defense with Paul Hastings and DLA Piper, handling matters involving securities violations, antitrust, fraud, embezzlement, and the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

Brad earned engineering degrees from the United States Military Academy at West Point and Johns Hopkins University and a law degree from the University of Baltimore. Before attending law school, he served in the U.S. Army as an Airborne- and Ranger-qualified Infantry Officer.

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Adrienne Ward Belcher
Assistant District Attorney
Jefferson County, AL
wardad@jccal.org

Adrienne Ward Belcher is an Assistant District Attorney and Team Leader Supervisor with the Bessemer Division of the Jefferson County District Attorney's Office in Alabama. She assists with the grand jury process, Governor's Warrants, Governor's Rewards, and parole hearings, and prosecutes felony offenses, including capital murder cases.

Adrienne serves as Director of the Conviction Integrity Unit, which investigates claims of actual innocence, and as Program Administrator of Project STEP, a deferred prosecution program for young adults charged with nonviolent offenses. She also serves on the office's ADA Hiring Committee and the Annual Law Day Committee.

Before joining the Jefferson County District Attorney's Office, Adrienne served as an Assistant District Attorney in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and clerked for a criminal court judge.

Adrienne earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from Hampton University and a J.D. from Southern University Law Center. She is licensed to practice law in Alabama and Louisiana.

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Kimberly Hunley
Chief Deputy County Attorney
Pima County, AZ
kimberly.hunley@pcao.pima.gov

Kimberly Hunley is Chief Deputy County Attorney for the Pima County Attorney's Office, where she oversees office operations and serves as Acting County Attorney when the elected County Attorney is unavailable. With 28 years of legal practice, including approximately 25 years as a prosecutor, Kimberly has handled approximately 108 jury trials and resolved more than 100 homicide and Special Victims Unit cases.

Before returning to the Pima County Attorney's Office in 2025, Kimberly served as Senior Litigation Counsel for the Arizona Attorney General's Office and spent 14 years with the Santa Cruz County Attorney's Office, where she served as Deputy County Attorney, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney, and Chief Deputy County Attorney. During that time, she prosecuted homicide, sexual assault, child abuse, domestic violence, and other violent felony cases and tried approximately 20 homicide and Special Victims Unit cases.

Working in Nogales, Arizona, Kimberly investigated and prosecuted cross-border criminal activity involving human trafficking, narcotics smuggling, firearms trafficking, homicide, home invasions, and sexual violence.

Kimberly has trained prosecutors, investigators, and law enforcement on homicide investigations, strangulation cases, victim-centered prosecution, and trial advocacy. She developed the felony mentoring program at the Pima County Attorney's Office, conducts annual training for the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Department, and was recognized as the 2016 Public Safety Officer of the Year. Kimberly earned her law degree from the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law.

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Jose Carrillo
Health & Safety Superintendent of
Program Development
Freeport-McMoRan
josecarrillo.90@gmail.com

Jose Carrillo is Health & Safety Superintendent of Program Development for Freeport-McMoRan. His experience spans mining operations, emergency response, corrections, and occupational health and safety leadership.

Jose specializes in risk management, crisis management, incident investigation, management of change, and regulatory compliance. He has led health and safety initiatives across mining operations, processing facilities, security, and training programs and has supported global safety systems and operational programs.

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Sam Kerr
Art Director
BlueBear Solutions
skerr@bluebearlaw.com

Sam Kerr is Art Director at BlueBear Solutions and has 20 years of experience in litigation graphics and trial presentation. Since 2006, he has supported thousands of trials and major cases through the development of demonstrative evidence, medical illustrations, timelines, and multimedia presentations.

Sam works with trial attorneys to translate evidence, testimony, and legal concepts into visual presentations for trial. In 2023, he presented at the American Bar Association Annual Conference on the effective use of demonstratives, technology, and persuasion at trial.

Most recently, Sam collaborated with the prosecution team in *State of Utah v. Kouri Darden Richins*, developing the visual presentation used during closing arguments that will be featured in the session, "Closing Arguments: Distilling Evidence into Persuasive Proof."