



2019-2020

VERMONT VICTIM ASSISTANCE ACADEMY

Session One Presenter Biographies

Dani Levesque (she/her), Victims Service Specialist, Vermont Department of Corrections
Dani has been with VT DOC for 5 years providing post-conviction victim services in the Northwest region of the state. Before that Dani worked for many years at what used to be called the Women's Rape Crisis Center, now Hope Works, in Burlington. She provided legal advocacy, coordinated and facilitated support groups, covered innumerable hotline shifts and mowed the lawn.

Vicki Garza, RN is the Sexual Assault Program Coordinator at the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services (VCCVS). She joined VCCVS in April of 2017 after spending the previous 22 years practicing as a Registered Nurse in both inpatient and outpatient setting, including four years of active duty service as a Navy Nurse Corp Officer. Vicki continues to practice as a private duty nurse part time in addition to her position with the Sexual Assault Program.

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Ultan Doyle has been an Assistant Attorney General in the VT Attorney General's Office since 2010 where he prosecutes and reviews serious felony cases. Prior to that, Ultan worked as a public defender for a number of years both in Vermont and Utah. He has been an assistant attorney general since 1987 and has spent most of his public service career prosecuting crimes of sexual and physical abuse against children and vulnerable adults.

Linda Purdy is an Assistant Attorney General & Director, Medicaid Fraud & Residential Abuse Unit within the Office of the Vermont Attorney General. We prosecute criminal and civil Medicaid provider fraud cases and also investigate and prosecute cases of abuse, neglect and exploitation of elderly and vulnerable adults in residential settings, including nursing homes. In the past, Linda I was the Director of the Child Protection Unit, Chief of the Human Services Division and prosecuted cases of termination of parental rights in juvenile court. She was also an adjunct Professor at Vermont Law School for fifteen years teaching trial practice.

Michelle Pelletier is currently the Collection Supervisor with the State of Vermont Restitution Unit, a program of the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services. Prior to coming to the Center in 2005, Michelle worked as a Case Manager at Lamoille Restorative Center. She graduated from UVM in 2002 with a BSW. (802) 241-4688 x 202 Michelle.pelletier@ccvs.vermont.gov

Christine Morrison is a Claims Specialist in the Victims Compensation Program at the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services (VCCVS). She joined VCCVS in May of 2006 after spending the previous 6 years as a Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocate at Umbrella in St. Johnsbury, Vt. christine.morrison@ccvs.vermont.gov

Kate Brayton is the Victim Services Director for the Vermont State Police in the Major Crime Unit. Previously, Kate was the Director of the Essex Community Justice Center and worked for UVM's Child Welfare Training Project. kathryn.brayton@vermont.gov

Heather Holter coordinates the Vermont Council on Domestic Violence. The Council is a statewide multidisciplinary body whose purpose, duties and membership are created by statute. In her role as Council Coordinator, Heather also serves on the Vermont Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission. Heather has recently been hired as the administrator for the Legal Clinic located at the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence and she is looking forward to balancing the wearing of these two hats--one working directly with victims of domestic and sexual violence who are navigating the legal system, and the other making recommendations for systems improvement and change.

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