

CALIFORNIA SEXUAL ASSAULT INVESTIGATORS ASSOCIATION, SUMMER 2023



2023 CSAIA President, Gina D'Aquila



President Elect, Amber Fransik



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am excited about the upcoming year. It is my honor to serve as the 2023 president of CSAIA. I value this organization and all its members. I have served on the CSAIA Board of Directors for the last four years. I have been so impressed with the dedication and passion for helping victims I have witnessed from the Board of Directors and CSAIA members.

The role each of you plays in serving victims of sexual violence is amazing. You go above and beyond to fight for justice and provide a voice for many who have been silenced. You do this for others even at your own expense and put your own needs aside. This work can sometimes feel overwhelming, pushing us to our limits and sometimes affecting our well-being. Still, one thing I have seen consistently is the dedication and professionalism of our first responders. I hope each of you know you are seen and appreciated. I am proud of the work each of you do and am honored to be associated with such a wonderful group of people who face such challenges and yet still prevail.

CSAIA continues to provide expert training to support those who seek justice for sexual assault victims. As excited as we are to be back to providing in-person training, we also have embraced being able to offer hybrid and virtual training. This past year we have provided multiple one-day virtual trainings covering important topics we often face, such as mandated reporting, testimony preparation, and strangulation prevention. Your CSAIA Board of Directors does not only focus on training but also advocates for legislation that supports our mission.

This year is an election year for CSAIA so if you are interested in a Board of Directors position stay tuned for election information in the summer/fall.

Stay safe and well!

Gina D'Aquila



2024 CSAIA SPRING TRAINING

The 2024 Spring Training Conference will be March 12-15, 2024, at the Cliffs Resort and Spa in Pismo Beach, CA. Check the CSAIA website in the future for details. If you have any suggestions for future presenters, contact a Board Member at boardmember@csaia.org We look forward to hearing from you!

2023 CSAIA SPRING TRAINING AND WEBINAR

California Sexual Assault Investigators Association hosted our second hybrid training for 2023 Spring Training offering both in-person and virtual training. The in-person training was held at The Cliff's Resort and Spa in Pismo Beach, CA. The conference was a great platform to share knowledge and expertise in handling sexual assault investigations.

Additional courses are being developed!

Please let us know if you have a presentation idea!

For upcoming online events and in-person training, look for announcements and registration information at csaia.org. Case studies are frequently requested. If you have investigated an adjudicated case and would like to present for CSAIA, please let us know at csaia.org. We will consider it for future training.



Did you know? The CSAIA Board of Directors monitor pending legislation which may impact sexual assault investigations?

CSAIA Board of Directors submits letters supporting and opposing legislation.

Expectations of Board Members

1. Be actively involved in achieving the Association's goals and activities.
2. Willingness to communicate the mission statement to others.
3. Demonstrate a willingness to participate in board recruitment and training efforts.
4. Participate in board orientations and training activities and adhere to board duties and responsibilities as outlined in the by-laws.
5. Actively participate in decisions related to administrative and business matters.
6. Actively serve on assigned committee(s) during the year.
7. Attend board meetings or notify President of unavailability prior to next meeting date. Absences may constitute a basis for removal from the board.
8. Maintain conduct and comments that are respectful to others.

If you are interested in volunteering to serve on the CSAIA Board of Directors let us know!



ELECTIONS WILL TAKE PLACE IN NOVEMBER 2023

AWARDS

The California Sexual Assault Investigators Association (CSAIA) began in 1979 as a nonprofit organization with a mission to set the standard for education and training for sexual assault law enforcement investigators. The association has continued to strengthen with the unity of Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART). The teams include Forensic Nurses, Advocates, District Attorneys, Probation, and Child Protective Services.

Each year during the CSAIA Annual Training Conference, CSAIA honors professionals for Outstanding Performance in sexual assault investigations, forensics, and legislation. Awards are considered based on nominations submitted to the CSAIA Board of Directors.

This year, the Board of Directors will be accepting nominations for the following awards for superior accomplishments and outstanding performance:

The Michiel Hyder Sustained Achievement Award
Sustained Achievement in Forensic Sciences Award
The Patrick Sullivan Outstanding Investigator of the Year Award
The Outstanding Agency of the Year Award
The Outstanding Legislator of the Year Award

Each award recipient and a guest are welcome to attend the awards ceremony during the 2024 CSAIA Annual Training Conference held at Pismo Beach, CA.

As members of the law enforcement community, we challenge you with the task of thinking about who has made an outstanding contribution, one who makes a considerable difference in the profession of law enforcement, specifically the investigation/prosecution of sexual assaults, and offer a nomination for a sustained accomplishment award. All of us flourish with validation and recognition. Please take the time to recognize someone, or an agency, that has made a difference in our profession. You may forward this information to a co-worker or supervisor that you feel may know a person, team, or agency to which recognition is due.

Nomination forms, guidelines, and award criteria are on the CSAIA website. Submit nominations to the Awards Chairperson. Please keep your peers in mind for 2024! We welcome your nominations and thank you for your time and consideration of the professionals in our field of expertise.



Photo1: Dr. Jessen and her long- time friend Cheryl Johnson Photo 2: Dr. Jessen, and board members of CSAIA Photo 3: Dr. Jessen and her daughter Katherine Jessen

CSAIA presented selected Dr. Margie Jessen as the recipient of the Sustained Achievement Award in Forensic Services. Dr. Jessen's daughter Katherine Jessen and dear friend Cheryl Johnson attended the ceremony. Thank you, Dr. Jessen, for your dedication and passion for forensic medicine.

POST, BRN, AND STC RECOGNIZE OUR TRAINING, AND YOU GET CREDIT FOR ATTENDING!

Most of the courses presented by the California Sexual Assault Investigators Association are POST Certified. For peace officers, this means you as an officer get POST Continuing Education Credit for class attendance!

The POST Administrative Manual (PAM) requires each student to sign in on the POST Course Roster with their POST ID number (not your social security number). *Students may not sign the Roster for another student.*

POST further requires the Course Presenter (in this case, CSAIA) to keep an attendance roster for every day of training, verifying each student's attendance. Within ten days of the end of the course, the CSAIA must submit the Course Roster to POST, documenting each student's total hours.

Per the PAM, students may miss up to 10% of the class for "valid reasons" (e.g., work-related callouts, court appearances, etc.) or other "extraordinary circumstances." POST may require the course presenter (CSAIA) to obtain supervisor verification for any time missed, or POST may contact the student's employer to verify the missed time meets these criteria.

CSAIA must poll students, and a test must also be completed and returned to the CSAIA for each participant for online courses.

Please be aware the CSAIA could lose its status as a POST Presenter if we do not ensure all regulations are met. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding!

TRAINING IDEAS??

CSAIA is always looking for new and innovative ideas in training to bring to membership.

If you have any ideas for our Conference Training or One-Day Training, please contact:

boardmember@csaia.org

We are currently **341 members** strong! If you have any recruitment ideas or would like to encourage members of your team or organization to become members of CSAIA, contact our Membership Coordinator Ryan Clark.

ryan.clark@csaia.org or boardmember@csaia.org.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Check out your membership status at www.csaia.wildapricot.org Membership is based on an annual renewal from the date you joined CSAIA. Membership is \$50.00 a year.



MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR, RYAN CLARK

Resources Area

The resources area provides presentations, downloads, interesting articles, upcoming events, watch recorded webinars, post in forums, access the members directory and link to websites that are relevant to you.

Training Events

Education and Training programs will help you build new skills and reinforce your own experiences and knowledge.

Forum

The California Sexual Assault Investigators Association web page has a Forum section. Members can post questions or content for others to view or comment on.

www.csaia.wildapricot.org

MEMBERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE! JOIN TODAY!

Joining CSAIA encourages networking and camaraderie. CSAIA membership allows access to many online resources to enrich your professional career and creates a connection with law enforcement and forensic nurse specialists who have a real passion for what they do.

Please note you must have a current membership to access the tools on the new page.

www.csaia.wildapricot.org

ON-LINE AND ONE DAY TRAINING EVENTS

California Sexual Assault Investigators Association

Virtual Webinar Training

Cold Case Sexual Assault Investigations: Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI)

Presenters: Brent Nibecker, Senior Deputy District Attorney, Ventura County District Attorney's Office; Paul Walsh, DA Investigator, Ventura County District Attorney's Office; Shanin Barrios, Supervising Forensic Scientist, Ventura County Sheriff's Office – Forensic Services Bureau.

The National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) provides funding through a competitive grant program to support the jurisdictional reform of approaches to sexual assault cases resulting from evidence found in sexual assault kits (SAK) that have never been submitted to a crime laboratory. In 2021 Ventura County was awarded nearly \$2.5 million to inventory and test unsubmitted SAKs, investigate unsolved sexual assault cases and prosecute offenders.

Training Topics will include:

- **SAKI overview**
- **Process Ventura County took to apply & receive the funding**
- **Phases of SAKI (inventory, testing, and investigation/prosecution)**
- **Ventura County's experience with SAKI so far**
- **Using SAKI to fund the investigation of any unsolved sexual assault case**

DATE: Wednesday, June 14th, 2023

TIME: 10:00am -11:30am

Location: Virtual Webinar Zoom Link will be emailed prior

* Please register at www.csaia.org by 06/14/2023

Additional training opportunities are being planned. If you have ideas for training, let us know.



CSAIA 2023 President Gina D'Aquila presented CSAIA 2022, President Karla Beler, with a plaque on behalf of the CSAIA membership in appreciation of her service last year.



Photo 1: Presenter Peter Tulagan, Ryan Clark **Photo 2:** Kevin Mulcahy **Photo 3:** Presenter Mark Yarbough

Photos from the 2023 CSAIA conference.

2023 Spring Conference Feedback

“Great overall conference. Some good case presentations and some very good presenters.”

“Great conference!!!”

“Great conference. (I attended virtually). Having the virtual option was very helpful.”

“Great conference! Would recommend to coworkers!”





Casa of Hope in Santa Maria, CA was the recipient of the 2023 conference donations.

Previous recipients' raffle proceeds:

2013-Pomona Children's Advocacy Center, Pomona CA

2014-Child Assessment Center, San Bernardino CA

2015-The Family Healing Center, Fresno CA

2016 -Chadwick Center, San Diego CA

*2017- Sexual Assault Intervention and Prevention
Serving Butte, Glenn, and Tehama Counties, CA*

2018-CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) San Luis Obispo County, CA

2019 – Butte County Schools Fire Relief Fund

2020 – Children's Legacy Center, Shasta County, CA

2021-Wounded Warrior Project

2022 – Million Kids

CSAIA 2023 Board of Directors



Back Row: Marty Amaro, Michael McManama, Stacie Ontko, David Schell, Ryan Clark, Karla Beler

Front Row: Karen Sherwood, Gina D'Aquilla, Amber Fransik, Keiti King

President Gina D'Aquilla
Secretary Karen Sherwood
Ryan Clark
Stacie Ontko
Marty Amaro

President Elect Amber Fransik
Treasurer Keiti King
Karla Beler
David Schell
Michael McManama

**CSAIA PHONE NUMBER:
(951) 290-8261**

<http://www.csaia.org>

California Sexual Assault Investigators Association

712 Bancroft Rd. #151 Walnut Creek, CA 94598



Membership is on a 12-month annual cycle. Watch your e-mail for electronic notification to renew your membership and update your information. RENEW ON-LINE! CSAIA membership is \$50.00 a year.

You must renew to continue to have access to the Members Area on the website and to continue to receive information by e-mail!!

Stay safe and well!