

# CALIFORNIA SEXUAL ASSAULT INVESTIGATORS ASSOCIATION, SUMMER 2022



2022 CSAIA President, Karla Beler



President Elect, Gina D'Aquila



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is my honor to serve as the 2022 CSAIA president!

I was CSAIA president in 2016. Six years seems a bit distant and seems like a much simpler time now that I am reflecting on the challenges of the past few years.

Many of us have suffered losses and hardship and, it amazes me the depth of determination and professionalism you continue to show despite the challenges you consistently face. I am thankful that we will continue to prevail, and I am excited for the future of CSAIA! CSAIA continues to provide training and support to those who seek justice for sexual assault victims. CSAIA training assists investigators in conducting fair and thorough investigations, which result in the successful prosecution of sexual assault and child abuse offenders.

We offered our first virtual conference in March 2021. CSAIA presented a hybrid conference in March 2022. Our goal is to continue virtual and hybrid training. We appreciate your support and communication as we navigate through the modifications and changes to our program.

We continue to support the growth of the CSAIA membership. Our focus is to provide current and relevant training to all working to investigate sexual assault crimes and provide support and resources to survivors.

Patrol officers, forensic specialists, child forensic interviewers, DNA analysts, crime analysts, medical providers, detectives, prosecutors, advocates, and experts are essential to finding the truth in investigations and ultimately serving our communities. We recognize the excellent work!

I am honored to work with amazing people on the CSAIA Board of Directors. I extend appreciation to the agencies which allow employees to volunteer to serve our organization. In addition to providing training events, we actively monitor proposed legislation and write letters to our elected officials to support our membership in the work it does. We are fortunate to have representation from the medical profession and law enforcement serving on the board. Thank you to the former and current CSAIA Board of Director volunteers for your work and dedication.

As law enforcement, health care, and other professions change, we encourage networking amongst individuals, agencies, and providers to facilitate sharing of expertise and knowledge in sexual assault investigations.

The CSAIA membership includes those new to investigating sexual assaults and people with many years of experience; hopefully, each group benefits from the training and network provided by CSAIA.

I have much respect and admiration for the work you do!

Stay safe and well!

*Karla Beler*

Karla Beler, 2022 President, CSAIA

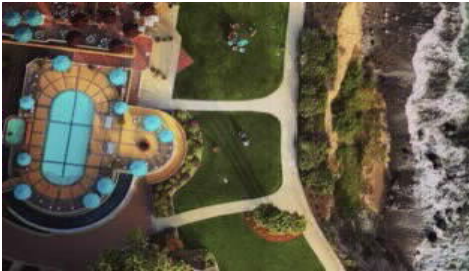


## 2023 CSAIA SPRING TRAINING

The 2023 Spring Training Conference will be March 5-8, 2023, at the Cliffs Resort and Spa in Pismo Beach, CA.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the 2023 Spring Training Conference, and we will be offering a hybrid conference! 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](mailto:boardmember@csaia.org).



## 2022 CSAIA SPRING TRAINING AND WEBINAR

California Sexual Assault Investigators Association hosted our first hybrid training for 2022 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. Chad Norris assisted us with the online training portion for those who could not join us in Pismo Beach.

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*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](http://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](http://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.

## 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 2023 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 at [www.csaia.org](http://www.csaia.org). Submit nominations to the Awards Chairperson. Please keep your peers in mind for 2023!

We welcome your nominations and thank you for your time and consideration of the professionals in our field of expertise.



Photo1: Lake County Sheriff Brian Martin and Detective Todd Dunia Photo 2: Patrick Sullivan Photo 3: Todd Dunia and Stephanie Sullivan

CSAIA presented Lake County Detective Todd Dunia with the CSAIA Patrick Sullivan Investigator of the Year Award. Lake County Sheriff Brian Martin, Patrick Sullivan's daughter, Stephanie Sullivan, and retired CSAIA Board of Director Tim McFadden were among the distinguished guests for the ceremony. Thank you, Detective Dunia, for your work in seeking justice for many sexual assault victims throughout your career and for your tenacity in your investigations.

## POST, BRN, STC, AND MCLE 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](mailto:boardmember@csaia.org)

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We are currently **335 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](mailto:ryan.clark@csaia.org) or [boardmember@csaia.org](mailto:boardmember@csaia.org).

### MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Check out your membership status at [www.csaia.wildapricot.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.csaia.wildapricot.org)

## **ON-LINE AND ONE DAY TRAINING EVENTS**

Mark your calendars! On June 15, 2022, CSAIA will be offering an online course, Courtroom Testimony for the Sexual Assault Investigator. Ventura County Supervising District Attorney Brent Nibecker is presenting the course and there is no cost. Register today at [csaia.org](http://csaia.org).





CSAIA 2022 President Karla Beler presented CSAIA 2021, President Ryan Clark, with a plaque on behalf of the CSAIA membership in appreciation of his work and dedication. Thank you, Ryan, for making 2021 a tremendous success!



Steve Welch retired from CSAIA in 2022. We will miss his expertise and knowledge! Steve volunteered for 14 years with CSAIA and was a valued asset to our organization. Best of luck, Steve!

## 2022 SPRING CONFERENCE FEEDBACK



*"Great hosts, great presenters, great location, and the raffle was fun..."*

*"Hotel was excellent. The conference was well organized."*

*"Great courses."*

*"Fantastic conference. Thank you."*



Million Kids was the recipient of the 2022 conference donations. Board of Directors Amber Fransik, Stacie Ontko, and Marty Amaro presented Million Kids President and CEO Opal Singleton with the proceeds from the 2022 conference donations. The photo was taken in Mariposa Alley, a public art display in downtown Riverside. Opal Singleton spoke at the conference about how Million Kids supports victims of exploitation and abuse. Thank you to the CSAIA members for donating to an incredible organization!

### *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*

## ***CSAIA 2022 Board of Directors***



Back Row: Amber Fransik, Karen Sherwood, Sabrina Ostberg, Karla Beler, Ryan Clark, Steve Welch (*retired*)

Front Row: Keiti King, Marty Amaro, Gina D'Aquilla

President Karla Beler  
Secretary Karen Sherwood  
Steve Welch  
Ryan Clark  
Stacie Ontko

President Elect Gina D'Aquilla  
Treasurer Marty Amaro  
Sabrina Ostberg  
Amber Fransik  
Keiti King

**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!*