

Eastern Region Meeting

Lowering Violent Crime & Supporting Victims

September 17–19, 2024 | Wilmington, Delaware

Tuesday, September 17

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM **Welcome Reception**
DuBerry Room, Hotel Du Pont

All sessions to be held in the Ballroom, Lobby level

Wednesday, September 18

8:00 am – 8:55 am **Breakfast and Registration**

9:00 am – 9:25 am **Welcome to Delaware**
Kathy Jennings, Delaware Attorney General

Overview of the Day
Dan Logan, Chief Deputy Attorney General, Delaware

9:30 am – 10:30 am **Violent Criminal Enterprise Investigations**
Violent criminal enterprise investigations focus on dismantling organized groups involved in illegal activities, such as drug trafficking, extortion, and gang-related violence. These investigations target the leaders and key members, aiming to disrupt the entire network and reduce violence in affected communities. This discussion, led by Attorney General Platkin, will explore effective strategies for investigation and prosecution.

MODERATOR
Matthew Platkin, *New Jersey Attorney General*

PANELISTS
Drew Skinner, *Executive Director, Office of Public Integrity and Accountability
New Jersey Attorney General's Office*
Erika Flaschner, *Unit Head, Violent Criminal Enterprises Unit, Delaware
Department of Justice*
Gene Ryerson, *Captain, New York Police Department Supervisor*

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10:30 am – 10:45 am **Break**

10:50 am – 11:20 am **Reducing Crime in the City of Wilmington**

With a background in urban development, Mayor Purzycki has been instrumental in implementing policies that have revitalized the city and made it safer for residents. Attorney General Jennings will share insights on how her office has supported these efforts through targeted legal initiatives and community engagement. The conversation will highlight their challenges during the pandemic and the successful measures that led to the dramatic decline in crime.

SPEAKERS

Kathy Jennings, *Delaware Attorney General*

Michael Purzycki, *Mayor of Wilmington*

11:25 am – 12:10 pm **Community-Based Intervention Programs**

Gun violence in public spaces harms entire communities, extending trauma beyond direct victims to witnesses and neighbors. Often a small group drives most of this violence, trapped in cycles of trauma and lacking support. Community-based violence intervention programs can help to break those cycles and help neighborhoods begin to heal. Three leaders in this work from across the Eastern Region will discuss the strategies that they have implemented in their jurisdiction.

MODERATOR

Anthony Brown, *Maryland Attorney General*

PANELISTS

Charity Clark, *Vermont Attorney General*

Corie Priest, *Community Engagement Program Administrator Delaware Department of Justice*

Stefanie Mavronis, *Director, Baltimore Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement*

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12:10 pm – 1:10 pm **Lunch & Keynote**
John Carney, *Delaware Governor*

1:15 pm – 2:15 pm **Evidence-Based Prosecution: Cases Without Victims**
Evidence-based prosecution allows cases to proceed without relying solely on victim testimony, which is crucial in cases of domestic violence, community and gang violence, where victims may have strong incentive not to testify because of fear of retaliation and other methods of coercive control. By focusing on objective evidence, such as physical proof, digital records and other technology and expert testimony, this method allows for the development of strong cases while protecting victims and witnesses. Attorney General Henry will lead a discussion and question-and-answer session with three foremost Eastern Region practitioners.

MODERATOR

Michelle Henry, *Pennsylvania Attorney General*

PANELISTS

Patrick Schulte, *Chief Deputy Attorney General, Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office*

Lyndsay Ruotolo, *First Assistant Attorney General, New Jersey Attorney General's Office*

Jenna Milecki, *Deputy Attorney General, Delaware Attorney General's Office*

2:20 pm – 3:20 pm **Cold Case Prosecution and Victim-Centered Investigation**
Cold cases are often among the most difficult cases to investigate, prosecute, and manage. Even while roughly 40 percent of the homicides in the United States are unsolved, new approaches, resources, and forensic technologies are cracking cases once considered unsolvable. This panel will discuss structuring Cold Case Units, pursuing victim-centered investigations, managing media and relationships with victims' families, and how to measure success in pursuing justice with cold cases.

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MODERATOR

John Formella, *New Hampshire Attorney General*

PANELISTS

Myles Matteson, *Chief, Criminal Justice Bureau, New Hampshire Attorney General's Office*

Wilfredo Campos, *Chief of Police, Wilmington Delaware*

3:25 pm – 3:30 pm **Wrap-up**

4:00 pm – 4:20 pm Bus load, departure to Winterthur Gardens

5:00 pm – 7:30 pm Reception, dinner, free time at Winterthur

7:30 pm – 8:00 pm Buses begin loading at 7:30, and leave for the hotel at 8:00 pm

Thursday, September 19

8:00 am – 8:55 am **Breakfast**

9:00 am – 10:00 am **Mass Shooting Response and Victims Services**

Through discussion on the response to the mass shooting in Lewiston, ME, on 10/25/2023, this presentation will explore how the Maine Attorney General's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and other state and federal partners collaborated to address the impacts of the tragedy. This discussion is intended to prompt attendees to evaluate their preparedness to address similar tragic events and to evaluate the resources to support impacted citizens.

MODERATOR

Aaron Frey, *Maine Attorney General*

PANELISTS

Marcela Morales, *Supervisory Program Manager, Victims Services Division, FBI*

Cara Cookson, *Director of Victim Services, Maine Office of the Attorney General*

10:00 am – 10:15 am **Break**

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10:20 am – 11:20 am **Juvenile Gun Violence**

The number of children and teens killed by gunfire in the United States increased by 50% between 2019 and 2021, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of the latest annual mortality statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The majority of these losses are attributable to gun assaults as compared to gun suicides and accidental gun deaths, with that share growing all of the time. This discussion will explore what strategies we can use to break the cycle of juvenile gun violence and keep guns out of the hands of our children.

MODERATOR

Brian Schwalb, *District of Columbia Attorney General*

PANELISTS

Letitia James, *New York Attorney General*

Kelly Singleton, *Family Division Director, Delaware Department of Justice*

Meghan Wallace, *Social Contract*

11:25 am – 11:40 am **Closing Remarks**
