Course Description and Instructor Bio’s

Sexual Assault: Overcoming Challenges to Successfully Investigate & Prosecute Difficult Cases

In this 2-day course, criminal justice and community professionals learn how to overcome the many barriers to successfully investigating and prosecuting sexual assault cases. Special emphasis will focus on those cases where the victim and perpetrator know each other (i.e., non-strangers) and where the realistic dynamics of the sexual assault pose especially difficult challenges. Training content is designed to help law enforcement professionals conduct a thorough, evidence-based investigation to undermine the most common challenges to the victim’s credibility.

For prosecutors, course content will provide specific suggestions for building an investigation and trial strategy to overcome the typical consent defense. Training content is also designed to improve the effectiveness of other professionals involved in the criminal justice and community response to sexual assault. For example, victim advocates will benefit by increasing their knowledge of the criminal justice system, so they can provide more effective services for their clients. Forensic examiners will gain by better understanding how the information and evidence they collect may impact the investigation and prosecution of sexual assaults reported by their patients. Throughout the training course, participants will engage in multi-disciplinary cross-training and work to develop collaborative partnerships.

Joanne Archambault, Sergeant (Retired)
Training Director SATI, Inc.
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Joanne Archambault is the President and Training Director of SATI, Inc. (Sexual Assault Training and Investigations) and Executive Director of End Violence Against Women (EVAW) International. SATI provides effective, victim centered, multi-disciplinary training and expert consultation regarding crimes of sexual assault. In January 2003, Ms. Archambault founded EVAW International, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing affordable training for all disciplines with an emphasis on the law enforcement investigation and proper criminal justice responses to sexual assault and domestic violence. EVAW International also supports and conducts research on the sexual assault of women and adolescents.

Prior to full time consulting work, Ms. Archambault worked for the San Diego Police Department for almost 23 years, until her retirement in October 2002. From 1985 to 1988, she served as a detective in the Child Abuse Unit. In 1987, she developed the first curriculum for the investigation of Child Abuse for the San Diego Police and Reserve Academy. Other assignments included Internal Affairs, the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity, Patrol and Crimes Against Persons and Gangs. In 1991, she revamped the sexual assault curriculum at the San Diego Regional Law Enforcement Academy. During the last ten years of her service, Sergeant Archambault supervised the Sex Crimes Unit. The unit has 13 detectives and is
responsible for investigating approximately 1,000 felony sexual assaults within the City of San Diego each year. During her tenure as supervisor, she co-authored the San Diego County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Resource Pamphlet and she produced a video on SART; which is used as a training aid for professionals responding to sexual assault.

In 1999, Sergeant Archambault worked with the National Center for Women & Policing to develop the first national sexual assault training curriculum for law enforcement. To enhance this work, in 2001 she produced a series of training videos entitled, *Sexual Assault Training and Investigations: The Preliminary Response*.

Sergeant Archambault has had the privilege to work on numerous National advisory boards including the National Institute of Justice, the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the STOP Violence Against Women Grants Technical Assistance Project, the American Prosecutor’s Research Institute and the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Her presentations reflect issues and best practices from across the United States in addition to the expertise she developed in San Diego.

Sergeant Archambault has written and co-authored a number of articles and chapters on various subjects relating to the criminal justice response to sexual assault crimes. They address topics such as: the role of law enforcement, the Forensic Examination, the impact of DNA and overcoming a consent defense. She has lectured extensively to multi-disciplinary audiences on the role of law enforcement in the investigation of Sex Crimes throughout the U.S. and abroad. Sergeant Archambault currently lives with her husband and young daughter in Washington State.

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**End Violence Against Women (EVAW) International**
*Director of Research February 2004 to present*
End Violence Against Women (EVAW) International is a small non-profit organization providing effective, victim centered, multi-disciplinary training and expert consultation regarding crimes of sexual assault and domestic violence. As the Director of Research, my duties include: developing grant proposals; conducting original research; providing various forms of information and technical assistance to researchers, practitioners, and policymakers; and facilitating training workshops for multidisciplinary audiences of professionals within such diverse fields as law enforcement, victim advocacy, health care, prosecution, and related disciplines.

Current activities of EVAW International focus on two major grant initiatives. First, with federal funding from the Office on Violence Against Women (a division of the U.S. Department of Justice), we have launched an On-Line Training Institute for practitioners on the topic of criminal justice and coordinated community response to crimes of non-stranger sexual assault. I serve as the primary author for training content and also lead the development of curriculum
elements such as review exercises, test questions, practical applications, and other interactive opportunities for practice.

The second major grant initiative is known as the Making a Difference (MAD) Project, and it has been funded by the William H. Donner Foundation in several different phases since 2003. During the first phase of funding, EVAW International hosted a national conference in order to promote an integrated criminal justice and community response to sexual violence. Conference scholarships were awarded to applicant teams from eight U.S. communities, with each community team including eight professionals from a variety of disciplines who respond to the needs of sexual assault victims. In the second and third phases of grant funding, EVAW International provided various forms of technical assistance to the eight communities, including a 2-day training conference. My primary role was to guide participants in collecting data on all the sexual assault cases they handle. So far, information has been recorded on over 12,000 sexual assault cases in the eight communities, and the analysis of this data will provide an unprecedented view of the patterns of processing, attrition, and outcomes of sexual assault cases within the criminal justice system and community response.