

## 2021 Law Updates Presenter Bios

### **Mike Mertz**

Michael H. Mertz is an experienced law enforcement professional with over twenty years investigating crimes of family violence, sexual assault, stalking, and child abuse. Mike is dynamic presenter with 19 years of training criminal justice professionals, mental health professionals, system advocates, and community partners on appropriate, victim centered response to crimes of family violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Mike is the owner of C&M Consulting and Professional Training Services LLC in Dublin, Georgia and previously served as the Violence Against Women Program Director for the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police and Family Violence Division Commander for the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office. He is a certified expert witness on dynamics and investigation of crimes of family violence, sexual assault, stalking, and child abuse. He is a Georgia POST Certified Law Enforcement Officer, Georgia POST Certified Instructor (2001), Certified FLETC "S.T.A.R." instructor (2001), Office of Victims of Crime Certified "Ultimate Trainer" (2005) and is a Southern Baptist Association Ordained Minister (1990).

Mike can be reached at (678) 414-7013 or [mike@c-mconsulting.com](mailto:mike@c-mconsulting.com).

### **Niki Lemeshka**

Niki Lemeshka is the Program Manager at the Georgia Commission on Family Violence. In that capacity she oversees the agency's grant-funded programs and special projects. Prior to her current role, Niki served as the agency's Fatality Review Coordinator where she ran the Georgia Domestic Violence Fatality Review Project, authored the project's Annual Reports and provided technical assistance to communities as they implemented project recommendations. Previously, she worked in direct service at a domestic violence program and in child protective services.

Niki currently serves on the Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution's Rules Implementation Committee and is an Advisory Board member for the Georgia Violent Death Reporting System of the Georgia Department of Public Health. She also served on the State of Georgia's Protocol Development Committee for co-occurring cases of domestic violence and child maltreatment and has chaired multiple community groups including Georgia's STOP VAWA Training Initiatives Implementation Subcommittee, the Cherokee County Domestic Violence Task Force, and the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team.

Niki regularly provides training on issues related to family violence and stalking victimization on the state and national level and is a Certified Professional Trainer on Stalking Victimization. She is a QPR Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Instructor, a member of the Georgia Mental Health Trainer Network, a Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Council General Instructor and is on the faculty of the Georgia Victim Assistance Academy. Niki volunteers as a legislative advocate for cancer-focused organizations and was a Georgia Women's Policy Institute Fellow (2017-2018). She holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Georgia, received her Certified Public Manager credential from the Carl Vinson Institute of Government, and is currently pursuing her Masters of Public Administration at Columbus State University. She is a fan of the Boston Red Sox and other lost causes.

Niki can be reached at (470) 270-4125 or [niki.lemeshka@dcs.ga.gov](mailto:niki.lemeshka@dcs.ga.gov).