

2016 ChildFirst Virginia Faculty

KELLY BOBER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHILDSAFE CENTER, has been at the ChildSafe Center for 6 years where she is the program administrator as well as conducts Forensic Interviews, supervises other interviews and facilitates peer review. Prior to her current position, Ms. Bober was a full time forensic interviewer at The Child Abuse Program in Norfolk, VA where she conducted over 2000 forensic interviews. Ms. Bober is recognized as a subject matter expert and has been appointed to the National Association of Certified Child Forensic Interviewers Competency Board. Ms. Bober has done over 2500 forensic interviews on children in cases of suspected child abuse/neglect and child witnesses to crimes. She is recognized as an expert on child abuse and interviewing techniques of children and frequently acts as a consultant and expert witness. Ms. Bober frequently speaks about issues related to child abuse, provides trainings regarding child abuse, Multidisciplinary Teams, Child Advocacy Centers and forensic interviewing techniques.

KEVIN CARR, DETECTIVE, SPECIAL VICTIMS BUREAU, PRINCE WILLIAM CO. POLICE DEPARTMENT, has been in his current position since January of 2012. While assigned to the Special Victims Bureau he has worked on both the Physical Abuse Unit and Special Victims Unit, and has been tasked with investigating cases of physical and sexual abuse of children. Prior to working as a Detective, Kevin was assigned as a Patrol Officer and then a School Resource Officer with the Juvenile Bureau where he was also involved in numerous investigations into both sexual and physical child abuse as the primary responder.

JENNIFER DAVIS, M.Ed., LMHP-E, Resident in Counseling and Forensic Interviewer at the SWVA CAC in Big Stone Gap, began her career in 1998 as a counselor working with troubled youth and young adults at Flatwoods Job Corps. In 2000, she began working as the Children's Services Coordinator at a domestic violence and homeless shelter. It was this opportunity that ignited her passion to serve child victims of abuse and violence. In 2003, Ms. Davis became the Sexual Assault Outreach Advocate for The Crisis Center where she provided a full spectrum of victim advocacy to teen and adult victims of sexual assault. She also provided educational programs to school personnel, students, and community agencies about the dynamics of sexual assault and domestic violence. In January 2005, Ms. Davis accepted the position of Case Manager and Family Advocate at the SWVA CAC and is currently a Forensic Interviewer and Resident in Counseling.

LANIS GELUSO, Detective, Virginia Beach Police Department has been a police officer with the Virginia Beach Police Department since 2003. In 2007 Lanis was transferred to the Investigative Division where she was assigned to the Domestic Violence Unit. After a year she was transferred to the Special Victims Unit (SVU). As an SVU Detective she is responsible for the investigation of misdemeanor and felony sexual assaults, felony child abuse cases, child enticement and pornography cases, and indecent exposures. Detective Geluso completed Child First in 2010 and went on to complete 200+ hours of additional forensic interview training. She has completed 200+ forensic interviews for local and federal agencies. Detective Geluso is a Department of Criminal Justice Services Certified Instructor and is responsible for teaching Preliminary Sexual Assault Investigation to the Police Recruit Academy.

MARY LANGER, DEPUTY COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY FOR THE CITY OF RICHMOND is head of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court section of the Richmond Commonwealth's Attorney's Office. She has been with the Richmond Office since 2006. Since 2000, Mary has focused her practice on cases originating in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations court, and now primarily prosecutes cases involving the physical and sexual abuse of children and other violent crime. Mary began her career as a public defender in the City of Richmond, and has also worked for the Virginia Attorney General as counsel to the Virginia State Police and a Chesterfield County Commonwealth's Attorney. Mary received her J.D. from the Boston College Law School and is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame. She was the inaugural recipient of the Virginia S. Duvall Outstanding J&DR Assistant Award presented by the Virginia Association of Commonwealth's Attorneys.

GISELLE PELAEZ, LCSW, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR ALEXANDRIA'S CHILDREN, an accredited Children's Advocacy Center in Alexandria VA. She was formerly the Deputy Director, and Forensic Program Coordinator, of Safe Shores ~ the DC Children's Advocacy Center. Ms. Pelaez has conducted well over 1,000 forensic interviews and extended forensic evaluations of child victims of abuse. Ms. Pelaez received her Bachelor's degree in English Literature from Kenyon College in Ohio and her Master's Degree in Social Work from the National Catholic School of Social Service in Washington DC. She has over 15 years of experience in social services and non-profit administration, with an emphasis on clinical program development, social systems response, multidisciplinary teams, and child abuse dynamics.

PAUL POWERS, Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney, Virginia Beach, joined the Virginia Beach office of the Commonwealth's Attorney in February 2005. He grew up in central New York and received his B.A. from Utica College of Syracuse University in 1996. Paul went on to law school at the University of Pittsburgh and received his JD in 1999. He went straight into private practice with a small firm for five years focusing mostly on criminal defense. In his time with Virginia Beach, he has taken an active role in the office training of attorneys and paralegals. Paul has spent over six years prosecuting child abuse, murder, and child sex cases on the office juvenile prosecution team. He has tried several criminal and civil jury trials as a prosecutor, defense attorney, and representing civil plaintiffs.

CHRIS REHAK, Commonwealth's Attorney, City of Radford, majored in Criminal Justice and graduated from Radford University in 1992. He became a police officer with the Roanoke County Police Department, and participated as a member of the Traffic Unit and SWAT team. After serving almost five years as a police officer, Mr. Rehak went to law school at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa and became a prosecutor. In 2000, he returned to Radford, Virginia and prosecuted criminal cases as Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney for almost four years. In the spring of 2004, Mr. Rehak was appointed Radford City Commonwealth's Attorney. Mr. Rehak sits on several Boards for service agencies dedicated to the prevention and treatment of child abuse and domestic violence. In 2002, he served on a task force creating the Children's Advocacy Center for the New River Valley. Since January of 2004, Mr. Rehak has also been sworn in as a *Special Assistant United States Attorney* to assist and prosecute adopted federal cases. He teaches criminal justice classes at his alma mater, Radford University, as an adjunct faculty member.

CHRISTINA ROUSE, MSW, CAC Director/Forensic Interviewer, Children's Trust Roanoke Valley, is a graduate of Virginia Tech where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in psychology and a Masters in Social Work from Radford University. Mrs. Rouse knew her passion was helping children and families so she joined the Radford Department of Social Services as a Child Protection Services investigator in May, 2006. In June, 2007, Mrs. Rouse became employed as the first full time forensic interviewer for Children's Trust Roanoke Valley CAC. Mrs. Rouse has interviewed over 900 children and has been an advocate for the CAC and Multidisciplinary teams in Roanoke City, Roanoke County, and City of Salem. Mrs. Rouse has been a member of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) since 2009 and serves on the Board of Directors for Children's Advocacy Centers of Virginia. Additionally, Mrs. Rouse teaches a class on child sexual abuse and interviewing juvenile victims at the Roanoke City Police Academy.

MICHELE THAMES, M. Ed., is the Executive Director of SafeSpot Children's Advocacy Center in Fairfax County, Virginia. Michele holds a Master's Degree in Education from Cambridge College. She began working as a Forensic Interviewer in 2003 and has conducted over 3,000 forensic interviews in a multidisciplinary team setting for local, state, federal and military investigators. Michele is a board member of the Children's Advocacy Centers of Virginia, faculty for ChildFirst Virginia and is the handler of Pecos, a professionally trained facility dog. Pecos works in forensic interviews, therapy sessions and accompanies children to court.