



**Foundational Mitigation Training**  
The University of Baltimore School of Law  
July 25, 2024

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. **Registration**

9:00 a.m. - 10:35 a.m. **The Power and Importance of Mitigation** | Dr. Elizabeth Vartkessian  
Mitigation refers to the process of gathering and conveying life history details which allows for more equitable legal outcomes. This workshop provides a comprehensive overview of mitigation practices and procedures. The presentation will also highlight how effective mitigation strategies can transform legal outcomes and contribute significantly to the broader goals of justice reform.

10:35 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. **Break**

10:45 a.m. - 11:45 p.m. **Mitigation: Roles and Responsibilities** | Amy Vosburg-Casey  
Effective mitigation requires ongoing collaboration. This workshop will offer a deeper understanding of what attorneys, fact investigators, paralegals, mitigation specialists, and the role others contribute to the mitigation process. The presenter will emphasize effective team assembly strategies and how each member can advocate to achieve better outcomes for clients.

11:45 p.m. - 12:45 p.m. **Locating Witnesses** | Katherine Ashton  
Finding witnesses is essential for uncovering crucial details about a client's life, and the direction of a case often hinges on this skill. This workshop will provide participants with the necessary tools and knowledge of best practices to effectively identify and locate witnesses.

12:45 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. **Lunch**

1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. **Building Rapport with Clients and Witnesses** | Dr. Elizabeth Vartkessian  
Mitigation investigation involves gathering key details and gaining perspective from various people with different backgrounds and experiences. This training session focuses on mastering interpersonal interactions during investigations. Participants will learn how to build and maintain relationships which is necessary to accurately gather information and effectively tell a client's life story. Additionally, the session will cover best practices for interviewing witnesses and engaging with clients.



2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. **Records Collection and Analysis** | Katherine Ashton

Records help drive a life history investigation. Identifying the records needed and obtaining, understanding, and processing them is vital to the operation of the defense team and the development of the case. This training will delve into essential practices and helpful tips that will yield the best results when working with client records.

3:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. **Trauma in Criminal Defense Cases** | Amy Vosburg-Casey

Recognizing and effectively addressing trauma can significantly impact the outcome of a case and the overall well-being of the client. This session is designed to help increase understanding of trauma and its implications in criminal defense cases. The presenter will share the knowledge and skills necessary to identify potentially trauma-related responses and how to integrate this understanding into their advocacy strategies.

4:45 p.m. - 4:50 p.m. - **Debrief / Wrap-up**

5:00 p.m. **Training Ends**