

Speakers' Bibliographies Infant Death Prevention Conference

Patrick Donohue Child Advocate

In New York, Patrick Donohue is pioneering a new approach to opening and broadening the dialogue between families of victims of Shaken Baby Syndrome and child abuse specialists around the world. Patrick Donohue founded The Sarah Jane Brain Project (<http://www.thebrainproject.org>) to enhance communication and facilitate progress towards more sophisticated methods and management of healthcare, social support and research models to improve the quality of life for children that suffer from traumatic brain injury.

Mr. Patrick Donohue is one of thousands of parents that have had to endure the tragedy of seeing their child victimized at the hands of an abuser and sustain life-altering injuries. His five-year-old daughter, Sarah Jane, is a victim and a survivor of child abuse. Parents and caregivers of injured abused children face many challenges trying to meet the needs of a severely injured child.

Brandon K. Falls District Attorney Jefferson County

Brandon K. Falls was appointed by Governor Bob Riley to the position of District Attorney, Tenth Judicial Circuit, Birmingham Division, on September 1, 2008.

He has been employed with the District Attorney's Office since October 1997 and has served as a Deputy District Attorney in Circuit Court, District Court and Screening Divisions. He became a Division Supervisor in January 2005 and was assigned to the DA's Office at Juvenile Court. Upon leaving the Juvenile Court assignment, Mr. Falls supervised deputy DA's in the Circuit Court Division.

Mr. Falls has been responsible for hiring, training and supervising all law clerks who work part time in our office. He also coordinated extern and intern positions with various law schools so students could receive school credit for their time spent in the DA's Office. He initiated the program to instruct attorneys on legal and trial issues essential to prosecution and has lectured on topics including case analysis, cross-examination, rules of evidence and sentencing laws. He has served as a member of the interview committee which interviews and recommends applicants for positions of Deputy District Attorney.

Mr. Falls graduated from the University of Alabama in 1994 and received his Juris Doctor in May of 1997 from the University Of Alabama School Of Law. He has since served as an Adjunct Professor of Law at Cumberland School of Law and has been a faculty instructor for the National Advocacy Center in Columbia, South Carolina, and the National College of District Attorneys. He has lectured at the University Of Alabama School Of Law, the APOSTC Law Enforcement Academy at Tuscaloosa, the Birmingham Police Academy and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. He is a member of the Alabama Bar Association, Birmingham Bar Association, the Alabama District Attorneys Association and National District Attorneys Association.

Mr. Falls is dedicated to serving the citizens of Jefferson County through prosecution of criminals and supporting all victims of crime in every way possible. He and his office are available to answer any questions citizens may have regarding the criminal justice process.

Scott Juceam Child Advocate

Scott Juceam has become a national speaker after the death of his sixteen month old daughter Hannah Rose Juceam in Roseville, California, just north of Sacramento. His vision became clear the night of May 13, 2006 when Hannah died from her injuries after being violently shaken by the family's full time nanny. Scott travels the United States to share his passionate views of the fight against Shaken Baby Syndrome and the need to expose this very dangerous form of child abuse to enable the professionals' greater abilities to prosecute and prevent this senseless act of rage on children. Scott now speaks to Police Departments, Child Abuse Prevention Conventions, and State Legislatures and even helped Governor Schwarzenegger establish a task force to prevent Shaken Baby Syndrome in California.

Dr. Melissa Peters Pediatrician Children's Hospital

Melissa Peters is the Medical Director for Physical Abuse Services at The CHIPS Center for child abuse evaluation and treatment at The Children's Hospital of Alabama in Birmingham, AL, and is the attending physician for the inpatient childhood injury consultation service. She is also an attending physician in the pediatric emergency

department at Children's Hospital. All of her current research, educational, administrative and outreach work is in the field of Child Maltreatment. She completed pediatric residency at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital in Nashville, Tennessee. She then completed fellowship in pediatric emergency medicine at The Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters in Norfolk, VA, during which she pursued additional training in the area of Child Maltreatment.

Patti Toth
Child Abuse Investigation Program Manager
Northwest Regional Training Manager

Patti Toth has been a Program Manager with WSCJTC since December 1999. Her primary duties include developing, managing and teaching at in-service training programs related to child abuse investigation, and serving as the Commission's Northwest Regional Training Manager. Working together with Harborview's Center on Sexual Assault and Traumatic Stress, she is a primary author of the WA State Child Interview Guide. Patti also led the effort to develop WSCJTC's statewide guidelines for first responders to child fatalities and serious child physical abuse (the "CPOD Guidelines"). Additional duties include managing the well-regarded annual WA State Domestic Violence "Team 3" Training Conference, and acting as WSCJTC's liaison with criminal justice agencies in Clallam and Jefferson Counties.

Ms. Toth is actively involved with the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN,) and with the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC). She was national President of APSAC in 1994 and currently manages their week-long Child Forensic Interview Clinic. Ms. Toth is an expert on state-of-the-art child forensic interviewing and is a frequent presenter at trainings and conferences throughout the US, as well as in other countries. She also regularly instructs and facilitates on the topic of multidisciplinary team investigations. In October 2008, she was presented with the J. Pat Finley Child Protection Lifetime Achievement Award.

Ms. Toth is a Washington State native and attended college and law school at the University of Washington. She started her career in 1980 as a prosecutor in Kitsap County, followed by a stint in the Snohomish County Prosecutor's Office. During this time she tried numerous child abuse and sexual assault cases. She then served 8 years as Director of the National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse in Alexandria, VA. She also worked as a federal trial prosecutor in the Child Exploitation Section of the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington D.C. in the late 1990s. Being homesick for the Pacific Northwest, she moved home, settled in Port Angeles, and came to work for CJTC – a job she loves.